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Hindu ND 05/11/2015   P-12

President to launch IIT-IISc initiative

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: President Pranab Mukherjee will, on Thursday, launch an initiative to develop a road map for research and pave the way for solutions to major engineering and technology challenges, at the ongoing Visitor's Conference in Rashtrapati Bhavan.

The initiative, 'IMPRINT India', is a pan-IIT and IISc joint collaboration to develop a blueprint for research of immediate relevance to society requiring innovation, direct scientific research into identified areas, ensure higher funding support for research into these areas and measure outcomes of the research efforts with reference to the impact on the standard of living in rural/urban areas.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will release the 'IMPRINT India' brochure and hand over the first copy to the President.

According to officials, the idea of launching 'IMPRINT India' originated during the conference of chairmen, Board of Governors and Directors of Indian Institutes of Technology convened by Mr. Mukherjee at the Rashtrapati Bhavan in August 2014.

IMPRINT India will focus on 10 themes and each theme will be coordinated by one IIT/IISc. For instance, IIT-Kharagpur will work on the themes of health care, computer science and information and communication technology, while IIT-Kanpur will work on advance material, water resources and river systems.

Statesman ND 05/11/2015   P-7

Imprint India research initiative to be launched today

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, 4 November

The first ever Visitor's Conference in which all heads of Central Universities, IITs and NITs among others are participating began today at President's House. All the annual conferences of NITs, Central Universities and IITs have been merged in the three day Visitor's Conference.

An interactive session was held between industry and academia along with exchange of MOUs and lectures by eminent persons in Conference.

Participants in the interactive session included CII president Sumit Mazumder, CII vice president Shobana Kamineni, JNU Vice Chancellor Prof S K Sopory, IIT Bombay director Prof. Devang V Khakhar and director NIT Surathkal Dr Swapan Bhattacharya.

The agenda for the three-day conference includes improving the quality of higher education in institutions to bring them at par with the top institutions of the world. As part of the Visitor's Conference, 'Imprint India', a pan-IIT and IISc joint initiative to develop a roadmap for research to solve major engineering and technology challenges in ten technology domains relevant to India will be launched by President Pranab Mukherjee tomorrow. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will release the Imprint India brochure and hand over the first copy to the President. Union Minister of Human Resource Development Smriti Irani will also address the gathering.

The idea of launching 'Imprint India' originated during the conference of Chairmen, Board of Governors and Directors of Indian Institutes of Technology convened by the President at Rashtrapati Bhavan on 22 August 2014. It is based on the Prime Minister's suggestion that research done by institutions of national importance must be linked with immediate requirements of the society at large. The objectives of this initiative is to identify areas of immediate relevance to society requiring innovation, direct scientific research into identified areas, ensure higher funding support for research into these areas and measure outcomes of the research effort with reference to impact on the standard of living in the rural and urban areas.

The ten themes of Imprint India will include health care, advance materials, water resources and river systems, sustainable urban design, defence, manufacturing and environmental science and climate change.

Dainik Bhasker ND 05/11/2015   P-2

आयोजन

उद्योग जगत व शिक्षा संस्थानों के दिग्गजों ने माना, आपस में तालमेल की कमी ; मिलजुल कर काम करें तो तेज हो सकती है तरक्की की रफ्तार

एक प्लेटफॉर्म पर आए उच्च शिक्षा संस्थान और उद्योग जगत

• राष्ट्रपति की मौजूदगी में 43 करार पर हुए हस्ताक्षर

अनिरुद्ध शर्मा | नई दिल्ली

विजिटर्स कांफ्रेंस

उच्च शिक्षा संस्थान व उद्योग जगत दोनों को एक दूसरे की जरूरत है। दोनों ही शोध का महत्व व जरूरत को समझते हैं। ऐसे में विजिटर्स ऑफिस यानी राष्ट्रपति भवन सचिवालय दोनों को एक प्लेटफार्म देने की भूमिका निभा सकता है, ताकि दोनों ही एक दूसरे के करीब आएं, एक-दूसरे को अच्छे से जानें और बेहतर संबंध स्थापित करें।

राष्ट्रपति भवन में विजिटर्स कांफ्रेंस की पूर्व संध्या पर राष्ट्रपति की सचिव ओमिता पॉल ने यह कहा। उन्होंने कहा कि जब से प्रणब मुखर्जी देश के राष्ट्रपति बने हैं, तब से संयुक्त शोध और फैकल्टी व छात्रों के आदान-प्रदान को लेकर देश-विदेश के तमाम शिक्षण संस्थानों के साथ करीब 80 करार हो चुके हैं। पॉल ने कहा कि इस कांफ्रेंस की चर्चा करते हुए राष्ट्रपति ने खासतौर पर निर्देश दिए हैं कि हम जो भी करार करें, उनका फॉलोअप भी गंभीरता व तार्किक नजरिए से करें। देखें कि किसी करार के बाद

क्या हासिल हुआ।

पॉल ने कहा कि विजिटर्स कांफ्रेंस के दौरान होने वाले 43 करार तो उद्योग व उच्च शिक्षा

संस्थानों का कदम से कदम मिलाकर आगे चलने की दिशा में पहला कदम है। इन पर लगातार नजर रहेगी और अगले वर्ष जब यही मौका आएगा तो करीब 400 करार पर हस्ताक्षर होंगे। उन्होंने नवोन्वेषी संस्कृति (इनोवेशन कल्चर) को बढ़ावा देने पर खास जोर देते हुए दो उदाहरण दिए कि राष्ट्रपति भवन में सीवेज ट्रीटमेंट प्लांट बनाने के लिए सरकारी संस्थानों की तरह टेंडर किए गए लेकिन एजेंसियों ने बताया कि इसके लिए एकड़ों बड़ी जमीन पर 45 फीट का एक ढांचा खड़ा करना पड़ेगा। लेकिन राष्ट्रपति भवन के हेरिटेज, महत्व, सुंदरता सबके लिहाज से यहां इतने बड़े ढांचे की इजाजत दिया जाना संभव नहीं थी। लिहाजा, आईआईटी दिल्ली

से संपर्क किया गया।

उन्होंने तय जमीन बताई गई, 15 फीट से ज्यादा ऊंचा ढांचा खड़ा न करने की सीमा बताई गई और नतीजा हुआ कि टेंडर के न्यूनतम कोटेशन से 9 करोड़ रुपए कम में यहां ट्रीटमेंट प्लांट लग गया। इसी तरह चांदनी चौक इलाके के एक रिक्शेवाले का हवाला देते हुए उन्होंने कहा कि किस तरह उसने अपने गांव में आंवला व एलोवीरा का रस निकालने वाला एक सस्ता यंत्र बना लिया और उसमें बीज सुरक्षित रह जाते हैं। उसे राष्ट्रपति भवन से मदद मिली और आज वह एक उद्यमी है और लाखों का कारोबार कर रहा है।

मालूम हो कि विजिटर्स कांफ्रेंस में देश के 114 उन केंद्रीय विश्वविद्यालयों, आईआईटी, एनआईटी व आईआईएससी आदि उच्च शिक्षा संस्थानों के कुलपति, निदेशक व प्रतिनिधि हिस्सा ले रहे हैं जहां राष्ट्रपति विजिटर हैं। इस मौके पर सीआईआई के अध्यक्ष सुमित मजूमदार ने कहा कि शोध एवं विकास के मामले में उद्योग जगत को जितनी भूमिका निभानी चाहिए, वह उतना नहीं निभा रहा है। लेकिन उच्च शिक्षा संस्थानों के शोध के संबंध में उद्योग जो भी मदद चाहिए, सीआईआई हर संभव मदद उपलब्ध कराने को तैयार है। शिक्षा संस्थानों की तरफ

कमी उद्योग व शिक्षण संस्थान दोनों तरफ से है। दोनों के बीच तालमेल जरूरी है। उद्योग यह नहीं जानते कि विश्वविद्यालयों व आईआईटी में क्या शोध हो रहा है और उसकी उनकी जरूरतों के हिसाब से क्या प्रासंगिकता हो सकती है। और शिक्षण संस्थान उद्योग की मांग के अनुसार शोध नहीं करते।
प्रो. सुधीर कुमार सोपोरी, कुलपति, जेएनयू

उद्योग जगत को यह पहल करनी चाहिए कि वह फ्रेश ग्रेजुएट्स को लेकर दो से तीन साल की ट्रेनिंग दे और फिर जरूरत के हिसाब से उनका इस्तेमाल करें।
प्रो. वेद प्रकाश, चेयरमैन, यूजीसी

देश के छोटे-छोटे शहरों में भी बहुत इनोवेशन हो रहे हैं। उद्योग जगत को वह देखना चाहिए कि वह अपनी जरूरतों के हिसाब से उसे कैसे इस्तेमाल कर सकता है।
प्रो. अनिल डी सहस्रबुद्धे, चेयरमैन, एआईसीटीई

से सुझाव आया कि उद्योग जगत स्वयं आगे आकर विषय सुझाए कि उच्च शिक्षा संस्थान क्या शोध करें। क्योंकि ज्यादातर संस्थानों में ऐसे शोध नहीं हो रहे जो उद्योग की मांग को पूरा करते हों।

मेंटर बनकर मौजूदा छात्रों का तनाव दूर करेंगे, कौशल विकास के गुर भी सिखाएंगे

आईआईटी के पूर्व छात्र ट्रेनिंग देंगे

नई शुरुआत

नई दिल्ली | रोहित पंवार

आईआईटी दिल्ली ने आईआईटी गांधीनगर की तर्ज पर मेंटर प्रोग्राम की शुरुआत की है। इसके तहत पूर्व छात्र, मौजूदा छात्रों के मेंटर बनकर कोर्स और प्लेसमेंट से जुड़े तनाव दूर करेंगे। यही नहीं, कौशल विकास के लिए प्रशिक्षण भी देंगे।

मैकेनिकल विभाग के प्रो. एम राव और प्रोग्राम के संयोजक बताते हैं, 'हमने इसे लागू कर दिया है। हर विभाग के छात्रों के लिए स्पेशल कक्षाएं शुरू कर दी गई हैं। माह में दो कक्षा की व्यवस्था की गई है। इसमें कई सत्र होंगे। कक्षा की अवधि आठ घंटे तय की गई है। इसमें कौशल विकास के लिए कार्यशालाएं भी

आईआईटी गांधीनगर ने की थी पहल

आईआईटी गांधीनगर ने पिछले सत्र की शुरुआत में इस कार्यक्रम को अपनाया था। इससे पहले बड़ी संख्या में छात्र तनावग्रस्त थे। उनका शैक्षणिक प्रदर्शन लगातार गिर रहा था। संस्थान के अनुसार, इस योजना में 5000 मेंटर बनाए गए। छात्रों को कौशल विकास के लिए 80 फीसदी व्यावहारिक ज्ञान

दिया जाने लगा। कक्षा को कंपनी का वर्क स्टेशन बनाया गया। तनाव दूर करने के लिए मनोचिकित्सक की सहायता ली गई। बाजार के मुताबिक, प्रशिक्षण दिया गया। इसके बाद संस्थान में 20 फीसदी फेल होने वाले छात्रों का प्रतिशत 8 फीसदी पर सिमट गया।

आयोजित की जाएंगी। पहले चरण में 3500 पूर्व छात्रों को मेंटर बनाया गया।' बता दें कि ऐसे पूर्व छात्र जुड़े हैं जो माइक्रोसॉफ्ट, गूगल, फेसबुक और मर्सिडीज एवं फ्रेंच दूतावास में शीर्ष पदों पर काम कर रहे हैं।

छात्रों के मन में कई सवाल थेः गूगल साउथ एशिया के असिस्टेंट एडिटर

गोपालकृष्णन कहते हैं, 'मुझे पिछले सप्ताह मेंटर बनाया गया। जब मैं पहले सत्र में शामिल हुआ तो छात्रों के मन में कई सवाल थे। 100 में से 40 छात्र कोर्स, अंग्रेजी माध्यम और प्लेसमेंट को लेकर तनाव में दिखे। हमारी कोशिश ऐसे छात्रों को व्यावहारिक तरीके से सकारात्मक बनाने की होगी।' वहीं,

3 आईआईटी, आईआईएम भी अपनाएंगे यह व्यवस्था

आईआईटी खड़गपुर, रुड़की और मुंबई नए सत्र से इस प्रोग्राम को लागू करेंगे। फिलहाल सभी जगह अपने स्तर पर इस योजना को चलाया जाएगा। बाद में तमाम आईआईटी संस्थानों के लिए केंद्रीयकृत व्यवस्था के तहत इसे लागू करने पर विचार किया जा रहा है।

आईआईटी एल्युमिनी क्लब के सचिव डॉ. उमेश कुमार का कहना है कि हर साल तमाम आईआईटी संस्थानों के छात्र तनाव के कारण आत्महत्या कर लेते हैं। इनमें बड़ी संख्या में हिन्दी भाषी छात्र होते हैं, जिन्हें अंग्रेजी माध्यम की वजह से चुनौती का सामना करना पड़ता है। अब इस प्रवृत्ति पर रोक लग सकेगी।

IISc, IIT-Delhi get compliments from Prez

New Delhi, Nov 5, 2015, DHNS:

http://www.deccanherald.com/content/510251/iisc-iit-delhi-get-compliments.html

President Pranab Mukherjee has extended his complements to the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore, and the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, as they recently found a place in the top 200 QS world university ranking list.

"For the first time, two Indian institutions have found place in the top 200 positions in QS rankings. The IISc Bangalore at 147th and the IIT Delhi at 179th place deserve full praise and compliments," he said, addressing a conference of the higher educational institutions at Rashtrapati Bhavan here on Wednesday evening.

"If we provide enough funds to top 10 to 15 institutions for the next 4-5 years, I am confident that these institutions will storm into the top 100 of global academic rankings within next few years," the President said. Mukhrejee also appreciated over 60 centrally funded institutions.

Humanities at IISc, a huge hit among students

Shruthi H M, Bengaluru, Nov 5, 2015, DHNS:

Premier institute considering request to extend the course till 8th semester

Teaching humanities in a world renowned science institute might seem an oddity at the outset, but the humanities course offered at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) has been able to blend into science in a unique way.

That the institute now has an instructor exclusively dedicated for the course, highlights its relevance. Earlier, it was dependent entirely on visiting professors. In fact, this is the first such appointment ever since the inception of IISc.

The humanities course is designed and offered by IISc's Centre of Contemporary Studies (CCS). It was introduced in 2011 as a mandatory part of IISc's undergraduate programme and students have to study it as part of their course work until the sixth semester. What more, the students now want it to be extended until their eighth semester and the proposal is being considered.

Even though there have been other universities in the State that have tried to offer inter-disciplinary courses, it has always been viewed with scepticism. So what gives this course at IISc the edge? The very structure of it. By humanities, CCS has simply not included arts subjects such as history or economics into a science course, but the courses are designed to seamlessly blend the two streams of study.

Anshuman Swain, a fifth semester student who has taken Physics major explained: "There are group activities like writing folk songs based on science themes and writing science fiction. Our group had composed a folk song about the Iravaddy Dolphins in Chilka lake that are hunted by people for blubber."

The students are also taught subjects like Folk Art. Here for instance, tribal art is used to show evolution of mankind. "We were also taught some topics in psychology and ethnography which we enjoyed learning," the student said, adding that it was a new learning experience for them which made them see the rational aspect of Arts.

First instructor

The appointment of Dr Bitasta Das as the Instructor-Humanities, Undergraduate Programme, Centre for Contemporary Studies, IISc, is a first of its kind for the institute. All the science courses have instructors but until her appointment last year, there was no instructor for the Humanities course work. She now assists in overseeing the entire programme.

"In the beginning, it is a challenge to convince them about the relevance of Arts. But eventually they enjoy it." The course work is designed in such a way that they get hands on experience with little theory. Also, the students get to meet and interact with experts in the topics that they learn, she added.

For example, in one semester, the students learnt the art and aesthetics of theatre with none other than Prakash Belawadi and at the end of the workshop, they performed a play called "Photograph 51", based on the theme of discovery of the structure of DNA.

India's great educational divide

There is a glaring cultural, intellectual gap between the old, entrenched elite and the emerging electorate

By Aatish Taseer

POLES APART: If Narendra Modi's election as prime minister in 2014 made anything clear, it is that, one, a social revolution of a kind has already occurred in India; and two, the people now in charge might not possess the intellectual power needed to run the country. PTI

It is hard not to try to see in the politics of another country a version of one's own. To match Democrat in America with Labour in England, or, say, Congress in India; to find an easy affinity between Republican and Tory, and now, perhaps, the BJP, under Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Pleasing as these symmetries are, and flat as the world may seem, they are false equivalencies. In fact, every society has a unique history of power, of which its politics are an expression.

In India, the Congress Party was liberal, left-leaning and secular; but it was also the party of the colonised elite. That meant that practically everyone who was rich, and educated, and grew up speaking English, was also invariably a supporter of Congress.

I say this because, if for a moment we suspend our own political affiliations, and look at the forces of left and right simply in terms of the one as representing class movement and change, and the other as defending the existing order, it would have to be said that the Congress Party behaved much more like an old-fashioned conservative party – clubbish and aloof – than anything we can expect from the left. This was the party ousted from power last year by the election of Modi; and yes, if social revolutions at the ballot boxes of big democracies excite you, it was thrilling.

I spent the duration of the election shuttling between its crucible, in eastern Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, and the drawing rooms of Delhi, where the political elite of the city, a cosy cabal of like-minded journalists and politicians, quaked at the rise of Modi. I had grown up in this world, and it was one in which class mattered much more than political difference. Nor was its cynicism confined to any one party.

I remember being present when the son of a BJP chief minister, a woman now in trouble over corruption, was asked why he wanted to enter politics. "Money," he said easily, and no one minded. That was the kind of world it was.

Modi posed a mortal threat to the safety and entitlement of this world, and it was part of his appeal. Nor was there anything sinister in the mandate. Given his background in Hindu nationalism, he was justly an object of suspicion.

But when journalists from Delhi would prod voters into giving sectarian reasons for electing him, a majority would stoutly reply, "Why are you asking us about temples, when we're telling you that we're electing him because we think he'll bring development?" That was the mandate. It was very moving, and like many, I held my breath.

I see now that I was focused too much on the world the election would supplant, and too little on the one it would bring into being. Because if the Modi election has made anything clear, it is that, one, a social revolution of a kind has already occurred in India; and two, the people, now in charge, might not possess the intellectual power needed to run the country.

The cabinet, save for the rare exception, is made up of too many crude, bigoted provincials, united far more by a lack of education than anything so grand as ideology.

At the time of writing – and here the one will have to speak for the many – Modi's minister of culture had just said of a former Muslim president: "Despite being a Muslim, he was a great nationalist and humanist."

Some 10 days later, there was the hideous incident in which a Muslim man was lynched by a Hindu mob in a village outside Delhi, on the suspicion of slaughtering a cow and eating beef. It was a defining moment, the culmination of 16 months of cultural chauvinism and hysteria under Modi, the scarcely veiled target of which are India's roughly 170 million Muslims. This ugliness is eclipsing Modi's development agenda, and just the following week, there was yet another incident in which a Kashmiri politician was attacked in Srinagar for hosting "a beef party."

Poisonous as these attitudes are, they have much more to do with class than politics. They are so obviously part of the vulgarity that accompanies violent social change. If the great drama of our grandparents' generation was independence, and our parents' that post-colonial period, ours represents the twilight of the (admittedly flawed) English-speaking classes, and an unravelling of the social and moral order they held in place. A new country is seething with life, but not all vitality is pretty, and there now exists a glaring cultural and intellectual gap between India's old, entrenched elite and the emerging electorate.

In other places, education would have helped close the gap; it would have helped the country make a whole of the social change it was witnessing. No society is so equitable that men as economically far apart as Bill Clinton and George W Bush or as Ed Miliband and David Cameron would have attended the same schools. But, in England and America, there is Oxford and Yale to level the field, to give both men the means to speak to each other.

Yawning gap

This is not true of India. In India, one class has had access to the best private schools and foreign universities, where all the instruction is in English; the other has had to make do with the state schools and universities Indian socialism bequeathed them. The two classes almost never meet; they don't even speak the same language. It has left India divided between an isolated superelite and an emerging middle class that may well lack the intellectual tools needed to channel its vitality.

The prime minister himself – and his background makes Clinton's poor Arkansas childhood seem like Greenwich – is a case in point. He's no fool; his instincts are superb; but his ignorance is startling. Speaking to the journalist Fareed Zakaria last year, before his US visit, Modi chose to answer a question, through a translator, on Russia's annexation of Crimea this way: "There's a saying in India that the person who should throw a stone first is the person who has not committed any sins."

There is of course no such saying in India. The prime minister was unknowingly quoting the Bible – John 8:7 – to international audiences, and in the bargain giving President Vladimir V Putin of Russia a clean chit. It was hard to watch, hard not to ask the inevitable question: What else did a man who knew so little not know?

And were his limitations not responsible for the most serious of the charges his government now stood accused of: the tinkering reforms, the ham-handed responses to dissent, the inability to control the fringe, the interference with education and, perhaps most damningly, of overlaying a still unchanged Indian reality with a lot of well-intentioned but empty talk?

In another society, with the benefit of a real education, Modi might have been something more than he was. Then it would be possible to imagine a place with real political differences, and not one in which left and right were divided along the blade of a knife by differences in class, language and education.

But just as that other society does not yet exist, neither does that other Modi. Indians will have to make do with the Modi they have; and, as things stand, perhaps, the cynics are right: Perhaps, this great hope of Indian democracy, with his limited reading and education, is not equal to the enormous task before him.

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