

First Regional Conference by National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions

Chandigarh, 26th February, 2016:- A Regional Conference was organized by National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions (NCMEI) in collaboration with Department of Education, Chandigarh Administration at Hotel Mountview, Chandigarh. The same was attended by Ministers, Officers of Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and UT of Chandigarh.

The main agenda of the conference was to create awareness about National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions (NCMEI) and its functions related to minority education. The conference also aimed to solve the confusion among the states of minority quota through an interactive session among stake holders and senior government officers.

Sh. Zafar Agha, Member, NCMEI started with opening remarks and welcomed H.E. Prof. Kaptan Singh Solanki, Hon'ble Governor of Haryana, Punjab and Administrator U.T. Chandigarh and all the dignitaries and



delegates from Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and Chandigarh. Sh. Zafar Agha explained the gathering the functions of National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions, which have been created to

protect and safeguards the educational rights of the minorities guaranteed under Article 30.

Presiding over the Conference H.E. Prof. Kaptan Singh Solanki, Hon'ble Governor of Haryana, Punjab and Administrator U.T. Chandigarh inaugurated the First Regional Conference of National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions (NCMEI).



Addressing the delegates H.E. Prof. Kaptan Singh Solanki, Hon'ble Governor of Haryana, Punjab and Administrator U.T. Chandigarh enlightened that education is the foundation of an alive nation where every citizen feels peaceful, safe and protected.

The Governor welcomed the initiative and gave his full support to National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions (NCMEI). He said that the initiative would certainly help in strengthening the key felt needs of minority communities, identifying solutions for their problems on a holistic basis and facilitating focus of Governmental action on the needs and concerns of the nation.

Prominent members present during the conference included Haryana Cabinet Minister Smt. Kavita Jain, Chairman, Punjab State Minority Commission Sh. Munawar Masih, Sh. Sarvjit Singh, IAS, Finance Secretary, Chandigarh Administration, Director School Education, Sh. Rubinderjit Singh Brar, PCS, Vice Chancellor of Guru Granth Sahib University Fatehgarh Sahib Dr. Gurmohan Singh Walia, Principal Secretary Higher Education, Sh. Anurag Verma, Director General School Education, Mr. Pardeep Kumar Aggarwal, DPI (Colleges), Sh.. TK Goel, DPI (Secondary Education) Sh. Balbir Singh Dhol and DPI (Elementary Education).

Dr. Naheed Abidi, Hon'ble Member, NCMEI recited the mantra of peace "asato mā sadgamaya, tamasomā jyotir gamaya", which means that "From ignorance, lead me to truth; From darkness, lead me to



light". By this, she laid emphasis for imparting education amongst all. She informed that that NCMEI has been established to safeguard the rights of minority educational institutions. Section 2(g) gives a right to minorities to establish and

administer educational institutions of their choice. She also mentioned about the slogan of the Hon'ble Prime Minister "Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas".

Dr. Baltej Singh Mann, Member, National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions, thanked to all the delegates who had come from distant places and sparing their valuable time for making the function a great success.

An interactive Session with the Minority Institutions and instances of deprivation and violation their educational rights was held. The Session was presided over by Shri Zafar Agha, Member, NCMEI and clarifications were also given by Shri Baltej Singh Mann, Member, NCMEI relating to problems faced by the Schools from various decisions taken by Punjab & Haryana Government and Chandigarh Administration. The Petitions were brought to New Delhi and action was initiated giving notices to the Government of Punjab and Haryana separately seeking their comments. UT of Chandigarh was summoned to the Commission to explain their stand on the Petitions against them. Mr. Zafar Agha the senior-most Member also gave clarification on the doubts expressed by the Minority Institutions in the Conference.

An interaction was also held with the Press where various questions relating to Minority Educational Institutions were answered by the Members of the Commission.