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NEP needs to be flexible, make space for region-specific gaps: NE academics

Guwahati: Vice-chancellors of several northeastern universities and stakeholders of educational institutions from the region have sought several changes to make Centre's education policy more flexible for the northeast before the National Education Policy (NEP) 2019 is formulated.

The Union ministry of human resources development (MHRD) has asked all state governments to submit their suggestions before June 30 after the Centre would start formulating the policy. Vice-chancellors of both state-run and private universities and institutions of higher education in the region have also expressed their concerns.

Guwahati University vice-chancellor was one of those present at the meet.

the delegates also opined that the policy needed to put more emphasis on educating women and minorities in the region.

Although school education is well documented, like the Liberal Arts, it is

Guwahati University said. He added that transforming colleges as per the policy norms would be a challenging task for the institutions in very remote areas which may not be prepared enough to function autonomously.

Mahabubul Hoque, chairman of USTM, said that the NEP would act as a game-changer for the country. He added that the NEP would be a challenge for the institutions of distinguished academics as they have put forward pertinent suggestions that the state government would make to the Centre before the policy was finalised.

The Union government would

INDIA'S LARGEST ENGLISH MEDIUM UNIVERSITY

Dr. A.P.J. ABUL KALAM
Hon'ble Former President

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The Assam Tribune

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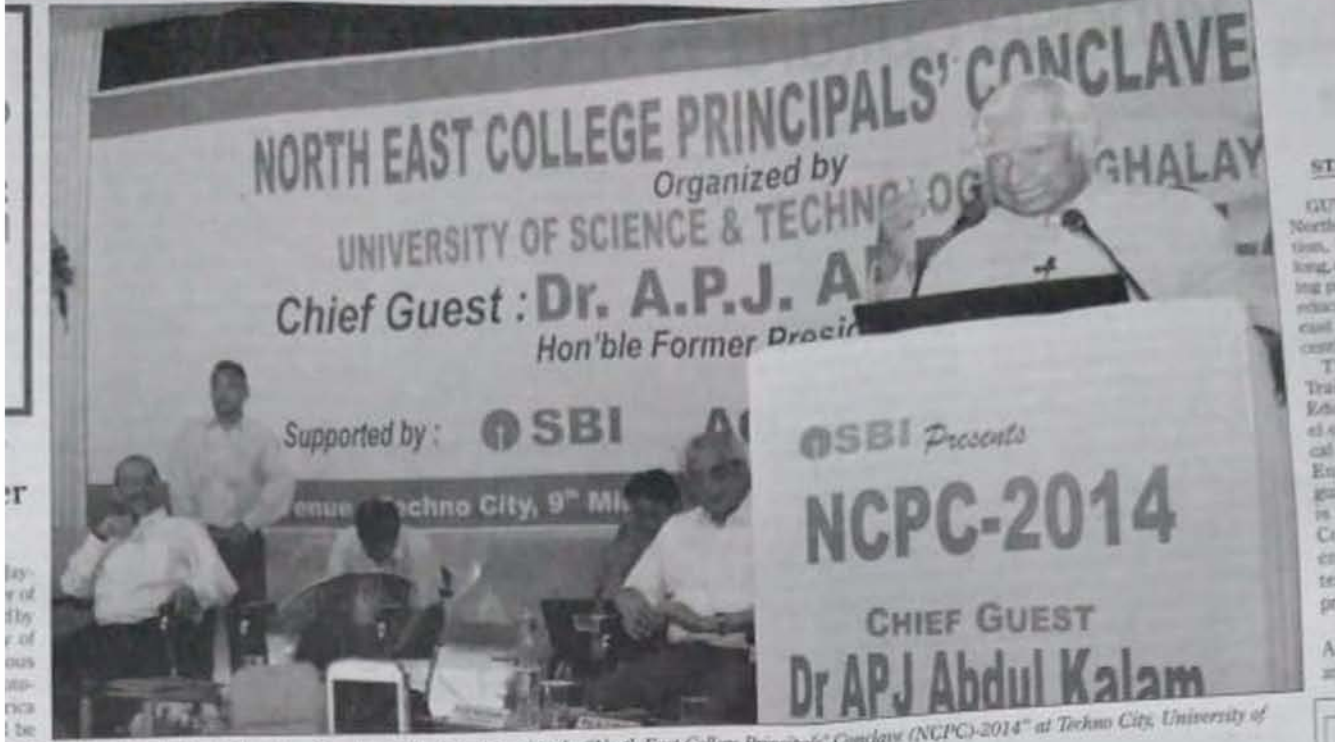
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Dr APJ Abdul Kalam, the former President of India, addressing the "North East College Principals' Conclave (NCPC)-2014" at Techno City, University of Science & Technology, on Wednesday. - AT Photo

Kalam's views on pursuit of knowledge

SANJOY RAY

GUWAHATI, July 23 - Former President of India Dr APJ Abdul Kalam today said that there was no harm in crossing the geographical boundaries in pursuit of knowledge, asserting that 'if knowledge is there one should not mind crossing even the ocean to get there.'

He made the statement in the context of migration from the North-east for higher education to outside.

However, he maintained, there is a need to create greater entrepreneurship opportunities in the North-east

and that the onus lay on the teachers to direct the youth in the right path.

Kalam was speaking in the North East College Principals' Conclave, 2014 held at University of Science and Technology, Meghalaya this evening.

Dr Kalam, while referring to the zeal and challenges that an Army man posted in difficult terrain faces, said that the teachers and the principals too had a job cut out and 'it is they who are in a unique mission to shape the young minds of our country.'

"Inspiring the youth with education and values is the primary job of the teachers and principals. He or she must

be able to radiate knowledge and positivity of life. A principal must also keep in mind that he is a teacher first and should strive hard to create great children," the Missile Man said.

While sharing a story on his visit to the UAE to inaugurate a book fair, Dr Kalam urged the young and old alike to have a home library which in the long run would enrich the entire family.

While referring to the principals as the teacher of teachers, Dr Kalam asked the principals to imbibe in them a number of qualities which include adapting with the age and psyche of

the students and maintaining transparency in their work.

"One must focus in igniting the young minds and thereby lift the below-average students up," he pointed out, addressing the gathering.

"Besides, a principal taking classes of his or her expertise is very important," he said.

A host of other noted personalities including Chancellor of USTM M Hague, Vice Chancellor of Tezpur University Dr MK Choudhury, Vice Chancellor of Gauhati University Dr Mridul Hazarika were present on the occasion.

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JUNE 23, 2019 | PAGES 24 | INCLUDING TIMESLIFE! | TIMESOFINDIA.COM | EPAPER.TIMESOFINDIA.COM

INDIA'S LARGEST ENGLISH NEWSPAPER

NEP needs to be flexible, make space for region-specific gaps: NE academics

Kangkan Kalita | TNN

Guwahati: Vice-chancellors of several northeastern universities and stakeholders of educational institutions from the region have sought several changes to make Centre's education policy more flexible for the northeast before the National Education Policy (NEP) 2019 is formulated.

The Union ministry of human resource development (MHRD) has asked all state governments to submit their suggestions before June 30 after which the Centre would start finalising the policy. Vice-chancellors of both state-run and central universities and directors of several higher educational institutions gathered at the University of Science and Technology Meghalaya (USTM) in the outskirts Guwahati on Saturday to give their inputs on the central education policy.

All those present in the meet unanimously agreed that the



Gauhati University vice-chancellor was one of those present at the meet

policy should be flexible enough to accommodate components that would be northeast centric. Mihir Kanti Chaudhari, education advisor to the Assam government, said that the policy should include perspectives of the northeastern region and cater its needs, like the establishment of a Institute of Liberal Arts. Apart from this,

the delegates also opined that the policy needed to put more emphasis on educating women and minorities in the region.

"Although school education is well documented in the policy draft, it has not laid down the implementation process as that would be a thing to note for the northeastern region," Mridul Hazarika, vice-chancellor of

Gauhati University said. He added that transforming colleges as per the policy norms would be a challenging task for the government as there are many institutions in very remote areas which may not be prepared enough to function autonomously.

Mahbubul Hoque, chairman of USTM, said that the NEP would act as a game changer for the country. He added that the meeting of distinguished academicians of the northeast was significant as they have put forward pertinent suggestions that the state government would make to the Centre before the policy was finalised.

The Union government has said that the main thrust of the policy will be breaking the rigid boundaries of disciplines in higher education and moving towards broad-based, flexible learning.

The policy will be finalised and presented in Parliament after taking feedback from various stakeholders.

File photo/TOI

The Assam Tribune

78 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE NATION

LATE CITY

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UGC chairman addresses VCs of NE

GUWAHATI, March 12: University Grants Commission (UGC) chairman Prof Ved Prakash and Union Minister of States for Home Affairs Kiren Rijiju addressed the Vice-Chancellors of Central, State and private Universities and Principal of few prominent colleges of NE through an interactive session at University of Science & Technology, Meghalaya (USTM) on March 11, a press release said.

Addressing the VCs and

Principals, Rijiju said that skill development training and linkage between universities and industries are important in NE to eradicate unemployment. He further stressed on the need of industry-based training in the universities. He encouraged the universities to adopt villages nearby for the overall socio-economic growth of the country.

Prof Ved Prakash, during his interaction with the VCs and principals from various colleg-

es of NE, said that, if a university want to be the best all the departments should perform equally. The Chairman further encouraged the VCs to set the goal for coming five years and keep monitoring the growth of the university. He also stressed on the importance of entrepreneurship training at the universities.

During the interactive session, the VCs and Principals discussed the problems related to the higher education-

al institutions in NE with Prof Ved Prakash. Prof Mihir Kanti Chaudhuri, VC, Tezpur University presided over the interactive session. The VCs of more than 20 Central, State and private Universities along with more than seventy Principals of renowned colleges of NE were present in the programme.

Earlier, the Social Science Block and Food Science & Technology lab of USTM were inaugurated.

THE HILLS TIMES

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Voice of the hills people

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DIPHU, KARBI ANGLONG, SUNDAY, JUNE 23, 2019

PAGES 8

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called on cricket's top teams to play more matches against his country in future to aid their development. Naib's side have lost all five of their matches at the current World Cup ahead of Saturday's clash with title contenders India in Southampton.

Opinions divided over outcome of National Education Policy 2019 ● Debate mooted three language draft

'Policy needs to have a perspective of NE region'



HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, June 22: Brainstorming session on the National Education Policy-2019 took place with confluence of vice chancellors of various universities of Northeast, stake holders, directors and representatives of educational institutions from the Northeastern region at University of Science & Technology Meghalaya (USTM) on Saturday.

Addressing the session, the speakers agreed to look into three language draft, recommended to have more debate. The speakers also appreciated and discussed about the various positive and innovative points of the Education Policy. *(Contd. on pg-2)*

It is a great joy for me to learn that the Council (KAAC) is going to celebrate its colourful event on 23rd June, 2019 (Complex, Donkamukam, West Karbi Anglong).

The erstwhile Mikir Hills District Council Autonomous Council (KAAC), after the government is one of the Autonomous Councils by the 6th Schedule provisions of the Constitution, giving the land and territory, language and culture of the (Hills) communities living in the twin districts of West Karbi Anglong and Mikir Hills.

Since the inception of the Council, the government in KAAC has strived a lot to bring development. The present BJP led KAAC under the CEM has made no stone unturned in executing development of the district and welfare schemes.

Under his abled leadership the twin districts of West Karbi Anglong have now become the fastest developing districts in Assam.

I once again convey my Best wishes for a Happy Foundation Day celebration for 'Team Karbi Anglong' headed by the government, to make it a prosperous place in Assam as well.

Dated : the 23rd June, 2019

THE HILLS TIMES

www.thehillstimes.in

Voice of the hills people

862

DIPHU, KARBI ANGLONG, THURSDAY, JULY 4, 2019 PAGES 8 PRICE ₹ 5

'Inputs from the NE VCs to be studied for consideration'

Kasturirangan hails USTM initiatives on new education policy

HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, July 3: Dr. K. Kasturirangan, Chairman of the Committee for Draft National Educational Policy 2019, has appreciated "the exceptional recommendations" from the various Vice-Chancellors of the universities of the Northeastern regions who recently met in a brainstorming under the initiative of Mahbubul Hoque, Chancellor, University of Science and Technology-Meghalaya (USTM).

"I am extremely pleased to note that each of the Vice-Chancellors of the Universities of the Northeastern region as well as academics from the concerned institutions have made a very careful study of the policy report", the NEP Chairman stated in a letter sent to USTM Tuesday.

In the letter addressed to the USTM Chancellor, the leader of the Draft National Education Policy Dr Kasturirangan stated: "I was de-



lighted to receive the exceptional recommendations from the various Vice-Chancellors of the Universities of the Northeastern regions who met under your Chairmanship to discuss the various aspects of the Draft National Education Policy 2019. I am extremely pleased to note that each of the Vice-Chancellors of the Universities of the Northeastern region as well as academics from the concerned institutions have

made a very careful study of the policy report. This is well reflected in the kind of details that each of the participants had gone into with respect to this rather voluminous report".

He further said that the inputs from the NE Vice Chancellors would be studied with all the care and attention by a special committee. The committee will consider all such inputs in the context of the

necessary additions/changes that needed to be made to the draft policy report.

"Even though I am not writing individually to the Vice Chancellors of the Universities of the Northeastern regions, this email is being addressed to all of them through you and thus includes all the participating Vice Chancellors and officials whose names and designations are included in the final section of the report. I not only feel very satisfied with the efforts put by all of you but also the speed with which you came out with specific suggestions that can be considered by the MHRD Committee in revising the draft", he added.

Hoque, Chancellor of USTM stated that more such brainstorming sessions on the new National Education Policy will be organized by the university in the coming days with participation of various stakeholders to come up with new ideas and innovative (Contd. on pg-2)

Kasturirangan hails USTM

inputs. The recent Brainstorming Session on NEP organised by USTM was held on June 22 which was participated by VCs & Directors of various universities and NITs of the north-eastern region.

The Sentinel *city*

of this land, for its people

GUWAHATI SUNDAY 23 JUNE 2019

Brainstorm on new education policy at USTM

GUWAHATI, June 22: A galaxy of Vice Chancellors of north-eastern universities, stakeholders, Directors and representatives of educational institutions from the north-eastern region gathered together at the University of Science & Technology Meghalaya today to participate in a brainstorming session on the National Education Policy-2019 and discussed about the massive change and restructuring of the existing education system. The programme was organized by USTM in association with the Center for South East Asian Studies, Gauhati University and Rajiv Gandhi University, Arunachal Pradesh.

As per a press release, presiding over the brainstorming meet, Prof Mihir Kanti Chaudhuri, Adviser (Education), Government of Assam said that one of the important points agreed by all the participants in the meeting was that the new Nation-

al Education Policy needs to have a perspective of the North Eastern region India. It was agreed that study of agriculture needs to be addressed properly in the Policy and the North East should have at least one Indian Institute of Liberal Arts (IILA). It was also agreed by all that the policy needs to put more emphasis on minorities and female education. The participants also appreciated and discussed about the various positive and innovative points of the Education Policy.

Mahbubul Hoque, Chairman of USTM stated, "As the Ministry of HRD, Govt of India wants to introduce the new National Education Policy that may act as a game changer for a new India, we find it extremely significant for the educational leaders and academic fraternity of North East India, along with the whole country, to sit together and have a thorough discussion on the new Education Policy so

that necessary suggestions can be put forward to the concerned authority in time". The views, opinions and suggestions put forward by the distinguished speakers would be summarized and the minutes of the session will be sent to MHRD before 30th June 2019 as desired by the Government, he added.

Delivering the keynote address, Dr Mridul Hazarika, Vice Chancellor, Gauhati University said, "The most important part of the National Education Policy-2019 is that it is extremely comprehensive and well thought out. The school education part is well documented as schools are the feeder institutions for higher education. But how are we prepared for the constraints in the implementation process is not clearly mentioned in the Policy." For instance, many remote colleges in the North East are not adequately prepared to function as autonomous institutions, he added.

Apart from stakeholders, other distinguished participants in the brainstorming session include: Prof Saket Kushwaha Vice Chancellor, Rajiv Gandhi University, Arunachal Pradesh; Prof Vijaykumar L Dharurkar, VC, Tripura University, Dr Dhiraj Bora, VC, Assam Science and Technology University; Prof R.C Nayak, Pro-VC, Nagaland University; Prof G Singaiah, Pro-VC, North East Hill University; Dr RR Haque, Tezpur University; Dr N.B Singh & Dr U.K Behera, Deans, Central Agricultural University; Prof Vincent Darlong, VC, Martin Luther Christian University; Dr Maribon Viray & Dr Fabian Lyngdoh, MLCU; Dr S. C. Singh, Adjunct Professor of Law, National Law University and Judicial Academy; Dr S Tamilvanan, Associate Prof, NIPER, Guwahati, Prof Alaka Sarma, Director (Hony), International Centre for Gandhian Studies, USTM.

Discussion on role of varsities, research institutions in NE Vision 2020 execution

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Aug 24 – A panel discussion of vice chancellors, heads of higher technical educational institutions and research organisations operating in North East on the topic, “NE Vision 2020 and the role of universities, technical and research institutions of North East in its implementation” is going to be organised by the Education Research and Development Foundation, Guwahati on September 5.

Senior officials of Government of India departments and bodies such as ICAR, ICMR, NIRD, NEC and DoNER among others have also been

invited to take part in the discussion. Union Minister for DoNER BK Handique is likely to inaugurate the programme.

Besides the focus points of the Vision 2020 Document, the panel discussion is also expected to throw light on the importance and scope of target-oriented research and development projects in the universities and institutions of higher and technical education that would explore the biodiversity of the North East and channelise it for the development of the region.

The discussion will be held at the conference hall of the Regional Institute of Science

and Technology (RIST), Baridua, Killing Road (opposite CRPF Group Centre), G.S. Road, Ninth Mile. The location is around 6 km from Dispur. PP Shrivastav, member, North Eastern Council, has conveyed his consent to deliver the keynote address on the occasion.

The inaugural session will start at 10 am and the business session will start at 11.30 am and continue till 4 pm

Prof P Tandon, VC, NEHU, Shillong is the chairman of the organising committee for the panel discussion while Dr PG Rao, Director, NEIST, Jorhat is the vice chairman of the committee. Dr Amarjyoti

Choudhury, Professor, Nano Biotechnology, Tezpur University and former Vice Chancellor, Gauhati University, is one of the members of the organising committee. Prof GD Sharma, Pro Vice Chancellor of Assam University, Silchar has taken over as the convenor of the organising committee. The working chairman of the committee is M Hoque, chairman, ERDF.

Announcing this at a press meet held at Guwahati on Saturday, the organisers appealed all front-ranking academicians, scholars, scientists, social workers, NGO officials and opinion-makers to attend the panel discussion.



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STAFF REPORTER

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Scholars, experts converge at USTM for academic meet

CHRONICLE NEWS SERVICE
GUWAHATI, MAR 10

Serving and retired vice chancellors of universities, professors and scientists from the North East as well as from reputed institutions of other states shared the platform at the University of Science & Technology Meghalaya (USTM) to take part in the University's Academic Meet held on Saturday at Baridua, on the outskirts of Guwahati.

In his welcome address, Mahbulul Hoque, Chancellor of USTM said that the North East occupies a strategic position in the map of India vis-à-vis the 'Look East Policy' of the Government. He further added, "USTM is going to play a pivotal role in the fulfillment of the objectives of this Look East Policy." Dr SK Choudhury, VC of USTM, said, "USTM is committed to be a specialised institution of higher education in this part of the country in creating, managing and applying knowledge that would serve as the basic ingredient for all development activities of the coming days."

Taking part in the discussion,



Academicians, scholars and scientists who participated in the academic meet at USTM in Baridua on the outskirts of Guwahati on Saturday. EC

Dr AC Bhagabati, former VC RGU, Arunachal Pradesh, said, "No faculty, however knowledgeable he or she may be, should think that 'My ways are the best.' A faculty should be ready to learn and if necessary 'unlearn' also to make room for accepting useful suggestions." Dr Kulendu Pathak, former VC, Dibrugarh University was of the opinion that a person gets 'built up' during the undergraduate studies and hence there should be more emphasis on this

stage rather than on PG studies.

Others who took part in the discussion were Dr NK Choudhury, former VC GU; Dr GD Sharma, Pro VC, Assam University; Dr Kamaleswar Bora, former VC, Dibrugarh University; Dr GN Talukdar, former VC GU; and Dr Amarjyoti Choudhury, Pro VC, Tezpur University.

Speaking as an expert, Dr Archana Upadhyay, Professor of JNU said that USTM authorities could consider including subjects such as Gandhian Studies, Gender

Studies, Human Rights and Social Medicine in their curriculum in the near future. Among other prominent experts who spoke were Prof M Altaf Khan, Commerce & Business Studies Department, Jamia Millia Islamia; Dr NN Sarma, Director, Assam Institute of Management; Dr JU Ahmed, HoD, Management Science, NEHU; and Dr KV Nagaraj, Professor of Journalism & Mass Com, Assam University.

In phase II of the Meet, a school-wise discussion took place to finalise the department-wise draft incorporating necessary comments thereupon. Review meeting of deans and experts was held under phase III of the Meet.

It may be mentioned here that ERD Foundation, the sponsor of USTM, has now emerged as the largest institutional network of secondary, higher, professional, and technical education in the North East. ERDF plans to build USTM as a global institute of excellence and a model university for the region.

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GUWAHATI

The General Northeast Fro Keshav Chandra was elevated Member (Mech Railway Boa decision making Railway Minis

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Youths urged to preserve tradition and culture

CHRONICLE NEWS SERVICE
SHILLONG, MAR 10

from mouth to mouth. Ruing that today's generation has forgotten traditional ways and values taught by their

has moved ahead in the field of education, majority have neglected the wisdom of their ancestors. He

rel A day-long seminar on folklores aimed

The Assam Rising

Projecting the best of Northeast India everyday

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VCs heads of institutions brainstorm at USTM for Educational Collaboration with South East Asia

News Desk Guwahati, Dec 6 : University Vice chancellors and heads of higher educational institutions from the North East met today over a brainstorming session on "South East Asia-Indian North East: Collaborative Higher Education Perspective" and formed an association suggested as "South East Asia as Intellectual Leader for a Better World" which would lead for collaborative work with institutions of the neighboring South East Asian countries. The programme was initiated and organized by the University of Science and

Technology Meghalaya (USTM) in association with National Law University and Judicial Academy Assam (NLUJAA), Institute of Advanced Study in Science and Technology (IASST), Assam Science and Technology University (ASTU), Srimanta Sankaradeva University of Health Sciences (SSUHS), Tezpur University (TU) and Cotton University (CU). This new platform of higher education institutions has also decided that the first international convention in this direction would be held in the month of April 2020. The meeting has formed an association with Dr Mridul Hazarika, Principal Advisor USTM & former VC, Gauhati University as the President, Prof NC Talukdar, Director, IASST as the Vice President, Dr JS Patil, VC, National Law University as the Working President, Dr Dhiraj Bora, VC, Assam Science and Technology University as the Organizing Secretary, Prof Vinod Kumar Jain, VC Tezpur University as the Patron while Dr PK Goswami, VC, USTM, Prof Dipika Deka, VC, SSUHS, Prof Bhabesh Chandra Goswami, VC Cotton University apart from others as founding Members. It was decided that two universities from each SE Asian



countries would be invited to be part of the organizing committee for the proposed international convention in April. Chairing the brainstorming session, Dr Mridul Hazarika said that people to people contact is more important than government to government action in respect of collaborative relationship between South East Asian countries in the field of education. Therefore there is the need of a platform to think and work together towards building collaborative connections between the SE Asian countries in order to lead the world in the intellectual arena. Dr Mahbulul Hoque, Chancellor of USTM and the key initiator in formation of this association of higher educational institutions of the North East India and South East Asia said, "It is time that all educational institutions come forward and join hands to work together for educational sports and cultural activities and make out Northeast a global destination". USTM is always ready to extend support for activities in order to create a global community, he added. He also rued that education is not getting priority in the government's Act East Policy. Dr JS Patil stated that "there is a need to develop a kind of philosophy which binds us together to form an organization and only then we'll become torch bearers in bringing our educational vision". The only way to equate ourselves with the western world is to dominate intellectually, he added. Dr Dhiraj Bora, Prof NC Talukdar, Prof Dipika Deka, Dr PK Goswami also spoke on the occasion and forwarded their views.

The Assam Tribune

81 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE NATION

LATE CITY

PUBLISHED SIMULTANEOUSLY FROM GUWAHATI & DISRUGARH

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VCs of NE varsities discuss New Education Policy

CORRESPONDENT

JORABAT, June 22: A galaxy of Vice Chancellors of North Eastern universities, stakeholders, directors and representatives of educational institutions from the NE region gathered at the University of Science & Technology, Meghalaya (USTM) near here today to participate in a brainstorming session on the National Education Policy-2019.

They discussed the massive change and restructuring of the existing education system. The programme was organised by the USTM in association with the Centre for South East Asian Studies, Gauhati University and Rajiv Gandhi University, Arunachal Pradesh.

Presiding over the meet, Prof Mihir Kanti Chaudhuri, Adviser (Education), Government of Assam, said that one of the important points agreed to by all the participants was that the new National

Education Policy (NEP) needs to have a perspective of the North Eastern region of India. It was also agreed to by all that the policy needs to put more emphasis on minorities and female education.

Mahbubul Hoque, USTM chairman, stated, "As the Union Ministry of HRD wants to introduce the new NEP that may act as a game changer for a new India, we find it extremely significant for the educational leaders and academic fraternity of the NE, along with the whole country, to sit together and have a thorough discussion on the new NEP". The views, opinions and suggestions put forward by the speakers would be sent to Ministry of HRD, he added.

Delivering the keynote address, Dr Mridul Hazarika, Vice Chancellor of Gauhati University, said, "The most important part of the NEP is that it is extremely comprehensive and well thought out. The school education part is well

documented as schools are the feeder institutions for higher education.

Apart from stakeholders, other distinguished participants in the session included Prof Saket Kushwaha, VC, Rajiv Gandhi University, Arunachal Pradesh; Prof Vijaykumar L Dharurkar, VC, Tripura University; Dr Dhiraj Bora, VC, Assam Science and Technology University; Prof RC Nayak, Pro-VC, Nagaland University; Prof G Singaiah, Pro-VC, North East Hill University; Dr RR Haque, Tezpur University; Dr NB Singh & Dr UK Behera, Deans, Central Agricultural University; Prof Vincent Darlong, VC, Martin Luther Christian University; Dr Maribon Viray & Dr Fabian Lyngdoh, MLCU; Dr SC Singh, Professor of Law, National Law University and Judicial Academy; Dr S Tamilvanan, Associate Prof, NIPER, Guwahati and Prof Alaka Sarma, Director (Hony), International Centre for Gandhian Studies, USTM.