

## **Initiatives of APSICHE:**

### **1. Establishment of Quality Assurance Cell**

Quality Assurance Cell (QAC) is established in the AP State Council of Higher Education during the year 2020 with the following objectives –

1. To promote quality standards in all the higher education institutions of the state.
2. To extend qualitative support to all Universities and Colleges for make them ready for assessment and accreditation by NAAC, NBA, and participation in NIRF, QS, and Times International rankings.
3. To develop a database of all the Universities and Colleges on quality parameters to identify quality gaps and suggest measures.
4. To develop quality audit system in all institutions.
5. To organize programmes for creating awareness on best practices by inviting experts from India and abroad.

### **Strategies of the Quality Assurance Cell of APSICHE**

A state level organizational system will be developed for quality assurance involving the Quality Assurance Cell of APSICHE and the IQAC Coordinators/Directors of Universities and Colleges. The following are the strategies to achieve the objectives of QAC of APSICHE:

1. Identification of 10 faculty members drawn from colleges and Universities from each district who have the ability and interest in quality.
2. Training the identified faculty members (10 x 13 districts = 130) on quality assessment and designating them as Quality Assessors.
3. The quality assessors will be accessible to the colleges in the district for extending all kinds of support in getting ready for quality assessment process.
4. The quality assessors will also be given training on ISO Certification.
5. The list of recognized quality assessors will be placed on the website of APSICHE and will be made as part of the organization system to ensure quality.
6. The colleges will be classified into A, B, and C categories. The colleges having all necessary qualities to go for accreditation with moderate support will be placed under Category-A. The target is to encourage them to go for accreditation within one year. The colleges who have the potential to get accredited but require special focus and support will be placed under Category-B. The colleges under category-B will be given a time frame of two years to get ready for NAAC accreditation. All other colleges will be placed under Category-C
7. The Universities and Colleges who are accredited by NAAC already will be provided the required support to upgrade the NAAC grading.
8. Similar processes will be undertaken for NBA accreditation, NIRF, QS, and Times International rankings.
9. The performance of Universities and Colleges with respect of the criteria of assessment will be reviewed periodically by the team of experts at QAC of APSICHE to identify the gaps and to suggest measures.
10. The IQAC Coordinators/Directors of Universities and Colleges will be trained on quality parameters periodically.
11. The QAC will organize awareness and motivational campaign on quality enhancement, assurance, and accreditation throughout the state.
12. The QAC will conduct meetings with A, B, and C category colleges for exchanging views on various quality parameters and to workout strategies for improvement.

13. The best practices of various institutions in India and abroad will be collected and disseminated to all Universities and Colleges.
14. The QAC will suggest policy measures to promote quality in higher education institutions.

## **2. Establishment of State Research Board:**

The Research Board shall function as per the provisions in Section 11 (III) (ii) of the Andhra Pradesh State Council of Higher Education Act 16 of 1988 so as 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.

### **Vision, Mission, and Objectives**

#### **Vision**

The Vision of the SRB is to create a sustainable Research ecosystem in Universities and colleges in Andhra Pradesh for promoting quality research at global standards and to find suitable solutions for the problems of society, economy and universe.

#### **Mission**

The mission of the SRB is to provide all possible support to the researchers in Andhra Pradesh to take up research projects at local, regional, national and international levels. The researchers will be recognized and facilitated to form into teams- inter institutional and /or inter disciplinary, and undertake research recognized and valued by the international community. Finding solutions to the problems of the state through scientific research and contributing to the systematic and speedy development of the state in particular and the country in general are the focused activities of the SRB.

#### **Objectives**

The objectives of the SRB are as following:

- a) Developing high-quality human-resources with a good understanding of research and innovation methods, and critical- thinking abilities.
- b) Promoting interdisciplinary and multi-disciplinary research by connecting research organizations and industry within and outside the country with Universities and HEIs.
- c) Recognizing and rewarding the impact created research works.

### **Functions of State Research Board**

The following are the functions of State Research Board

1. To review from time to time the on-going research activities of the universities and HEIs and make recommendations for future research in identified thrust areas.
2. To Prepare and up-date the list of Thrust areas of research in social sciences, Sciences and Technology.
3. To identify priority sectors in the state such as agriculture, industry, services, environment, etc, and encourage research in such areas.
4. To prescribe such norms as may be necessary in tune with the guidelines of the University grants Commission and other national bodies and monitor the quality of research in the Universities at the doctoral, post-doctoral and linkages of research with teaching and community engagement levels in alliance with global concerns and national

objectives.

5. To act as an agency for promoting linkage of research in higher educational institutions with that of research agencies and industry keeping in view the overall research needs of the state.
6. To promote patent oriented research
7. To maintain the research profile of Universities and HEIs in the state
8. To submit an Annual Report to the APSCHE on the status, content, quality, inter-disciplinary, infrastructure, funding, linkages with the industry and R & D institutions.
9. To explore the possibilities of research connectivity with International institutions and funding agencies and serving as a facilitating body for International projects.
9. To interact with Vice-Chancellors of the Universities to discuss on matters related to;
  - (i) Research carried out in respective universities
  - (ii) Sources of funding
  - (iii) Thrust areas
  - (iv) Special facilities created for the pursuit of research
  - (v) Linkage with National Laboratories and R& D organisations
  - (vi) Impact of research conducted on the community
  - (vii) Linkages between research outcomes and community development
  - (viii) Research publications profile of the University at the commencement of the academic year
  - (ix) Such other issues as it may deem fit.
10. To act as a repository of the research data of the universities and HEIs in the State
11. To introduce State level Awards for outstanding researchers.

### **3. Establishment of Entrepreneurship, Incubation Start-UP Centers in Universities and Colleges in the State of Andhra Pradesh**

#### **Vision, Mission and Objectives**

##### **Vision**

To create a vivacious, vibrant and sustainable ecosystem in Universities and colleges in Andhra Pradesh for nurturing, fostering, motivating potential Entrepreneurs.

##### **Mission**

To nurture and support creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship amongst students, faculty members and other aspirants. To provide support for the establishment of start-ups. To facilitate technology oriented incubation to the potential Entrepreneurs.

##### **Objectives**

- *To produce successful start-ups that will leave the incubator financially viable and freestanding;*
- *To promote a culture of innovation driven entrepreneurship among the students of Higher Education Institutions;*
- *To provide a platform for incubate the innovative ideas of budding entrepreneurs;*
- *To create an environment for acquiring new knowledge through innovation and research, compatible with the educational mission of the State;*
- *To provide resources and learning experiences to students who are planning to start their own ventures;*
- *To facilitate establishment of Start-Ups by the students and faculty members;*
- *To promote patent oriented research and to facilitate commercialization of the innovation;*
- *To facilitate interaction with experienced entrepreneurs, industry experts and venture capitalists to gain business insights;*

- *To promote innovation ecosystem in the University;*
- *To foster linkages between the University, Industries and other related organizations engaged in promoting MSMEs.*

### **Activities proposed under EISC**

The Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Start-Ups Center (EISC) is expected to perform the following functions.

1. Awareness Campaign: Organize awareness programs for the students and employees on the campus. Also organize such programs in the neighbourhood localities to promote entrepreneurship and intrapreneurship in organized lines. Promotion of entrepreneurial attitude among youth and women shall be the major focus.
2. Identification of potential candidates: The awareness campaign shall be used to locate and identify the potential candidates. Aptitude tests, psychometric analysis and personal interviews may be conducted to understand the interests, strengths and limitations of the potential candidates.
3. Grooming: Organize Programs to groom potential candidates. Create entrepreneurship awareness and motivate students and faculty to think of promoting an enterprise independently or jointly.
4. Incubation: Generate business ideas and convert them to develop viable business/incubation plans to create new technology ventures. Facilitate the incubation of the business idea and convert the idea into a feasible concept to develop it and acquire initial customers. This will involve funding also.
5. Project development: Facilitate the preparation of feasibility report, DPR as per the requirement of funding agencies and development of a comprehensive plan for starting a new Venture.
6. Mentoring: Provide mentors to guide and share the efforts of creating new ventures with the potential entrepreneurs.
7. Networking: Facilitate networking with related persons and organizations for adding value to each phase of the venture creation process (Start-Up) right from idea generation to venture creation.
8. Resource Facilitation: Provide connectivity with all resources including finances and facilitate dialogue with them to ensure implementation of the project as per plan.
9. Angel funding: Facilitate early stage and seed funding to gain better valuation for the start-ups before a venture capitalist enterprises.
10. Motivation: Conduct stimulating workshops, competitions and interactive sessions with eminent personalities on issues like new idea generation and validation through market surveys, writing a business plan covering strategy, financials, marketing, and operations, GTM (Go to Market) strategies, Presentation skills (how to pitch a business plan to investors), Developing a prototype marketing and sales (finding the first paying customer) etc.
11. Organizing Annual Entrepreneurs' Day: Organize annual Entrepreneurs' Day in which students exhibit their innovations and business plans.

### **Envisaged Outcomes of EISC:**

- The proposed Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Start-Ups Center (EISC) shall ignite creative thinking and nurture entrepreneurial instincts in students.
- The Center's ultimate upshot shall be creating independent business entrepreneurs out of interested students so that they not only become self-employed but also become capable of providing gainful, fulfilling employment to others and thereby benefit the society at large.

- It is envisaged that there will be effective, frequent and mutually beneficial interactions with Industry and establishing and exploring links with all kinds of organizations.
- The Center shall provide a professional, specialist approach committed to offer students with the most suitable HR solutions and enhance their career opportunities.

#### **4. Establishment of Higher Education Planning Board**

##### **Objectives**

The Board aims to strengthen inter institutional relationships and bondages irrespective of the status as central or state. The specific objectives of the board are as following:

1. To suggest new courses of contemporary relevance and support in design and development of curriculum
2. To promote inter institutional research of global standard and to connect industry and research organisations to the HEIs in Andhra Pradesh
3. To undertake capacity building programmes for faculty and leaders of HEIs
4. To facilitate organisation of academic events involving national and international organisations
5. To support in formulation of state higher education policy for the comprehensive development of higher education
6. To promote mutually beneficial programmes among HEIs in the state including skill development, placement support, sharing of infrastructure and learning resources, faculty exchange programmes, best practices, and innovation, incubation & Start-Ups
7. To foster qualitative and inclusive growth of higher education in the state

##### **Functions**

The following are the functions of the Board.

1. Ascertain trends in higher education nationally and globally and suggest policy measures for catching up the trends and also to introduce innovative programmes
2. Identification of quality gaps in universities and HEIs and extend qualitative support to fill the gaps
3. Promote inter institutional research projects
4. Build and strengthen inter institutional relations particularly the relations between central and state universities & institutions
5. Organise national and global level academic events jointly wherever possible
6. Promote and share best practices in higher education system
7. Facilitate industry academia interface to eliminate the gaps between the expectations of industry and the skills imparted by academic institutions
8. Organise capacity building programmes for faculty members and also administrative leaders
9. Promote inter institutional sharing of resources for mutual benefit
10. Develop an ecosystem of harmonious relationships among all state and central institutions and a culture of togetherness
11. Explore the opportunities to establish networking and relationships with globally credible organisations with the institutions established in the state.
12. Facilitate information sharing, faculty exchange, credits transfer, competitions in co-curricular and extra-curricular activities among the institutions
13. Organise community development programmes
14. Undertake programmes for optimal utilisation of infrastructure and resources
15. Initiate all such programmes that contribute for the qualitative growth and development of higher education in the state.

#### **5. Publication of Resurgence Planning for Academic Continuity in Universities and**

## Colleges - COVID 19

Many governments throughout the world closed educational institutions temporarily in response to COVID-19 pandemic. Educational institutions in 191 countries are temporarily closed and about 1.58 billion students are affected. Following the guidelines of Government of India, the educational institutions in the State of Andhra Pradesh are closed since March 20, 2020. This pandemic is the biggest crisis faced by mankind over the past century. The crisis has impacted examinations, student internships, placements and student mobility. An effective strategy is necessary to minimize the adverse impact of the pandemic.

The Andhra Pradesh State Council of Higher Education (APSCHE) has drafted certain guidelines for the resurgence planning for HEIs. These guidelines are prepared referring “COVID – 19 Response Tool Kit for Indian Higher Educational Institutions” of Association of Indian Universities (AIU) and O.P.Jindal Global University and COVID 19 response – remote learning strategy by UNESCO.

The purpose of this guidance is to continue to support institutions of higher education to combat and overcome the problems caused by the COVID 19 pandemic and to give a forward thinking to the educational communities. This guidance is only a baby step towards preventing a learning crisis from becoming a generational catastrophe, which requires urgent action from all. Any Higher Educational Institution’s (HEI’s) resurgence policies shall be flexible and nimble in responding to new information, and administrators must be willing to refine approaches when specific policies are not working. The intention of rolling out this document is to give advice and basic guidance to HEIs on creating a system of prevention and recovery from potential threats to the requirements of higher education. Attempt is made to inform HEIs of the resurgence planning vis-à-vis the COVID 19 pandemic.

### 6. **MoU with National Research Development Corporation, (NRDC):**

The Andhra Pradesh State Council of Higher Education has entered a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with National Research Development Corporation, (NRDC) to promote high quality research in Universities and Colleges. NRDC was established in 1953 by the Government of India, with the primary objective to promote, develop and commercialize the technologies / know-how / inventions / patents / processes emanating from various national R&D institutions / Universities and is presently working under the administrative control of the Dept. of Scientific & Industrial Research, Ministry of Science & Technology. During the past more than six decade of its existence and in pursuance of its corporate goals, NRDC has forged strong links with the scientific and industrial community in India and abroad and developed a wide network of research institutions, academia and industry and made formal arrangements with them for the commercialization of know-how developed in their laboratories.

The detailed objectives are as follows:

- To organize programmes to create awareness on IPR and patent process
- To conduct seminars, workshops and other academic programmes to promote entrepreneurship, innovation, start-ups among students and faculty
- To extend support to undertake research projects in various fields of study
- To develop network with research institutions, industry, public and private sector undertakings for the promotion of research
- To promote research as per the international standards
- To promote inter-disciplinary and multi-disciplinary research involving researchers from

- different organizations.
- To facilitate collaborative research with international organisations

The Universities and colleges in the state will get funding for research projects, Start-up Projects, Patent oriented research and also get help for commercialization of the patents. Further these institutions will be connected with industry and business organizations from public and private sectors and national and international research organizations.

#### **7. MoU with Confederation of Indian Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Bangalore,**

The Andhra Pradesh State Council of Higher Education has entered a MoU with Confederation of Indian Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Bangalore,

The Scope of the MoU is to develop incubation centre(s) and technology laboratories/research station for novel, innovative and value added products, process or service particularly in areas of advances in Technology, Management & Applied Engineering and associated areas of applications across all Universities and the affiliated Institutions under APSICHE.

It helps entrepreneurs in different stages of their entrepreneurial journey, particularly at the stages of grooming and ideation, screening of business proposals/projects and also selection of project proposals that can be adopted for incubation and provide incubation facility for the potential entrepreneurs across all Universities and the affiliated Institutions under APSICHE. Also jointly organize workshops/training, capacity building programs/seminars/networking events, discussions, etc.

The following are the important photographs of Vice-Chairman, APSCHE to upload in the proposed website of APSCHE.



APSCHE in association with Acharya Nagarjuna University organized on one day workshop on National Institutional Ranking Framework on 17.10.2019.



APSCHE in association with JNTU – Kakinada organized one day workshop “on Quality Enhancement Assessment and Accreditation of Engineering Colleges” on 11.11.2019





APSCHE in association with Acharya Nagarjuna University organized one day workshop on “Quality Assurance and Role of IQAC in Promoting Quality and Preparation For NAAC Accreditation” on 23.01.2020



APSCHE in collaboration with Andhra Christian College, Guntur organized an Interactive Session on “Higher Education Quality, Skills and Opportunities” on 23.01.2020



APSCHE in association with “Dr. B. R. Ambedkar University” organized National Workshop on “Assessment and Accreditation of HEIs & Colleges” on 3.02.2020



APSCHE in association with Krishna University, Machilipatnam organized one day workshop on “NAAC Methodologies for Quality Enhancement and Assurance in Universities and Colleges” on 13.03.2020.