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No. EDN-H(8)14/84-2012(Principal Conference)
Directorate of Higher Education
Himachal Pradesh
Dated Shimla-1, the

44
29 April 2026

To

All the Principals of
Govt. Degree Colleges and Govt. Sanskrit Colleges of HP.

Subject: Regarding minutes of the Principals' Conference held on 17.03.2026 in the Conference Hall of the Himachal Pradesh Government Secretariat.

Enclosed herewith the proceeding of the meeting regarding the Principals' Conference held on 17.03.2026 in the Conference Hall of the Himachal Pradesh Government Secretariat under the chairmanship of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh, Shimla, H.P., for further necessary action.

Director of Higher Education
Himachal Pradesh

29 April 2026

शिक्षा निदेशालय उत्तर हि०

Endst. No. Even Dated Shimla-1 the
copy to information and necessary action please:-

1. The Secretary (Education) to the Govt. of Himachal Pradesh, Shimla-2.
2. The Addl. Director of Higher Education, Shimla-1.
3. P.S. to Worthy Director of Higher Education, Shimla-1.
4. The Joint Controller Finance & Accounts Services in Directorate of Higher Education, Shimla-1.
5. The Supdt.(s), Planning, General, Rusa, E-1, E-2, ACR, B.Voc & Library, Legal Cell, Cash, Store, Directorate of Higher Education Shimla H.P.
6. The Supdt. IT Cell, Directorate of Higher Education, Shimla-1 with the directions to upload the same on Departmental website.
7. Guard file.

29 APR 2026

शिमला-1

Director of Higher Education
Himachal Pradesh

Department of Higher Education, Himachal Pradesh
Principals' Conference, 2026
A Report

A one-day Principals' Conference was organized by the *Department of Higher Education* in the Conference Hall of the Himachal Pradesh Government Secretariat on 17 March 2026 from 10 am to 6 pm in which all the Principals of Govt. Degree Colleges and Govt. Sanskrit Colleges participated. The Director of Higher Education, Dr Amarjeet K Sharma, welcomed the following dignitaries at the venue and delivered the welcome speech:

1. Shri Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, Honourable Chief Minister, Himachal Pradesh
2. Shri Rohit Thakur, Honourable Education Minister, Himachal Pradesh
3. Shri Rakesh Kanwar, Secretary (Education)
4. Dr Sarbjot Singh Behl, Chairman, Higher Education Council, HP
5. Prof Mahavir Singh, Honourable Vice Chancellor, HPU

At the very outset, **Dr Amarjeet K Sharma, Director of Higher Education**, revealed the aims of the conference:

1. Acknowledging the achievements of the Department
2. Preparing a roadmap for further consolidation

Through an extensive and statistics intensive presentation, Dr. Amarjeet K. Sharma presented an overview of the state of Higher Education in Himachal Pradesh:

1. General overview:

The house was informed that 143 Govt. Colleges including 132 Degree Colleges, 09 Sanskrit Colleges, 01 SCERT at Solan and 01 GCTE at Dharamshala are functioning in the State with 2749 of sanctioned post, out of which 2156 posts are filled and 593 are lying vacant. In these institutions, about 38 subjects are being taught and about 82098 students at the UG level, about 6309 students at PG level, about 3,194 students in the B. Voc. Course (s), about 11, 448 students in self-financing courses are studying. The Department intends to introduce new subjects soon at certain select colleges some of which are as follows: Anthropology, Acting, Direction & Drama, Film Theory & Scripting, Design, Aesthetics and Graphics. The Govt. has granted the NOC to start Four-Year Integrated B.Ed. (ITE.P) at GCTE Dharamshala and in Govt. Colleges at Nadaun, Chail-Koti and Tikkar. The Department also intends to allot new subjects to the existing Fine Arts College at Loharab (Shimla) and start a new institution at Haripur Guler. The Department has also accorded approval to Two-Year B P Ed. Course at LBS Government College, Saraswati Nagar, Shimla. The government also intends to start new subjects at the proposed professional and specialized college at Dhaneta, some of which include TTM, Robotics, Animation & Drone Technology, Data Science & Cloud Computing, Food Processing & Quality Management, TTM and B.Ed. integrated courses. The Computer Based Test Centre(s) (CBT) are being established in several colleges of different districts: Kangra (10), Hamirpur (3), Chamba (1), Bilaspur (2), Una (5), Solan (2), Sirmour (2), Shimla (7), Mandi (6), Kullu (2) and Kinnaur (1). B. Voc. courses are being offered in 20 colleges across 10 districts and the placement rate is about 50% approximately.

2. Rationalization:-

05 Govt. Colleges with the enrolment of students ranging from 0 to 50 i.e. GC Bhalei, Distt. Chamba, GC Kukumseri, Distt. Lahaul and Spiti, GC Sandhole, District Mandi, GC Tikker & GC Kupvi, Distt. Shimla, 05 Govt. Colleges with the enrolment of students ranging from 51 to 75 i.e. GC Multhan, Distt. Kangra, GC Jainagar, Distt. Solan, GC Nankhari, Distt. Shimla, GC Ronhat Distt. Sirmour & GC Kotli, Distt. Mandi, 05 Govt. Colleges with the enrolment of students ranging from 76 to 90 GC Thachi, Distt. Mandi, GC Kumarsain, Distt. Shimla, GC Ramshehr, Distt. Solan, GC Bharli (Anjbhoj), Distt. Sirmour, GC Chopal, Distt. Shimla, 05 Govt. Colleges with the enrolment of students ranging from 91 to 100 i.e. GC Chintpurni, Distt. Una, GC Rirkamar, Distt. Kangra, GC Rakkar, Distt. Kangra, GC Shree Naina Devi Ji, Distt. Bilaspur, GC Chowki Maniar, Distt. Una are proposed to be merged/attached with nearby Govt. Colleges.

3. Ranking of Govt. Degree colleges and Govt. Sanskrit colleges of Himachal Pradesh:-

The result of the ranking of Govt. Degree colleges and Govt. Sanskrit colleges of Himachal Pradesh for the session 2024-25 in the form of a booklet was also released.

- (1) At the very outset, the evaluation criteria and metrics of the ranking of Govt. Degree colleges and Govt. Sanskrit colleges are shared. He shared that the colleges were divided into three tiers primarily based on student strength and topography to ensure a level playing field. The aim of this mammoth exercise was to enable students to make an informed choice while selecting college for admission.
- (2) **The following colleges were adjudged as top three in the 'overall' category:**
 - (a) Neta ji Subhash Chander Bose Memorial Govt. College, Hamirpur
 - (b) Centre of Excellence, Govt. College Sanjauli, Shimla
 - (c) RKMV, Shimla
- (3) **The following colleges secured the first three positions in the 'Tier I' category:**
 - (a) Netaji Subhash Chander Bose Memorial Govt. College, Hamirpur
 - (b) Centre of Excellence, Govt. College Sanjauli, Shimla
 - (c) RKMV, Shimla
- (4) **The following colleges earned the first three positions in the 'Tier II' category:**
 - (a) Govt. College, Bhoranj
 - (b) Lal Bahadur Shastri Govt. College Saraswati Nagar, Shimla
 - (c) Atal Bihari Vajpayee Govt. Degree College, Sunni, Shimla
- (5) **The following colleges emerged as top three in the 'Tier III' category:**
 - (a) Govt. College, Kaffota, Sirmour
 - (b) Govt. College Darlaghat, Solan
 - (c) Govt. College, Chailkoti, Shimla
- (6) **The following Sanskrit colleges were adjudged as top performers:**
 - (a) Govt. Sanskrit College, Phagli, Shimla
 - (b) Govt. Sanskrit College, Solan
 - (c) Govt. Sanskrit College, Tungesh, Shimla

4. Ranking of libraries:-

As the result of Ranking/Grading of libraries of H.P. from level I to level V, the library of GC Hamirpur, GC Rampur (being ranked/graded as Rank V) and GC Sangrah (being ranked/graded as Rank III) have been awarded with cash prize of Rs. 1.00 Lakh each.

5. New Initiatives in the colleges:-

- Digital Libraries and Study Centers (DLSC)
- Virtual and Live Streaming Classrooms (VLSC)
- ICT enabled Computer Labs
- CCTV Surveillance Systems
- Innovation and Future Technology Labs (IFTL)
- Skill Lab and Internship Centre (SLIC)
- Placement Cell and Incubation Centers (PCIC)

6. The house was apprised that all the Principals have been directed to utilize the 'Accumulated College Fund' as per rules.

7. The following proposals have been placed before the Honourable Chief Minister, Shri Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, Shri Rohit Thakur, Honourable Education Minister and Shri Rakesh Kanwar, Secretary (Education) for their kind consideration:

- (a) Filling up of vacant posts.
- (b) Starting B. Voc courses in 50 colleges under the Self-Financing Scheme.
- (c) Need based professional courses, 'Apprenticeship Embedded Programmes' and creation of Internship Centres in 25 college under Self-Financing schemes.
- (d) Digitalization (the proposal already submitted may be approved under SASCI-SPECIAL ASSISTANCE TO STATES FOR CAPITAL INVESTMENT) or may be funded by State. (Approx. 77.00 Cr.)
- (e) PMU, Central Dashboard for Higher Education.
- (f) Lease Line to all the colleges.
- (g) Green Initiative for colleges setting up Solar Power Plants.
- (h) Coverage of 60 colleges for Smart Classrooms and Virtual Classrooms.

In his address, **Prof Sarbjot Singh Behl, Chairman, Higher Education Council of Himachal Pradesh**, extensively talked about the seven criteria of NAAC and from his lived experience as an academic, shared tips for securing high grade from NAAC. He also talked about the vast ambit of the National Education Policy (NEP) and how the State of Himachal Pradesh needs to adopt measures considering its vision, advantages and disadvantages. He said that the future lies in quality and value-added education. He listed three state specific priority areas: adaptation of NEP, academia-industry linkage and green campus initiatives.

In his address, **Prof Mahavir Singh, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor** of Himachal Pradesh University, emphasized upon the connect and a healthy relationship between the university and the colleges. He stressed on the importance of collaboration and the need for introducing skill-based courses and other courses such as AI and Data Science. He apprised the audience of the five centres started by the University: (a) Green Energy (b) Disaster Management (c) Cyber Security (d) Indian Knowledge System (IKS) and (e) Culture in Himalayan Region. He informed the audience that clusters of colleges are being formed for streamlining exams and results. He informed the audience that from April 2026 onwards, even college teachers would be eligible for PhD supervisorship.

An exclusive session was devoted to the **presentation of Best Practices** by the Principals of the following institutions:

- (a) Govt. College, Dharamshala
- (b) Govt. College, Bilaspur
- (c) RKMV, Shimla
- (d) Govt. College, Reckong Peo
- (e) Govt. College, Pangi
- (f) Govt. College, Una
- (g) Govt. College, Rampur
- (h) Govt. College, Nadaun
- (i) Govt. College, Hamirpur

An **open house session** was conducted in which Principals of several colleges, such as Govt. Colleges at Barog, Theog, Jawali, Jhanduta and Sainj (Kullu) put up queries to the authorities regarding specific issues of their respective colleges, which primarily revolved around FCA/FRA clearances for construction of new buildings of colleges, issues in appointment of sweeping staff, vacant posts affecting classes and exodus of students from streams such as Sciences, and other local issues. The queries were answered by the Honourable Chief Minister, Shri Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, Honourable Education Minister Shri Rohit Thakur, Secretary (Education) Shri Rakesh Kanwar and Dr Amarjeet K Sharma, Director of Higher Education.

Shri Rakesh Kanwar, Secretary (Education), in his address, he highlighted the declining enrolment in government institutions from primary school onwards, which has started impacting colleges as well. Following points deserve deeper analysis and corrective action:

1. Under-utilized infrastructure in Government Colleges.
2. Need to re-imagine higher education, which presently offer limited choices to students that too mainly in humanites.
3. Need to think critically about use of AI in education institution especially in Primary Schools. Evaluation of experience of Scandinavian countries and several other nations which are re-examining digital push and shifting to physical libraries, hand written exams, and restriction on telephone/internet use.
4. Need to start innovative, vocational and job oriented courses within the ambit of NEP.
5. He directed the Principals to spend the amalgamated/accumulated funds as per requirement while keeping a close eye on the objectives and requirements. He reminded the audience that a letter to this effect had already been issued by the Department.
6. He drew the attention of the audience to platforms such as "E-Granthalya" which is a huge repository of relevant and quality content for students and the services are available at an affordable rate of Rs.21,275/- for a period of 5 years. It would mitigate the shortage of quality learning resources. He assured the audience that DIT based library material would soon be available to all the government institutions of the State.

Shri Rohit Thakur, Honourable Education Minister, in his brief and focused address extensively spoke about the urgent need of the hour, which is, consolidation of the limited resources as expansion has already reached its pinnacle. The undesirable result being, about 675 schools with zero enrolment, which had to be closed. He traced the growth achieved by the State in the sphere of education since Independence and expressed happiness with

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the result. Therefore, the emphasis should now be on quality and for that measuring the output becomes indispensable. Towards the end, he lauded the achievements of the Department and particularly congratulated the Principals whose colleges had performed well in the results of the internal ranking exercise.

In his presidential address, the Chief Guest of the Conference, **Shri Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, Honourable Chief Minister** appreciated the concept of such conferences where the Heads of higher educational institutions sit in a huddle with an aim of introspection and planning further growth. He said:

1. He reiterated that education and health sectors are the top priority of his government. He assured the audience that despite the withdrawal of Revenue Deficit Grants (RDG) being given to Himachal Pradesh since independence, no cuts shall be made in budget allocation to these two sectors and Education sector shall continue to receive the highest share. He apprised about many initiatives taken by the Govt. in education sector including creation of two separate directorates one for Schools Education and another for Higher Education.
2. He said that the reason which prompted him to seek CBSE affiliation for 150 government schools was to raise the yardstick in quality education.
3. He informed the audience that Rajiv Gandhi Day Boarding schools shall be made functional from the forthcoming academic session and explained how these specialized institutions are future oriented.
4. He expressed hope that the positive results of pathbreaking reforms undertaken shall start pouring in from 2032 onwards.
5. He announced that from the forthcoming academic session, National Education Policy (NEP) and semester system shall be implemented in the colleges.
6. He also directed all the Principals to maintain only one central bank account in their institutions and merge all pre-existing accounts into that one single account. He asked the Department to re-issue directions in this regard. The colleges are expected to complete the task latest by 31 March 2026.
7. He asked the Department to start courses such as AI and Data Sciences in the colleges situated in district headquarters and thereafter expand the reach further.

The conference ended with a formal vote-of-thanks which was proposed by Dr. Sunita Singh, Joint Director, Department of Higher Education.



(Dr. Amarjeet K Sharma)
Director Higher Education,
Himachal Pradesh.



(Rakesh Kanwar)
Secretary (Education) to the,
Govt. of Himachal Pradesh