

Varsities should be pro-active in improving quality of research, teaching: Mukhi

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, July 9: Governor Jagdish Mukhi has asked universities to take up cutting-edge research and ensure high quality teaching to enable Assam to become one of the top five performing States in the delivery of quality higher education and research in the country.

Addressing a conference of the vice chancellors of all 17 universities of the State at the Raj Bhavan on Thursday, Mukhi said that though Assam of late has had many good achievements in terms of expansion of higher education, the universities must take a pro-active role in improving the quality of research and teaching. It may be noted that the VCs' conference was convened at the Raj Bhavan to prepare a blueprint to speed up the qualitative improvement of higher education with special emphasis on the quality of research and teaching.

Appealing to the VCs to take a lead in bringing about desired improvements in the universities, he said that they should prepare a blueprint for transforming the universities into institutions of repute.

Mukhi also said that at every level, good faculties should be recruited so that the quality of teaching and research does not dip.

He said that since directions have been issued to fill up the vacant posts expeditiously in the colleges and the universities, immediate steps should be undertaken to do the same.

"For quality research and teaching and for running the universities in accordance with NEP 2020, the XI and XII classes must be de-linked from the universities and autonomous colleges," Mukhi said adding "I have already asked the departments

to discontinue the teaching of XI and XII classes from this very session in the three autonomous colleges namely North Lakhimpur College, Lakhimpur, Jagannath Barooah College, Jorhat and Nowgong College, Nagaon and the four

universities that were upgraded from the colleges."

Mukhi also said that as per the NEP 2020, by the year 2035 since no affiliating university or affiliated college will exist, and only three types of universities namely 'Research Universities', 'Teaching Universities' and 'Autonomous Colleges converted into university with cluster colleges' will remain, the institutions should re-orient their degrees to duly accommodate skilling and vocationalisation into their folds for creating skilled manpower in the country.

Stressing that the universities should think of implementing dual degree programmes for the benefit of future generations, Prof Mukhi asked the VCs to start brainstorming sessions in their universities to discuss the NEP-2020 and prepare a broad road-

map for implementing the provisions of the NEP in the universities.

Dr K Kasturirangan, the main architect of NEP 2020 also joined the conference virtually and interacted with the vice chancellors. He said, "An education policy lays particular emphasis on the development of the creative potential of each individual. It is based on the principle that education must develop not only cognitive capacities – both the 'foundational capacities' of literacy and numeracy and 'higher-order' cognitive capacities, such as critical thinking and problem solving – but also social, ethical and emotional capacities and dispositions."

Education Minister Dr Ranaj Pegu who was present in the meeting also addressed the vice chancellors and assured that steps will be taken to solve all issues flagged during the conference. Assuring of providing infrastructural support to the universities, he said that optimisation of human resources from the elementary to the higher level is being done which will bring about a lot of improvement.



Governor Jagdish Mukhi.

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