

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMISSIONER, COLLEGIATE EDUCATION
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Sub: - Establishment of RDCs in GDCs & SOP for Research & Innovation - Reg.

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The National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020) emphasizes on the need for development in research in higher educational institutes (HEIs) in India in Chapter 17 of the policy, saying "A robust ecosystem of research is perhaps more important than ever with the rapid changes occurring in the world today, e.g., in the realm of climate change, population dynamics and management, biotechnology, an expanding digital marketplace, and the rise of machine learning and artificial intelligence. If India is to become a leader in these disparate areas, and truly achieve the potential of its vast talent pool to again become a leading knowledge society in the coming years and decades, the nation will require a significant expansion of its research capabilities and output across disciplines. Today, the criticality of research is more than ever before, for the economic, intellectual, societal, environmental, and technological health and progress of a nation".

It has arisen a critical necessity for Government Degree Colleges (GDCs) in the state of Andhra Pradesh to chase such challenging future goals while playing the pivotal role of HEIs, particularly in terms of research, innovation, and incubation. There must be an effective implementation plan to match the expectations of the NEP. The UGC, has released guidelines (enclosed) to establish Research and Development Cell (RDC) in Higher Educational Institutes (HEIs) in March 2022. The guidelines included a clear Vision, Mission, and Objectives of establishing RDCs in HEIs. Most importantly, National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) assesses Research, Innovation and Extension as a criterion for accreditation; so also "Research and Professional Practice" is a major influential parameter in National Institute Ranking Framework (NIRF) ranking.

Research may be envisaged as a means of acquisition and use of expert skills for the professional development of students, faculty and the HEIs. Innovation is the essential need to inculcate and develop novel skills to match the ever-evolving job market/industry requirement. The following activities are proposed to be undertaken in GDCs as a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP). In this context, the CCE is coming up with this SOP.

In this context, All GDCs are advised to scrupulously go through, adopt, and adhere to the procedures mentioned hereunder. Failing in which shall result in low/nil progression of research-based activities at the HEIs which could have a negative impact on the performance indicators of the HEIs with respect to recognition, accreditation, ranking etc., On the other hand, most importantly, the absolute purpose of HEIs as human resource development centres cannot be fulfilled.

I. ESTABLISHMENT OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CELL

The UGC launched an initiative to establish a RDC in each HEI with the mandate for promoting quality research that contributes meaningfully towards the goal of a self-reliant India ("Atma-Nirbhar Bharat"), aligned with the provisions of NEP-2020. The UGC issued guidelines for the establishment of RDCs are extracted and reiterated hereunder to frame within the scope of GDCs.

Vision

“To put in place a robust mechanism for developing and strengthening the research ecosystem within HEIs, aligned with the provisions of NEP-2020.”

Mission

- ❖ To create a conducive environment for enhanced research productivity.
- ❖ To encourage collaboration across industry, government, community- based organizations, and agencies at the local, national, and international levels.
- ❖ To facilitate greater access to research through mobilization of resources and funding.

Objectives

1. To create an organizational structure with role-based functions of RDC, formulate Research Policy for the HEIs, identify thrust areas of research, and form related cluster groups/frontline teams/consortia of researchers.
2. To create enabling provisions in Research Policies for recruitment of research personnel, procurement of equipment, and financial management with adequate autonomy to the Principal Investigator(s) and disseminate research outcomes to stakeholders and the public at large.
3. To establish a special purpose vehicle to promote researchers and innovators, identify potential collaborators from industry, research organizations, academic institutions & other stakeholders for cooperation and synergistic partnerships.
4. To act as a liaison between researchers & relevant research funding agencies, extend guidance in preparation & submission of project proposals and post-sanctioning of the grants to oversee adherence to timelines.
5. To have better coordination among other cells/centres dealing with University-Industry Inter Linkage, Incubation, Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development and Intellectual Property Rights (IPR).
6. To develop an Institutional Research Information System for sharing the status of ongoing/ completed research projects/Programmes, expertise & resources, etc., making effective use of Information & Communication Technology (ICT) for preparing the database of in-house experts to provide industrial consultancy and services.