A New Dawn in Higher Education of Andhra Pradesh

ANDHRA PRADESH STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION
“Education is the only ASSET we can give to our CHILDREN”

- Shri Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy
  Hon’ble Chief Minister
  Andhra Pradesh
Books: The books in the emblem represent Knowledge
Blossom: The blossom in the emblem represents Wisdom
The 3rd Eye: The 3rd Eye in the emblem represents the Monitoring Agent
Flame: The flame in the emblem represents the Light of Wisdom & Knowledge

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Aligning with the vision of Sri. Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy garu, the Hon’ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh in providing accessible and quality education to all sections of society especially giving a preferential option to the underprivileged and weaker sections, the Andhra Pradesh State Council of Higher Education (APSCHE) has initiated many revolutionary and appropriate reforms and activities to strengthen the Higher Education eco-system in the state.

We are very humbled to say that the current government is incentivizing and supporting higher education with the help of the schemes e.g. Jagananna Vidya Deevena (JVD) and Jagananna Vasathi Deevena (JVaD). The government has spent more than Rs. 11,000 crores on these both schemes in the last 03 years. The government has provided the required accessibility & affordability to the students where the students could aspire to pursue higher education in better colleges. This is visible in the growth of GER of Andhra Pradesh from 32.4% in AY 2018-19 to AY 35.2% in AY 2019-20 i.e. a growth rate of 8.6% whereas the national average growth rate is only 3.4%. The overall admissions of AP have grown by 13.17% in AY 2021-22 over the base year 2019-20. The percentage growth of female students is 16.35%, rural students is 16.57%, SC students is 18.43%, and ST students is 9.93%. Andhra Pradesh is the only state in the country to provide higher education free of cost to 87% of its students.

Andhra Pradesh is the front runner in implementing the major components of the New Education Policy (NEP) 2020 while other states were still discussing its provisions. AP is now conducting Common Entrance Tests (CETs) from UG to Ph.D. covering all programs, and introduced Online Admissions for conventional degree programs from AY 2020-21. A Quality Assurance Cell (QAC) has been established to ensure quality in HEIs. A blended mode of learning has been introduced and developed an LMS platform to promote online learning. A mandatory 10-months internship is introduced for all the UG Conventional and Professional Programs including 2 months of Community Service Project (CSP). An Industry-Institute Connect (IIC) Portal was developed, catering to the internship needs of both Conventional and Professional Degree Programs. APSCHE is striving hard to produce enlightened and employable citizens who are ready to tackle future global challenges. With all these initiatives, the government of Andhra Pradesh has kick-started an 'Education Revolution' in a magnificent way, and we are all poised to achieve a GER of 70 by 2035.

Prof. K. Hemachandra Reddy
Chairman, APSCHE
About APSCHE

The Andhra Pradesh State Council of Higher Education (APSCHE), the first of its kind in the country, was set up as per the recommendations of the National Education Policy 1986. APSCHE is the first SHEC to be established in the country that came into existence w.e.f. 20.05.1988 through Act 16 of 1988. It is primarily a coordinating body between the University Grants Commission (UGC), the State Government, and the Universities of the State. The primary function of APSCHE is to advise the Government in matters relating to Higher Education in the State and to oversee its development with perspective planning and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto. It is the general duty of the Council to coordinate and determine standards in institutions of Higher Education, Research, Scientific and Technical Institutions by the guidelines issued by the University Grants Commission from time to time.

APSCHE was established in 1988 with six conventional State Universities and its growth has been continuing till today. In the journey of the last 34 years, APSCHE played a pivotal role in outlining the scope, structure, and funding pattern and succeeded with the establishment of 10 Conventional State Universities, 19 Specialized Universities, 02 State PPP mode Universities, 08 State Private Universities, 03 Central Universities, 08 Central Institutes and 05 Deemed to be Universities catering to the needs of nearly 20 lakh students. Before 1995, the role of the Council was to send the recommendations to the Government to accord permissions for starting Private Degree Colleges, permissions to start M.A, M.Sc., and M.Com courses, and enhancement of seats in Degree Colleges of the state. Thereafter with the power delegated by the Government, APSCHE was empowered to accord approvals to start Private Unaided Degree Colleges, Law Colleges, Private Oriental Colleges, and corresponding contemporary programs. Under Government Orders, APSCHE has been conducting surveys annually to identify the grey areas and initiate educational establishments by inviting applications from private agencies desirous of starting new private colleges, and UG and PG programs through press notification and also extending access to the students in unserved and underserved areas.
In the light of experience gained over the years, APSCHE introduced Common Entrance Tests (CETs) for admission to various professional programs to endeavour justice to merit and social equity, a milestone in the Higher Education of Andhra Pradesh. APSCHE adopted a ‘conveyor-belt’ system for the process of registration and verification of certificates for the admissions in Engineering & B.Ed. courses through online counselling. To prevent delays in admissions and to save time for students, Single Window (SW) Counselling and Web-Based Counselling were introduced by APSCHE. APSCHE initiated the Olive Data Base Project with the help of the Government in consultation with the Software Technology Park of India (STPI) and the validity of degrees (both the professional and post-graduation) of the students of Andhra Pradesh has been lifted to national and international standards. APSCHE constituted the High-Power Committee to evolve common performance parameters for self-assessment of the Universities to improve the quality of Higher Education in the state. APSCHE evolved model guidelines for the preparation of format for University Annual Report, Annual Administration Reports of the Universities, and Agenda for Boards of Management meetings to make them uniform, more purposeful, meaningful, and insightful. The Council initiated Industry - Institution relationships at the university level to encourage the employability of the students. To achieve excellence, freedom has been given to autonomous colleges to frame the curriculum, evolve more effective methods of teaching and learning, and undertake other specific programs. The Council initiated the timely revision of the syllabus in all courses as per the requirement of stakeholders and conducted refresher courses for the teachers.

APSCHE is playing a crucial role in academic and administrative reforms in Universities and Colleges across the state of Andhra Pradesh. APSCHE strives for achieving high standards of quality with a student-centric approach by coordinating with all the Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and timely suggesting the government initiate appropriate measures to strengthen the system further. The following are the reforms and activities initiated by APSCHE in the last three years i.e. from 01st July 2019 to 30th June 2022 that has given rise to ‘A New Dawn in Higher Education of Andhra Pradesh’.
APSCHE initiated many first-of-its-kind activities in the country to strengthen the higher educational institutes in the state while ensuring access, equity, and quality in higher education. We are very glad to inform you that this list is only an indication of our initiatives and is by no means an exhaustive list:

1. **Curriculum Revision for both Professional and Conventional Degree Programs**
2. **Introduction of 30% skill courses in the revised curriculum**
3. **Introduction of a 10-months mandatory internship for all the UG students**
4. **Introduction of a 2-months mandatory Community Service Project (CSP)**
5. **Introduction of English as a mandatory medium of instruction in all Degree programs. Podcasts & Bilingual Textbooks were introduced for a smooth transition of students from Telugu medium to English medium**
6. **Introduction of online admissions for all Degree programs**
Establishment of Quality Assurance Cell (QAC)

Establishment of Andhra Pradesh Higher Education Planning Board (AP HEPB)

Establishment of Community Development Board (CDB)

Formation of 5 Regional Cluster Groups (RCGs) under AP HEPB

Established 553 Entrepreneurship, Incubation, and Start-Up Centers (EISCs) in universities and colleges

Microsoft Upskilling Program - To skill 1.62 lakh students in the state, the government is spending around Rs. 32 crores
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<td>Implementation of NEP 2020</td>
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A PSCHE redesigned the curriculum of Conventional UG Programs and Professional UG Programs on the recommendation of committees constituted with experts of national repute. The redesigned curriculum in engineering programs, and BA, B.Sc., B.Com, and other graduate programs was introduced from the Academic Year 2020-21. For the first time, an outcome-based curriculum with many unique features has been introduced.

1.1 Conventional Degree Programs
- Curriculum enshrined with skill development, skill enhancement, and life skill courses.
- 10 months of mandatory internship/on-the-job training with a 2-months Community Service Project (CSP).
- Credit transfer among institutions of intra/inter universities for programs & internships.
- 4 years honors degree program (Research) with an exit option after 3 years of study (1st in the country).
- 25 Market-oriented, employability tilting degree programs were introduced.
- 67 Bachelor of Vocational Degree programs were introduced.

1.2 Professional Degree Programs
- Curriculum enshrined with skill development, skill enhancement, and life skill courses.
- 10 months of mandatory internship/on-the-job training with a 2-months Community Service Project (CSP).
- B.Tech with Honors or B.Tech with a Minor is introduced.
- Blended learning was introduced.
- Academic flexibility is given to both the students and institutions by introducing a pool of interdisciplinary and job-oriented skill courses.
- Introducing 5-year integrated PG programs from AY 2021-22.
- Blended learning was introduced.
- Academic flexibility to the students and institutions by introducing a pool of interdisciplinary and job-oriented skill courses.
- Different tracks for Minor are planned with APSSDC and NASSCOM.
- Skill courses both domain-specific and inter-disciplinary job-oriented courses introduced.
Implementation of 
NEP 2020

APSCHE completely revamped and introduced the model curriculum for the UG Conventional and Professional Degree Programs incorporating many progressive changes envisaged in NEP 2020. We are the first state to implement major components of NEP 2020 while other states were still discussing its provisions. When NEP 2020 document was rolled out in August 2020, we have already incorporated the provisions and implemented the curriculum in July 2020.

APSCHE did the following to implement NEP 2020 in the true spirit:

• Established the following:
  » Quality Assurance Cell (QAC) at the state level
  » Andhra Pradesh Higher Education Planning Board (AP HEPB) at the state level
  » Learning Management System (LMS) to promote blended/flipped mode of learning
  » State Research Board (SRB) at the state level
  » Community Development Board (CDB) at the state level
  » 553 Entrepreneurship, Incubation, and Start-UP Centers (EISCs) in HEIs.

• Introduced English as a mandatory medium of instruction in all Degree Programs from AY 2021-22. Podcasts and Bilingual Textbooks were introduced for a smooth transition of students from Telugu medium to English medium.

• Introduced Common Entrance Tests (CETs) for the Professional Programs.

• For the first time, we have introduced CETs for PG and Research Programs.

• For the first time, we have introduced online admissions to all Conventional UG Programs.

• Identified 07 universities i.e. Andhra University, Sri Venkateswara University, SPMVV, JNTU-Kakinada, JNTU-Ananthapur, and RGUKT to transform them into MERUs in the 1st phase, and Acharya Nagarjuna University & Sri Krishnadevaraya University in the 2nd phase with global standards. The remaining universities will be transformed into MERUs in the third phase.

• University-level committees were constituted to review and monitor the implementation of NEP 2020 and the revised CBCS curriculum framework in the Professional and Conventional Degree Programs.

• Constituted a committee with experts from reputed national institutions to suggest measures for effective implementation of the recommendations of NEP 2020. A comprehensive study was planned and implemented as per the recommended guidelines by the expert committee constituted by APSCHE.
The government is committed to providing quality education to all the students of the state and ordered mandatory accreditation of all the Higher Educational Institutions offering conventional, technical, and professional courses by 2024 vide G.O.Ms. No. 13 dated 02.02.2021. To achieve this objective, Higher Educational Institutions may require handholding to obtain accreditation in line with the norms and guidelines laid down by the concerned regulatory authorities. A separate cell should be established in APSCHE by deputing staff from within their organization and from the open market to hasten up the process to reach the target within 03 years.

3.1 Establishment of Quality Assurance Cell (QAC)
Established Quality Assurance Cell (QAC) vide G.O.Rt.No.10, Higher Education Department, dated 20.01.2021 to enhance the quality standards in all HEIs of the State. The advisory committee is constituted of experts from the Universities, autonomous colleges, and industry besides members of the Education Department and APSCHE.

3.2 Q-Leaders
APSCHE recognized the felt needs of the affiliated colleges to understand the process of NAAC accreditation and to prepare the institutions to participate in the process of quality enhancement, accreditation, and rankings. To address the need, the QAC of APSCHE identified 141 Q – Leaders from Degree Colleges and Engineering & Pharmacy Colleges and Universities representing all the districts who are capable of guiding the colleges in the district for NAAC accreditation. Training cum Workshop was conducted for the Q – Leaders on NAAC procedures, quality assessment criteria, and other aspects by involving experts from NAAC and other national and international rankings.

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<th>S.No</th>
<th>District</th>
<th>No. of Q-Leaders</th>
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<td>Chittoor</td>
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<td>East Godavari</td>
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<td>Guntur</td>
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<td>Krishna</td>
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<td>Kurnool</td>
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<td>Nellore</td>
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<td>Prakasam</td>
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<td>Srikakulam</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Visakhapatnam</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Vizianagaram</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>West Godavari</td>
<td>16</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Universities</td>
<td>23</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>141</strong></td>
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3.3 Mentor-Mentee Colleges
The Government of Andhra Pradesh accorded high priority for quality enhancement in universities and colleges in the State. The QAC of APSCHE identified Colleges with NAAC grades over and above ‘B’ to act as Q – Mentors for the non-accredited Colleges established in that region. The Q – Mentor Colleges are attached to the colleges that are looking for NAAC accreditation. The guidelines for mentoring were also circulated to the Q – Mentor Colleges. It is submitted that 72 accredited Colleges and 13 State Universities are identified as Q – Mentors. A virtual meeting was organized to introduce Q-Mentor colleges with the respective Mentee colleges attached to them.

The QAC identified **NAAC accredited lead colleges** from each district who are capable of mentoring other colleges in each district for assessment and accreditation by NAAC. This identified potential college shall serve as Mentor College for a few selected colleges in the district in which it is situated. This **Mentor College** is designated as ‘Q-Mentor’ and it shall take the responsibility to guide and support a few colleges for the first cycle of accreditation. **117 Colleges** are identified as ‘Q-Mentors’ and in the first phase, these ‘Q-Mentors’ shall mentor **346 ‘Q-Mentee’ Colleges**.

3.4 Brief Activities of QAC
- QAC, APSCHE conducted 38 webinars on various themes related to Quality Enhancement, NAAC accreditation, NIRF rankings, NEP 2020, and Entrepreneurship in association with various State Universities of Andhra Pradesh.
- QAC, APSCHE conducted 03 Faculty Development Programmes (FDPs) of two-day training programs in association with JNTU-K and JNTU-A on “E-Content Preparation” to the subject experts who were assigned the task of preparing blended e-learning resources for engineering and pharmacy students in the state of Andhra Pradesh.
- QAC, APSCHE conducted 03 one day workshops on the themes “How to improve your NIRF Rankings” by inviting all the State Universities, Principals of Engineering, Degree colleges, and Professional colleges of Andhra Pradesh; “Ensuring Operational Effectiveness of IQACs in Universities” in association with SPMVV, Tirupati for IQAC co-ordinators of the State Universities and “Performance of the Universities in global rankings” by inviting all the Registrars from AP State Universities and the principals of Autonomous Colleges and Professional Colleges.

![Release of the NAAC Manual by Chairman, APSCHE on 26.01.2022](image)
A PSCHE developed LMS to provide quality e-content and Podcasts to all the students and promote online learning culture (Blended/Flipped mode of Learning). All the Open Resources available on national platforms (e.g. NPTEL) about their subjects are collected, customized, and mapped to their curriculum. This LMS becomes a one-stop solution for all student streams.

4.1 Podcasts
• Podcasts on 411 programs were developed by the faculty in the first semester.
• Podcasts are planned for the second-semester subjects also.
• 140 bilingual podcasts have been prepared under LMS for the same.
• In process of converting the student connect activities into Podcasts.

4.2 Internships
• Our government has taken complete responsibility for providing internships to the students. In this regard, the government has appointed a state-level committee with the Chief Secretary as Chairman and 12 Principal Secretaries of various departments as the members and District Level Committees under the Chairmanship of District Collectors to implement the internships effectively.
• Entered MoU NASSCOM Future Skills to provide 1,00,000 virtual internships in the organizations like Microsoft, Cisco, Salesforce, AWS, etc.
• Entered MoU with Employment Express to offer 50,000 virtual internships in the areas of Full Stack, HR, Marketing, Sales, Business Development, and BFSI Analyst at organizations like ICICI, Wipro, IBM, Edelweiss, Hero, Honda, Maruti Suzuki, etc.
• Entered MoU with AICTE to offer 2,00,000 free NEAT (National Educational Alliance for Technology) EduTech coupons worth Rs. 20 crores to SC, ST, OBC, and EWS candidates of Andhra Pradesh in AI, Python, Cloud, Data Analytics, Cyber Security, Big Data, Accounting & Finance, DevOps, CAD, and IoT categories.
• An Industry-Institute Connect (IIC) Portal was developed, catering to the internship needs of both Conventional and Professional Degree Programs. So far, 2.5 lakh students have registered on the portal and 58,000 internships have been provided.
• These internships will provide hands-on experience and on-the-job training to the students by building their capacities during their graduation. By the end of their graduation, students either get employment or become self-employed by starting their enterprises.
Mandatory English as a Medium of instruction is introduced to enhance the employability of graduates. For easy transition from Telugu medium to English medium, Bilingual Text Books, Skill Steps Workbook for Communicative English, and Podcasts (Audio Lectures) were prepared and introduced.

A. Bilingual Textbooks
APSHE brought out bilingual textbooks in English and Telugu languages in 9 subjects i.e. (i) Botany (ii) Zoology (iii) Physics (iv) Chemistry (v) Mathematics (vi) Commerce (in three volumes viz. (a) Business Environment, (b) Fundamentals of Accounting and (c) Business Organization and Management), (vii) History (viii) Economics and (ix) Political Science with effect from AY 2021-22, given the decision of the Government of A.P to offer programs in English Medium in General Degree Colleges from the ensuing academic year. The 9 subjects in which textbooks are prepared were chosen based on the number of admissions made in AY 2020-21. The content in English is translated into Telugu for a better understanding of the text for students from Telugu Medium backgrounds and therefore, is not a true translation of the content.
Bilingual Textbooks are different from regular textbooks with the following features:

- Introduction/Overview
- Objectives & Outcomes
- Content
- Summary
- Activities
- Keywords
- Exercises
- Assessment
- Additional learning/reference material and material for further reading

B. Workbook for Communication Skills (Skill Steps: Level-1)

- To enhance the English skills and the employability of the rural youth and in line with the decision of the Government to introduce the English medium in all degree colleges, the APSCHE is bringing out workbooks on three levels in communicative skills. The workbook under level-1 has been prepared.
- As most first-generation learners are not so confident to continue further studies in the English medium, to facilitate and equip them with Communicative English skills, the APSCHE has come up with a novel idea of developing self-help workbooks in the communicative mode.
- These ‘Skill Steps’ (workbooks) will be at three levels with graded components and activities with a focus on functional English skills.
- Though there are many workbooks openly available in the market, a workbook that caters to the needs of Telugu-speaking students with a focus on Telugu and English languages has become the need of the hour.
- Judicious use of Telugu in introductions and connective links to handhold the Telugu-speaking learner to learn English is made in the workbook.
- Each lesson is designed on Bloom’s Taxonomy pyramid with a focus only on the functional aspect of grammar. As students enjoy learning English without a mention of the name ‘grammar’, the editors and the writers tried their best to offer only the communicative component through various activities.
Established Andhra Pradesh Higher Education Planning Board (AP HEPB) vide G.O.Rt.11, Higher Education Department, dated 21.01.2021 involving Vice-Chancellors/Directors of Central Universities/Institutions in the state to share ideas, resources, and infrastructure for the promotion of mutual interest and to achieve resource efficiency. For the first time in the country, HEPB was established to strengthen inter-institutional relationships and bondage irrespective of the status as a central or state institute.

Two meetings of AP HEPB were conducted. The inaugural meeting was conducted on 27.02.2021 on the theme “Promotion of Inter-Institutional Cooperation and Enhancing Quality Standards of Higher Education in the light of NEP 2020” in Tirupati. The HEPB in its inaugural meeting has resolved to form Regional Cluster Groups (RCGs) of central and state institutions for collaboration. The Board identified Anantapur, Godavari, Guntur, Tirupati, and Visakhapatnam as the five Regional Cluster Groups. The second meeting was conducted on 18.09.2021 on the theme “Expansion, Equity and Quality in Higher Education” in Visakhapatnam. The Board resolved to constitute an inter-institutional team of researchers in each Regional Cluster Group to identify the social problems in their region and help the local administration to solve them and to explore opportunities to take up collaborative research projects.

Formation of the Regional Cluster Groups (RCGs)

The Board formed Anantapur, Godavari, Guntur, Tirupati, and Visakhapatnam as the five Regional Cluster Groups involving central and state institutions to work on the possible areas of collaboration and multidisciplinary research.

1. Anantapur RCG covers institutions in Anantapur and Kurnool districts
2. Godavari RCG covers institutions in East Godavari and West Godavari districts
3. Guntur RCG covers institutions in Krishna, Guntur, and Prakasam districts
4. Tirupati RCG covers institutions in Chittoor, Nellore, and Kadapa districts
5. Visakhapatnam RCG covers institutions in Visakhapatnam, Vizianagaram, and Srikakulam districts

This initiative has been appreciated widely by the Vice-Chairman of NITI Aayog, the Chairman of AICTE, the Chairman of DRDO, the World Bank team, the French Consulate, and other international bodies. This initiative acted as an inspiration for the Central Government to formulate the Glue Grants scheme.
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**State Research Board (SRB)**

Established State Research Board (SRB) vide G.O.Rt.No.110, Higher Education Department, dated 18.08.2021 to function as per the provisions in Section 11 (III) (ii) of the APSCHE Act 16 of 1988 to *link research work of educational institutions with that of the research agencies and industry*, keeping in view the overall research needs of the state.

Through this State Research Board, APSCHE aims to develop *high-quality human resources* with a good understanding of research and innovation methods, and critical-thinking abilities. We want to promote *interdisciplinary and multi-disciplinary research* by connecting research organizations and industries within and outside the country with Universities and colleges.

**MoUs with NRDC and CSIR**

APSCHE inked a MoU with the esteemed National Research Development Corporation (NRDC), and Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) to promote quality research in the Universities leading to upskill the students in *emerging areas of Science & Technology*.

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**Community Development Board (CDB)**

Established Community Development Board (CDB) vide G.O.Ms.No.62, Higher Education Department, dated 29.10.2021 to *establish synergy between educational institutions and the society, to identify the felt needs of the society, and advise the government on matters affecting community development*. The government of Andhra Pradesh is partnering with **UNICEF** to implement the Community Service Project in the state benefiting both the students and the communities.

**Community Service Project (CSP)**

Community Service Project (CSP) is an experiential learning strategy that integrates meaningful community service with instruction, participation, learning, and community development. It shall *bridge the gap* among the community, students, and HEIs. The community will be benefited from the focused contribution of the students to the village/local development. In turn, this initiative will hone the skills of the students and advance their careers, and HEIs find an opportunity to develop social sensibility and responsibility.

Through this Community Service Project, APSCHE intends to transform the *students into empathetic citizens with responsibility towards their fellow beings* and the HEIs into socially responsible institutions.
Entrepreneurship, Incubation & Start-Up Centers (EISCs)

AAC and NEP 2020 underline the importance of creating an Innovation and Research Ecosystem in every Higher Education Institution. APSCHE formulated an idea paper on starting Entrepreneurship, Innovation, and Start-Up Centers (EISCs) in all HEIs of the state to nurture and support creativity, innovation, and entrepreneurship amongst students, faculty members, and other aspirants and to facilitate technology-oriented incubation for potential entrepreneurs. **553 EISCs** are established in HEIs, with the initiative of the QAC. Each of the EISC was asked to identify 15-20 motivated students for hand-holding them to become prospective entrepreneurs. The EISCs are given a plan of action for empowering these identified students to become budding entrepreneurs. As of date, **7220 students** were identified as prospective entrepreneurs. QAC has also identified **46 District Level Coordinators** for assisting and mentoring the EISCs assigned to each of them.

State Data Portal

The Andhra Pradesh State Council of Higher Education launched the State Data Portal on 02.01.2021 on its website. The State Data Portal procures data (e-process) on Higher Education particulars through data capture formats from all the institutions in the state of Andhra Pradesh imparting teaching, research, and training on Higher Education. The very purpose of launching this State Data Portal is to publish the GER, GPI, and PTR factual information in the state of Andhra Pradesh.
It is informed that total fee reimbursement was extended only to students belonging to SCs and STs, but not for other communities till 2018-19. G.O Ms.No.115 was issued on 30.11.2019 formulating two schemes Jagananna Vidya Deevena (JVD) and Jagananna Vasathi Deevena (JVaD) to fulfill the promises made as part of Navarathnalu. Under Jagananna Vidya Deevena (JVD), the government provides **100 percent fee reimbursement** not only to students belonging to SCs and STs but also to students from the economically poorer Open Category students. Under Jagananna Vasathi Deevena (JVaD), the government provides maintenance scholarships to students. The scheme supports all eligible students of the state with annual aid of up to **Rs. 20,000.**

During the Academic Year 2019-20, an amount of **Rs.2559.84 crores** was released under Jagananna Vidya Deevena (JVD) including the arrears of **Rs.1774.60 crores** of the previous government benefitting **26.80 lakh students.** For the first time in the history of the state, the tuition fee was released quarter-wise. During the Academic Year 2019-20, an amount of **Rs.1220.99 crores** was released under Jagananna Vasathi Deevena (JVaD) including the arrears of **Rs.237.43 crores** of the previous government benefitting **20.65 lakh students.**

Until now, the government has spent **Rs.7665 crores** on Jagananna Vidya Deevena (JVD) benefiting **48.13 lakh students,** an **Rs. 3329 crores** on Jagananna Vasathi Deevena (JVaD) benefiting **48.36 lakh students.** Drawing inspiration from his father and taking his vision forward, the two schemes launched by the Hon’ble CM Shri. Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has enabled many poor but deserving students to study in the best and the most preferred colleges in the state.
It is very sad to know that a considerable number of students were discontinuing their education after intermediate (10+2) due to their poor financial status till 2018-19. Ever since the current government assumed power in 2019, there is a sterling transformation in the Higher Education ecosystem in the state. The government wanted to bring back the students to pursue their higher education and introduced Jagananna Vidya Deevena (JVD) and Jagananna Vasathi Deevena (JVaD), the two schemes that are proving to be highly beneficial to the students of higher education in ensuring access and quality. The significant growth in the GER of Andhra Pradesh is one of the outcomes of the JVD and JVaD schemes.

We feel extremely happy to note that the growth of GER of AP in AY 2019-20 over AY 2018-19 has increased by 8.64% whereas the all-India average has only increased by 3.04%. What is more interesting is the growth of Female GER of AP is 11.03% whereas the national average is only 2.28%. The growth of SC GER is 7.5% whereas the national average is only 1.7%. The growth of ST GER is 9.5% whereas the national average is only 4.7%. All this growth has happened within one year of rolling out the JVD and JVaD schemes. As the Hon’ble CM has promised of inclusive development, the GER table speaks out loud about the government’s inclusivity. With all these initiatives, Andhra Pradesh is all set to achieve a GER of 70 by 2035.

Source: AISHE Report 2019-20
Online Admissions – UG Conventional Programs

The Government of Andhra Pradesh, vide G.O.Ms.No.34 Higher Education (CE) Department dated 15.10.2020 issued orders introducing the online admission process for admission into all UG Programmes in all Colleges. As per 13.1 of Rule 13 of the G.O.Ms. No.34 dated 15.10.2020, APSCHE is authorized to implement an online admission process for admissions into UG courses i.e. BA, B.Com., B.Sc., etc. offered by the Degree Colleges in the State from AY 2020-21 through the Online Admission Module for Degree Colleges (OAMDC) of APCFSS.

APSCHE introduced OAMDC for degree admissions during AY 2020-21 and successfully implemented for AY 2021-22. Online admissions are introduced to promote merit, achieve excellence, curb malpractices, implement reservations, conduct fair, non-discriminatory, and merit-based admissions on a transparent basis in the larger interests and welfare of the student community, for the first in the state of Andhra Pradesh. APSCHE conducted Common Entrance Tests (CETs) from UG to Ph.D. covering maximum programs from AY 2020-21.
Skill Initiatives

APSCHE under the aegis of the Government of Andhra Pradesh is proceeding on a mission mode with the framework of Education + Skill + Attitude results in gainful employment and uprisng entrepreneurs. With this objective, the APSCHE has embarked upon the following initiatives.

- **Introduced 30% Skill Courses** in the redesigned curriculum.
- **Introduced Life Skill Courses (LSCs), Skill Development Courses (SDCs), and Skill Enhancement Courses (SECs)** in the redesigned curriculum.
- **Developed an ‘Institute - Industry Connect’ (IIC) web portal** to map the industries and their apprenticeship and internship requirements with the students of Andhra Pradesh. Through this IIC portal, the fit-gap analysis shall be done and the required industry skills & student capabilities can be mapped, leading to internship/apprenticeship in industries.
- **APSCHE in collaboration with APSSDC and AP Innovation Society** is deploying a web portal with **Youth for Social Impact (YSI)**, an application & college innovation framework of UNICEF to connect the Universities to Community Development.
- **To improve employability** Andhra Pradesh, the state government entered an MoU with TCS iON to offer a 20-hour courseware that is made available across 2800 Institutions in the state effective from the academic year 2020-21. By improving a web portal with APSSDC and AP Innovation a web portal with (YSI), an application & work of UNICEF to with Industries leading ment. 
- **For the first time in the country**, the government of Andhra Pradesh entered an MoU with Microsoft to commence Upskilling Program, 1.62 lakh students of engineering, computer science, and general degrees shall be enroll in 40 different skill courses for getting Microsoft Certifications. The government is spending around Rs.32 crores. However, it is completely free of cost to the students. These Microsoft certifications are particularly technical certifications that will facilitate the students to acquire the necessary technical skills to become an eligible workforce.
- **APSCHE in association with MEITY (Ministry of Electronics and IT) and NASSCOM Future Skills** conducted a grand Hackathon “Future Skills Hack Fest – ML Challenge 2021” in an attempt to trigger the inherent talents among students in technological institutes of the state. Further, APSCHE partnered with NASSCOM Future Skills Prime to drive the skilling of Machine Learning across all colleges under JNTU Anantapur, JNTU Kakinada, and RGUKT universities.
Governance Activities

15.1 Major Administrative Activities

- To eliminate the gender disparity, the state government has appointed 50% of women to the Executive Councils (EC) of all the Universities by the following rule of reservations. For the first time in the history of Universities, 50% of EC members are women. Representation is given to all social backgrounds and minorities.
- Issued show-cause notices to 247 colleges that have not obtained affiliation from the respective Universities for the last three years, Colleges that have not made admissions for the last three years, and Colleges that have made less than 25% admissions for the last three years. An inquiry committee was constituted to hear the version of these colleges. Based on the report of the committee, the Council has withdrawn permissions to 48 Private Unaided Degree Colleges, and withdrawn programs in 61 Private Unaided Degree Colleges for not maintenance of standards from the AY 2020-21.
- Issued show cause notices to 475 Colleges that have not obtained affiliation from the respective Universities for the last three years, Colleges that have not made admissions for the last three years, and Colleges that have made less than 25% admissions for the last three years. An inquiry committee was constituted to hear the version of these colleges. Based on the report of the committee, the Council has withdrawn permissions to 24 Private Unaided Degree Colleges, and withdrawn 354 programs in 209 Private Unaided Degree Colleges for not maintenance of standards from the AY 2021-222.

15.2 Vice-Chancellors’ Meetings

- Convened a meeting of the Vice-Chancellors of the State Universities with the Hon’ble Chancellor and Governor on 20.12.2019 at Durbar Hall, Rajbhavan, Vijayawada to know the status of functioning of the Universities.
Convened a meeting of the Vice-Chancellors of the State Universities with the Hon’ble Chancellor and Governor on 17.09.2020 at Durbar Hall, Rajbhavan, Vijayawada to know the status of functioning of the Universities.

Vice-Chancellors Virtual Meeting with the hon’ble Governor held on 17.09.2020

Convened a meeting of the Vice-Chancellors of the State Universities with the Hon’ble Chancellor and Governor on 20.04.2021 at Durbar Hall, Rajbhavan, Vijayawada to spread the message of the Hon’ble PM i.e. “Campaign for the adoption of COVID-19 appropriate behavior by the public through Universities”.

Vice-Chancellors Virtual Meeting with the hon’ble Governor held on 20.04.2021
• Convened a meeting of the Vice-Chancellors of the State Universities with the Hon’ble CM on 25.10.2021 at CM Campus Office, Tadepalli to review the functioning of Universities.

Vice-Chancellors Meeting with the hon’ble CM held on 25.10.2021

• Convened a meeting of the Vice-Chancellors of the State Universities with the Hon’ble Chancellor and Governor on 05.05.2022 at Durbar Hall, Rajbhavan, Vijayawada to review the status of implementation of NEP 2020 by the Universities.

Vice-Chancellors Meeting with the hon’ble Governor held on 05.05.2022
A New Dawn in Higher Education of Andhra Pradesh

PSCHE has commenced a few student connect initiatives for expanding the knowledge base and developing the critical thinking of the students of Andhra Pradesh

To inculcate book reading habits among the students, a book is reviewed and explained in Telugu and English languages on alternate Fridays.

To improve the education standards and international opportunities for the students of Andhra Pradesh, a Round Table Discussion was conducted every month for 6 months consecutively.

To create a platform for generating expert views, opinions, and ideas for the development of the Higher Education eco-system, a discussion was conducted every fortnight.

To improve the reading habits among the students, an App was launched free of cost for the students where information is provided engagingly at their fingertips.
To interact directly with students and faculty at the district level, the Chairman of APSCHE initiated field visits to take reforms of APSCHE to every nook & corner of the state.

To encourage students to improve their general awareness and motivate them to learn about new topics continuously.

To promote the spirit of excellence and motivate them to become responsible citizens and empathetic human beings.

To create a platform for students/faculty where their ideas, innovations, success stories, and learnings can be shared.

To touch upon the different aspects of students’ lives and motivate them to excel in their careers.
Combating COVID-19

APSCHE conducted the following activities during the COVID-19 pandemic not to interrupt the learning of the students.

- Prepared ‘A resurgence plan for starting academic programs during the COVID-19 pandemic for the AY 2020-21’ and communicated to Universities and Colleges.
- Organized two webinars in association with Acharya Nagarjuna University and Krishna University on ‘Remote teaching and learning methodologies and how to conduct academic programs after COVID’19’.
- Prepared ‘e-learning, teaching, and evaluation toolkit’ to guide the faculty to undertake classes online effectively.
- Coordinated universities and colleges to conduct online classes for the students during the COVID-19 lockdown to prevent the spread of the coronavirus.
- Prepared the common academic calendar for the AY 2020-21 and AY 2021-22 with a strategic plan to reopen the universities and implemented it during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Successfully conducted the Common Entrance Tests (CETs) for admissions into professional courses for the AY 2020-21 & AY 2021-22 following COVID-19 protocols.
- Organized 5979 classes in various disciplines wherein approximately 24000 students and 933 teachers participated in the virtual classes.
- Encouraged students to enroll in free online courses from platforms like Udemy, Coursera, etc., and utilize resources like MOOC, SWAYAM, and NPTEL.
- Organized online GATE training classes free of cost for all engineering students.
- Pooled 1, 16, 459 NSS volunteers from all over the State to deal with the pandemic by initiating a myriad of activities to combat COVID-19.
## Publications of APSCHE

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Future Plan of Action

APSCHE, enshrining the vision of the Government of Andhra Pradesh is working conscientiously to take up the following activities to transform the higher education in the state while ensuring access, equity, and quality. APSCHE is aiming to achieve the following targets in the near future to transform the state into a ‘Knowledge Capital’ and the students into ‘Global Citizens’.

- Improve the GER of the state to 70% by 2035.
- Improve the GPI of the state to 1.0 by 2035.
- Increase the placements of the state to at least 50% by 2024.
- Increase the number of foreign students studying in the state to at least 10% by 2024. (Andhra Pradesh hosts 2094 out of 49,348 foreign students in the country i.e. 4.24%).
- Establish Remote Learning Centers (RLCs) and Digital Libraries in all villages of the state by 2024.
- Distribute free laptops to all eligible students in the state by 2024.
- Provide quality e-content and podcasts for all the programs through our Learning Management System (LMS) by 2024.
- Establish “Summer Schools” in all State Universities by 2024.
- Recruit at least 10% of faculty from the industry working as “Professors of Practice” and “Associate Professors of Practice” in all State Universities by 2030.
- Mobilization of at least 10% of resources for HEIs in Andhra Pradesh through CSR funding & Alumni networks by 2024.
- Deliver virtual credit-based courses in collaboration with experts from RFH Koln University, Germany by 2024.
- Transform all state universities into Multidisciplinary Education & Research Universities (MERUs) by 2030.
- Collaborate with foreign universities in academic & research space (preferably with top 100 ranked universities) by 2030.
- Internationalization of Higher Education in Andhra Pradesh by 2030.
Photo Gallery

Members of AP HEPB with Hon’ble Minister for Education and Hon’ble Minister for Tourism, Culture & Youth Advancement at 2nd AP HEPB meeting held on 18.09.2021 at Visakhapatnam

Chairman, APSCHE interacting with students at YVU, Kadapa on 25.02.2022

Chairman, APSCHE interacting with faculty at JNTU Anantapur on 05.03.2022
Chairman, APSCHE inaugurating the APSCHE Quiz Championship 2022 on 20.04.2022 at ANU, Guntur

APSCHE team with the winners of the APSCHE Quiz Championship 2022 on 22.04.2022 at ANU, Guntur

Vice-Chancellors Meeting with the hon’ble Governor on 05.05.2022 at Rajbhavan
ANDHRA PRADESH HIGHER EDUCATION

Equity
E-Quality
Employment
Entrepreneurship
Empowerment

ANDHRA PRADESH
STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION

(A Statutory Body of the Government of A.P)

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