



# Connect

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## MAIDEN STEP TOWARDS CLEAN AND GREEN CAMPUSES



## All set for Mahatma Gandhi Nai Talim Abhiyan





## Towards a Congenial Learning Environment

With Swachh Bharat serving as the guidepost for the national mission to clean up the nation and inculcate healthy habits among people, some of whom are accustomed to spit paan, discard cigarette stubs or litter even on stairways leading to highly esteemed public offices, it is but natural that there must be a specific campaign to rid campuses of wastes and make them exemplars of healthy learning environment. It gives us great pleasure to place on record that **Swachh Campus: A manual for Swachhta Ranking of Higher Education Institutions**, prepared at the instance of the Higher Education Department in the Ministry of Human Resource Development by MGNCRE, was released by Union Minister Prakash Javadekar on the auspicious occasion of Guru Purnima. Our cover story this month gives a peep into the contours of this campus revolution in the making, particularly in the context of the University Grants Commission's quality mandate unveiled at the conference of Vice Chancellors and Directors in New Delhi.

MGNCRE has just completed laying the foundation for yet another national mission: the launch of Mahatma Gandhi Nai Talim Abhiyan. Articles on what took place at Gujarat Vidyapith, where the embryonic idea for this great national endeavour took final shape, and on the consequential National Consultation Workshops that would give wings to the abhiyan put things in perspective.

Nai Talim in Teacher Education could get a boost in Punjab, with the Panjab University evincing interest to introduce Work Education in the curriculum at various levels. Two units of Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development – Sriperambudur and Chandigarh-- are getting into Rural Community Engagement along with MGNCRE. They are ready to work with MGNCRE for Faculty Development Programmes and Rural Immersion Camps. This issue features the status in Sriperambudur RGNIYD.

These days, with students eager to jump on the bandwagon of MOOC platforms for continuing education, it has become imperative for MGNCRE to position itself in that emerging area. So, an effort has been made to introduce MOOC on Nai Talim Work Education by roping in IGNOU. We are happy to share with readers the first fruits in that direction.

**Dr W G Prasanna Kumar**

Chairman

## Highlights of MGNCRE programmes in August 2018

- ◆ National Consultative Workshop on mainstreaming Nai Talim, Work Education, Experiential learning through Community Engagement involving Directors of SCERT during 9 -10 August 2018 in Hyderabad.
- ◆ National Consultative Workshop on mainstreaming Nai Talim, Work Education, Experiential learning through Community Engagement involving Directors of SCERT during 29 - 30 August 2018 in New Delhi.
- ◆ Follow-up programmes

**'Swachh Campus - A manual for Swachhta Ranking of Higher Education Institutions'**, brought out by the Mahatma Gandhi National Council of Rural Education on behalf of the Union Ministry of Human Resource Development, was released by Union Minister of Human Resource Development Prakash Javadekar at



the National Conference of Vice Chancellors of Universities and Directors of Higher Education Institutions held in New Delhi during 26-28 July 2018 on the auspicious occasion of Guru Purnima.

For the first time, the authorities of public as well as private universities and higher education institutions took part in the conference. They included Vice Chancellors of all Central Universities, State Public Universities, Deemed-to-be Universities, State Private Universities, Directors of Central Institutes such as IITs, IISc, IIMs, IISERs, IIITs, NITs and other central institutions. Research & Innovation in Higher Education was the theme of the conference. Intensive sessions on Promoting Research & Innovation in HEIs, Quality Mandate & Teacher Training, and Digital Initiatives of HRD Ministry were held in the

context of initiatives launched by MHRD. Dr Satya Pal Singh Minister of State for HRD also graced the occasion.



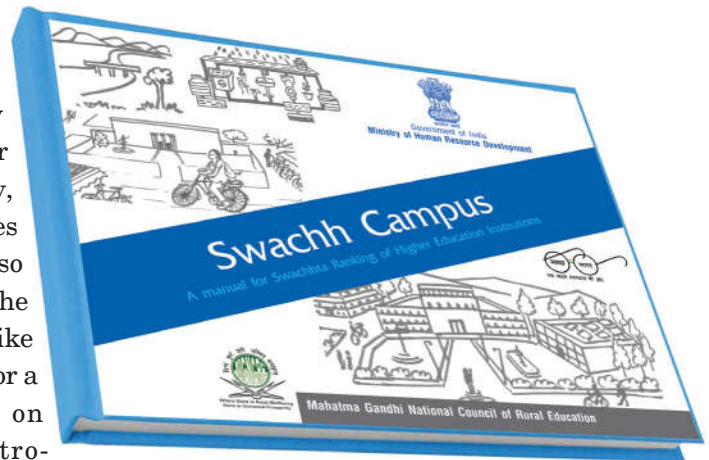
Javadekar also released the All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) report 2017-18 and the Higher Education Profile of All India and States for the year 2017-18. It was followed by a presentation on Quality Mandate by Prof DP Singh, Chairman of University Grants Commission which also focused on the importance of institutionalizing community engagement of higher education institutions and universities

## SOP for Swachhta - Ripple effects from campuses

The **'Swachh Campus - A manual for Swachhta Ranking of Higher Education Institutions'**, containing Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) that can be easily adopted and adapted by campuses, is in furtherance of the "Swachh Bharat" campaign launched by the Government of India to ensure cleanliness 24/7/365 days involving individuals, communities and institutions across the nation.

Campuses of educational institutions generate substantial wastes of different types, depending on their source like health centre waste, furniture waste, building waste, food waste, kitchen waste, lab waste, office waste and hostel waste, among others. All told, there are particular ways to handle these wastes so that the harm caused to environment is minimized, if it can't be avoided altogether.

This is where the Swachh Campus manual helps by suggesting SOPs for universities, faculty, students, employees and support staff so that everyone on the campus, which is like a mini community or a mini village, is on board while introducing or improving environmentally sustainable measures. The SOPs are designed to involve everyone on the campuses of educational institutions, whether they are there for learning, teaching or work on regular or casual basis. The idea is to inculcate healthy habits among them by recourse to



proven experience, simple technologies and standard practices.

The Swachh Campus manual is intended to strengthen all existing efforts directed at promoting cleanliness on the campus, while proposing measures that could be adopted to fill gaps, if any.

Without being prescriptive, it is structured as a do-it-yourself manual that suggests methods and practices that have yielded positive results. For making the most of it, universities and higher education institutions need to promote a culture of taking responsibility for sustaining environment on the campus and in its vicinity.

The cooperative and participatory methods proposed in the Swachh Campus manual are complemented by proformas and systems that can help keep the campus clean through continuous monitoring. With faculty, staff and students on campus committed to cleanliness, it won't be long before their healthy habits spread among communities in the neighbourhood and elsewhere.

The larger goal of the Swachh Campus manual is to impact positively and irreversibly community hygiene and public health in over 6,55,000 villages. The torch-bearers of this mammoth campaign are going to be students, some of whom are from these villages, as they can definitely impact their home, neighbourhood and workplace later. The ripple effects of environmentally sustainable measures introduced and perfected on the campus can go a long way in transforming communities and achieving the national goal of Swachh Bharat.



## Social and Industry Connect

“There is a need for proper social and industry connect” said UGC Chairman Prof DP Singh, in the course of his presentation to Vice Chancellors on Quality Mandate. He added “the focus should be on connecting higher education institutions with local communities by engaging the faculty and students. The process needs to involve engagement with Universities and colleges. That done, they can go for customization of technologies as required by people”.

Prof Singh suggested that the industry-institution interface should encompass curriculum development, field exposure, internships, summer training, applied research, consultancy, employment and the like. Elaborating on quality and excellence, he quoted former President APJ Abdul Kalam, who said: “Excellence in thinking and action is the foundation for any mission. Excellence is not by accident. It is a process, where an individual, organization or nation continuously strives to better oneself.”

**Proposing an Action Plan with a timeline, Prof Singh said Universities and HEIs should join the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan carrying students with them. For this, 1-2 credit courses need to be introduced**

**to instill social responsibility. This needs to happen by January 2019. Higher education institutions (HEIs) need to prepare for adoption of new courses from the next academic session.**

### Alumni Awards

Universities and HEIs should watch the progress of students with focus on alumni engagement, Prof Singh mentioned. This involves having a proper exit programme for final year students. Alumni cell or association should be formed. An alumni portal needs to track student or alumni progress, with HEIs having a dedicated webpage or link for alumni. They need to stay connected on social media platforms.



Prof Singh said that Alumni Excellence Awards would be introduced and alumni would be encouraged to contribute or give back to institutions. This would further community engagement of the HEIs.



Nai Talim', Mahatma Gandhi's unique and timeless model for holistic education that fosters an individual's intellectual, physical, social, and spiritual dimensions simultaneously through a special curriculum that integrates learning with crafts-based, hands-on activities will be revived with the involvement of education department of the universities and state and central governments. The groundwork has been laid for the launch of this national programme this month.

#### **Nai Talim Campaign Methodology:**

The national consultation workshops and seminars have set in motion the process of conducting further seminars, workshops, faculty development programmes; creating modules, developing ICT tools and the like, with universities and higher education institutions collaborating with MGNCRE.

#### **Conclave at Gujarat Vidyapith:**

As a prelude to the workshops, extensive discussions were held on July 2, 2018, at Gujarat Vidyapith. At the crucial meeting, the nitty-gritty of the proposed Mahatma Gandhi Nai Talim Abhiyan was worked out.

Most importantly, it was resolved that, in the context of a national programme for Nai Talim, there is need for giving mission orientation to the gamut of activities leading to the launch of the Abhiyan. It was agreed that faculty and students of all Central/State Universities and Higher Education Institutions, Faculty and Students involved in teacher education in 30 States and 6 Union Territories would have to be on boarded.

#### **Action Plan:**

Towards this end, working drafts on **Action Plan for Mahatma Gandhi Nai Talim Mission as well as Work Education, Experiential Education and Nai Talim through Rural Engagement in Teacher Education Curriculum**, prepared by MGNCRE, were circulated for discussion and consultation during the two rounds of the National Consultation Workshops. The outcomes of the two rounds of National Consultation Workshops can help prop the Mahatma Gandhi Nai Talim Abhiyan, given the networking that took place and the Action Plans -- individual as well as institutional—that were finalised then and there by most of the participants with the concurrence of the institutions they represented.

#### **Nai Talim Modules:**

Steps have been launched for the preparation of a 5-day module for orienting the Master Trainers on Nai Talim with time table and the activity plan and a 3-day module for orienting the State level Resource Persons on Nai Talim with time table and action plan. Some of these steps are in line with the recommendations of the National Convention on Nai Talim conducted in New Delhi in 2011. This strategy was finalized during the intensive discussions held at Gujarat Vidyapith on July 2, in which MGNCRE Team participated.

#### **Study Team and Field Visits:**

A team from MGNCRE will undertake a 3-day trip for first-hand experience on Lok Bharti and other Nai Talim institutions across the country. Initially residential schools will be connected to the Nai Talim programme across the country. In all efforts in this direction, Nai Talim would be cross-cutting the curriculum where work for education, work education and work for employment are covered distinctly.

#### **Curriculum:**

Curriculum infusion plan on community engagement, experiential learning, work education and Nai Talim for

3-days would be made with: (a) concepts; (b) areas of infusion; and (c) methods for developing modules. Curriculum development people would be involved in module development workshops on community engagement, experiential learning, work education and Nai Talim. Their work would be reviewed by experts.

### Resource Teams, Resource Institutions and Resource Persons:

Measures have been taken to constitute, orient and position a National Resource Team on community engagement, experiential learning, work education and Nai Talim. Model schools for Nai Talim would be identified from the existing residential schools and promoted in each district for standing out as Nai Talim role models. The modules would include social aspects and community living with compulsory camping component at school level. Education would be linked with social activities and community engagement. Teacher training support would be provided from Lok Bharti and other Nai Talim Institutions.

### Committees at different levels:

Committees would be constituted for critical evaluation of Gujarat Nai Talim and other Nai Talim Education methodologies. Besides, DIET teachers' personal experiences over four days with fifteen institutions



through NCERT/SCERT groups on community engagement, experiential learning, work education and Nai Talim would be documented and assessed.

### States Ready:

Nai Talim institutions from Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bengal, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Kerala and Bihar would be brought into the fold for giving practical exposure to conventional institutions. The focus would be on exposure and sensitization of conventional institutions to Nai Talim institutions.

The experience of Navodayas and Model Schools would be considered and whatever is universally possible would be initiated.

### Gram Shilpi :

A plan would be prepared for strengthening Graduate Basic Education Training institutions working in four regions of Gujarat. Gram Shilpi work, which is a one-year diploma given after 12th class, and its impact survey would be carried out for mainstreaming similar efforts across the country.

### Publications:

Publications in all languages for promoting Nai Talim experiences would be taken up. To begin with, 25 books published on Nai Talim in the year 2000 would be updated and reprinted. Relevant partners will be enlisted for this effort at various levels.

### Interfacing:

Interface between the industry and the education sector would be promoted and integrated with experiential and experimental aspects. In particular, 'Gandhian philosophy', 'Industry', 'Society' and 'Nature integration' aspects would be included in Nai Talim promotion with 'self-reliance' as the cornerstone.

## Intensive workshops point to the road ahead



**“Head, Heart, Hand and Health** in Nai Talim are an educational method to search for truth--- it is the same as UNESCO's **Four Pillars of Education: Learning to learn, Learning to do, Learning to be and Learning to live together,**” observed Prof T Karunakaran, who was the chief

guest. He emphasised the need for students to engage with self, nature and society to become self-reliant individuals. The aim of Nai Talim is **“Sampoorna Vidya and Education for Perfection”** and VIDYALAYAS should nurture in students VIDYA and LAYA [L-Learning for Perfection, A- Action for Reconstruction, Y- Yog (Synergy) with self, society and nature and A - Art of Articulation]. He urged the participants to create a Nai Talim Teacher Bank through new recognition strategies and manage the integration of Nai Talim with the curriculum through training of

student teachers and use of IT tools. He has unflinching faith that students would love the Nai Talim curriculum as it is immersive and experiential.

Facilitating the workshop, Dr W G Prasanna Kumar suggested that every child should be learning through work in the next one year. Referring to the proposed Mahatma Gandhi Nai Talim Abhiyan, he remarked: “We have to impact 25 crore students who are in schools and colleges. Every student teacher and every in-service teacher should be a part of this movement.”

Nai Talim, work education and experiential learning through Community Engagement with teachers on board is a distinct possibility now, thanks to the two intensive workshops that the Mahatma Gandhi National Council for Rural Education (MGNCRE) held in July. The workshops attracted over 60 policymakers, administrators, deans, heads of departments, members of faculty from Departments and Schools of Education of Central, State and State Headquarters Universities as well as national-level institutes dealing with Educational Planning, Training and Research such as the National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration (NIEPA), National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT) and the State Council for Educational Research and Training from nearly 20 States and UTs across the country.

The first round, **National Consultation Workshop on Nai Talim and Work Education through Community Engagement**, was held at NIMSME, Hyderabad during 5 and 6 July 2018.

#### Participant speak

**Dr Arvind Kumar Jha** of School of Education in BBAU Lucknow shared the need for a shift from homogenous pedagogy to contextual pedagogy. He suggested that there is need for exploring and integrating the pedagogic role of work in education, pedagogy of personal and social



engagement, and pedagogy of collective consciousness through work education.

**Dr Pranati Panda** of NIEPA drew attention to the need for alignment between Nai Talim and UN Sustainable Development Goal 4 and emphasised that such a convergence would have more acceptability in today's world.

**Dr Saroj Sharma** of Indraprastha University said that work education is relevant in today's context, with taboos breaking and many plus 2 students willingly taking up summer jobs.

**Dr Asha Pandit** of Gujarat Vidyapith suggested that one of the basic postulates of Nai Talim is community living. So, no curriculum on Nai Talim can be complete without this part

**Dr Arvind Srivastav** of Vidya Bhavan was particular that the basic tenets of Nai Talim should be continued eg dignity of labour and the use of mother tongue. It was important to integrate the Gandhian Philosophy as a way of living, he added.

The second round, **National Consultative Workshop and Seminar on Community Engagement through**

**Teacher Education**, was held at the School of Social Sciences, University of Hyderabad during July 25-26 2018.

Addressing the participants, Pradip Chittabhushan Dasgupta of Nai Talim Samiti Wardha emphasised that in Nai Talim, the teacher and the taught learn together. Empathy practised by the teacher is the starting point for pre-school education as envisaged by Nai Talim. He appreciated the output shared by the group about how different MoUs with community centres and partners could become an important indicator of evaluation of Nai Talim implementation; this could also win them brownie points during NAAC Assessment.

Pointing to the way forward, Dr Prasanna Kumar urged the participants from University Departments of Education to orient the B Ed faculty of teacher education colleges in their vicinity to start with; and then look at Academic Staff Colleges and HRDCs as partners. The ultimate aim of this whole exercise is that truth and non-violence should be practised by all students in their daily life. These are the cardinal principles of livelihood, work as well as education.

## Faculty Development Programmes and Rural Immersion Camps

### RGNIYD readies to work with MGNCRE

RGNIYD has three to five days that could be earmarked for Rural Immersion Training Programme for which MGNCRE will provide PRA and PLA training expertise. A five day Training of Trainers programme 'Policies and Programmes on Education' with two additional days of Rural engagement module from MGNCRE in it will be launched. This module will support the NSS Programme Officers and NSS Volunteers. Similar inputs will be provided by MGNCRE to all other relevant training programmes'. These modalities of the collaboration were

decided after a meeting on 2nd -3rd July and between Prof A Chandra Mohan Registrar, Dr. Vasanthi Rajendran Joint Director RGNIYD and Sarvani Pandey of MGNCRE.

The Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (RGNIYD) Sriperumbudur Tamil Nadu, is readying to partner with the Mahatma Gandhi National Council of Rural Institutes (MGNCRE) in using to the hilt the expertise of the latter, which is involved in Curriculum Development, Capacity Building, Research & Scholarship, Standardisation and Accreditation of Courses and Outreach on Rural Higher Education.

This is a sequel to the earlier meetings of MGNCRE with Dr AK Dubey Secretary Youth Affairs and Sports and

Thanglemlian Director Ministry of Youth Affairs Government of India who expressed their commitment to support all academic programmes of NSS towards supporting Rural Engagement.

The proposed collaboration would be in the areas of Faculty Development Programmes and Rural Immersion

Camps. Besides, MGNCRE would partner academically in developing the module on rural community engagement in most of the training programmes of RGNIYD - Sriperumbudur. The Institute has expressed readiness to additionally design courses and training modules by involving the colleges.

## Teacher education curriculum gets boost

“A proposal to infuse Nai Talim and Work Education in teacher education curriculum by developing and introducing appropriate courses to mainstream them is likely to get a go-ahead in principle by the Chandigarh Administration,” said BL Sharma, Education Secretary Government of Union Territory of Chandigarh. He was the chief guest inaugurating a one-day intensive Curriculum Development Workshop organized jointly by the MGNCRE and Panjab University on July 18, 2018 at Chandigarh. Sharma called for urgent efforts to develop appropriate courses so that could be introduced in Panjab University and its affiliated colleges.

Speaking on the occasion Prof AK Grover, Panjab University Vice Chancellor told the gathering of educationists that Mahatma Gandhi’s ideas on education are highly relevant to the current generation. **They require people to always remain close to nature, value dignity of labor, and learn scientific and social values as part of a holistic system.**

In all, 73 faculty members from the Department of Education, Panjab University and those from its affiliated colleges attended the workshop. They included senior



faculty members from the Government College of Education; Department of Education, University School of Open Learning Department of Community Education and Disability Studies, Department of Education in Panjab University; Dev Samaj College of Education, Chandigarh; and the Institute of Educational Technology and Vocational Education, Panjab University.

Among others who participated in the workshop included: Prof Nandita Shukla Singh and Prof Latika Sharma Dean Department of Education.

Earlier they organized the delegates into five groups for the purpose of deliberating on interventions to be made at various levels: classes 1 & 2 (first group), classes 3, 4 & 5 (second), classes 6, 7 & 8 (for the third group), classes 9, 10, 11 and 12 (fourth) and integrated B Ed (fifth).

## MOOC on Nai Talim and Work Education on anvil IGNOU poised to launch it on October 2nd

MOOC on Nai Talim and Work Education of two credits using SWAYAM platform for sensitization of teachers and teacher educators is likely to be launched by the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) on October 2, 2018 with the approval from competent authorities and statutory bodies. This is to be formalized later next month by the Chairman MGNCRE and VC IGNOU.

Prof Uma Kanjilal Director IUC IGNOU and National Coordinator SWAYAM and Dr Gaurav Singh Programme Coordinator B.Ed. School of Education IGNOU and Channel Coordinator SWAYAM Prabha-32 had a meeting on July 19, 2018 with MGNCRE senior academic consultant Prof C S Singhal. IGNOU agreed to provide academic support in indentifying experts and for developing modules.

In this connection MGNCRE will jointly conduct a preliminary workshop with IGNOU to finalise the curriculum as well as the number and content of the modules. The course may be announced on August, 15, 2018.



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