



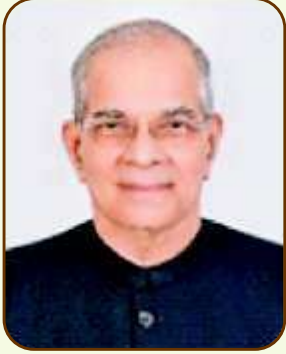
FORUM OF FORMER VICE-CHANCELLORS OF KARNATAKA [FVCK] (R)



ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವಿಶ್ವಾಂಕ ಕುಲಪತಿಗಳ ವೇದಿಕೆ (ನೋಂ.)

A Platform for Educationists, Academicians and Technocrats

From President's corner



Warm Greetings and Good Wishes from FVCK, Bengaluru.

Congratulations and compliments to members of FVCK, Dr. S Kantha, Dr. R Chandrashekhara, Dr. S Sacchidanand, Dr. R.M. Srinivas Gowda, Dr. N.S. Rame Gowda, Dr. R Hanchinal and S.S. Murthy for receiving various awards and recognitions for their life time achievements in Academics, Research and professional contributions.

FVCK is very proud and privileged to confer with "LIFE TIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD" to Dr. S.S. Murthy, Dr. K Sudha Rao and Dr. M. Murigeppa on National Teachers' Day on September 05, 2024 and equally proud and privileged to confer with "LIFE TIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD" to Dr. M.S. Thimmappa on "WORLD TEACHERS' DAY" on October 05, 2024 for their life time contributions as a teacher, researcher and an administrator.

The Government of Karnataka is very concerned about ever growing demand for the establishment of Private Universities and Autonomous Colleges denting the interest of students from socio economically backward classes. I am of the opinion that private initiatives in Higher Education are needed without compromising with Excellence, Equity and Affordability of Education. The Government has the onerous responsibility of preventing and controlling commercialization of education, especially professional education.

Dr. S. Chandrashekar Shetty
President, FVCK

Editor's thoughts



It is with great pleasure, I present the third issue of Viveka-Vani for the year 2024.

Viveka-Vani the official quarterly News-letter of Forum of Former Vice Chancellors of Karnataka (FVCK) is documenting all the activities that happen during the previous quarter of the year. This issue not only carries the regular features like Presidents Corner, Editors thoughts, Secretary's reports, Leisure reading, News in brief, Obituary and relevant photographs of various functions and activities held during the quarter. It also features one lead article by an eminent academican pertaining to Higher Education. This issue carries a lead article by Dr. S Sacchidanand on status of Higher Education in the country. Challenges faced by the Higher Education system and their solutions are highlighted in this compilation article.

I appeal to all the former Vice Chancellors of FVCK to send their articles, well in advance to be published in subsequent issues of Viveka-Vani. The circulation of this News-letter is being widened to not only include its present members, but also all member institutions, Higher Education Institutions of Karnataka, Central, State and Deemed to be Universities of Karnataka and all concerned departments of Government of Karnataka including the Higher Education Council.

I also appeal to all the Higher Education Institutions of Karnataka and specifically State, Private and Deemed to be universities to become members of FVCK and support its activities. The News-letter also has provision to include half page and full page advertisements about your esteemed institution. Kindly Patronise.

Looking forward towards active support and participation of all members of FVCK. I once again make a fervent appeal to all members to contribute relevant articles pertaining to Higher Education

Dr. S. Sacchidanand
Editor-in-chief, FVCK



Dr. H. Maheshappa
Secretary, FVCK

Secretary's Report

Secretary's Report

06.07.2024

Half a day Seminar on Integrity and Accountability of NEET/All India Entrance Examination was conducted at FVCK, Bengaluru at 11.00am. Dr.S.Chandrashekar Shetty, President, FVCK made opening remarks about the importance of NEET Exam. Dr. K. Balaveera Reddy and Dr.S.Sacchidanand made presentation on the pros and cons of NEET and other exams. Dr. M.K. Naik, Dr.K.Narayana Gowda, Dr.R.N.Sreenivas Gowda, Dr.R.Chandrashekhara, Dr. Savarmanagala Shankar and Dr.H.Maheshappa participated in the seminar. At the end of the meeting the recommendations of the seminar were sent to the NTA Reforms Committee headed by Dr.K.Radhakrishna, Former Director, ISRO, Bengaluru. NTA Reforms Committee has acknowledged the receipt of the Recommendations of FVCK on July 07, 2024.

06.07.2024

Forum of Former Vice Chancellors, Bengaluru in association with Manipal Universal Press, Manipal had organised a Book Release program "Vacanāmṛtam" – Nectar of Sayings of devotees of Shiva, written by Dr.M.V.Nadkarni, Former Vice Chancellor, Gulbarga University, Gulbarga. The book was released by Dr. Chiranjiv Singh, IAS, Former Addl. Chief Secretary, Government of Karnataka. Dr.S.Chandrashekar Shetty, President, FVCK. presided over the program. Prof.Sangamesh, D.Saundattimath, Emeritus Professor, Karnataka University, Dharwad and Prof. Neeta Inamdar, Chief Editor, Manipal Universal Press, Manipal spoke on the occasion. Dr.H.Maheshappa, Secretary, FVCK welcomed the gathering and Sri.N.Arvind, Managing Editor, Manipal Universal Press, Manipal gave vote of thanks. Large numbers of well-wishers of Dr.M.V.Nadkarni, FVCK Members and Media persons attended the meeting. Next day there was a good coverage of the program in the leading newspapers of Kannada, English, Hindi and Telugu.

15.7.2024

Sad demise of Dr.S.A.Patil, Former Vice Chancellor of University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad.

20.07.2024

5/148 EC Meeting was conducted at 4pm at Karnataka State Lawn Tennis Club, Cubbon Park, Bangalore.

20.07.2024

5/18 Annual General Body meeting was conducted at 5pm at Karnataka State Lawn Tennis Club, Cubbon Park, Bangalore.

26.07.2024

5/18 Dr.S. Sacchidanand, Former Vice Chancellor of RGUSH, Bengaluru was invited as key Resource Person for Muller Silverton – 2024 event

14.08.2024

Sir.M.Visvesvaraya award for the year 2023 was conferred on Dr.R.R.Hanchinal, Former Vice Chancellor, University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad, by the Government of Karnataka.

15.08.2024

Rudolf Virchow Global Award for One world – One Health 2024 was awarded to Dr.R.N.Sreenivas Gowda, Founder Vice Chancellor, Karnataka Veterinary, Animal and Fisheries Sciences University, Bidar by Pashudhan Praharee.

17.08.2024

5th Core Committee meeting was conducted at FVCK, Bengaluru.

26.08.2024

Release of Recommendations on ONF Booklet and special issue of INJEE on ONF in the hands of his excellency Acharya Devvrat ji, Governor of Gujrat and Hon'ble Nithin Gadkari ji, Union Minister of Highways, Road and Transport in the presence of Hon'ble Dr.K.Narayana Gowda, President, INSEE at Nagpur, Gujarat.

29.08.2024

The power connection to FVCK was restored by the Bengaluru City University. Thanks to Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Registrar and Engineer of Bengaluru City University and Dr.K.S.Rangappa, Former Vice Chancellor, University of Mysore, Mysuru for their timely help and support for the same.

31.08.2024

Dr.S.Srinivas Murthy's article appeared in Emails from Readers column of Times of India.

05.9.2024

FVCK Life Time Achievement Awards-2024 were conferred on 1)Dr. S.S. Murthy, (2) Dr.K.Sudha Rao, (3) Dr.A.Murigeppa on the occasion of Teachers' Day-2024

17.09.2024

FVCK Office Assistant cum Accountant Ms. Lavayna was relieved from her post and C.T.Bhaskar has appointed as Assistant Cum Accountant in her place.

28.09.2024

On the occasion of Centenary celebration of Mysore Medical College Dr. Kantha and Dr.

Chandrashekar Shetty were felicitated with 'Atthi Visista Seva Purashakar' at Mysore.

28-09-2024

Dr. M.K. Naik, Former Vice Chancellor, Agriculture and Horticultural University, Shivamogga has presented a Key Note Address at the International PGPR Conference Taiwan.

Thanking you
Dr. H. Maheshappa
Secretary, FVCK



Dr. S.S. Hanchinal, Former Vice Chancellor, UAS, Dharwad being felicitated by Hon'ble Chief Minister of Karnataka Sri. Siddaramaiah and was conferred with Sir. M. Visvesvaraya Award for the year 2023 in presence of "Bharata Ratna" Prof CN RAO



Conferring of "Athi Visishta Seva" Award to Dr. Mrs. S Kantha and Dr. S. Chandrashekar Shetty Former Vice Chancellors of RGUHS, by Hon'ble Chief Minister of Karnataka Sri. S. Siddaramaiah, on the occasion of Centenary Celebrations of Mysore Medical College and Research Institute, Mysore dated on 28-09-2024.



Dr. M.K Naik, Former Vice Chancellor, Agricultural and Horticultural University, Shivamogga presented a Key note address at International PGPR Conference at Taiwan on 29-08-2024.



FVCK felicitated and presented Life Time Achievement Award 2024 to Dr. M.S. THIMMAPPA, former Vice Chancellor, Bangalore University, Bangalore for his outstanding contribution as a teacher, researcher and academic administrator on the occasion of World Teachers Day on 05-10-2024 at his residence. FVCK President Dr. Chandrashekar Shetty. Vice President Dr. K Narayana Gowda, Secretary Dr. H Maheshappa and its Member Dr. Shriprakash were present on the occasion.



Release of Recommendations on ONF booklet & special issue of INJEE on ONF by Shri. Acharya Devvrat ji, Hon'ble Governor of Gujarat & Hon'ble Nitini Gakari Ji, Hon'ble Union Minister of Highway, Road & Transport in presence of Hon. Dr. K. Narayana Gowda, Former Vice Chancellor, UAS, Bangalore and others on 14-10-2024 at Nagpur.



Dr R. Chandrashekhara, Former Vice Chancellor RGUHS being felicitated with “VISISHTA SEVA” Award on the occasion of Centenary Celebrations of Mysore Medical College, Mysore dated on 14-07-2024



Dr S. Sacchidanand Former Vice Chancellor RGUHS being felicitated with “VISISHTA SEVA” Award on the occasion of Centenary Celebrations of Mysore Medical College, Mysore dated on 29-09-2024.



“Life Time Achievement Award” Conferred by FVCK to Dr. Srinivasa Murthy, Dr. K Sudha Rao and Dr. A Murigeppa on the occasion of “Teachers Day-2024” celebrations on 5th September 2024. Dr. Vasudev Kalkunte Aatre was the Chief Guest. Dr. S Chandrashekar Shetty presided over the function.



Felicitations to Dr. R Chandrashekhara and Dr. S. Sacchidanand Former Vice Chancellor, RGUHS on 4th August 2024 during “PUNARMILANA” Alumni Meet as a part of MMCRI Centenary Celebrations by MMCRI Alumni of Bangalore.

Higher Education in India: Challenges and Solutions

Higher education system in India is one of the largest in the world and probably stands second in terms of the higher education network. 'Higher Education' in India denotes the tertiary level education that is imparted after 12 years of schooling (10 years of primary education and 2 years of secondary education). The entire higher education ecosystem in India comprises around 1284+ universities and 58,000+ colleges imparting exceptional education. All these institutions fall under the purview of the Ministry of Education. Of the 1284 universities, 56 are Central Universities, 491 State Universities, 136 Deemed to be Universities, 496 State Private Universities and 159 Institutes of National Importance such as AIIMS, IIMs, IIITs, IISERs, IITs and NITs among others. There are 43.3 million students studying in all these institutions. The Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in India is around 28.4%.

The largest broad subject area at undergraduate level is Arts (34%), followed by Science (15%), Commerce (13%) and Engineering & Technology (12%)? . At the postgraduate (master's degree) level the top broad subject area is Social Science (21%) followed by Science (15%) ? and Management (14%), and at PhD level the largest number of students are enrolled in Engineering & Technology (25%) followed by Science (21%)? .

Distance Education Council oversees the Distance education and open education of the Higher education in India. There are also several state and national accredited bodies which provide professional and vocational educational programs like the National Skill Development Corporation,

Gramin Skill Development Mission, the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing, etc.

The landscape of Indian Higher Education System:

The structure of Indian Higher Education is three-layered, consisting of Universities, Colleges and Courses. The universities and colleges work in unison with regulatory as well as accreditation bodies to deliver standardized education.

TYPES OF UNIVERSITIES

On the basis of management, the universities are classified as:

Central Universities: These are set up through an Act of Parliament. The establishment and operation are funded by the Union Government.

State Universities - These are set up through an Act in the State Legislature. The state universities are primarily funded and operated by the State Government.

Private Universities - These are set up through an Act in the State Legislatures. It includes specialized institutions and multidisciplinary research universities.

Deemed Universities - These are well-performing institutes that are declared to be of equal standing as the universities by the Central Government on the advice of the Union Grants Commission (UGC).

Institutes of National Importance (INI) - These are eminent institutions of India that are known to develop highly skilled individuals. They are funded by the Government of India and include all the IITs, NITs and AIIMs institutes.

Note: Apart from the Institutes of National Importance, the UGC has set a recognition scheme for Indian higher education institutes (in 2017) according to which a total of 20 institutions will be granted the status Institute of Eminence. Until now 12 institutes have been granted this status.

COURSES

The courses offered in Indian higher education institutions can be generally classified into two categories:

STEM Courses - STEM is a broad term that stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics and it encompasses all the courses providing education in these disciplines. Instead of teaching the four disciplines separately, the purpose of STEM courses involves cohesive learning and it focuses on the practical application of the subjects. Effective education in STEM courses is not limited to theoretical learning but extends to experimental and research-based learning too. The well-equipped laboratories of Indian institutes enable the same and help the students to inculcate innovative, problem-solving

and competent skills.

Non- STEM Courses - The courses offered in disciplines such as Commerce, Arts, Business Management, Humanities, and Social Affairs are termed non-STEM courses. Yet again, the Indian institutions are well equipped to provide education in these disciplines wherein the students can gain expertise in the subject of their choice. Non-STEM majors like humanities open a wide range of career opportunities where the skills, knowledge and deeper understanding are made applicable. Similarly, education, accounting, marketing, English, journalism, language studies, etc degrees all have plenty of uses for various professions. A few examples for career options under non-STEM courses include counsellors, education administrators, teachers, clinical psychologists, art or creative director, etc.

THE REGULATORY STRUCTURE

The entire ecosystem of higher Study in India is primarily overseen by the following authorities-

UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION (UGC)

The main regulatory body that performs a range of tasks such as providing funds to the universities, establishing education standards for the universities and analysing the growth of the various higher education institutions. It is crucial for universities to meet the criteria set by UGC so as to enjoy degree-awarding authority.

ALL INDIA COUNCIL FOR TECHNICAL EDUCATION (AICTE)

The regulatory body that coordinates, plans and develops technical education in the country.

Finally, the accreditation of the universities and colleges is overseen by the NAAC and NIRF.

The paradigm shift in the higher education system in India is aided by the integration of the latest innovation and technology. The transformed system focuses on the inclusive development of the learners and the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 ensures the same. The main purpose of NEP 2020 is to implement and strengthen multidisciplinary, inclusive and technology-based learning that is accessible to all. It focuses on imparting higher education that enables personal accomplishment for students and prepares them to pave a good future.

Higher education in India is at cross roads. On one side we have very high expectations from the Higher Education system. On the other side, it is besieged with lots of challenges that need to be addressed, to make it more robust, globally acceptable, technically competent and accessible.

CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS:

1. Quality of Education

Challenge: Many institutions struggle with outdated curricula, inadequate faculty, and inconsistent teaching quality, leading to graduates who may lack critical skills.

Solution:

Curriculum Overhaul: Regularly update curricula to align with current industry needs and global standards.

Faculty Development: Invest in training programs to improve faculty teaching and research skills.

Collaborations with Industry: Forge partnerships with industry leaders to incorporate practical insights into academic programs and provide students with real-world experience.

2. Faculty Shortage and Retention

Challenge: There's a significant shortage of qualified faculty, particularly in specialized fields. Low salaries and limited opportunities for research often discourage talent from joining academia.

Solution:

Incentivize Talent: Offer competitive salaries, research grants, and performance-based incentives to attract and retain faculty.

Ph.D. Programs and Scholarships: Increase funding for Ph.D. programs to build a pipeline of future educators and researchers.

Visiting Faculty Programs: Encourage experts from industry and abroad to engage with Indian institutions through visiting faculty and adjunct roles.

3. Funding and Resource Constraints

Challenge: Public institutions often face budget limitations, impacting infrastructure, research facilities, and the ability to hire faculty. Private institutions may focus more on profits than quality.

Solution:

Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs): Encourage partnerships between the government and private sector to improve funding for infrastructure and research.

Endowments and Alumni Contributions: Develop alumni networks and encourage contributions to support institutional development.

Optimize Resource Allocation: Implement efficient budgeting and resource management strategies to make the most of available funding.

4. Limited Research and Innovation

Challenge: India's research output is still low relative to global leaders, and funding for research and development (R&D) remains limited.

Solution:

National Research Foundation (NRF): The NRF, as proposed by the NEP 2020, can play a key role in providing dedicated funding for research.

Interdisciplinary Research Hubs: Establish research centers focused on interdisciplinary areas like healthcare, climate change, and AI.

Global Collaborations: Partner with international universities and research bodies to facilitate knowledge sharing and collaborative projects.

5. Accessibility and Equity

Challenge: Socioeconomic, geographic, and gender-related barriers prevent equal access to higher education, especially for rural and marginalized groups.

Solution:

Scholarships and Financial Aid: Increase scholarships, grants, and loan programs for underrepresented groups.

Digital Infrastructure: Expand digital infrastructure to offer online and remote learning options in rural areas.

Community Outreach Programs: Engage communities to raise awareness about higher education opportunities and provide support for first-generation college students.

6. Employability of Graduates

Challenge: Many graduates lack the skills required by employers, leading to a gap between education and employability.

Solution:

Skill-Based Learning: Integrate skill-based modules, including soft skills, digital literacy, and critical thinking, into the curriculum.

Internships and Apprenticeships: Encourage institutions to include internships and apprenticeships as part of academic programs.

Career Services: Develop robust career counselling, placement services, and partnerships with industry to better align academic training with job market needs.

7. Technological Integration

Challenge: Many institutions, especially in rural areas, struggle with inadequate technology infrastructure, limiting students' access to digital resources.

Solution:

Government and Private Investment in EdTech: Increase funding for digital infrastructure in educational institutions, particularly in underserved areas.

Training Programs for Digital Literacy: Equip both students and faculty with digital literacy and the skills to effectively use online tools.

Use of EdTech Platforms: Leverage government-backed platforms like SWAYAM and DIKSHA, along with private platforms, to increase access to high-quality online courses.

8. Bureaucracy and Regulatory Challenges

Challenge: Over-regulation can limit institutional autonomy, stifle innovation, and create inefficiencies.

Solution:

Autonomy and Accreditation: The NEP 2020 emphasizes granting more autonomy to high-performing institutions and simplifying the accreditation process.

Single Regulatory Body: Establish a single regulatory body, as proposed by the NEP, to streamline regulations and reduce bureaucratic hurdles.

Encourage Institutional Flexibility: Provide universities with more control over curriculum design, admissions, and faculty appointments to foster innovation.

9. Internationalization and Global Engagement

Challenge: Indian institutions generally have low global visibility and limited international collaborations, impacting knowledge exchange and global competitiveness.

Solution:

Global Partnerships: Encourage collaboration with foreign universities, such as exchange programs, joint degrees, and research projects.

Attracting International Students: Simplify visa processes and create scholarship programs to make Indian institutions more attractive to foreign students.

Encourage Foreign Campuses: The NEP 2020 proposes allowing foreign universities to establish campuses in India, which could foster global engagement and competition.

CONCLUSION: Addressing these challenges requires a multi-faceted approach involving government initiatives, private sector involvement, and active participation from educational institutions. The NEP 2020 has laid a strong foundation for reforms, but consistent implementation and collaborative effort are essential to achieve a transformative impact on India's Higher Education System.

OBITUARY



Dr. S. A. Patil

Former Vice Chancellor
University of Agricultural
Sciences, Dharwad.

Obituary of Dr. S.A Patil

Former Vice Chancellor, UAS Dharwad

Dr. S.A. Patil Former Vice Chancellor, UAS Dharwad and Former Director, IARI, passed away on 15-07-2024. He was 78 years old.

Dr. S. A. Patil was an academician, visionary and a genius agricultural scientist a great international builder and above all a champion of farmer who left Dr. S.A. Patil Former Vice Chancellor, UAS Dharwad and Former Director, IARI, passed away on 15-07-2024. He was 78 years old.

Dr. S.A. Patil was an academician, visionary and a genius agricultural scientist a great international builder and above all a champion of farmer who left this mortal world living behind a rich legacy of long lasting impression. As Vice Chancellor of UASD, for the tenure (2004-2006) he enabled the university to reach one among the top state Agricultural Universities in the country in various dimensions of education research and extension (including sardar patel award to UASD). Under his leadership, several institutions were started such as, seed, hub, platform of Art institute of Biotechnology, Organic farming, Agribusiness knowledge centre, Hi-Tech knowledge etc. which are now involved in development of Cotton Hybrid Varalaxmi(DCH-3) world's first interspecific, Hybrid long staple cotton hybrid along with Dr. Katharbi and his team. He Dr. S.A. Patil established international collaboration with Ohio State University, Texas AVM University, Cornell University, UAS and The Gill University Canada etc.

Dr. S.A. Patil also served as Chairman of Krishi mission, Government of Karnataka bringing innovative former. Director of Indian Agricultural Research Institute(IARI) New Delhi, he developed several business development plans, accelerated

formers participatory approach, seed production of Basmati Rice varieties and initiated a mega Krishi Mela.

His exemplified personality blended with simplicity, empathy, care and concern with formers, colleagues, students and other stake holders made him faithful and popular academic leader and a true friend of former called "Krishi Rishi". He received several international and national awards and accolades for his immense contributions.

With profound sorrow, the fraternity of FVCK express our heartfelt condolences on the passing away of Dr. S.A Patil a priding light and a source of immense knowledge with his unwavering dedication and commitment has left as indelible mark on the agricultural map of Karnataka may his soul attain sadgati and eternal peace. Let his contributions and memories remain in our heart and continue to inspire generations to come. Dr. S.A. Patil is served by his wife Smt. Annapurna Patil and two sons and daughters.

Compiled by
Dr. M. K Naik

Former Vice Chancellor
KSN VAHS, Shimogga



EDITORIAL BOARD

Editor:

Dr. S. Sacchidanand

Members:

Dr. R. N. Sreenivas Gowda

Dr. R. Chandrashekara

Dr. B. G. Sangameshwara

Dr. Padamashekhar

Dr. H. Maheshappa

Dr. T. D. Kemparaju

Dr. Balakrishna P. Shetty

Please send your comments and suggestions on this News Letter to help us improve further. It will be our pleasure to incorporate important academic activities of your Institution in the next issue. Universities and colleges of Karnataka are invited to be Institutional members of the forum.

Book-Post