# Newsletter



# The rural Connect

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# महात्मा गाँधी राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण शिक्षा परिषद Mahatma Gandhi National Council of Rural Education

Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Government of India





Language not only results in National Unity but also in Strengthening the Culture of the Country.....

Honourable Union Education Minister Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'NIshank' extolled the greatness of Mother Language on the occasion of International Mother Language Day.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal quoted Swami Vivekananda who said "Teach the masses in the vernaculars, give them ideas; they will get information, but something more is necessary; give them culture." Shri Pokhriyal further said "India's vernacular language is the priceless heritage of our Indian culture, promoting inclusion, both in the classroom and in society. It is essential for us to integrate mother tongue use in the teaching-learning process while promoting linguistic and cultural diversity and multilingualism. Promoting multilingualism is an integral part of the National Education Policy 2020.

"To strengthen India's higher education system and promote internationalisation of education, all Indian universities will open international affairs wings. This is in line with the vision of NEP2020 and will also improve the global rankings of our institutions. The efforts towards integration of vocational #education & training (VET) in general education has received a big fillip with the NEP2020 envisioning giving 50% of school and higher education candidates exposure to VET over the next 5 years". NEP2020 is built on the pillars of Access, Equity, Quality, Affordability and Accountability" quoted Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal at several NEP2020 conferences.

Speaking on the occasion of National Women's Day, Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal called upon women empowerment for the nation's progress. "It is essential to empower women for a nation to progress. India's women must come forward to facilitate the nation's path to contribute to economic, social, cultural, intellectual and technological progress and growth".

Webinar on Space for Humanity

MGNCRE Exhibits the Need and Commitment for

Technological Interventions!.









There is depression all around due to the COVID 19 lockdown, but we need not be intimidated ..... said Shri Sunil Ambekar ji Educationist, who visited MGNCRE premises. "We need to connect and link resourceful and capable people to HEI programmes so that youth get motivated and inspired by real work and the results. Capacity building is very important for the nation's progress. The lockdown due to COVID 19 pandemic has taught several lessons. MGNCRE's work for HEIs during this lockdown is truly inspirational and is path breaking. The New Education Policy too brings with it several benefits to youth and society. We need to overcome our limitations and work progressively" he added.

**Dr. W G Prasanna Kumar Chairman MGNCRE**, while welcoming Shri Sunil Ambekar ji and appreciating his efforts for confidence building in youth, called out to MGNCRE team to take inspiration and work even more collectively and effectively.

#### Webinar on Space for Humanity

Bharat TECH Enabler Forum and Mahatma Gandhi National Council of Rural Education organized a Webinar on Space for Humanity on 28<sup>th</sup> February – 312 participants

Space For Humanity, also known as S4H, is a non-profit organization with headquarters in Denver, Colorado. Founded in 2017 by Dylan Taylor, the goal of the organization is democratizing space and developing solutions to world problems through the increasing of human awareness. Space for Humanity is developing plans to send diverse citizen astronauts to the edge of space, low earth orbit, the moon, and deep space.

Sir C V Raman's inspiring quotes and his thoughts on space and humanity were shared with participants as a prelude to the webinar. The distinguished speakers included Dr. Jitendra Singh, Minister of State (Ind charge) for Department of Space, Dr. Charles Bolden, former Administrator of NASA. and Dr K. Radha Krishnan, former Chairman of ISRO.

Dr. Charles Bolden and Dr. K. Radhakrishnan had earlier signed a collaboration agreement to launch a joint Earth-observing satellite mission and establish a pathway for future joint missions to explore Mars.

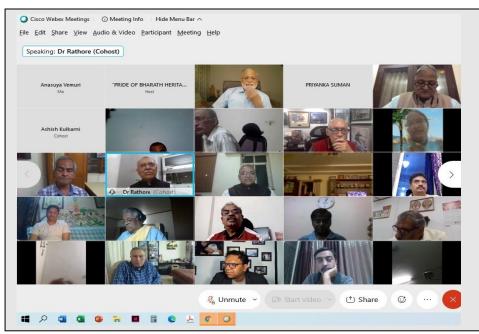
Space Technology today has entered every Indian household - Speaking on his keynote address, Honorable Minister

**Dr. Jitendra Singh** explained how Space Technology could be applied to bring "ease of working" in different sectors right from construction of roads and buildings, smart cities, railway tracks, guarding railway crossings, Tele-education, Tele-medicine, rural development, agriculture, etc. In other words, Space Technology today has entered every Indian household. The Geospatial sector would play a stimulating role for the Space industry as this sector is at the core of cutting edge technologies like 5G. He was appreciative of the innovative technologies that bring space and humanity together.

## **Editor's Note**

This marks the last month of financial year 2020-21. We have seen turbulent times with the COVID 19 pandemic disrupting health, wealth and happiness of the entire world. We have successfully overcome many hurdles and difficulties by adapting to the new normal and taking forward our activities in many spheres though the pandemic threatened to derail us. Through digital platforms and online programmes we have ensured continuity in our work.

I am extremely thankful to **Dr. Jitendra Singh,** Minister of State (Ind charge), Department of Space, for gracing our



We should take advantage of space exploration and take advantage of every opportunity to make a mark on the future. Set your goals high and never be afraid of failure - Dr. Charles Bolden, while giving accolades to the Indian Space Research efforts, was highly appreciative of the program which brough together so many space scientists and more than 300 participants. He spoke on Future Research in Space Technology for Welfare of Mankind.

Space touches the lives of everyone, enable to learn more about humanity said Dr. K Radhakrishnan, the scientist behind the Success of Mangalyaan in his keynote address on "The promise of Space Technology for India". While giving a vivid explanation of the numerous achievements of ISRO and the Indian space research objectives, he was highly optimistic of the Indian space technology goals. "Science and technology are the engines of development. India is highly committed towards space research and the future is very bright" he added.

webinar on Space for Humanity on the occasion of National Science Day, 28th February. His inputs and thoughts on our country's space technology and mission were great insights. I also extend my gratitude to Dr. Charles Bolden, former Administrator of NASA. and Dr K. Radha Krishnan, former Chairman of ISRO for participating in the webinar and delivering key note addresses on space technology. The webinar was attended by space scientists around the world and had more than 300 enthusiastic participants. Indeed, the reach and outreach of space technology is magnificently voluminous and we need to harness it to the maximum for reaping

technologies Geospatial rural for employment generation activities Chairman MGNCRE, Dr. W G Prasanna Kumar said, while moderating the webinar thanked the eminent space scientists on board and gave his take on the Indian perspective of Space research in rural development. "Space technology is a powerful enabler and provides vital inputs for holistic and rapid development of rural areas. India has been among the world leaders in developing end-to-end capability in both satellite remote sensing and communication. Remote sensing has been used successfully in disaster management. climate control initiatives and several agricultural and rural applications. There several rural employment opportunities generated through geospatial technologies", he said.

The webinar had an interactive question and answer session wherein Dr. Charles Bolden and Dr. K Radhakrishnan answered several questions posed by the participants on space research, space technology, and the future of space research.

benefits in rural development. Remote sensing technologies have the potential to create job opportunities in the rural sector.

I am extremely thankful to Shri Sunil Ambekar ji who spent some valuable moments with our team and motivated them to work for the cause of nation building.

MGNCRE is now organizing Competitions for the institutions that have incorporated the Cells on Implementation of the Action/Business Plans received from the institutions. As of now, we have received 37322 VENTEL Action Plans, 11103 SESREC Action Plans and 9168 REDC Action Plans.

We have facilitated the formation of 3662 VENTEL Cells, 2260 SESRE Cells, and 2751 RED Cells.

The Action Plan is that the Institution will choose the best three activities which were implemented successfully by the students after which. Participation Certificates will be issued to the participants at institution level. MGNCRE will arrange cluster level competition where 60 students from 20 institutions will present their business activities and implementation strategies (cluster will consist of 20 random institutions). The Institutions that get selected in the cluster level competition will get the chance to present their business plan at Regional Level Conference where they will share their experiences, business plan implementation and their future plans. Students who are selected at the cluster level and attend the Regional Level Conference will get the chance to attend the National Level Conference where they can interact with students from different states and understand the implementation of their business plans.

MGNCRE will Three best receive activities implemented business at institutional level and Nine best implemented business activities at Cluster level. The students who participate in the activity and successfully implemented the Action/Business Plans will be recognized as the Brand Ambassadors of the Cells from their respective institutions. These students will also get an opportunity to work with MGNCRE on a voluntary basis.

We look forward to the closing of the year with more achievements and productive implementation of our ideas and strategies for the development of the rural sector.

#### Dr. W G Prasanna Kumar Chairman MGNCRE

On the work front, as a result of our efforts, educational institutions across the country have initiated Vocational Education-Nai Talim-Experiential Learning Cells, Social Entrepreneurship, Swachhta and Rural Engagement Cells, and Rural Entrepreneurship Development Cells . Our workshops focus on developing and implementing Vocational activity, self-

reliance, swachhta and health and community engagement. Promotion of entrepreneurship opportunities strategically focuses on bringing about social change and is a collective and organized movement of change making which works towards developing and scaling sustainable responses to social challenges.

For conducting any activity sustainably, we require an institutional mechanism for continuous support. Vocational Education, Rural Entrepreneurship and Social Entrepreneurship assumes great importance now all the more because of their use in addressing social and economic challenges and making a difference to society.

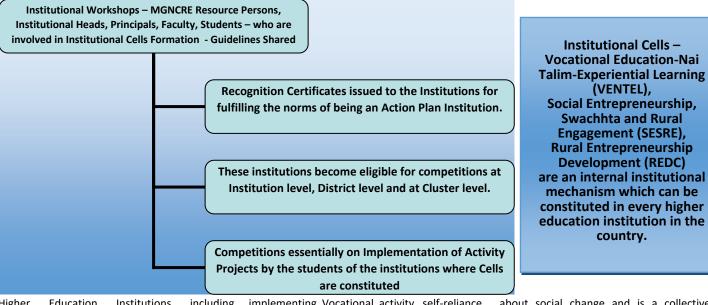
As we come to close of this financial year, I look forward to the oncoming year with renewed enthusiasm.

Dr. Bharat Pathak Vice Chairman MGNCRE

Review of Activities - February 2021

Program	Institutional Workshops	Participants	Action Plans Formed
Vocational Education-Nai Talim-Experiential Learning (VENTEL)	38	1802	1442
`Social Entrepreneurship, Swachhta and Rural Engagement Cells (SESREC)	100	7047	2382
Rural Entrepreneurship Development Cells (REDC)	52	2107	259

MGNCRE is now organizing Competitions for the institutions that have incorporated the Cells on Implementation of the Action/Business Plans received from the institutions.



Higher Education Institutions including Universities offering education in any stream of education can take up the task of formation of these cells. These Cells focus on developing and

implementing Vocational activity, self-reliance, Swachhta and health and community engagement. Promotion of entrepreneurship opportunities strategically focuses on bringing about social change and is a collective and organized movement of change making which works towards eveloping and scaling sustainable responses to social challenges.

### The Competition - Strategy

Students execute their activity ideas at Institutional Level. The Institution chooses the best 3 activities which were implemented successfully by the students. **Participation** Certificates Issued

**MGNCRE** organizes Cluster level competition where 60 students from 20 institutions present their Action/Business Plans and implementation strategies (cluster consists of 20 random institutions)

The Institutions that get selected in the cluster level competition will present their Action/Business Plans at **Regional Level Conference** 

The Institutions that get selected in the Regional level Competition will present their Action/Business Plans at **National Level Conference** 

### What is in for MGNCRE?

- MGNCRE will receive Three best implemented business plans at Institutional level.
- 2) MGNCRE will receive **Nine** best implemented business plans at Cluster level.
- The Institutional Cells will continue to promote vocational/entrepreneurial activities and keep promoting their ideas and thereby work for social change.
- The students who participate in the activity and successfully implement the Action/Business plans will be recognized as the Brand Ambassadors of their respective institutions. These students will also get an opportunity to work with MGNCRE on a voluntary basis.

## Institutional Cells – Vocational Education-Nai Talim - Experiential Learning (VENTEL)

Online Institutional Workshops On Vocational Education Nai Talim Experiential Learning (VENTEL) were conducted for students of Higher Education Institutions in 8 States with 1802 ensure the implementation of VENTEL activities

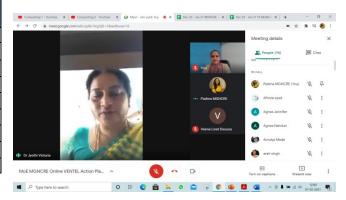
participants covering 38 institutions in February 2021. After the workshop, institutions will have a VENTEL Action Planning Committee that will

in their respective institutions. So far, 37322 VENTEL action plans were submitted and 3662 VENTEL Cells formed.

## Vocational Education Nai Talim Experiential Learning (VENTEL) One-day Online Institutional Workshops – February 2021

S No	State	Workshops	VENTEL Action Plans by Students	Participants (Student Teachers)
_		_		•
1.	Kerala	1	32	35
2.	Tamil Nadu	1	32	56
3.	Uttar Pradesh	15	789	789
4.	Telangana	3	108	165
5.	Andhra Pradesh	6	105	266
6.	Maharashtra	6	250	250
7.	Rajasthan	3	35	80
8.	Bihar	3	91	161
	Total	38	1442	1802

UNESCO Chair on Experiential Learning, Work Education & Community Engagement - at MGNCRE Chair will promote research, documentation & training in areas: Rural Engagement, Hygienic Practices in Life, Decent Work, Gender Equality. MGNCRE's interventions in Gandhiji's Nai Talim - Experiential Learning have been recognized and approved for UNESCO Chair. The project meets the criteria set by UNESCO Chair Programmes of enhancing the capacities of higher education and research institutions through an integrated system of research, training, information and documentation activities related to rural community engagement, work education and experiential learning in teacher education and school education fields.





# Rural Entrepreneurship Development Cells (REDC) FPO/FPC-Business Schools Connect Cells (FBSC)

Online Institutional Workshops – 52 in number, on Rural Entrepreneurship Development Cells (REDC) for students of Higher Education Institutions were conducted in 9 States with 2107 participants in February 2021 to motivate them to start Implementing their Business Plans. 259 Business Plans were submitted. So far, a total of 9168 REDC action plans were submitted by the Students. For

providing an institutional identity to the Rural Entrepreneurship Development (RED) activities, MGNCRE is encouraging Higher Educational Institutions across India to set up Rural Entrepreneurship Development Cell (REDC). The role of REDC is to provide internship and apprenticeship with rural enterprises, initiate rural entrepreneurship, form network with rural manufacturers, develop rural technological interventions,

and groom students to be rural entrepreneurs by inculcating the spirit of entrepreneurship in their minds.

Roundtable meetings with

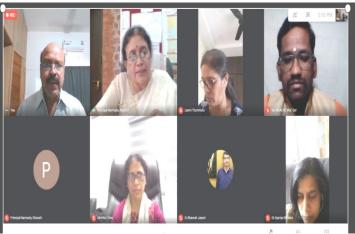
Gujarat Technological University, Gujarat and University of Kota, Rajasthan for conducting Industry Academia Meet Alagappa University, Karaikudi, to Incorporate Rural Management programs.

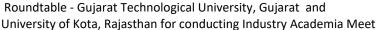
Facilitating with Import Export License to Rural Entrepreneurs - An effort was made to associate with FIEO (Federation of Indian Export Organizations) to extend licenses for Rural Entrepreneurs for getting export licenses

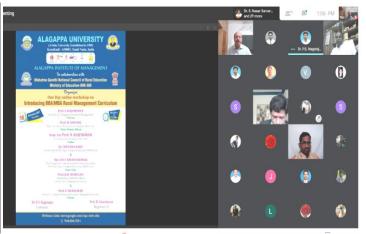
Value addition to the existing Management courses - Nine Caselets were shared with Management Institutions to share their experiences and motivate the budding entrepreneurs

# Rural Entrepreneurship Development Cells (REDC) One-day Online Institutional Workshops - February 2021

S No	State	Workshops	Business Plans/Action Plans by Students	Participants (Student Teachers)
1.	Telangana	2	8	46
2.	Andhra Pradesh	1	4	36
3.	Assam	9	93	313
4.	Karnataka	16	53	640
5.	Kerala	14	15	348
6.	Maharashtra	1	5	45
7.	Odisha	1	13	23
8.	Tamil Nadu	7	58	623
9.	West Bengal	1	10	33
	Total	52	259	2107







Roundtable – Alagappa University - for introducing Rural Management Curriculum

MoUs signed in February 2021 - Karnataka State Open University, Mysore, Karnataka Alagappa University, Karaikudi, Tamil Nadu

MoUs were signed for exploring, extending and strengthening Mutual relationship for promotion of professional education in Rural Management by sharing the facilities and expertise.

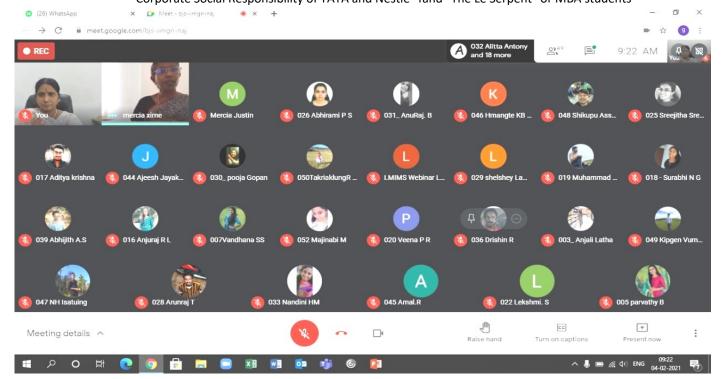




Roundtable with Joint Director, FIEO Federation of Indian Export Organizations

Meeting - MGNCRE Annual Research Action Plan and Review

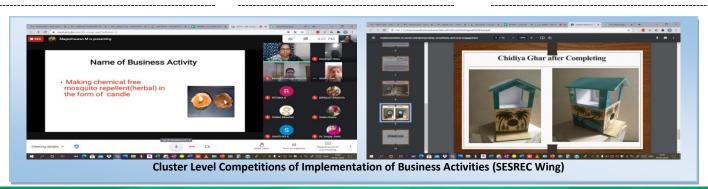
In continuation of Faculty Development Program on Case Discussion Methodology organised by MGNCRE during January 4 - 8, 2021, the faculty members have started implementing Case Discussion Methodology in their respective institutions. Dr. Mercia Selva Malar Justin, Lourdes Matha Institute of Management Studies, Trivandrum, Kerala did caselet discussion on "Corporate Social Responsibility of TATA and Nestle" fand "The Le Serpent" or MBA students



A Five-day Online Faculty Development Programme was conducted by MGNCRE exclusively for Management Faculty of Universities, Colleges and HEIs from 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> January. The theme was "Case Discussion for Entrepreneurship,

Marketing, Strategic Management and Managing Collectives". This programme provides students with basic analytical, decision making and inter personal skills. Case discussion methodology is an instructional method (not a theory) that

refers to assigned scenarios based on situations in which students observe, analyze, record, implement, conclude, summarize, or recommend. Case studies are created and used as a tool for analysis and discussion.



## Social Entrepreneurship, Swachhta and Rural Engagement Cells (SESREC)

Online Institutional Workshops (100) on Social Entrepreneurship, Swachhta and Rural Engagement (SESRE) for students of Higher Education Institutions were conducted in 21 different States with 7047 participants. So far, 2382 Business plans were submitted by the Students. Social entrepreneurship education strategically focuses on bringing about social change and is a collective and organized movement of change making which works towards developing and scaling sustainable

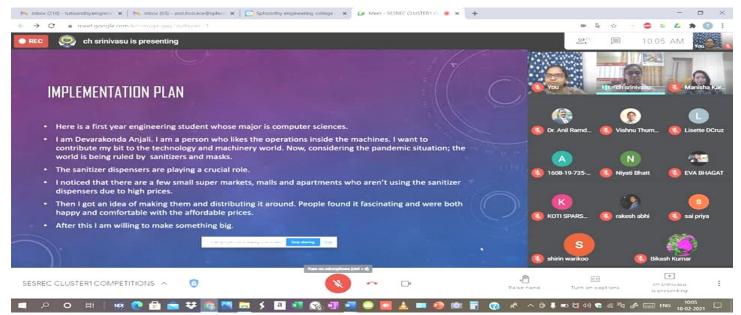
solutions to social challenges. Given that higher education institutions are regarded as the custodians of knowledge in society, by implication they have an important role to play in enhancing social entrepreneurship in education system. These core ideas and concepts are learned in an interactive mode. Ideas of social entrepreneurship and innovative social change are derived from the participants. Five Cluster level competitions were held covering 300 Institutions. 9 best implemented

business plans from each cluster were selected by the judges for further Regional Level Conference. National Science Day was celebrated by the 25 Higher Education Institutions under SESRE Cell. Institutions organized webinars on themes such as Waste Management, Solar Energy, Hygiene, and Swachhta.

# Social Entrepreneurship, Swachhta and Rural Engagement Cell Action Plan Cells (SESREC) --- One-day Online Institutional Workshops - February 2021

S No	State	Workshops	SESREC Action	Participants
			Plans by Students	(Students/Teachers)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5	104	148
2.	Assam	8	117	448
3.	Gujarat	2	67	146
4.	Haryana	3	72	167
5.	Himachal Pradesh	2	56	126
6.	Jammu & Kashmir	3	65	102
7.	Jharkhand	2	26	80
8.	Karnataka	4	68	147
9.	Kerala	6	300	1125
10.	Madhya Pradesh	1	45	100
11.	Maharashtra	20	247	1002
12.	Meghalaya	1	10	26
13.	Nagaland	1	13	35
14.	Orissa	1	13	40
15.	Pondicherry	1	100	259
16.	Punjab	7	104	218
17.	Tamil Nadu	18	589	1981
18.	Telangana state	10	225	648
19.	Uttar Pradesh	3	83	124
20.	Goa	2	78	125
	Total	100	2382	7047

Social Entrepreneurs must not worry about failure. They should be ready to start early, fail early, learn early, and grow early. Mahatma Gandhi



Institutional Level Workshops were held for students and faculty members on Social Entrepreneurship, Swachhata and Rural Engagement for implementation of business plans. Among them, the best three business plans were chosen for cluster level competitions. Cluster Level Competition for HEIs across the country was organised by MGNCRE on Feb 18. The best three business plans from cluster level will be chosen for participation in national level business plans competition which will be held in March 2021. Some of the business ideas presented by the students were: Sanitizer

sensor machine, Plastic free paper bags, Door mats using old sarees, Basket ball hoop over trash can, E-fridge, Mobile application on Food waste management, Preparation of medicinal powder from orange peel

#### **Institutional and Cluster Workshops**

Vocational Education-Nai Talim-Experiential Learning (VENTEL)
Social Entrepreneurship, Swachhta and Rural Engagement Cells (SESREC)
Rural Entrepreneurship Development Cells (REDC)/ FPO/FPC-Business
Schools Connect Cells (FBSC)

#### **Total Workshops - Cumulative Status - February 2021**

Cells formed for Institutionalizing the Effort! More than 25% of Higher Education Institutions in India in Action!

Institutional Workshops	Workshops	Action Plans	Participants
Vocational Education	848	37322	41602
Social Entrepreneurship	626	11103	31992
Rural Management	830	9168	37024
Total	2304	57593	110618
Cluster Workshops	Workshops	Cells Formed	Participants
Vocational Education	280	3662	9096
Social Entrepreneurship	80	2260	2737
Rural Management	461	2751	7304
Total	821	8673	19137

In keeping with the agenda of doing work, MGNCRE has adapted itself well to the changing times. Matching Desire with Design for working effectively - has been the mantra for success. The stupendous success of the first of its kind Online **Faculty Development Programmes and** Workshops have met with positive response and have reached their logical outcomes. Fostering Social Responsibility and Institutional Mentoring has been high on the agenda. Indian Higher Educational Institutions are diverse and considered to be third largest in the world. example, in the current COVID-19 pandemic scenario. HEIs need Millions of students, faculties and staff of these Institutions have a role to play as a part of social responsibility community development wherever they are located. In times of crisis, for to all the more exercise their social responsibility.



## महात्मा गांधी राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण शिक्षा परिषद

#### Mahatma Gandhi National Council of Rural Education

(formerly National Council of Rural Institutes)

Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Government of India

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