

Report of North Zone vice-chancellor's (V-C) conference

Panjab University hosted UGC's North Zone Vice-Chancellors' meet on November 22 and 23, 2023 to discuss the implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. The event was organised by PU in collaboration with the University Grants Commission (UGC) and the Central University of Haryana (CUH). The welcome address was delivered by PU Vice-Chancellor Prof Renu Vig, who said the university was taking all necessary measures to implement the policy from the forthcoming session. CUH Vice-Chancellor Prof Tankeshwar Kumar outlined the fact that outcome-based education was the prime objective of the NEP. "The policy aims at making our students employers, not job-seekers".

University Grants Commission (UGC) chairperson Prof. Mamidala Jagadesh Kumar spoke about the hurdles and roadblocks in the implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP). Speaking about the importance of NEP, he highlighted that the higher education system is passing through difficult times and NEP 2020 is like a light at the end of the tunnel. He said that the students are eagerly awaiting the benefits that implementation of the NEP brings for them such as multiple entry/exit systems, multidisciplinary courses and skill-based courses.

He emphasised that zeal among students as well as institutions to introduce the NEP was visible. "Students are ready to experiment with multiple entry and exit options and opt for multidisciplinary courses, but our rigid education system is not," he said. It was important to allow the NEP to seep into our education ecosystem to be socially and culturally progressive, he added. He called upon the V.C.s to take responsibility and motivate faculty members and students so that the higher education system is transformed completely as was envisioned by NEP policy makers. He emphasised on the collective responsibility and effort of all the stakeholders to train the younger generation through NEP 2020 so that India can become a developed nation by 2047. A short film showcasing UGC initiatives related to the NEP was also presented, providing attendees with a visual insight into the endeavours supporting the policy.

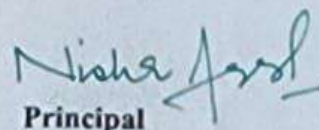
The inaugural address was delivered by Shri Bandaru Dattatreya, Governor of Haryana who gave a comprehensive perspective on the significance of NEP 2020 in the broader educational landscape. He highlighted the importance of technology, innovation and research, and adapting oneself to the changing times. He said that "Students do not take outdated faculty seriously," and therefore there is need for updating by faculty. The implementation of the NEP was important to achieve the objective of "Atmanirbhar Bharat".

On second day, participants were divided into ten groups where in brainstorming sessions, they explored and deliberated on effective strategies for the implementation of NEP 2020. University Grants Commission (UGC) chairperson The groups made presentations and question answer session was organized. Representatives of around 240 HEIs are present for the meet. Prof. Mamidala Jagadesh Kumar asked teachers to author books for post graduate classes which will made available free of cost for students. He assured all help to the universities in the implementation of NEP2020. The conference was a significant platform for fostering dialogue and collaboration toward the advancement of education in the spirit of NEP. Prof. Nisha Aggarwal, Principal and Dr Ranjay Vardhan, Nodal officer NEP 2020 participated in the deliberations of the Conference.

Dated 24th November, 2023



Dr Ranjay Vardhan
Nodal Officer, NEP



Principal



