

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

In view of significance given to achieving United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in National Education Policy, AIU is organizing National and Zonal Vice Chancellors' Meet -2021-22 on the theme of SDGs. The theme for the Annual General Meet and National Seminar of Vice Chancellors is ***Realizing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through Higher Education Institutions***. As per scheme of things, in the Annual Meet, all the 17 SDGs will be taken up for discussion in 5 sessions. As a run up to the Annual Meet, a set of 4 closely related SDGs will be deliberated in each of the Zonal Meets-East, West, Central and North. Central Zone Meet is dedicated to discussion on SDGs-1,2,3 & 6 (Poverty , Hunger, Health and Sanitation)

ASSOCIATION OF INDIAN UNIVERSITIES

Association of Indian Universities (AIU) was established in 1925 and since its inception, it has been playing a vital role in shaping Indian higher education by being an integral part of all major decision-making bodies. As a representative body of Indian universities, it plays the main role as a common platform for cooperation and coordination among Indian universities and liaise with government and also national and International bodies of higher education in other countries in the matters of common interest. AIU's most important function is to accord equivalence to Degrees/Qualifications offered by the universities across the world with those offered in India. AIU conducts inter-university sports and cultural events at national and international level. Stalwarts like Dr.Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, Dr.Zakir Hussain, Dr.Shyamaprasad Mukherjee and Dr. K. L. Shrimali served as its Presidents in past. All the Indian universities benefit out of its contribution. At present, it has membership of about 854 Indian universities and 17 universities from other countries viz. Bhutan, UAE, Kazakhstan, Mauritius, Malaysia and Nepal as Associate Members.

Shri Vaishnav Vidyapeeth Vishwavidyalaya

Shri Vaishnav Vidyapeeth Trust has sponsored the University to promote, manage and offer professional and vocational education, and to organize personality and other training and development programs. The University imparts higher education in varied disciplines with a view to make the students confident, vibrant, dynamic and competitive worldwide. It holds and conducts meetings, and participates in conferences, lectures, seminars and symposia and enters into relations with other societies, institutions, academies, colleges and universities to help and guide the students to pursue professional and higher education for the purpose of advancing knowledge in various disciplines of education.

Shri Vaishnav Vidyapeeth Vishwavidyalaya was established under Madhya Pradesh Niji Vishwavidyalaya (Sthapna Avam Sanchalan) Adhiniyam 2007, amended in 2014 on January 8, 2015. The University had commenced its first academic session from July 2016 with Undergraduate, Postgraduate, Integrated, Dual degree and Doctoral programs in various disciplines through the following constituent institutions:

- Shri Vaishnav Institute of Technology and Science
- Shri Vaishnav Institute of Information Technology
- Shri Vaishnav Institute of Textile Technology
- Shri Vaishnav Institute of Forensic Science
- Shri Vaishnav Institute of Architecture
- Shri Vaishnav School of Management
- Shri Vaishnav Institute of Journalism and Mass Communication
- Shri Vaishnav Institute of Fine Arts
- Shri Vaishnav Institute of Science
- Shri Vaishnav Institute of Social Science, Humanities and Arts
- Shri Vaishnav Institute of Computer Applications
- Shri Vaishnav Institute of Commerce
- Shri Vaishnav School of Law
- Shri Vaishnav Institute of Agriculture
- Shri Vaishnav Institute of Home Science
- Shri Vaishnav Institute of Law
- Shri Vaishnav Institute of Professional Studies
- Faculty of Doctoral Studies & Research.

THE UNITED NATIONS

The United Nations is an international organization founded in 1945. Currently, made up of 193 Member States, the UN and its work are guided by the purposes and principles contained in its founding Charter. The UN has evolved over the years to keep pace with a rapidly changing world. But one thing has stayed the same: it remains the one place on Earth where all the world's nations can gather together, discuss common problems, and find shared solutions that benefit humanity.

CENTRAL ZONE VICE CHANCELLORS MEET

The present Meet is the Central Zone Vice Chancellors' Meet. The theme for this Meet is ***Realizing Sustainable Development Goals through Higher Education Institutions: Securing Basic Essentials of Well-being.*** The theme is an overarching theme for the SDGs-

1,2,3 & 6. The discussions will primarily address the role of HEIs in the perspective of their contribution. Besides, there will be stocktaking of global progress towards achieving these goals; share knowledge, success stories and good practices; identify particular areas of concern and main challenges; and suggest the way forward in terms of action points for HEIs, government and other stakeholders. Action points for HEIs will be for all the three dimensions of HEIs i.e., Teaching, Research and Community Development. The two-day event will include following 4 sessions:

Session -1: Contribution of HEIs in Ending Poverty in all its Forms (SDG-1)

Session -2: Contribution of HEIs in Ending hunger and Promote Sustainable Agriculture (SDG-2)

Session -3: Contribution of HEIs in Ensuring Healthy Lives and Well-being (SDG-3)

Session -4: Contribution of HEIs in Sustainable Management of Water and Sanitation (SDG-6)

SESSION DETAILS

Session 1

Contribution of HEIs in Ending Poverty in all its Forms (SDG-1)



Goal 1 calls for an end to poverty in all its forms everywhere. To meet this objective, the country needs to increase its social protection programmes and targeted assistance for the poor and most vulnerable. Alongside it is essential to enhance access to basic services, and build resilience against the impacts of natural disasters.

India is a developing nation, with a growing economy but poverty is still a major challenge in our country. The country has enjoyed growth rates of up to 10% over many years and is one of the largest economies in the world, but only a small percentage of the Indian population has benefited from this impressive economic boom so far, as the majority of people in India are still in abject poverty. Poverty impacts children, families and individuals in a variety of ways through : High infant mortality, Malnutrition, Child labour, Lack of education, Child marriage etc.

Ending poverty in all its forms everywhere forms the first goal of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goal. Poverty is more than just the lack of income or access to resources. It manifests itself in diminished opportunities for education, social discrimination and the inability to participate in decision-making process. SDG-1 encompasses the aim of eradicating poverty not only in monetary terms but in all forms and dimensions 2030. India, along with Nigeria, is considered to have the largest number of the poor in the world. If the world has to meet its United Nations-mandated Sustainable Development Goal (SDG-1) to eradicate poverty by 2030. India has to achieve this goal first.

According to SDG India Index & Dashboard survey 2020-21, Tamil Nadu

and Delhi are the top performers among the States and the UTs, respectively. Seventeen States and seven UTs bagged a position in the category of Front Runners. However, six States fall behind in the Aspirant category.

India emerged as a success story after the implementation of the 1991 economic reforms. Social protection programmes in India have also helped reduce poverty significantly. Now it is in a precarious situation where on one hand it is able to boost its rapid economic growth and on the other hand it is struggling to provide basic services and infrastructures to its population. Still 22.8% population of the country is below poverty line (BPL).

The wave of COVID-19 had upturned the economic development of the country and has plunged millions into further poverty, disrupting the informal economy, and hitting migrant labourers the hardest. It indicates that the measures taken were not resilient. How can we create resilient systems in the country which can ensure wherewithal for people while combatting with such type of situations?

The Conference will deliberate on the ways the HEIs can contribute in ending poverty in all its forms.

Session 2

Contribution of HEIs in Ending Hunger and Promote Sustainable Agriculture (SDG-2)



Goal 2 aims to end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture. Achieving this goal means securing access for all to safe, sufficient and nutritious food. This will require resilient agricultural practices and sustainable food production systems. Increased and improved data on food access can help to track the progress on Goal 2 and to guide food insecurity interventions.

India is one of the world's largest food producers, and we have food surplus. In spite of that, per the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2020 Report, 189.2 million people i.e., 14% of our population is undernourished. Also, 51.4% of women in reproductive age between 15 to 49 years are anaemic. Further according to the report 34.7% of the children aged under five in India are stunted (too short for their age), while 20% suffer from wasting, meaning their weight is too low for their height. The Global Hunger Index 2019 ranks India at 102 out of 117 countries. There is a need to look into this dichotomy.

COVID -19 Environment Report 2021 reveal that India dropped by two places than last year in its SDG rankings primarily because major challenges like ending hunger and achieving food security (SDG 2) worsened after COVID-19. All these facts indicate that the developments are not resilient and there are certain lacunae in sustaining these achievements.

Most important issue which shall be deliberated in this session is ---How HEIs can play a role in creating resilient systems which can ensure sustainable

agriculture and zero hunger even during crisis situations like drought, pandemics or other disasters?

Session 3

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



Contribution of HEIs in Ensuring Healthy Lives and Well-being (SDG-3)

Goal 3 seeks to ensure health and wellbeing for everyone at all ages, including access to safe, affordable and effective health care. To achieve this goal, a holistic approach to better health is required by ensuring universal access to healthcare, sexual and reproductive health services, infectious disease prevention, making medicine and vaccines affordable, and the treatment and prevention of other public health issues needs to take place. It calls for innovation, and research in these areas to further enhance public policy efforts.

Global response to the COVID-19 pandemic has exposed inherent weaknesses in our preparedness and response. The health systems have been grossly overwhelmed by the pandemic. There will be a need for greater efforts and financial investment to reinvent and revigorate health systems to improve access, quality and safety of health system and promotion of factors that promote healthy lifestyles in days to come. The deliberations will therefore address the questions:

1. How the HEIs can contribute in promoting healthy lives and well-being?
2. What is the specific role of health universities, technical universities, pharmaceutical institutes and various other HEIs in improving health status of the country and achieving this goal?
3. How the Indigenous and traditional health systems can contribute in achieving the health goals?

Eat-Right Campuses, Health Promoting universities, Fit India campaigns; innovations to provide affordable health system, research on various diseases prevailing in Indian subcontinent, contribution of HEIs in ensuring rural community health, creating low-cost devices and solutions, medicines for general public, health information system etc. are specific issues that the session will address.

Session 4

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



Contribution of HEIs in Ensuring Sustainable Management of Water and Sanitation (SDG-6)

Goal 6 seeks to ensure not only the availability of drinking water, sanitation and hygiene, but also improvements in the quality and sustainability of water resources. Addressing Goal 6 will involve effective and integrated water resource management and improved sanitation facilities for all. Unclean Water and Poor sanitation can have a ripple effect when it hinders national development because the people suffering from illnesses produce and earn less, and therefore cannot afford education and stable futures for their children. Therefore, the deliberations of this session will address on:

1. Strategies to create sustainable availability of potable water and Sanitation facilities;
2. Causes and remedies of India's Water and Sanitation Crisis

3. Impact of policies relating to Water Conservation and Management, including rain water harvesting:
4. Initiatives, achievements and success/failure of various schemes like *Swachh Bharat Abhiyan*, *Namami Gange Project* etc.
5. Innovation and smart technology in water and wastewater treatment and tackling the issues of sanitation.
6. Research on devising low-cost water filters and sewage treatment plants.
7. Cleaning of rivers, linking of rivers, saving water, stopping wastage of water through floods, water harvesting techniques, ensuring good sanitation system, etc.
8. Pathways of community participation and cooperation for water conservation.

Participation and Organization

Vice Chancellors of Indian Universities, Experts from United Nations System, Line Ministries in Government of India, Apex Bodies of Higher Education, and Academia will be speakers and Session Chairs. Experts from the UN system and other international organizations will also be invited to contribute. Discussions will be conducted in English. Sessions will be through virtual mode.