



Date: 14th Nov 2024

Report on NEP Talk Delivered by Prof Sachidananda Mohanty
Orientation Seminar Conducted on National Education Day -2020

Title of the Talk:

Beyond NEP 2020 - Exploring Key Conceptual Categories

Date: 11th April 2025

Time: 11:30 AM

Participants: Faculty & Scholar of JUIT, Wagnaghat (70 participants)

Speaker:

Prof. Sachidananda Mohanty
Member, University Grants Commission;
National Fellow, Indian Institute of Advanced Study;
Former Vice Chancellor, Central University of Odisha

1. Background and Objective

The talk was organized as part of JUIT's academic enrichment initiatives, aiming to foster interdisciplinary dialogue and inform faculty members about the evolving landscape of higher education in India in the context of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. The presence of a distinguished academic such as Prof. Mohanty offered the faculty an opportunity to engage in meaningful discussions on liberal arts education, policy reforms, and academic innovation.

2. Summary of the Talk

Prof. Mohanty delivered an enriching and wide-ranging lecture on the critical role of liberal arts and the evolving vision of higher education in India under the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. He emphasized the NEP's core focus of interdisciplinarity, internationalism, cultural literacy, planetary consciousness, and posthuman awareness.

Key highlights of the talk included:

- **The Role of the Private Sector:** Prof. Mohanty clearly stated that the private sector plays a vital role in the Indian higher education ecosystem. He emphasized that the University Grants Commission (UGC) does not discriminate between public and private institutions and welcomes quality-driven contributions from both.

- Addressing Bias Against Liberal Arts: He acknowledged the prevailing biases against liberal arts and humanities and social sciences (HSS) in STEM-centric institutions but strongly argued that these disciplines are essential for fostering ethical reasoning, and cultural understanding.
- Need for Standalone HSS Departments: Prof. Mohanty called for the evolution of HSS departments from their traditional roles as service providers to becoming standalone academic centres of research and innovation in their own right.
- Fundamental Education in Sciences and Social Sciences: A robust educational foundation in both fundamental sciences (such as physics and mathematics) and social sciences (such as philosophy) was recommended. He stressed the need to overcome disciplinary silos and build bridges across knowledge domains.
- Regional and Indian Studies Focus: He emphasized the importance of focusing on regional issues and proposed the establishment of Indian Studies programmes to explore Indian languages and civilizational knowledge systems in dialogue with global currents.
- Implementing NEP: Prof. Mohanty underlined the importance of adopting the MEME (Multiple Entry and Multiple Exit) framework, promoting interdisciplinary structures, and rethinking curriculum in light of contemporary challenges.





He explained the five visionary pillars that NEP addresses:

- Interdisciplinarity – the breaking down of rigid disciplinary boundaries to promote integrative and holistic learning;
- Internationalism – openness to global academic conversations while being grounded in local contexts;
- Cultural Literacy – fostering awareness of India’s rich and diverse civilizational resources;
- Planetary Consciousness – cultivating ecological sensitivity and ethical responsibility in a rapidly changing world;
- Posthumanism – rethinking the place of the human in the context of artificial intelligence, biotechnology, and more-than-human life-worlds.

3. Participation and Interaction

The event was attended by faculty members and research scholars from multiple departments. Prof. R. K. Sharma, Hon’ble Vice Chancellor of JUIT, felicitated the guest. Prof. Sudhir Kumar, Dean of Research and Internationalisation, introduced the speaker and coordinated the session.



JAYPEE UNIVERSITY OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
WAKNAGHAT, P.O. – WAKNAGHAT,
TEHSIL – KANDAGHAT, DISTRICT – SOLAN (H.P.)
PIN – 173234 (INDIA) Phone Number- +91-1792-257999
(Established by H.P. State Legislature vide Act No. 14 of 2002)



Following the talk, Prof. Mohanty held a focused interaction with the faculty of the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, where he shared guidance on launching liberal arts initiatives at JUIT. He encouraged faculty-led innovation in curriculum design and expressed willingness to support future collaborations.

4. Outcomes and Recommendations

- The session inspired renewed interest in liberal arts education among the JUIT academic community.
- Faculty members were encouraged to explore curriculum reform aligned with NEP guidelines.
- Prof. Mohanty offered to support the design and implementation of a liberal arts programme at JUIT.
- A follow-up visit and extended interaction with faculty and students is anticipated in the near future.

5. Acknowledgement

The talk and associated interactions were made possible through the coordinated efforts of Prof. R. K. Sharma (Vice Chancellor), Prof. Sudhir Kumar (Dean, Research), and Dr. Ranjith Kallyani (Assistant Professor, HSS), who took the initiative to invite and host Prof. Mohanty.

Prof Rakesh K Bajaj
NEP Cell Coordinator, JUIT, Wagnaghat