

Two-Day National Seminar
On
“NEP 2020: Opportunities and Challenges in the Education System of
Jammu and Kashmir”
Organised by
Government Degree College Tral, Pulwama J&K in Collaboration with
National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration (NIEPA)
New Delhi

Report

On 13th and 14th of November, 2025 a two-day National Seminar on the theme “**NEP 2020: Opportunities and Challenges in the Education System of Jammu and Kashmir**” was organised by Government Degree College Tral in collaboration with National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration (NIEPA), New Delhi. The event brought together scholars, educators, researchers, and students to examine the implementation, scope, and regional implications of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

Day 1 Proceedings (13th November 2025)

The seminar commenced with the registration of participants at 9:30 AM., followed by the arrival of the Chief Guest, Prof. Shakil Ahmad Ramshoo, Vice Chancellor, Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), at 11:00 a.m. His welcome was marked by the traditional *Izbandh* burning ceremony, symbolizing respect for cultural heritage. The inaugural session included a vibrant cultural performance by the college students, reflecting the ethos of the region. A formal felicitation ceremony was conducted, during which Prof. Muzafar Ahmad Bhat, Principal, Government Degree College Tral, presented a shawl, bouquet, and memento to the Chief Guest. Prof. Bhat himself was honoured by the organizing committee in recognition of his academic leadership.

In his Welcome Address, Principal Prof. Muzafar Ahmad Bhat highlighted the significance of NEP 2020 as a landmark reform with immense potential to reshape the educational landscape of Jammu and Kashmir. He emphasized the importance of multi-disciplinarity, vocational integration, gender inclusion, and community-based educational development as core imperatives of the policy.

The Theme Presentation, delivered by the NEP Coordinator, Prof. Mohammad Shafi Bhat, underscored the collaborative essence of the event and explained the operationalization of NEP 2020 through region-specific and research-driven models. He called for sustained institutional adaptation and contextually sensitive implementation strategies.

In his Keynote Address, Prof. Shakil Ahmad Ramshoo reflected on five years of NEP 2020 implementation and urged for introspection on its achievements and challenges. He discussed the policy's vision for skill-based, multidisciplinary education and highlighted its relevance for developing intellectual capital and promoting entrepreneurship in Jammu and Kashmir. Referring to local opportunities in GIS, tourism, and crafts, he advocated for educational models that generate employment within the region.

The inaugural session concluded with a Vote of Thanks delivered by Dr. Shahida Nisar, who acknowledged the distinguished speakers, participants, and organizing committee. The proceedings were moderated by Dr. Aashaq Hussain Zargar.

Technical Session I

Theme: Equity, Inclusion, and Democratization of Education under NEP 2020

Date: 13 November 2025

The first technical session, chaired by Prof. Mohammad Rafiq Wani, featured Mr. Masood Ali Mir as the keynote speaker. Mr. Masood's presentation engaged with the constitutional and international provisions guaranteeing educational rights, linking them to the inclusive vision of NEP 2020. He examined barriers to equitable access in Jammu and Kashmir, including geographical isolation, economic hardship, gender disparity, and social prejudice. He emphasized that the democratization of education requires structural and pedagogical transformation. Highlighting the importance of learner-centered teaching, Mr. Mir advocated for empathetic and inclusive practices that reflect the socio-cultural context of the region. The session concluded with remarks by Prof. Wani, who acknowledged the depth of discussion and its relevance for regional policy discourse.

Technical Session II

Theme: Cultural Integration, Social Sciences, and the Humanities under NEP 2020

Date: 13 November 2025

The second technical session was chaired by Dr. Rafiq Ahmad Wani with Dr. Rafiq Ahmad Khan as co-chair, featured Prof. G. N. Khaki, Director, and International Centre for Spiritual Studies, IUST. Prof. Khaki's lecture examined the resurgence of social sciences and humanities through NEP 2020, emphasizing its holistic, interdisciplinary framework. He elaborated on the "Design Your Own Degree" model, which empowers students with flexible academic pathways aligned with personal interests and career goals.

Prof. Khaki also discussed the Indian Knowledge System (IKS) and its reintegration into higher education curricula. Addressing infrastructural and connectivity challenges in Jammu

and Kashmir, he stressed the need for systemic investment to realize NEP 2020's ambitious objectives. The session concluded with a formal felicitation of Prof. Khaki in appreciation of his insightful contribution.

Presentation Session

Theme: Equity in Higher Education—Bridging Urban–Rural Disparities through NEP 2020

Date: 13 November 2025

The paper presentation by Prof. Sajad Manzoor, Assistant Professor of Political Science, Government Degree College Larnoo, examined urban–rural inequities in higher education. He analyzed key indicators such as the Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER), faculty availability, and infrastructural limitations. Despite a GER of 30% in Jammu and Kashmir—higher than the national average—Prof. Manzoor identified critical challenges including digital divides, inadequate hostel facilities, and socio-economic constraints.

The first technical session featured insightful papers that highlighted key dimensions of NEP 2020. Dr. Zahoor Ahmad Mir, Assistant Professor at Akal University, Bathinda (Punjab), presented a paper titled “Bridging the Digital–Vernacular Divide: Evaluating NEP 2020 Implementation and Multilingual Digital Learning in Jammu & Kashmir.” His presentation examined the challenges of integrating digital education in multilingual settings and emphasized the necessity of inclusive digital infrastructure to achieve equitable learning outcomes.

The second paper, “Reimagining the Educator: Institutional Readiness and Professional Renewal under NEP 2020,” was presented by Dr. Abdul Mohsin, Assistant Professor at Akal University, Bathinda. He discussed institutional preparedness, teacher capacity building, and the redefinition of pedagogical roles to align with NEP objectives. His analysis underscored the importance of professional autonomy and continuous development for educators.

The session concluded with an engaging discussion, reflecting participants' commitment to effective NEP 2020 implementation, particularly in addressing local challenges through innovation and collaboration.

He proposed solutions aligned with NEP 2020, advocating for leadership development, institutional decentralization, mentorship programs, and equitable resource allocation. The session, chaired by Prof. Mohammad Rafiq Ahmad Wani, concluded with a Vote of Thanks by Dr. Hilal Ahmad Wani.

Day 2 Proceedings (14 November 2025)

The second day of the seminar began with the felicitation of the Chief Guest, Prof. Reshmi Kazi from Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, who was honoured for her academic distinction and contributions.

In her Keynote Address, Prof. Kazi spoke on *Gender Inclusion in Education* under NEP 2020. She underscored the policy's role in dismantling systemic barriers and promoting gender equity in educational access. Citing global educational statistics and Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG 4), she noted persistent inequalities and emphasized the moral imperative of inclusive education. She linked NEP 2020's philosophy to India's constitutional vision for equality, calling for sustained reforms to ensure the participation and empowerment of women learners.

Technical Session III

Date: 14 November 2025

Chaired by Prof. Reshmi Kazi, the final technical session featured three scholarly presentations. **Dr. Hashim Iqbal (GDC Tulail)** presented on *Inclusive Education with Reference to Children with Challenges under NEP 2020*, emphasizing the urgent need for infrastructural support, teacher training, and early intervention for children with special needs. **Dr. Huzaifa Pandit (GDC Pampore)** discussed *New Literature and New Policies*, highlighting pedagogical reform, creative engagement, and the necessity of student-centered teaching models in the NEP era. **Dr. Riyaz Ahmed Bhat (GDC Bemina)** delivered a paper in Kashmiri on *The Role of Mother Tongue in NEP 2020*, stressing the role of vernacular languages in cognitive development and cultural preservation.

Dr. Tanveer Habib from Government Degree College, Bemina Srinagar, presented a paper on "The Role of Language in Fostering Education under NEP 2020," emphasizing linguistic diversity as a cornerstone of equitable learning. Ms. Rifat Gul, also from GDC Bemina, discussed "Bridging the Gender Divide: NEP 2020 and the Future of Inclusive Learning," highlighting policy measures to promote gender-balanced language education. Prof. Manzoor Ahmad Hajam from GDC Tral elaborated on "Skill Development and Employability in Small Industries," linking vocational training with regional economic growth.

Dr. Khurshid Ahmad Mir of Amar Singh College, Srinagar, examined "NEP 2020: Challenges and Prospects in Interdisciplinary Research," underscoring the need for institutional collaboration and resource integration. Mr. Ishfaaq Ahmad Bhat from GDC Bijbehara concluded the session with a paper on the "Implementation of Regional Languages," stressing cultural preservation through curriculum reform.

The session facilitated insightful discussions on inclusive, skill-oriented, and research-driven education in Jammu & Kashmir, aligning with the broader vision of NEP 2020. The session

concluded with a Vote of Thanks by Dr. Feroze Ahmad Rafiqi, Head, Department of Chemistry, acknowledging the scholarly contributions and active participation that marked the success of the seminar.

The two-day National Seminar at Government Degree College Tral served as a vibrant platform for knowledge exchange, policy reflection, and academic collaboration. Through its diverse sessions and expert inputs, the event not only fostered critical discussion on NEP 2020 but also highlighted the pathways to making education in Jammu and Kashmir more equitable, inclusive, and contextually relevant.

Valedictory Session

National Seminar on “NEP 2020: Opportunities and Challenges in the Education System of Jammu and Kashmir”

Date: 14 November 2025

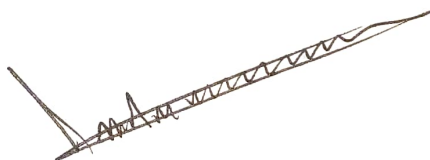
Venue: Government Degree College Tral

The Valedictory Session of the two-day National Seminar on “NEP 2020: Opportunities and Challenges in the Education System of Jammu and Kashmir” was held on 14 November 2025 at Government Degree College Tral. The session marked the formal conclusion of the academic deliberations and was graced by the distinguished presence of Dr. Rashmi Kazi, Professor at Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, as the Chief Guest.

The Patron of the seminar and Principal of the college, Prof. Muzafar Ahmad Bhat, presided over the session, accompanied by senior faculty members including Dr. Rafiq Ahmad Khan, Head of the Department of Physics, and Dr. Mohammad Rafiq Wani, Head of the Department of Botany. The session proceedings were anchored by Dr. Aashaq Hussain, who ensured a smooth and engaging flow of events.

The valedictory programme commenced with a soulful song presentation by the college students, adding a touch of cultural warmth to the closing ceremony. Following this, Mr. Javaid Ahmad Wani faculty Deptt., of English, presented a comprehensive report summarizing the key highlights and academic deliberations of the two-day seminar. His report encapsulated the thematic richness, range of scholarly interactions, and policy-oriented discussions that characterized the event.

In her valedictory address, Chief Guest Dr. Rashmi Qazi commended the college for successfully organizing a seminar of such academic significance. She emphasized the relevance of continuous dialogue and research in translating NEP 2020’s vision into practical outcomes. Dr. Qazi appreciated the scholarly contributions made by various participants and



noted that initiatives like these strengthen collaborative efforts toward inclusive and equitable educational development, particularly in regions like Jammu and Kashmir.

Principal Prof. Muzafar Ahmad Bhat, in his concluding remarks, expressed gratitude to the Chief Guest, resource persons, faculty, and participants for their meaningful engagement throughout the seminar. He reiterated the institution's commitment to advancing the objectives of NEP 2020 through academic innovation, inclusivity, and interdisciplinary learning.

A formal certificate distribution ceremony followed, during which participants and volunteers were felicitated in recognition of their contributions and active participation. The event reflected the college's ethos of encouraging scholarship and teamwork.

The session concluded with a Vote of Thanks proposed by Dr. Shabir Hussain Mirza, Head of the Department of English, who expressed appreciation to all guests, speakers, organizing committee members, and students for their dedicated efforts that contributed to the success of the seminar. It is noteworthy that Dr. Fayaz Ahmad Malla, Head, Department of Environmental Science, meticulously recorded the proceedings of all the sessions, ensuring proper archival documentation for institutional records and future reference.

The Valedictory Session concluded on a reflective and optimistic note, symbolizing the culmination of two days of meaningful dialogue, collaboration, and academic enrichment dedicated to exploring the prospects and challenges of NEP 2020 in the educational landscape of Jammu and Kashmir. On both the days, the proceedings of the seminar was conducted by Dr. Aashaq Hussain Zargar, faculty Department of English.

Dr. Mohd Shafi Bhat
Seminar Coordinator
GDC Tral

Dr. Aashaq Hussain Zargar
Convener Debates & Seminars
GDC Tral

Prof. Muzafar Ahmad Bhat

Principal

PRINCIPAL
GOVT. DEGREE COLLEGE
TRAL

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