

Key Takeaways

The Strategic Leadership Conclave for Principals on NEP and Innovation

Date: October 21, 2024

Location: Gujarat Technological University, Chandkheda Campus

Time: 10 am to 4 pm

Dignitaries:

Dr. Rajul gajjar, Vice Chancellor, GTU

Dr. K. N. Kher, Registrar, GTU

Dr. Mihir Shah, Advisor, GIC-GTU

Mr. Rahul Bhagchandani, Consultant, GIC-GTU

Dr. Tushar Panchal, Group CEO, GISC

Participants: 220 (Principals & Faculty Members from Government and Self-finance colleges)

1. In-depth Understanding of NEP's Impact on Technical Institutes:

Dr. Keyur Darji's detailed presentation on the National Education Policy (NEP) outlined significant changes that technical institutes need to adopt. The focus was on the student credit system, which will play a vital role in shifting from traditional learning to a more practical, outcome-based approach. The policy encourages multidisciplinary and holistic education, preparing students to adapt to rapidly evolving industries. Dr. Darji also emphasized the National Credit Framework (NCrF), which mandates at least 40 credits per year, making hands-on learning, internships, and practical engagements integral to education.

2. Emphasis on Practical and Industry-Aligned Learning:

One of the major takeaways from Dr. Darji's session and the panel discussions was the urgent need to align education with industry needs. The conclave underscored the role of internships, project-based learning, and skill-development courses in shaping industry-ready graduates. Institutes were encouraged to integrate practical learning modules that enable students to apply theoretical concepts in real-world settings. The student credit system, as outlined in the NEP, is a critical tool in ensuring that students gain adequate exposure to internships and practical engagements, making them more employable.

3. Future-ready Education through the NEP Framework:

The NEP's Multiple Entry and Exit framework was presented as a game changer for higher education, particularly for technical institutes. This framework allows students to earn certificates, diplomas, and degrees at different stages, offering flexibility in learning pathways. The conclave emphasized the importance of preparing institutes to implement this policy by revising their course structures, credit allocations, and collaboration strategies with industry partners to offer real-world exposure to students.

4. Exposure to GTU's Innovation and Incubation Ecosystem:

The visit to GTU's Innovation and Incubation Centers provided a real-world example of how institutions can establish similar centers of excellence in their own campuses. Participants witnessed ongoing student-led projects, industry collaborations, and startups incubated within the university, offering them a firsthand view of the possibilities that such ecosystems provide. The innovation centers displayed cutting-edge research and entrepreneurial endeavors, showcasing how institutes can help students transition from theoretical knowledge to innovation and entrepreneurship.

5. Encouragement for Principals to Take Leadership in NEP Implementation:

The conclave highlighted the crucial role that principals and institutional leaders must play in the successful implementation of NEP reforms. Principals were encouraged to foster a culture of innovation within their institutions, support faculty development, and motivate students to pursue multidisciplinary learning. Leadership in technical education was emphasized as a key factor in transforming educational institutions into hubs of innovation and research, capable of preparing students for the challenges of the future workforce.

6. Collaboration Between Affiliated Colleges and GTU's Innovation Ecosystem:

A key theme of the panel discussion led by Dr. Mihir Shah, Mr. Rahul Bhagchandani, and Dr. Tushar Panchal was fostering stronger collaborations between GTU and its affiliated colleges. The panelists emphasized how colleges could leverage GTU's Innovation Council and incubation support to benefit their students and faculty. The discussion covered collaboration in research, access to state-of-the-art facilities at GTU, and how affiliated institutes can provide incentives for faculty members and students to participate in innovation-driven programs.

7. Building a Robust Startup Ecosystem through Institutional Support:

The experience-sharing session by startups was one of the most impactful parts of the conclave. Entrepreneurs like Mr. Yash Shah from E-swasthya, Mr. Dhruv Saidava from Eduneuro, and Mr. Nikhil Vijayvergiya from BillionCarbon shared their entrepreneurial journeys and challenges. These founders credited GTU's incubation centers and its innovation-friendly ecosystem for helping them scale their startups. The startups highlighted the need for early mentorship, access to funding, and opportunities for industry collaborations as critical for their success.

GTU highlighted its available resources for innovation, including its incubation centers, innovation grants, and research collaboration opportunities. Participants learned about how their institutions can partner with GTU to access grants for student research projects, patent filing support, and even startup incubation for student entrepreneurs. The university's focus on research and innovation in emerging areas such as AI, machine learning, biotechnology, and green energy was discussed, with suggestions for faculty and students to collaborate on these initiatives.

9. Questions and Feedback

During the session, the principal participants engaged actively, raising questions about the practicality of the newly introduced NEP. In response, both the Dean and the Vice-Chancellor emphasized the ongoing improvements aimed at enhancing practical learning. They also addressed future amendments, such as refining the credit system to award students for innovation and the filing of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR). The importance of integrating MOOCs and other learning sessions starting from the first year was underscored. Additionally, the participants discussed the need for flexibility in course selection from the first semester, allowing students to bypass less-interesting topics early on, fostering greater engagement and interest in their academic pursuits.

The Strategic Leadership Conclave was not only an informative session but also a collaborative platform for principals to exchange ideas, learn about NEP-driven innovations, and explore ways to integrate these policies into their institutional frameworks. The conclave's focus on innovation, collaboration, and practical learning will likely drive significant changes in technical education across Gujarat.

PRESS NOTE

Strategic Leadership Conclave for Principals on NEP and Innovation

Date: October 21, 2024

Venue: Gujarat Technological University, Chandkheda Campus

Gujarat Technological University (GTU) successfully hosted the Strategic Leadership Conclave for Principals on NEP and Innovation for Technical Institutes on October 21, 2024. The event brought together principals and academic leaders from across Gujarat to discuss and explore the opportunities presented by the National Education Policy (NEP) and its impact on technical education. The conclave aimed to inspire institutional leaders to adopt NEP reforms, foster innovation, and build collaborations with GTU's existing ecosystem.

The event began with a formal Inaugural Session, where dignitaries were felicitated, and the Welcome Address was delivered by the Registrar of GTU. In his address, the Registrar highlighted the need for Gujarat's educational institutions to align their educational strategies with the NEP's vision, focusing on practical learning, research, and industry collaboration.

The Key Session was led by Dr. Keyur Darji, who provided a comprehensive overview of the NEP 2020 and its relevance to technical institutes. He emphasized the student credit system, interdisciplinary learning, and the importance of practical exposure to help students become future-ready. The session offered actionable strategies for institutes to implement NEP reforms effectively.

In the afternoon session, an expert panel comprising Dr. Mihir Shah, Mr. Rahul Bhagchandani, and Dr. Tushar Panchal discussed Innovation and Collaboration Opportunities between GTU and affiliated colleges. They presented GTU's innovation ecosystem, which includes incubation centers, research grants, and support for startups. The panel highlighted how these collaborations can drive innovation in education and provide faculty and students with incentives to engage in research and entrepreneurship.

The conclave also featured an Experience Sharing Session by startups incubated at GTU, including E-swasthya, Eduneuro, and BillionCarbon, spoke about the critical role GTU's incubation ecosystem played in scaling their startup and shared insights into sustainable innovation through waste management technologies.

The event concluded with a high-tea networking session followed by an exposure visit to GTU's Innovation & Incubation Centers, where participants had the opportunity to witness ongoing student-led research projects and startup ventures.

Key Highlights:

- Insightful sessions on NEP 2020 implementation strategies for technical institutes.
- Panel discussions on innovation and collaboration opportunities between GTU and its affiliated colleges.
- Experience sharing by successful startups incubated at GTU.
- Exposure visit to GTU's Innovation & Incubation Centers, showcasing real-world student projects and entrepreneurial activities.

The event successfully fostered meaningful dialogue on how educational institutions can embrace NEP-driven reforms and leverage GTU's ecosystem to promote research, innovation, and entrepreneurship across Gujarat.

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