

## **REPORT ON WESTERN ZONE VICE CHANCELLORS CONFERENCE UNDER THE NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY 2020 BY UGC**

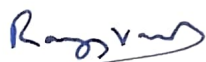
On 26th October 2023, the Education Department, Government of Gujarat, in association with The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, organized the prestigious Western Zone Vice Chancellors' Conference to facilitate the universities in developing a roadmap for the effective implementation of the National Education Policy, 2020, and ensuring that the benefits would reach a large section of aspirational youth in a time-bound manner. Union Minister for Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Shri Dharmendra Pradhan addressed the Western Zone Vice Chancellors' Conference on implementation of National Education Policy-2020, as a chief guest. Chief Minister of Gujarat, Shri Bhupendra Patel; Minister for Health and Family Welfare and Medical Education, and Higher and Technical Education, Law, Justice, Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs, Government of Gujarat, Shri Rushikesh Patel; Minister of State, Parliamentary Affairs, Primary, Secondary and Adult Education, Higher Education, Government of Gujarat, Shri Praful Pansheriya; Chairman graced the occasion.

Addressing the event Shri Dharmendra Pradhan commended the Government of Gujarat and the Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda for organising this 1st Zonal-Level Conference to accelerate the ground implementation of NEP 2020. Shri Pradhan emphasized that NEP places significant emphasis on improving skills and offering education that is geared toward employment opportunities. He noted that education is also a means of uniting India and expressed confidence that the deliberations during the four technical sessions focused on implementing NEP 2020, set against the backdrop of the statue of Sardar Saheb, the visionary behind the unification of the princely states into 'Akhand Bharat,' will play a pivotal role in its successful implementation. The Union Minister commended the state government for allocating a huge amount of Rs. 1800 crore for scholarships of students in its budget. Technical sessions were held during the Conference including Panel Discussions on Access to Quality Education and Governance– Higher Education; Equitable and Inclusive Education Issues of Socio-Economically Disadvantaged Groups (SEDGs); Creating Synergy between Education and Skilling Future Workforce; Holistic Education through integration of Skilling, Industry Connect and Employability; Innovation and Entrepreneurship; Research and Development; Internationalization of Education; and Indian Knowledge System. UGC, Prof. M. Jagadesh Kumar; Chairman, AICTE, Prof. T.G. Sitharam; Vice-chancellor of The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, Prof. Vijay Kumar Srivastava; Dr. Hasmukh Adhia; other dignitaries, Vice Chancellors, and eminent educationists were present at the event. The conference was attended by staff and students of the college online.

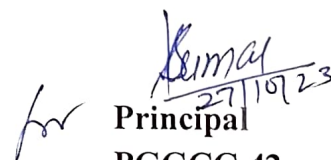
Dr. Abhay Karandikar led the first session at the Western Zone Vice Chancellors' Conference, which concentrated on the crucial theme of Ensuring Access to Quality Education and Governance in Higher Education, Promoting Equity and Inclusivity, and Addressing the Challenges Faced by Socio-Economically Disadvantaged Groups (SEDG). Shri. Atul Kumar Tiwari was at the helm of the second session at the Western Zone Vice Chancellors' Conference. The session focused on the

pivotal theme of "Fostering Synergy between Education and Future Workforce Skills, and Achieving Holistic Education through the Integration of Skill Development, Industry Collaboration, and Employability." Dr. Chintan Vaishnav spearheaded the third session which revolved around the pivotal theme of Fostering Innovation and Entrepreneurship through Research and Development. Prof. Jagadesh Kumar led the fourth session which was centered around the crucial theme of Globalizing Education and the Indian Knowledge System. NEP 2020 is advised to outline the vision of new education system with a view to achieve the aspirational goals of 21st century education. NEP aims to build a holistic and multidisciplinary higher education system, rolling out graduates having adequate knowledge and skills to deal with various contemporary challenges such as climate change, growing of population, frequent epidemics, pandemic and their consequences. NEP 2020 focuses on learner centric approach, future readiness, quality and inclusive education. Holistic learning, experiential and digital learning, flexible pathways and teacher empowerment are some of the expected emerging outcomes of NEP. The sessions were informative, and all the participants showed keen interest in the discussions. It has been advised during the conference that, best practices as well as various roles that are being played by various universities for the implementation of NEP Policies should be shared through the UGC 'UTSAH' Portal with a view that such programmes should be conducted at all levels. NEP promotes the use of technology, innovation and educational research. It was also informed that for industry laid skills, a strong Industry partnership and collaborations with the Academia is required, as a result this initiative will lead a need-based research development coupled with future ready cadre and job aspirants. Conference concluded with a note that the education leaders are willing to work in collaboration for transforming BHARAT into an equitable and vibrant knowledge society and as well as to follow the five Sankalap sutras which includes: Inclusiveness of skill enhancement courses, ability enhancement courses, value added courses, Indian Knowledge System (IKS) and Universal human values.

Dated 26<sup>th</sup> October 2023



**Dr Ranjay Vardhan**  
**Nodal Officer, NEP**



**Principal**  
**PGGCG 42**  
**Chandigarh**



**GPS Map Camera**

**Chandigarh, Chandigarh, India**

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