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Bihar CM Nitish Kumar urges Congress to seize the moment and act quickly to unite the opposition & eventually reduce BJP to under 100 LS seats in '24, P 16

FEBRUARY 19, 2023 | CAPITAL | PAGES 36 | INCLUDING LUCKNOW TIMES (CITY ONLY) AND SECOND SECTION

VOL. XXXIII NO. 8 | LUCKNOW

O F I N D I A

PRICE ₹5.00

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SUNDAY TIMES OF INDIA, LUCKNOW  
FEBRUARY 19,

## BUILDING NEW AVENUES OF LEARNING

The need to expand existing educational facilities while focusing on building new ones is equally vital to meet the academic demands of students from all walks of life

The second panel discussion—Realising UP's Vision to establish Special Educational Zones—was chaired by Prof DP Singh, education advisor to the CM and former UGC chairman. The key speakers, including Prof Rajesh Singh, vice-chancellor, Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gorakhpur University; Major Gen Dr Atul Bajpai (retd), VC, Mahayogi Gorakhnath University; Prof Sanjay Singh, dean, IIM Lucknow and Dr MMA Faridi, dean, Era's Lucknow Medical College and Hospital, engaged in a

also suggest that we explore the potential of artificial intelligence to make up for faculty shortages."

Prof Sanjay Singh from IIM Lucknow stressed the importance of expanding the current educational facilities to match the requirements of the youth, "We need to anticipate how many kids will seek higher education in the state in the coming years and update our facilities to meet their needs. A critical part of this is providing well-qualified faculty comprising of experienced teachers. We also need to address the low incidence of peo-

PIC: VISHNU JAINSWAL

2<sup>nd</sup> Panel Discussion



crucial discussion about the development of special economic zones.

Prof DP Singh, in his speech, said, "It's crucial to ensure while setting up UP's special economic zones that they benefit women, marginalised communities and students from UP's aspirational districts. In boosting UP's educational facilities, we need to ensure that no region is left behind."

Dr Faridi further reiterated, "The criteria for establishing these educational zones should be to facilitate development in the state's most socially and financially disadvantaged areas. Along with IT skills, we also need to establish new centres to train more nurses, doctors and paramedics. For instance, during the pandemic, hospitals struggled to find technicians to repair machineries at the newly set up oxygen plants. That's why we need to build skills and capacities in areas which have not been touched much. I

ple in research. We are falling behind countries like China and Israel in research and need to take proactive measures to correct the situation now."

Major General Dr Atul Bajpayee felt that it was important to elevate the state's current universities to the level of international institutions while maintaining our heritage and traditions. Adding he said, "We need to upgrade our campuses to provide better facilities at par with international universities while preserving our cultural wisdom and knowledge."

Prof Rajesh Singh pushed for more investment in local government universities. Post this, guests were invited to a special lunch that played as the perfect opportunity for everyone to network with representatives from state, national and international colleges and universities.

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