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# UNIVERSITY NEWS

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**M S Kurhade**

Sri Aurobindo: The Path Breaker

**Pallavi D Khedkar and Manjeet Khare**

Perception of Students towards Competitive Examinations in India

**Kiran Lata Dangwal**

Technostress and its Management in the Digital Era

**Anuj Aggarwal**

From a Pioneering Institute of Social Work to a Full-fledged Social Sciences University: The Travelogue of Tata Institute of Social Sciences

**Ranjit Nigam**

University: A Training Ground for Future Success  
– Convocation Address

#Let'sBeatCoronaTogether

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## CAMPUS NEWS

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### **National Assessment and Accreditation Council Sponsored National Webinar on Digital Transformation in Higher Education**

A two-day NAAC sponsored National Webinar on 'Digital Transformation in Higher Education during COVID-19 Pandemic' was organised by the Yogoda Satsanga Palpara Mahavidyalaya, Palpara, Purba Medinipur, West Bengal, recently. About 197 participants from various States participated in the online national academic event.

Ms Srimoyee Roy, Assistant Professor of English at the Institution invited the delegates, invitees, and participants to participate in the Webinar. Principal, Prof. Pradipta Kumar Mishra of the Institution extended a warm welcome to the dignitaries and participants of the Webinar. Dr. Tusharkanti Mandal, Head, Department of Economics and Member, IQAC delivered the concept note on the theme of the Webinar. Prof. Madhumangal Pal, Director, IQAC of Vidyasagar University, Midnapore, West Bengal inaugurated the event and released the Souvenir of the Webinar. In his inaugural address, he clarified the Digitalisation of Higher Education by focusing on the blended learning approach, development of teaching skills and competencies for the learners and teachers and promotion of independent study for every learner. Besides, he highlighted the facilities available for the use of unlimited learning resources, multimedia access to education through the online channels introduced by the Ministry of Education, Govt. of India. He also emphasised the limitations of the Digitalisation of Higher Education in India such as the non-availability of internet connection, non-availability of technologies for socially and economically deprived students, the need for training and orientation for the teachers on the uses of technological aids and appliances, the cost-effectiveness of the digital devices, need of digital classrooms, e-learning as a cause of social isolation, etc. In his concluding remarks, he visualised the paradigm shift from Traditional Teaching-learning Process to Digital Teaching-learning Process. Dr. Aniruddha Sinha Coordinator, IQAC and Organizing Secretary of the National Webinar extended the vote of thanks in the Inaugural Session of the event.

During Technical Session, Prof. Siba Prasad Adhikary, Former Vice Chancellor, Fakir

Mohan University, Balasore, Odisha presented his deliberation on 'Transformation in Higher Education through ICT and Skill: How to Achieve in India'? In his presentation as the Keynote Speaker, he emphasised the forces of change in the age of knowledge with a focus on ICT. He traced the Ancient Higher Education prevailed in Takhsila and Nalanda and how India proved as *Swarna Prasu Bharatbarsha* through the contribution of Indian Stalwarts like Sir C V Raman, Sir Jagadisha Chandra Bose, Srinivasa Ramanujan, Prof. Satendranath Bose, etc. in the field of Literature, Science and Humanities. He focused on the role of universities in core and periphery perspectives by making comparisons between India and European Countries with reference to Higher Education. To him, there is a significant role of ICT in Higher Education in bringing quality to Indian Higher Education System. For this, stress should be given to quality higher education along with its quality parameters, on value-added and need-based subjects like Polytechnic, Vocational Training, Language Skill Training, Computer Training, etc. He also highlighted on work culture, research culture and quality culture to be institutionalised through action research leading to quality research.

Prof. Amiya Kumar Rath, Adviser (ICT), Eastern Region Coordinator, NAAC, Bengaluru delivered his talk on Assessment and Accreditation as per the Revised Assessment Framework (RAF) which has been effective since July, 2017. In his presentation, he emphasised on vision, mission, and value framework of NAAC. He elaborated on the assessment procedure meant for universities, autonomous colleges, and affiliated colleges by focusing on the seven criteria, key indicators, both quantitative and qualitative matrices and SSS data. In his presentation, he detailed the procedure of NAAC assessment from the submission of AQARs, IIQA, SSR, SSS data by indicating the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for each Matrice (both qualitative and quantitative). He stressed the quality parameters like seed money for teachers, workshop on Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), number of Ph.Ds awarded under a teacher as the research supervisor, social responsibility activities through community collaboration, MoU with various organisations or agencies for doing different activities, integration of library management

system, alumni engagement through the formation of a registered alumni association in doing different activities for the Institution, faculty empowerment strategies, yearly performance appraisal report for both the teaching and non-teaching staff, internal and external audits, quality audits, human values and professional ethics, etc. Dr. Swapan Kumar Misra, Principal, Mugberia Gangadhar Mahavidyalaya, Mugberia, East Midnapore, West Bengal presented his lecture on 'Digitalisation of Higher Education in Rural Colleges: Problems and Prospects'. In his presentation, he shared his views on several problems that have been faced by the teachers and students of rural India, like poor internet connectivity, financial charges of internet connectivity that have to be borne by the poor students' families, online examination procedure, particularly malpractices done during examination process, etc. He suggested some measures for the improvement of the present digital or e-learning process, especially emphasising the blended mode of the teaching-learning process. Prof. Ashutosh Biswal, Department of Education (CASE), Faculty of Education and Psychology, The M S University of Baroda, Vadodara, Gujrat presented his talk on the 'Challenges of Digitalisation of Higher Education in India'. He highlighted the need for trained faculty to manage the digitalisation of higher education, professional collaborations, different approaches to evaluation, the cost-effectiveness of higher education, data-based system, online learning, personalised learning and changing the vision of higher education in course of his discussion.

The next Session was chaired by Prof. Sudarshan Mishra, Head, Department of Education, Ravenshaw University, Cuttack, Odisha and Ms Srimoyee Roy Assistant Professor in English was the Rapporteur. About twelve papers were presented by faculty members, research scholars, and students from various institutions in the country.

Prof. Gouranga Charan Nanda, Vice Chancellor, Netaji Subhas University, Jamshedpur, Jharkhand delivered a talk on 'Digital Initiatives in Higher Education During COVID-19' in the next session. In his presentation, he shared his experience with online teaching-learning process. According to him, the Online Examination System has paved the way for malpractice and manipulation for which there was a demand from students for online examinations. To him, online teaching would be meaningful if there is digital infrastructure, trained

teachers, availability of technological aids for the students, and smart classrooms. The system has to shift to the online teaching mode. Therefore, we have to accept the Blended Learning Approach to tackle the situation always. He has also focused on the Holistic Education stated by the NEP, 2020 for which along with the offline mode the online means like MOOCs, SWAYAM Platforms for CPD of Teachers, DIKHA Platform of NCERT need to be supplemented. For this, the teachers have to upgrade their skills & competencies in Higher Education. He also emphasised on the NAAC Accreditation of the HEIs adhering to Quality Enhancement in Education. Therefore, the HEIs have to update their Official Websites with adopting the Best Practices through the mobilisation of unlimited learning resources available online. He concluded his speech by saying the very statement that Teacher & ICT will have to be the two faces of the same coin for the Digitalisation of Higher Education in India.

Prof. Anil Kumar Mahapatra, Head, Department of Political Science, F M University, Balasore, Odisha and Prof. P K Mishra, Principal, Y S Palpara Mahavidyalaya, Palpara, East Midnapore chaired the next session. Mr. Suman Kr. Dhar, State Aided College Teacher in English was the rapporteur during the session. About eleven papers were presented by faculty members, research scholars, and students from various institutions.

Dr. Rupa Dasgupta, Principal, Debra Thana Sahid Khudiram Smriti Mahavidyalaya, Debra, Paschim Medinipur, West Bengal spoke on 'Digital Tools in Teaching-learning Process' and discussed the basic goals of Digital Teaching-learning Process. Dr. Dasgupta focused on four factors i.e. availability, connectivity, techniques and feasibility. She mentioned different apps and tools, for the communication part, especially social media apps. She emphasised the learning management system, databased management system and discussed how these are important in the teaching-learning process. Besides, she mentioned about different teaching platforms like, google meet, zoom platform, webex, Teachmint and also the problems related to the enrolment of a large number of students in google meet, etc. Lastly, she highlighted the importance of a virtual lab.

Dr. Jyoti Sankar Pradhan, Associate Professor and Head, Department of Education, Fakir Mohan University, Vyasa Vihar, Balasore, Odisha spoke on 'Impact of COVID-19 on Higher Education in

India' and said that the academic atmosphere and the examination system have been severely affected during the said period. Around 32 crore students have been affected in India. However, the support services to the students for online learning like ZOOM, Google Meet Platform, WhatsApp, Instagram, etc. acted as the devices for online learning. In order to accelerate this online learning, the other means introduced by UGC and NCERT such as SWAYAM Platform, MOOCs, Swayam Prabha, DIKSHA, e-P. G. Pathasala, e-Adhyan, e-Gyankosh, e-Books, e-Contents, Shodhganga, Gyandarshan, Web-radio, Vidwan, e-source Sindhu, Virtual Lab., etc. subsequently. To him, the COVID-19 pandemic has both positive and negative sides to Human learning. Thus, the time has come to focus on self-learning habits to be accelerated and enhanced through the use of multiple online learning resources in which the organisation of Webinars or e-Conferences has been instrumental.

The Valedictory Session was chaired by the Principal of the Institution, Prof. Pradipta Kumar Mishra who invited the Chief Guest to the online Platform of the event. Dr. Tusharkanti Mandal, Head, Department of Economics and Member, IQAC presented the Webinar Report covering all the activities done during the two days event. Prof. Mishra welcomed Prof. Aditya Prasad Padhi, Former Vice Chancellor, Berhampur University, Bhanja Vihar, Odisha and Member, Executive Committee, NAAC, Bengaluru as the Chief Guest of the session and highlighted his significant contribution to qualitative enhancement in higher education of India. In his address, he stated, "Change is the law of life." He advised, "Do not look at the past and present only rather focus on the future." With reference to the Digital Transformation of Higher Education in India, he highlighted the digital strategies for which emphasis should be given to the Vision and Mission of each Higher Education Institution (HEI) which is a long journey. For this, there is a need to change the organisational structure and organisational climate of the Institution as a continuous process for development. To him, profound changes have been evinced in the Teaching Methodologies adhering to the adoption of 60% Online and 40% Offline learning approaches as per UGC Circular. There is an urgency for a Changed Management Strategy, interaction with the Stakeholders, and use of Appropriate Technology for need-based and quality higher education,

he observed. To him, Human Centric Design or Strategy is essential to identify the human desires for development with a focus on Health and Education as the two fundamental sectors of Development for all times to come, he concluded.

Organising Secretary, Dr. Aniruddha Sinha, Coordinator, IQAC proposed the vote of thanks. In his speech, he extended his thankfulness to the Principal of the Institution for facilitating the IQAC and his profound gratitude to Swami Achyutananda, President and Mr. Sital Chandra De, Secretary and DDO of the Governing Body along with its other Members. In addition, he extended his thankfulness to various dignitaries present over there along with other members of the teaching and non-teaching staff of the institution for their significant contribution to the completion of the webinar.

### **International Conference on Recent Developments in Civil Engineering**

A two-day International Conference on 'Recent Developments in Civil Engineering' is being organised by the Department of Civil Engineering, Motilal Nehru National Institute of Technology Allahabad, Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh in association with the Indian Concrete Institute (Prayagraj Centre) and Indian Geotechnical Society (Prayagraj Centre) during October 20-21, 2022. The aim of the event is to provide a forum for academicians, engineers, scientists and practitioners from all around the world to exchange ideas and present the recent technological developments in the field of Civil Engineering. The event aspires to bring together the research professional fraternity for the discussions and exchange of information on recent developments in Civil Engineering. The Themes of the event are:

#### **Structural Engineering**

- Advanced Structural Materials.
- Concrete Technology.
- Bridge Engineering.
- Construction Management.
- Building Information Modelling.
- Construction Materials and Management.
- Earthquake Engineering.
- Steel Structure.
- Green Building Materials and Technology.