

**EXCHANGE PROGRAMME BETWEEN
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA
AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC
ON COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION**

The Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic (hereinafter referred to as "the Parties");

Desiring **to strengthen** bilateral relationships in **the field of education**;

Recalling the profound impact of education on human resources, economic and social development;

Recognizing that greater linkages between both countries in the field of education would be mutually beneficial;

Recalling the Agreement on Cooperation in the field of Culture & Science between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Syrian Arab Republic signed on 13.11.1975;

Have agreed as follows:

Article I

The Parties shall encourage, as appropriate, the development of contacts and cooperation between the educational institutions of the two Governments, based on their respective academic and educational needs. These may include all or some of the following activities;

- i) exchange of research materials, publications, educational literature, teaching aids, demonstration material and information and the educational television;
- ii) organization of joint conferences, exhibitions and seminars;
- iii) organization of joint research programmes and publications;
- iv) organization of training programmes for educational administrators and teachers;
- v) exchange of academic and other administrative staff;
- vi) exchange of scholars, teachers, experts and students;

- vii) twinning arrangements between institutions of higher learning;
- viii) setting up of educational/training institutions and to further develop bilateral programmes between institutions of educational excellence in technical, vocational and higher education and the handicapped (students with special needs);
- ix) examine the possibility of mutual recognition of educational qualifications,
- x) setting up of chairs on contemporary studies;
- xi) providing scholarships for further education in recognized institutions of higher learning;
- xii) providing mutual assistance and the educational CDs (e-book) in the fields of information Technology, Computer Science, mathematics & science;
- xiii) The exchange of studies, researches and school books in all fields of educational innovations: consumer, environmental, education.
- xiv) Exchanging of experiences related to curriculum design, innovative development mechanisms and textbook authorship, experimentation and evaluation, and producing of educational resources as well as holding joint workshops for exchange of experiences in this regard;
- xv) the two Parties shall encourage cooperation between their two National Commissions for education, science and culture in the fields of UNESCO activities;
- xvi) the two Parties shall exchange studies and information on their respective history and geography in order to include them in their respective curricula,

Article II

The substance, scope and implementation of activities or cooperation within the terms of this Educational Exchange Programme (EEP) may be the subject of more specific arrangements concluded between selected institutions in the two countries on the basis of and within the provisions of the present Educational Exchange Programme.

Article III

Nothing shall diminish the full autonomy of either Party, nor will any constraints or financial obligations be imposed by either Party upon the other, in carrying out this Educational Exchange Programme.

Article IV

The costs of the co-operative activities under this Programme shall be funded on terms to be mutually determined and shall be subject to the availability of funds,

Article V

The Parties shall establish a Joint Working Group to implement the Programme. The Joint Working Group shall be chaired, on behalf of the Government of Syrian Arab Republic by a representative of the Ministry of Education, and on behalf of the government of the Republic of India, by a representative of the Department of Secondary & Higher Education, Ministry of Human Resources Development, along with the participation of representatives of the other agencies of the parties; as appropriate. The Joint Working Group shall meet alternately In India and Syria as the Parties may mutually determine, to review the implementation of this Programme.

Article VI

The parties will work towards the establishment of an IT Education Centre in Syria for which a separate protocol would be signed between the two Parties.

Article VII

Either Party may request in writing for a revision of or amendment of this Programme. Any revision or amendment agreed to by both Parties shall be received in writing and shall form part of this programme. Such revision or amendment shall come into effect on such date as may be determined by both Parties.

Article VIII

The Educational Exchange Programme shall become operational on the date of signing it by both Parties and shall remain in force for a period of five years. Each party reserves the right, for reasons of security, public order or health, to suspend temporarily, either in whole or in part, the

implementation of this EEP. It shall be automatically renewed for further periods of five years at a time; unless one of the parties declares its intention to terminate the Programme by a written declaration before six months of the expiry of the Programme.

Done at Damascus on 15/11/2003 in two originals in English, Arabic and Hindi languages, all texts being equally authentic, in case of any divergence in interpretation, the text in English shall prevail.

For the Government of the
Republic of India

Name :

Pradyuman

Designation :

Secretary, MHA

For the Government of
the Syrian Arab Republic

Name :

Designation :

[Signature]