



**RAJIV GANDHI NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF LAW, PUNJAB**  
(Established under Punjab Act No. 12 of 2006)  
(Accredited with 'A' Grade by NAAC)

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## **RGNUL hosts Discussion on “New Vision for Higher Education Research and Pedagogy”**

**4<sup>th</sup> July 2022**

The Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law, Punjab hosted a discussion on “New Vision of Higher Education”. Vice-Chancellors of different universities from Punjab deliberated on State’s Vision for Higher Education. Prof. Arvind, Vice-Chancellor, Punjabi University, Patiala; Lt.Gen. Jagbir Singh Cheema, Vice-Chancellor, Maharaja Bhupinder Singh Punjab Sports University, Patiala; Prof. Karamjeet Singh, Vice-Chancellor, Jagat Guru Nanak Dev Punjab State Open University, Patiala and Prof. Archana Mantri, Vice-Chancellor, Chitkara University, Banur were the panelists. Prof. G.S. Bajpai, Vice-Chancellor, RGNUL welcomed the panelists and reflected on the challenges to the learning environment of universities in the context of National Educational Policy (NEP). Alluding to John Henry Newman’s *The Idea of a University*, Prof. Bajpai focused on the need to balance accessible higher education with aspirations of educational excellence. He evoked the Humboldtian model of higher education to emphasize that holistic combination of research and studies promotes education. While talking about the lacunae in the education system, Prof. Bajpai referred to financial crisis, lack of funding facility and manpower. He also pointed out, “Higher Education is entirely punctuated by classroom teaching with little focus on research.” Prof. Bajpai highlighted not only the inadequacy of funds for research but also the absence of capacity to research. “Refresher courses and Faculty Development Programs are not facilitating the development of competencies,” he said. Elaborating on pedagogy, Prof. Bajpai underlined the importance of infusing critical thinking abilities effectively.

Prof. Arvind, Vice-Chancellor, Punjabi University, Patiala ruminated on the triadic mandate to teach, research and engage in pursuit of eminence. Focussing on the pertinent requirement for student centric curriculum, Prof. Arvind said that academic programs should be redesigned. “Multi-disciplinary and interdisciplinary initiatives not only enhance skills of the



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learners but also connect them with cultures. In research quality and not quantity matters,” he remarked.

Lt.Gen. Jagbir Singh Cheema, Vice-Chancellor, Maharaja Bhupinder Singh Punjab Sports University, Patiala talked about the trends in sports industry. He also explored the job avenues available to students specializing in sports science. He apprised the audience about State Training Centre available in the University for Sportspersons from schools and colleges.

Prof. Karamjeet Singh, Vice-Chancellor, Jagat Guru Nanak Dev Punjab State Open University, Patiala spoke about the various vertices of higher education that remain unaddressed. He said, “Employment oriented courses, research linked to innovation and reskilling are imperative for reshaping the academic milieu.”

Prof. Archana Mantri, Vice-Chancellor, Chitkara University, Banur elaborated on episteme, techne and phronesis in the higher education ecosystem. Referring to the present as “the best of times” and “the worst of times”, Dr. Mantri addressed the paradox of technology and education. Reiterating the need to redefine the educational paradigm, she spoke about highly disruptive education patterns. “The data driven 5.0 education system must adopt strategy to manage disruption. The shortcomings in curriculum should also be given special attention,” she said RGNUL faculty participated in the ensuing discussion on the new vision in Higher Education.

Prof. Anand Pawar, Registrar, RGNUL extended vote of thanks.

TRIBUNE PHOTO: RAJESH SACHAR



A discussion on new vision for higher education research and pedagogy under way in Patiala.

# VCs discuss new vision for higher education, research & pedagogy

**TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE**

**PATIALA, JULY 4**

Vice-Chancellors of five universities in Patiala today participated in a group discussion on the state's new vision for higher education research and pedagogy.

Punjabi University, Maharaja Bhupinder Singh Punjab Sports University, Jagat Guru Nanak Dev Punjab State Open University, Chitkara University and the Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law, Patiala, held a discussion on new vision for higher education research and pedagogy.

RGNUL Vice-Chancellor GS Bajpai discussed the need to

balance accessible higher education with aspirations of educational excellence. He emphasised on holistic combination of research and said, "Higher Education is entirely punctuated by classroom teaching with little focus on research", and highlighted inadequacy of funds for research and absence of capacity to research. He said, "Refresher courses and faculty development programmes are not facilitating the development of competencies", and underlined the importance of infusing critical thinking abilities.

Prof Arvind, Vice-Chancellor, Punjabi University, discussed the mandate to teach, research and engage in pur-

suit of eminence. He said academic programmes should be redesigned for the need of a student-centric curriculum. "Multi-disciplinary and interdisciplinary initiatives not only enhance the skills of learners, but also connect them with cultures. In research, quality matters over quantity," he remarked.

Lt Gen Jagbir Singh Cheema, Vice-Chancellor, Maharaja Bhupinder Singh Punjab Sports University, discussed the trends in the sports industry and job avenues available to students. He apprised the audience about the state training centre available in the university for sportspersons.