

THE BEACON

PRACTICE NEWS BULLETIN OF THE PG STUDENTS OF JOURNALISM AND MASS COMMUNICATION

Tuesday, 1 October 2024 / St Joseph's University / Vol:17 Issue: 40 / www.sjcdeptcomm.wordpress.com

AEDP will bridge the skill gap

Daiti B & Dibyaroop G

CAMPUS: Market-oriented skills are necessary to change society and reduce unemployment, stated Dr MC Sudhakar, Minister of Higher Education of Karnataka, stressing the lack of employability of graduates. Speaking at the first annual convocation of St Joseph's University on September 27, he elaborated on innovations in teaching, research, and assisting students to realise their full potential, which is the aim of the Apprenticeship Embedded Degree Program (AEDP). The state government announced the AEDP on August 14, which will be available in selected 45 first-grade government colleges across Karnataka starting from the academic year 2024-25.

He pointed out that 29.1% are unemployed educated graduates, compared to 3.5% of people who do not have a basic form of education. Later, in an interview with *The Beacon*, he stated, "As students, they will be paid monthly (during AEDP)... somebody being paid means it will motivate them," highlighting the importance of remuneration. He said 1400 students have been selected under this new scheme. The Central government's annual budget 2024-25 has mooted a similar scheme, called the Prime Minister Internship Scheme (PMIS), which seeks to provide graduates with employment through internship programs where the selected graduates will receive a monthly stipend of Rs 5,000 for a year of jobs along with a one-time grant of Rs 6,000.

'NEP elitist, SEP inclusive, futuristic policy'

Daiti B & Dibyaroop G

CAMPUS: Dr MC Sudhakar is one of the most prominent figures in Karnataka's current political space and is the Minister of Higher Education CM Siddaramaiah's Cabinet. He is also a serving member of the legislative assembly for the third time from the Chintamani constituency. In an exclusive interview with *The Beacon*, he addressed concerns regarding the current education policy in Karnataka, student expectations, and employability.

What is the update about the SEP committee and the report?

The State Education Policy Commission has already submitted an interim report. We introduced the State Education Policy this



Dr MC Sudhakar, Higher Education Minister, Karnataka

Pratham B

academic year, 2024-25. The committee has yet to give us the final report. They have been given an extension of six months to submit the same. They are conducting extensive consultations with various stakeholders to develop a meaningful, futuristic policy. I spoke with the vice-chairman of UGC and mentioned that they need to re-look at the National Education Policy 2020 as it will not cater to all sections of society. We

are a very diverse country. Many social issues have not been considered in the NEP.

What is the state government's stance on the multiple entry and exit system?

We are still looking at it. It is just a credit-based system, an Academic Bank of Credit (ABC). Regarding employability, a person with a degree is not getting a job. If we cannot give employment to

these graduates, how will we provide employment to diploma holders? The government must see the practicality of this and how it would benefit the students. On the contrary, the multiple entry and exit system allows students some flexibility regarding the course. The courses and syllabus are constantly changing. We cannot adapt a successful system in a smaller country with a different type of society.

Here, we are a society with a lot of diversity. Everybody can't afford education so easily. The government's commitment should include everyone.

Educators and students are confused about the transition from NEP to SEP. What is the government's plan to address that? Why is there confusion?

I have clearly said that the 2021-2023 batches, the last batch under our government, are all under NEP. The batches that will be admitted in 2024 come under the new SEP. Regarding the 4th year of honours, there is no bar for anybody to continue this course, as stated in the NEP. Since it is not mandatory, the numbers are very less. Not many students are interested in pursuing the honours course.

SJU hosts inaugural convocation ceremony

Katherina S

CAMPUS: Founded in 1882 as St. Joseph's College, St Joseph's University has a long-standing reputation for academic excellence and holistic education and is recognised as one of the leading educational institutions in Karnataka. It held its inaugural annual convocation on September 27, conferring degrees to approximately 700 post-graduates from 22 streams. This milestone marks the institution's first convocation since attaining its university status in 2022.

The college was initially affiliated with the University of Madras and later with the universities of Mysore and Bangalore.



Graduates marching towards the dais

Pratham B

In 2022, the President of India, Draupadi Murmu, inaugurated the institution as India's first public-private partnership university.

Reflecting on the university's legacy, Vice-Chancellor Dr Victor Lobo acknowledged the contributions of generations

of staff and alums. "This is an overwhelmingly emotional, proud, and exhilarating occasion for every veteran staff member, student, and well-wisher among us, as well as those looking upon us from above. They have invested the best years of

their lives in this esteemed institution. They have sustained and propelled us for 142 years, leading the institution to this profound moment," he stated.

The vice-chancellor also emphasised the university's commitment to inclusivity, ensuring education for all individuals, regardless of religion, caste, creed, gender, ethnicity, socio-economic status, or ideology.

Distinguished guests attended the convocation ceremony: Dr MC Sudhakar, Minister of Higher Education for Karnataka State, and Dr Thimappa Hegde, a renowned neurosurgeon, alumnus, and the university's Pro-Visitor.

Facing trials with a strong mind

Katherina S

CAMPUS: "Life is not a bed of roses, and university education prepares you to face a difficult world," said Dr Thimappa Hegde, a neurosurgeon and the Director of Narayana Institute of Neurosciences, acknowledging the hardships that life presents, and the toughness required to handle it.

While addressing the gathering at St Joseph's University's first convocation on 27 September 2024, Dr Hegde, who is also an alumnus of the institution, delivered a message on mental strength and gratitude. He emphasised the importance of overcoming breakdowns by citing an example from the Mahabharata of Arjuna's moral dilemma and Krishna's encouragement to rise and fight despite the challenges.

Dr Hegde also stressed the power of gratitude, reminding the audience of often-overlooked blessings, such as the ability to see, walk or talk. "You cannot be grateful and miserable at the same time," he said, pointing to gratefulness as the key to happiness, which would help them face life's difficulties.

Fr Vaz envisions transformation

Prachi P

CAMPUS: St Joseph's University conducted its inaugural Convocation ceremony on September 27, 2024, conferring degrees to graduates from diverse academic disciplines. The event featured an address by the chancellor, Fr. Dionysius Vaz, who emphasised the university's role as a vital agent of social progress, nurturing the intellectual development of young minds within society. Fr Vaz articulated the vision of St Joseph's University as a leading institution in the educational hierarchy, serving as a hub for



Dignitaries ignite the flame of progress

Pratham B

innovative ideas, a crucible for creative thought, and an incubator for unconventional inquiries. He further described the institution as a source of expertise across multiple disciplines and a reservoir of intellectual capital. "A flourishing university must engage actively

with a dynamically evolving society and offer programs that foster the development of specialised skills, logical reasoning, and a profound understanding of ethics," Fr Vaz asserted, highlighting the necessity of preparing young minds for future challenges.

SJU's tough, but worth it!

Tharun Adhitya

CAMPUS: Time management and practical exposure helped them when they entered an industry, said Ashish Bhandarkar, a gold medallist from the MA Journalism and Mass Communication programme of the School of Communication and Media Studies.

Speaking on the sidelines of the first annual convocation of SJU, he said, "Assignments, dissertations, and many more keep us busy at SJU; it is helping us right now because the work seems lighter," said Ashish. He also

added that the SJU approach of balancing theory and practical is beneficial to the students.

Sowmya, another graduate from Mass communication, expressed that the quality of work SJU students have set a benchmark for. During her internship in *The Hindu*, the editor was pleased with the work and was willing to provide more internships to students from SJU. She added that people get astonished as they enter the industry and learn, but MA Journalism and Mass Communication students from SJU enter by knowing everything.