



TWO WEEK CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME

Organised by

University School of Mass Communication
Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University
12-23 March 2024

Address of Guest of Honour

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Dear Professor Mahesh Sharma, Honorable Vice Chancellor of Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University, Delhi; Professor K G Suresh, Honorable Vice Chancellor of Makhanlal Chaturvedi National University of Journalism and Communication, Bhopal; Professor A K Saini, Dean of the School of Mass Communication and Director of the Open and Distance Learning programme of the University; Professor Durgesh Tripathi, Professor Sachin Bharti and Mr Siddhartha Verma!

I am thankful to Dr Durgesh Tripathi for inviting me to this important event and to honourable Vice Chancellor Professor Mahesh Sharma for extending the invitation. I consider it a great privilege to be with the dignitaries and the participants during the inaugural session of this important capacity building programme, well-conceived by the team that is organising the event. I am glad to meet Professor K G Suresh who has remained a great friend of my organisation for more than two decades.

The Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia has been at the forefront of promoting appropriate technologies for education and skill development, and our efforts in each of the eight Commonwealth Member States of Asia and the 56 Member States at large in all the regions of the Commonwealth have been sustained over the last three

decades. We promote the use of a range of technologies, pedagogies, teaching-learning methods, innovative assessment techniques and the much-required learner support systems for enhancing the quality of education and skill development.

In India, the 1100 plus Universities and 45000 colleges are catering to close to 40M students, who are in the higher education institutions, and with the National Education Policy 2020, it is possible for India to not only achieve its own goals of enhancing the Gross Enrollment Ratio from the current 29 percent to the target of 50 percent by 2035, but also achieving all the targets of Global Sustainable Development Goals, especially Targets set out in Goals 4 and 8 while also contributing to achieving targets of other Goals. This is, however, possible only when faculty members such as the ones gathered here are able to contribute to the national targets. While we are pursuing the national targets, the government has also set out its plan for the next twenty-five years in the form of Viksit Bharat 2047 to become a developed nation. To achieve all these goals, the educators of today, from early childhood education to primary to secondary to post-secondary education to tertiary education, but more importantly, those in the tertiary education, must develop skills and competences to offer lifelong learning opportunities to our citizens. And, the success lies in the ability to take advantage of the National Education Policy 2020 and the innovative provision of the same available at our disposal. In this context, this two-week long programme is extremely timely and essential. I wish to congratulate all those involved in this effort and more importantly, the participants who have come from all corners of the nation.

What does it take to contribute to Viksit Bharat @ 2047? We do not have to look for very many strategies from elsewhere. Every strategy that is required to achieve Viksit Bharat @ 2047 can be found in the National Education Policy 2020. I wish to highlight a few today in order to help you keep at the back of your mind as you do your bit to contribute to the national priorities and the national goals.

What are the characteristics of a developed nation?

- A sovereign State that operates based on its Constitution and one that respects the integrity pillars of the nation
- A State that offers quality of life to each citizen with high standards of living conditions
- Highly developed economy – GDP, GNP and Per Capita Income
- Highly advanced infrastructure, including the technology infrastructure
- One that offers opportunities for every citizen to unleash human potential; thus, being contributors to human development
 - o Life expectancy
 - o Education

- Per Capita Income
- Wellness and happiness
- There are 83 nations, which are classified as high, both in terms of income and human development, of which 40 are termed as 'developed.' India is neither among the 40 nor among the 83 as of now. However, with your help, India is likely to be among not only the 83, but among the top 40, termed as 'developed,' in the next twenty five years.

Since most of you are likely to spend 25 years as educators, you will surely be the main parties towards achieving this. Recently, Minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar and Secretary Krishnan have unveiled India AI mission with a simple statement that AI coupled with Human Intelligence shall contribute to the tune of one trillion out of the five trillion to the economy on its path to achieving the five trillion dollar economy.

As young faculty members, you are at the cusp of entering an AI-enabled era; I mean, an AI-enabled education era where you, with your human intelligence, skills and competences are likely to collaborate with AI tools and techniques as educators. This is phenomenal! As you would know, AI has been on the horizon since the year 1950 when Alan Turing published his paper, Computing Machinery and Intelligence in which he also proposed the famous Turing Test – test of a machine's ability to exhibit intelligent behaviour. We have witnessed AI summers and winters in the last 70 years! But the year 2020 onwards, with Generative AI, having been introduced in November 2022, we are witnessing a new era of development. Not only digitalisation and greening have had effects in every sphere of human life and the coming together of physical world, digital world and the biological world in the form of the industrial revolution 4.0; but with AI, we are moving towards a new era in human development.

The recently announced India AI mission that would spend more than USD 1.2 billion in the next years or so shall enhance the following: the India AI Compute power, India AI innovation, India AI Start-up Ecosystem, India AI Datasets, India AI Applications, India AI Future Skills, India Safe and Trusted AI. One may think that the objectives relate only to the government and industry. But, there is a distinct role for the educators. You may wonder how! The Future of the Indian workforce shall go through the educators, that is, through your hands and guidance, at least a good 20 years of their life. The way you shape them up would enable the industry to further hone and harness the potential. Of the 20 years of their learning journey, a good one fourth will be with you where you would lead them to be a part of the workforce. And, these will be very critical years.

How could you do this? You do not have to look any further! Look at the NEP 2020 for answers to many of the strategies that you require. NEP 2020 is very directive:

- Teaching to Learning; Teachers to facilitators; and Teacher-centred to learner-centred
- Prescriptive to subscriptive education and certification; Choice-based credit system
- A generation which is in a hurry – just like the government which is in a hurry

Let us take the very first paragraph of NEP 2020

Education is fundamental for achieving full human potential, developing an equitable and just society, and promoting national development. Providing universal access to quality education is the key to India's continued ascent, and leadership on the global stage in terms of economic growth, social justice and equality, scientific advancement, national integration, and cultural preservation. Universal high-quality education is the best way forward for developing and maximising our country's rich talents and resources for the good of the individual, the society, the country, and the world. India will have the highest population of young people in the world over the next decade, and our ability to provide high-quality educational opportunities to them will determine the future of our country.

And the Higher Education section recognises the following:

- **Quality Universities and Colleges: A New and Forward-looking Vision for India's Higher Education System**
- **Institutional Restructuring and Consolidation**
- **Towards a More Holistic and Multidisciplinary Education**
 - **Internationalisation**
 - **Student Activity and Participation**
 - **Financial Support to Students**
- **Motivated, Energised, and Capable Faculty**
- **Equity and Inclusion in Higher Education**
- **Teacher Education**
- **Reimagining Vocational Education**
- **Catalysing Quality Academic Research in All Fields through a new National Research Foundation**
- **Transforming the Regulatory System of Higher Education**
- **Curbing Commercialisation of Education**
- **Effective Governance and Leadership for Higher Education Institutions**

Other areas of focus include:

- **Professional Education**

- **Adult Education and Lifelong Learning**
- **Promotion of Indian Languages, Arts, and Culture**
- **Technology Use and Integration**
- **Creating a Dedicated Unit for Building a World Class Digital Infrastructure, Educational Digital Content and Capacity**
- **Online and Digital Education: Ensuring Equitable Use of Technology**

It becomes imperative for the faculty members to, therefore, develop/hone their skills in a variety of areas, including the following:

- Research and enquiry skills
- Argumentative and critical thinking skills
- Communication and writing skills
- Media and Information literacy
- AI literacy and Data literacy
- Data analysis and interpretation skills
- Skills to infuse AI-enabled assessment
- Provision of AI-enabled student support services

While these are a few, it is expected that the faculty members are able to shape up the career planning of students who would enter the market place soon after completing their graduation. Their last few years of formal education is an opportunity for the faculty members to turn them into lifelong learners as well as ones who will be self-determined and self-motivated to pursue career growth for the rest of their life.

May I wish you the best in your own efforts to hone your own skills to be prepared for implementing the NEP 2020; thus, preparing your learners towards contributing to Viksit Bharat @ 2047.