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Press Release

Empowering Tomorrow's Education: IIM Jammu, UGC, and Dept. of Higher Education, Govt. of Jammu and Kashmir hosts a National Conference on NEP 2020 Implementation in HEIs of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh

Jammu 23rd Feb 2024 – The vibrant landscape of education in India witnessed a significant milestone as dignitaries and education stalwarts gathered in Jammu & Kashmir to deliberate upon the implementation strategies for the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 on 23rd Feb 2024. The event, organized by Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu at its Jagti Campus, in collaboration with University Grants Commission (UGC), Dept of Higher Education, Govt. of Jammu and Kashmir. The conference brought together more than 400+ participants including Vice-Chancellors, Deans, Principals, and Heads of Departments from Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) across the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

The program was inaugurated by Prof. Mamidala Jagadesh Kumar, Hon'ble Chairman, UGC; Shri Alok Kumar, IRS, Principal Secretary, Department of Higher Education, Govt. of Jammu & Kashmir. The event was presided over by Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu. The event commenced with the ceremonial lighting of the Lamp, symbolizing the enlightenment that education brings, followed by a warm welcome address by Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu.

Prof. Mamidala Jagadesh Kumar, Hon'ble Chairman, UGC, emphasized the significance of the conference, stating, that the convergence of academia, policymakers, and industry leaders at this conference exemplifies our collective commitment to fostering innovation, inclusivity, and excellence in higher education. He reiterated that by aligning our efforts with the principles of NEP 2020, we can unlock new opportunities and empower learners to thrive in an ever-changing world. Highlighting, positive developments in education, he noted the remarkable increase in CUET applications by a factor of 7 in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir - a record high. With this surge in interest, efforts are underway to ensure sufficient exam centres across the region. He expressed enthusiasm for innovative solutions under NEP 2020, aimed at fostering critical thinking and nurturing problem solvers among the youth. He urged all academicians and faculty members to establish Centres of Excellence in their respective universities. Moreover, he stressed the importance of accreditation and advocated for granting more autonomy to facilitate rapid growth and innovation in the education sector.

Shri Alok Kumar, IRS, Principal Secretary of Higher Education, Govt. of Jammu & Kashmir, delivered an insightful address, emphasizing the significance of NEP 2020 in shaping the future of education in the region. He expressed his happiness on being present in the new auditorium at the magnificent new campus of IIM Jammu. Additionally, he highlighted the establishment of the Research Hubs for empowering researchers, mentioning its significant contribution to experiential learning. He further stated that the Department of Higher Education, Govt of Jammu and Kashmir has played a crucial role in providing mentorship and cutting-edge facilities to facilitate experiential learning. He reiterated the commitment of the Department of Higher Education, Government of Jammu and Kashmir, to set up targets in line with NEP 2020, emphasizing their dedication to advancing education standards in the region and thereby contributing to the development of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir.

In his welcome address, Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu, expressed his enthusiasm for the collaborative endeavour of IIM Jammu with UGC and the Department of Higher Education, Government of Jammu and Kashmir. He stated that as we embark on the journey to transform education in the U.T of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh, it is imperative that we work together to harness the full potential of NEP 2020. He emphasized on the need to break down barriers and forging ahead on the path to progress since the days of universities working in silos are gone and IIM Jammu has collaborated with AIIMS, IIT Jammu along with many Educational Institutes of International repute for pioneering new pathways in the field of education.

Underlining the significance of collaboration between IIM Jammu, AIIMS Jammu, and IIT Jammu, Prof. B.S. Sahay stressed the commitment to ensuring quality education in the country. He highlighted that while framing policies may be straightforward, the real challenge lies in effective implementation. He mentioned, that notably, Jammu stands out as the only city housing three Institutes of National Importance: AIIMS, IIM, and IIT. IIM Jammu, in a short span through its strategic alliances, aims to transcend this challenge by providing students with enriching opportunities such as the dual-degree program (B.Tech+ MBA), MBA in Healthcare and Hospital Management (MBA HA-HM), and a holistic educational

experience through the Integrated Programme in Management (IPM), all in line with NEP 2020. On this occasion, he urged all academicians and faculty members to arrange visits for their students to the IIM Jammu Campus to expose them to new facets of education.

Prof. Jabir Ali, Dean Academics, IIM Jammu extended his gratitude to Prof. Mamidala Jagadesh Kumar, Chairman, UGC and Mr. Alok Kumar, IRS, Principal Secretary, Department of Higher Education, Govt. of Jammu & Kashmir, for their invaluable guidance, time and support. He also appreciated the audience for attending the conference and acknowledged the efforts of the Institute's administration in organizing and ensuring the success of the event. The event culminated with the national anthem.

During the inaugural ceremony, attendees were showcased a short film on IIM Jammu. Additionally, a film highlighting the various initiatives undertaken by the University Grants Commission (UGC) in alignment with NEP 2020 was also shown on this occasion.

On this special occasion, Prof. Mamidala Jagadesh Kumar, Chairman, UGC, contributed to the greenery of IIM Jammu Campus by planting a sapling in Institute courtyard. Following this, he engaged in a formal interaction with the students of IIM Jammu at the Agastya Classroom, fostering valuable dialogue and insights. Additionally, a press conference on the implementation of NEP 2020 in Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh was held, drawing significant attendance from both national and local media personnel. This was followed by a visit to the state-of-the-art library, "Nalanda", IIM Jammu

Following the formal proceedings, participants engaged in thematic brainstorming sessions, dividing into ten groups to deliberate on specific areas of focus for NEP 2020 implementation. These groups covered a wide spectrum of topics including Multidisciplinary and Holistic Education, Digital Empowerment and Online Education, Skill Development and Employability, Research, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship, Capacity building of teachers for quality education, Governance & Autonomy, Accreditation and Excellence, Equitable and Inclusive Education, Indian Knowledge System & Indian Languages, and Internationalisation of Education.

Post the inaugural event, there were presentations put forward by the respective groups. These presentations covered various topics discussed during the thematic brainstorming sessions. Following the presentations, Prof. Mamidala Jagadesh Kumar, Chairman, UGC, engaged in conversation with the participants, including Vice-Chancellors, Deans, Principals, and Heads of Departments from Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) across the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. During his conversation with the attendees, he acknowledged their optimistic outlook and expressed a revitalized determination and purpose to promote educational progress in Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh in accordance with the tenets delineated in NEP 2020.

The collaborative efforts and insightful discussions that unfolded during these sessions underscored the commitment of the academic community towards realizing the objectives outlined in NEP 2020. The event concluded on a note of optimism, with participants expressing a renewed sense of purpose and commitment towards advancing the educational landscape in Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh in alignment with the principles outlined in NEP 2020.

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Glimpses from the National Conference on NEP 2020 Implementation in HEIs of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh hosted by IIM Jammu in collaboration with UGC and Dept of Higher Education, Govt of Jammu and Kashmir





















