

President Ram Nath Kovind graces 9th Convocation of UHF

The Hon'ble President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, graced the 9th Convocation of the Dr Y.S. Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry (UHF), Nauni at the university campus on 21st May, 2018.

Speaking on the occasion, the President said that the UHF had the distinction of being the first Horticultural University in Asia. He was of the view that horticulture and forestry research had a special significance for mountainous regions such as Himachal Pradesh and lauded the active role played by the University towards development of this important sector. The President also congratulated the university students for choosing to pursue their education in the agricultural sector. This sector, he is said, is associated with the prosperity of farmers, the rural community and the entire country.



Addressing a packed gathering of students, faculty and eminent personalities, he said he considered each student and teacher of this University to be a technically equipped friend and partner of the farmers of the state as well as other parts of our country. Addressing the graduating students, the President said that the goal of their education should not be limited to simply getting a job. They can start their own enterprises by using their skills and learning. There is immense potential in the field of fruit and vegetable processing. With their knowledge and enterprise, graduates of the University could help consumers in the country and abroad get better food products and help farmers get better value for their produce. He urged the students to take advantage of various schemes and initiatives of the Union and state governments to set up their businesses in the agriculture sector. He also recalled the contribution of Dr YS Parmar, the state's first Chief Minister and Baba Bhalkhu, a simple villager who had helped the British carve out the 112-year-old engineering marvel of the Kalka-Shimla rail line, which was now a UNESCO heritage rail track. The President also gave away nine gold medals to the toppers of various disciplines.



Acharya Devvrat, Himachal Pradesh Governor and Chancellor of the University in his address requested the students to acknowledge the contribution of teachers in shaping their lives as whatever they had achieved in their life was due to the education and knowledge imparted by their teachers. He said that since UHF was the first horticulture university of the country and the only one in the state, so the horticulturists have great expectations from the university. He presented the degrees to 467 students of the university on the occasion.

Speaking on the event, Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur highly appreciated the role of the university in producing top class scientists and professionals for the state and the nation. Earlier, Dr HC Sharma, Vice-Chancellor of the university, welcomed the President and other dignitaries and also read out the University's annual report on the occasion. Dr NS Rathore, Deputy Director General (Education) Research and Extension Council, ICAR, New Delhi, gave a presentation on 'Higher education in agriculture' on the occasion.

Watch the Convocation address of the President

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PPMG-0uiBDE>