



सत्यमेव जयते

Speech of Sri Biswabhusan Harichandan,  
Hon'ble Governor of Andhra Pradesh  
at the Vice Chancellors' Conference  
on May 5, 2022 at Raj Bhavan, Vijayawada

Smt. Poonam Malakondaiah, Special Chief Secretary to Government, Agriculture & Marketing, Sri J. Syamala Rao, Principal Secretary, Higher Education, Prof. K. Hemachandra Reddy, Chairman, Andhra Pradesh State Council of Higher Education, Vice Chancellors of State Universities and other officers present. My warm greetings to you all.

It gives me immense pleasure to address you all on the occasion of Vice Chancellors' Conference.

The National Education Policy-2020 is the first education policy of the 21st century which has replaced the thirty-four-year-old National Policy on Education-1986 (NPE- 1986). I congratulate all the stakeholders as soon we are going to celebrate two years of launch of the NEP-2020.

The National Education Policy-2020 aims to fulfil human potential, develop an equitable and just society, promotion of national development, universal accessibility, with a focus on quality education. The Government of Andhra Pradesh is committed to implement the National Education Policy in its true spirit and has initiated necessary policy measures in that direction.

The NEP-2020 envisions certain key changes to the current higher education system, like moving towards multi- disciplinary education, Faculty and institutional autonomy; revamping of curriculum, pedagogy, assessment, and student support, reaffirming the integrity of Faculty and institutional leadership.

On earlier occasions, we have discussed on finding effective ways of implementing the recommendations of NEP 2020. In the Vice Chancellors' Conference on NEP-2020 held on 16th October, 2020 in the same premises, it was resolved to implement the recommendations of NEP-2020, to bring desired change in the system of higher education in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

I am aware of the fact that the Government of Andhra Pradesh is spearheading the implementation of NEP-2020 in a systematic manner and I am glad to know that steps have already been taken to re- design the Curriculum for both the engineering and conventional degree programmes and is being implemented in an effective way.

A State Research Board has been established to develop research ecosystem and to promote qualitative research in Universities and Colleges. I am happy to know that Andhra Pradesh, is the first State in the country to introduce the 4-year Degree programme with research being part of the course, from the academic year 2020-21.

Many positive changes are taking place in the higher education system in the State and I appreciate you all, for your devotion and committed efforts in that direction. Andhra Pradesh State Council of Higher Education and the Higher Education department deserve all the appreciation for their leadership role and the timely actions to ensure that the system is put in place effectively.

I hope you all appreciate the need to re- dedicate ourselves for the cause of promoting quality in Higher Education system and to see that it meets the global education standards.

As you all aware, some of the key issues of NEP-2020 that need to be addressed and merit the attention of the academic leaders are as follows.

As envisaged in the NEP-2020, Academic Bank of Credits shall be a national-level facility to promote flexibility of curriculum framework and interdisciplinary/ multi- disciplinary academic mobility of students across various Higher Education Institutions in the country with appropriate “credit transfer” mechanism created through the stipulated regulations. It shall be a mechanism to facilitate the students to choose their own learning path, on

the principle of multiple entry-multiple exit as well as anytime, anywhere and any-level learning.

I am confident that the Government of Andhra Pradesh is moving in the right direction in adopting the system as recommended by the NEP-2020.

The NEP-2020 calls for a complete overhauling and re-energising of the higher education system to deliver high-quality higher education with equity and inclusion. The policy envisages moving towards a higher educational system that consists of large, multi-disciplinary universities and colleges, located in every district.

The main thrust of the policy regarding higher education Institutions is to transform Higher Education into large multi-disciplinary universities, colleges, and higher education institution clusters/Knowledge Hubs. This is expected to help build vibrant communities of scholars and peers, enable students to become well-rounded, across disciplines including artistic, creative, and analytic subjects as well as sports. To develop active research communities across all disciplines, including cross-disciplinary research, and increase resource efficiency.

The Universities of our State shall move forward in this direction and be the forerunners in transforming into multi- disciplinary institutes of higher learning.

Another grey area in the Higher Education Ecosystem is lesser emphasis on research at most universities and colleges, and lack of competitive peer-reviewed research funding across disciplines. This aspect has been addressed in the NEP-2020 by allowing a spectrum of institutions that place equal emphasis on teaching and research i.e., Research-intensive Universities; those that place greater emphasis on teaching but still conduct significant research i.e. Teaching-intensive Universities.

I request all the Vice-Chancellors to devise strategies to develop high-quality research eco-system and explore the possibilities to collaborate with industry, research institutes of national and international importance and on building research infrastructure.

NEP-2020 has laid more emphasis on the use of technology in multiple ways to enhance the teaching-learning experience and also to make quality education accessible to the masses. As per the NEP document, the use of technology will be taken to the next level to “ensure preparedness with alternative modes of quality education whenever and wherever traditional and in-person modes of education are not possible.” This holds special significance in the backdrop of COVID 19 pandemic, that forced majority of the institutions to switch over to virtual online learning mode. The Universities should continue with technology innovation in teaching-learning process and adopt to their wider usage.

As a hub of the higher education system, our State should create opportunities for high quality education, bring it within the reach of everyone and develop a vibrant and equitable knowledge society. We have to nurture the students to imbue the qualities of national pride and patriotic fervour.

I wish that the Higher Education Institutions of Andhra Pradesh fulfil the dreams and aspirations of the younger generation in the years to come. I am confident that with all your committed efforts, we can develop the higher education system of the State as a role model for the country.

Thank you all.

Jai Hind