MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF VICE CHANCELLORS WITH THE HON'BLE CHIEF MINISTER OF ANDHRA PRADESH ON 18TH AND 19TH DECEMBER, 2014 IN THE CHIEF MINISTER'S CONFERENCE HALL, A.P. SECRETARIAT, HYDERABAD.

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At the outset the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh has briefly spelt out his vision for developing the State as a Education Hub. He has earnestly expressed that the Universities in the state should endeavour to take higher education to a world class level while adopting the best practices from within the State, other Sstates, Country or abroad. He has emphasized that an atmosphere of best teaching and learning be created in the Universities duly creating required infrastructure including providing hi-tech connectivity and e-learning contents. He has also emphasized on skill development of students in tune with the requirement of the industry. He has further advised that the curriculum of various courses in the Universities be revised and updated as per the emerging trends and demand in the market.

The Principal Secretary to Government, Higher Education Department has given presentation on the existing status of Universities and the proposed strategy and a Action Plan for achieving the desired goals. Presentations were also made by Advisor, e-governance, electronics & IT and Mr.Sanjay Vijay Kumar, entrepreneur on the role of universities in implementing IT policies in the State.

The following decisions were taken during the meeting:-

(i) The syllabus of various courses in the Universities for the next academic year may be updated [a] for Engineering courses through "Joint Working Group" constituted by Government [b] for Undergraduate courses by APSCHE constituted committee [c] for Post graduate courses by universities. For Engineering and Professional courses a committee will also be constituted for study of universities abroad and to interact with industry for Curriculum Up-dation for 2016-17. The curriculam updation will be continuous process to a limited extent once a year and substantially once in 2 years for engineering colleges and once in 3 years for UG and PG courses.

[Action: Vice chancellors of universities, APSCHE, ITE&C Deptt. and HE deptt.]

(ii) Adopt best available practices in Higher Education from within the State; other States; Country or even abroad.

[Action: Vice chancellors of universities, APSCHE, CTE and CCE]

(iii) Develop smart campuses and provide internet connectivity of at least 1-10 GB under NKN and make all the university campuses Wi-Fi enabled including 4G connectivity.

[Action: Vice chancellors of universities, ITE&C deptt.]

(iv) The "Joint Working Group" will also recommend the e-content /MOOCs Courses permitted for awarding credits in engineering colleges and the APSCHE constituted committee for degree colleges.

[Action: APSCHE, CTE, CCE, ITE&C deptt. & HE deptt.]

(v) Necessary steps may be taken up to implement the IT-Policy of the state in the universities and colleges and the Joint Working Group will suggest the modalities in the matter. To begin with 7 Centres of Excellence, 30 Smart Campuses, 100 Smart class rooms and 500 Start ups will be taken up.

[Action: Vice chancellors of universities , Prl.Secy to Govt.[HE], Secy to Govt., ITE&C]

(vi) Wherever required administrative and examination reforms may be carried out with due diligence on student evaluation. It was also proposed that at least one subject may be made compulsory for on-line examination.

[Action: Vice chancellors of universities, APSCHE, CTE and CCE]

(vii) Credits will be awarded for online courses, research projects, gap year, innovation, attachment to incubation centres, social work, attachment for smart villages etc.

[Action: Vice chancellors of Universities, CTE and CCE]

(viii) Apprenticeship will be made mandatory for the engineering courses and diploma/ certificate courses will be made mandatory for UG courses but can be in the form of industrial placement, project work, attachment to Govt., exchange programme, social work, attachment to incubation / innovation /start up centres etc.

[Action: Vice chancellors of universities, CCE, CTE]

(ix) Aadhaar linkage and biometrics will be introduced in a phased manner.

[Action: APSCHE, CCE & CTE]

(x) MIS based governance, assessment and online examinations will be introduced.

[Action: Vice chancellors of universities, CCE & CTE]

(xi) Courses for improving communication skills and other soft skills to be made mandatory in the first year.

[Action: Vice chancellors of universities, CCE & CTE]

(xii) Courses to be introduced for enterprenuership and innovation development.

[Action: Vice chancellors of universities, CCE & CTE]

(xiii) Choice Based Credit System [CBCS] to be introduced as far as possible.

[Action: Vice chancellors of universities, CCE & CTE]

(xiv) Skill Development may be taken up in a large scale in collaboration with the industry partners and APSSDC. The Universities will integrate Skill Upgradation as per NSQF guidelines. All Universities must set up Incubation Centres and encourage colleges to set up such centres.

[Action: Vice chancellors of universities, MD, APSSDC, CTE & CCE]

(xv) Skill Development University will be set up by June 2015.

[Action: APSCHE, HE Deptt.]

(xvi) Faculty Development Programme / training may be taken up on regular basis duly framing a calendar for activities. The Academic Staff Colleges of Andhra University and Sri Venkateswara University shall be strengthened. The Academic Staff Colleges for Technology Universities will also be set up in JNTU, Kakinada & Anantapur. A State Staff Academic and leader ship institute will be set up at Acharya Nagarjuna University, Guntur.

[Action: Vice chancellors of universities and APSCHE, CTE & CCE]

(xvii) Efforts should be made to fill up at least 75% of the vacant posts of faculties in the Universities by June, 2015.

[Action: Vice chancellors of universities]

(xviii) Universities should invite visiting professors to give guest lecture to the student in order to motivate and expose them to higher learning experiences.

[Action: Vice chancellors of universities]

(xix) Universities should collaborate with other Universities, Colleges and create an atmosphere of better learning through faculty and student exchange programmes.

[Action: Vice chancellors of universities and APSCHE]