



सत्यमेव जयते

DEPARTMENT OF
HIGHER EDUCATION
MHRD
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

द न्यूजलेटर THE NEWSLETTER ON HIGHER EDUCATION

ISSUE **05**
Sep' 2011

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"Language is the dress of thought"

- Samuel Johnson

Dr. Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of India, Shri Kapil Sibal, Minister of HRD and Shri E. Ahamed, Minister of State for HRD, with the awardee teachers on the occasion of Teachers' day, in New Delhi on September 5, 2011.

National Award to Teachers -2010

Teachers are like Sculptors, says President Patil

"Teachers are like sculptors who give shape to the character and career of students under their care, develop their personalities and identify their strengths to build a bright future." With these words, the Hon'ble President of India, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil, honoured the teachers of the country. The occasion was the Teachers' Day 2011.

In keeping with the annual tradition, President also gave away the National Award to Teachers - 2010, on September 5, 2011. These awards are accorded to the teachers of primary and secondary schools of India in recognition of their services. For the year 2010, a total of 298 teachers were honoured by the President.

The Award carries a Silver Medal, a Certificate of Merit and a cash award of Rs. 25,000/-.

President while addressing the occasion, said that teachers posted in villages generally teach students whose parents are often not very well educated and resourceful.

In this context, she added, the role of teachers becomes very crucial and their responsibility immense. Thus, they should pay the highest attention to their duties.

Shri Kapil Sibal, Minister of HRD, while addressing the teachers, said that teachers play a pivotal role in nation building. He said, "They should create an inclusive environment which should be free from fear and anxiety for children of all sections." Shri Sibal stressed that teachers should work with professionalism and dedication to contribute to quality in education.

Among the dignitaries present during the ceremony were both the Ministers of State of HRD Shri E. Ahamed and Smt. Dr. D. Purandeswari and the Secretaries of both Departments.

The National Teachers' Awards were instituted in 1958 and are given every year on September 5, the Teachers' Day. Since 2001, 'Special Awards' have been introduced to teachers promoting integrated inclusive education.

The third quarter issue of THE NEWSLETTER is with you. As you already know, in this issue, our focus has been on two different themes - Access & Enrolment and Development of Indian Languages. With that, we also bring you the coverage of the annual National Teachers' Awards ceremony, where Hon'ble President Pratibha Patil presented outstanding teachers of the country with the National Awards for their contribution to building the country's future.

While presenting the awards, on the Teachers' Day on September 5, 2011, the President said that "teachers are like sculptors" and she couldn't have been more right.

However, good teachers would be wasted if there are not enough children to study in the classroom, which is why the Government's aim is to increase the access as well as enrolment of students into classrooms, especially in the Higher Education sector. In this issue, we have discussed the various projects, proposals and steps taken up by the Government to encourage participation of the ignored strata of society in the education system. Be it opening up of new educational institutions like the IIMs, IITs, NITs, etc or upgrading existing institutions to cope up with the changing face of Higher Education, the Government is working hard to ensure that our youth is not found wanting for opportunities in education.

On the other hand, language plays an important role in the overall development of a society and its people. This year, besides awarding scholars and litterateurs of various languages, during the earlier part of 2011, the Government also announced the winners of the language awards for the year 2011. This is a good way of encouraging development of various languages in the country. An important part of this issue is the news about the workshop on the All India Survey on Higher Education, which got underway in July 2011. Since then, the AISHE has had three workshops in Gujarat, Bihar and Delhi, about explaining the objectives of this survey and the things done so far.

As always, we look forward to your feedback to the latest issue of THE NEWSLETTER and would be keen to hear from you any suggestions on its improvement.



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Discussion Forum

The next issue will focus on "Technology Enabled Learning in Distance Education." Readers are requested to send in feedback, in the form of comments, suggestions and ideas on editor.edu@nic.in

National Translation Mission - In Service of Language Development

How many times have you come across a work of literature in a language alien to you? And how many times have you wished that you could pick it up in a language familiar to you and enjoy the literary genius of some author somewhere? The joy of reading is not only important but imperative to the growth of human intelligence. With so many languages prevalent in India, there is bound to be some work in some language, which many readers, who do not know that particular language, would want to be translated to their own languages. To make it easy for them to have access to their choice of literature, both fiction and non-fiction, a scheme was envisaged by the MHRD, called the National Translation Mission (NTM).

The NTM does much more than just facilitating translation of literature. This is a Government of India initiative to make knowledge-based texts accessible in all Indian languages listed in the VIII schedule of the Constitution through translation. The idea of NTM stemmed from a statement of the Prime Minister of India stressing how vital is the access to translated material, for increasing access to knowledge in many critical areas.

The MHRD set up the NTM on the basis of the recommendations of the National Knowledge Commission. The Mission's main objective is to function as a "clearing house for all translation activities in Indian

languages." NTM is presently being implemented by the Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL), Mysore, which works as a nodal organisation for operating the scheme.

Main Objectives of NTM:

- Dissemination of information on Translation of various texts into Indian languages
- Creation of a high quality corpus of knowledge-based texts in Indian languages through translation
- Generation of high quality translation tools such as dictionaries and thesauri.
- Provide support for research and development on software for translation, memory, word-finders, wordnet etc.
- Translator education through short term orientation programmes & courses
- Accreditation for translators
- Fellowships & grants for research projects
- Promotion of machine translation and machine aided translation between English and Indian languages, one Indian language and another Indian language, between Indian languages and major world languages.

Who Benefits From NTM?

There are certain specific target areas of population, which the NTM specifically provides benefit to. These are:

- Rural and weaker section students having little access to the knowledge, in general, available mostly in English;
- Teachers of various subjects and levels;
- Volunteers engaged in providing non-formal education;
- NGOs working on public health, civil rights, environment, popular science etc;
- Government, private agencies and individuals looking out for interpreters;
- Film and documentary producers looking forward for subtitles and multilingual releases;
- FM and other radio houses waiting to air programmes in different languages;
- General public eager to read literary and knowledge texts in their own languages;
- Publishers in vernacular languages looking out for new and interesting ventures;
- Translators who get employed;

Language Institutions of India

In India, there are several Language Institutions, including Universities, which promote various Indian languages, right from Sanskrit to Hindi and Urdu. In case of Language Universities, three are Deemed to be Universities for promotion of Sanskrit Language and three are Central Universities, one each for promotion of English and Foreign Language, Hindi Language and Urdu Language. These Universities are funded by University Grants Commission. Following are the Institutions dedicated to development of Indian Languages:

(a) Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL), Mysore

The premier institute for development of Languages in India is the Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL) at Mysore. It is a subordinate office of the Ministry of Human Resource Development, was set up in 1969 to help in evolving and implementing the language policy of Government of India and to coordinate the development of Indian Languages by conducting research in the areas of language analysis, language pedagogy, language technology and language use in the society. CIIL is looking after 18 Scheduled Languages (excluding Hindi, Sanskrit, Urdu, and Sindhi) and is also working for Endangered non-Scheduled Languages of India through several comprehensive schemes. More recently, it has been decided that the CIIL would establish two Research Centres, one each for Kannada and Telugu, which will work on various Schemes and Activities identified by the CIIL, including research, documentation, propagation, and teaching of these languages.

(b) Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, New Delhi

The Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan (RSKS) was established on 15th October, 1970 as an autonomous organisation registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 (Act XXI of 1860) for the development and promotion of Sanskrit all over the country. It was declared as Deemed University on May 7th, 2002. RSKS is fully funded by Government of India and functions as an apex body for propagation and development of Sanskrit and assists the Ministry of Human Resource Development in formulating and implementing various plans and schemes for the development of Sanskrit studies. Nyaya, Jyotisha, Advaitavedanta, Dvaita Vedanta, Visistadvaita Vedanta, Research and Publication and Physical Education.



Participants at the Afghan University Student Exchange Programme (AUSEP) held at the English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad, earlier this year.

(c) Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeetha, New Delhi

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeetha, New Delhi was established in 1962 with the objective of preserving learning of Shastras as well as promotion of Sanskrit Language, literature, philosophy through teaching and research. The Institution was declared as "Deemed to be University" in the year 1987. The institution receives annual grants through University Grants Commission for meeting their expenses.

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeetha, New Delhi, offers programs leading to two degrees, namely Vidya Varidhi (Ph.D.) and Manod Uppadhi (Honorary D.Litt.). The Vidyapeetha has four faculties namely: Sahitya, Sanskrit, Darshan and Ved Vedanga. These faculties have several further departments.

(d) Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeetha, Tirupati

Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeetha (RSV), Tirupati was established in 1986 with the objective of preserving learning of Shastras as well as promotion of Sanskrit Language, literature and philosophy through teaching and research. The Institution was declared as "Deemed University" in the year 1987.

RSV provides courses of study in various disciplines ranging from Prak Shastri (Intermediate) to Vidya Varidhi (Ph.D) in addition to Diploma and Certificate Courses. The

and interpretation and School of Culture. It has departments for Peace Studies, Dalit and Tribal Studies, Women Studies, Mass Media and Communication, etc.

At present, the University is running M.A courses, M. Phil/Ph. D and diploma courses.



A view of the Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya's Vardha campus.

Pedagogy Department of this Vidyapeeth is functioning as an Institute of Advanced Study in Education (IASE) and promotes the use of modern technology. The Vidyapeetha has faculties with departments namely, Sahitya, Vyakarana, Nyaya, Jyotisha, Advaitavedanta, Dvaita Vedanta, Visistadvaita Vedanta, Research and Publication and Physical Education.

(e) Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya

Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya was established at Wardha in 1977. The objectives of the University are to promote and develop Hindi Language and Literature in general and for that purpose, to provide for active pursuit of comparative studies and research in Hindi and other Indian languages.

The University has four schools, namely: School of Language, School of Literature, School of translation and interpretation and School of Culture. It has departments for Peace Studies, Dalit and Tribal Studies, Women Studies, Mass Media and Communication, etc. At present, the University is running M.A courses, M. Phil/Ph. D and diploma courses.

(f) Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Hyderabad

The Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU) was established at Hyderabad in 1998 with the mandate to promote and develop Urdu Language and to impart higher, technical and vocational education in the Urdu medium through conventional as well as distance mode.

The University has Schools of studies, Departments and a Directorate of Women's Education offering on-campus education at postgraduate and research level. The University offers Post-Graduate, Under-Graduate and Diploma/Certificate programmes through distance mode. At present the University has nine regional centres at Patna, Ranchi, Delhi, Bangalore, Bhopal, Darbhanga, Srinagar, Mumbai and Kolkata.

(g) English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad.

The erstwhile Central Institute of English and Foreign Languages, Hyderabad has been incorporated as a Central University by the name of English and Foreign Languages University, under the English and Foreign Languages University Act, 2006 which came into force on the 3rd August, 2007.

The main objectives of the University are to provide instructional, research and extension facilities in teaching of English and foreign languages and literature; to train language teachers in methods and approaches appropriate to the Indian context; and to evolve indigenous ways of testing of languages' proficiency. Besides its main campus at Hyderabad, the academic activities of the University are also undertaken in its campuses at Lucknow and Shillong.

IIT Directors' Appointments

- Prof. Bhaskar Ramamurthi took over as Director, IIT Madras on September 23rd, 2011.
- Prof. R. K Shevgaonkar took charge as Director, IIT Delhi on September 28th, 2011.
- Prof. Pradipta Banerji took charge as Director, IIT Roorkee on October 14th, 2011

Universities Identified as 'Centres of Excellence'

The scheme to identify Universities as 'Centres of Excellence' is also a means to increase the access and enrolment of students into the Higher Education sector. Through this identification process, the Universities are extended help and support in specific areas of specialization so as to encourage student response to that area. The University Grants Commission (UGC) assists these universities after identifying them for granting the status of "Centre with Potential for Excellence."

The State wise details of Centre with Potential for Excellence are as given below:-

S. No.	State	Name of University	Area of Specialization
1	Kerala	Cochin University of Science & Technology	Laser & Opto-electronic Science & Technology
2	Andhra Pradesh	Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeth, Tirupati	Traditional Shastras
3	Arunachal Pradesh	Rajiv Gandhi University (Earlier called Arunachal university)	Biodiversity
4	Chandigarh (U.T.)	Punjab University	Biomedical Science
5	Gujarat	Sardar Patel University	Applied Polymers
6	Himachal Pradesh	Himachal Pradesh University	Himalayan Studies
7	Karnataka	Karnataka University	Polymer Chemistry
8	Madhya Pradesh	Devi Ahilya University	e-Management Studies
9	Punjab	Guru Nanak Dev University	Sports Sciences
10	Tamil Nadu	Madurai Kamraj University	Genomic Sciences
11	Tamil Nadu	Anna University	Environmental Sciences
12	Uttar Pradesh	Allahabad University	Behavioral Cognitive Sciences

IIT Council Meets To Discuss Roadmap for Global Excellence

The Government of India is keen to encourage access and enrolment in the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) for which, it is looking at various means and resources. The Govt. wants Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) to emerge as "institutions of global excellence to take India forward to the next generation of technology leadership of the world." Shri Kapil Sibal, Minister of HRD, said this while he was addressing the meeting of the IIT Council on September 14, 2011. The meeting, held at IIT Delhi, was attended by Members of

Parliament Ms Vasanthi Stanley, Shri Janardhana Swamy and Shri Depender Hooda, Chairpersons and Directors of all IITs, besides other scientists and technologists of eminence nominated on the Council.

A presentation, on preparing a roadmap for taking IITs to global excellence, was made by Dr. Anil Kakodkar and Prof. Jhunjunwala.

The Council members discussed the recommendations presented and it decided upon an Empowered Task force. This Task force will implement the recommendations for enhancing the autonomy of the IIT system with the intention of expanding the research output of IITs to produce

10,000 Ph. D graduates annually from around 1000 presently and increase faculty strength from around 4000 presently to 16000 by 2020.

This would enable a large pool of researchers in technology to be fostered along with developing advanced technology manpower needs for promoting economic growth. The Council felt that a national benefit has to be derived from the investment through public funds on each IIT students. Therefore, every student at the time of obtaining employment after graduation could enter into an agreement with the IIT for agreeing to pay back part of the expenditure made on him or her over a suitable period.

Common Exam to UG Programmes

The IIT Council meeting also deliberated upon the report of Dr. Ramasami, about a countrywide common examination for admission to undergraduate programmes in sciences and engineering. While doing so, the Council also noted that the burden of multiplicity of competitive examinations was causing immense stress, both financial and otherwise, on parents and students at the time of admission at the UG level.



Shri Kapil Sibal, Minister of HRD, briefing the press after IIT Council Meeting, in New Delhi on September 14, 2011.

Task Force on Student Suicides in IITs

The Council also took note of the incidents of suicides for varying reasons in IITs. The Council members felt that the issue needs to be studied in all its dimensions and it was suggested that a Task Force be constituted to suggest remedial measures after studying the causes of such occurrences.

Common Web Portal for all IITs

Prof. Sanjay Dhande, Director, IIT Kanpur, made a presentation on a common web-portal (www.iitsystem.ac.in) for all IITs, which could serve as a one-stop information source on all IITs necessitated due to the rapid expansion of the IIT system growing to 15 institutions in the Eleventh Plan. Information on admission guidelines, faculty availability and vacancies and other details would be provided through the web portal.

Increasing Female Literacy Can Push Socio-Economic Development - President

International Literacy Day Celebrated

The President Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil has said that increasing female literacy has the potential of becoming a force multiplier in pushing forward the socio-economic development of the nation. Speaking on the occasion of the International Literacy Day on September 8, 2011, she said, "If we make women literate, they will be self-reliant and the beneficial impact on society will be manifold. It has been observed that where women are literate, the rate of infant mortality comes down and the quality of life improves. Literate women are more aware about diseases and their treatment; with better capability to deal with sickness and disease, and the confidence to approach medical assistance when required." President Patil also inaugurated an International Conference on "Women's Literacy for Inclusive and Sustainable Development", simultaneously.

The President also emphasized that an approach to literacy is required that is both holistic and relevant for development. She said, "An approach to literacy that is both holistic and relevant for development, by linking it with the learning of other skills necessary for human and socio-economic development, can bring greater benefits. Linking literacy with broader skills, such as technical and vocational skills is important."

On the occasion the President gave away the UNESCO King Sejong Literacy Prize, the UNESCO Confucius Prize for Literacy and the Saakshar Bharat Literacy Awards. The Saakshar Bharat Literacy Awards include the Satyen Maitra Memorial Literacy Awards, NLM - UNESCO Awards, and the Decadal Literacy Awards.



The President of India, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil lighting the lamp to inaugurate the International Conference on 'Women's Literacy for Inclusive and Sustainable Development' on the occasion of International Literacy Day in New Delhi on September 8, 2011. Also seen is Dr. D. Purandeswari, Minister of State for HRD.

Speaking on the occasion Shri E. Ahamed, Minister of State for HRD and External Affairs welcomed all participating countries in the Conference. He underlined the centrality of literacy in inclusive development.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. D. Purandeswari, Minister of State for HRD stated that it is imperative to align the literacy programme of the country with international benchmarks. She pointed out that increasing literacy level enhance skill and learning abilities.

Fourteen countries including India are participating in the Conference, including the SAARC nations and the E-9 countries, which include: Brazil, China, Indonesia, Egypt, Nigeria, Mexico, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Bhutan and Nepal besides India.

The three-day Conference had sessions on subjects such as Centrality of Women's Literacy to Inclusive and Participative Development, Emerging International Perspective on Adult Education and Lifelong Learning, Innovations in Design & Delivery of India's Adult Literacy Programme and International Cooperation for Promoting Adult Education.

Hindi Fortnight Observed In MHRD

In order to encourage the progressive use of Hindi language in its day to day work, the Ministry of Human Resource Development organized the Hindi Fortnight in September 2011. This fortnight was a part of the nationwide campaign to increase the use of Hindi in official parlance, especially in government offices and establishments.

The Hindi Fortnight was observed in the Ministry from September 1, 2011 to September 14, 2011 and the Ministry employees participated in the events whole-heartedly. The fortnight was kicked off with an essay-writing contest between the Ministry employees. The essay was to be written in Hindi language and it was organised on September 2, 2011.

Next came a Hindi Symposium, which was on September 5, 2011, also celebrated as the Teachers' Day. Among other events, the Ministry organized the "Hindi Sulekh" competition on September 12, 2011. The Hindi Fortnight was wrapped up with the organization of a Poetry Recital competition, in which budding and senior poets from among the Ministry officials got a chance to show their creative side.

All categories of the Hindi Fortnight events carried four cash prizes:- First Prize worth Rs. 2500/-, Second Prize of Rs 2000/-, Third Prize of Rs. 1500/-, and Consolation Prize of Rs. 1200/-.

All the events were held in the Conference Room, 112, 'C' Wing, First Floor of Shastri Bhawan. The wide array of programmes organized on the occasion of Hindi Fortnight was well appreciated within the Ministry and the employees are of the opinion that such events should be organized more frequently so as to encourage the use of Hindi in official business.

Progressive use of Hindi language is one of the many endeavours of the Rajbhasha section of the MHRD and organizing this fortnight every year is another way to promote Hindi in various constituent offices of the Ministry.

संस्कृत, फारसी, अरबी, पाली/प्राकृत के लिए राष्ट्रपति सम्मान की घोषणा

प्रत्येक वर्ष की तरह इस वर्ष 2011 में भी 15 अगस्त के शुभ अवसर पर महामहिम राष्ट्रपति प्रतिभा देवीसिंह पाटिल ने निम्नलिखित विद्वानों को संस्कृत, फारसी, अरबी तथा पाली/प्राकृत भाषाओं में सहर्ष सम्मान-प्रमाण पत्र प्रदान करने की घोषणा की।

संस्कृत

1. प्रो. कानीयामबक्कम इल्लैयाविली गोविन्दन
2. डॉ. नोदनाथ मिश्र
3. डॉ. सत्यदेव चौधरी
4. डॉ. मणिभाई ईश्वरभाई प्रजापति
5. डॉ. विजयपाल
6. पंडित केशव राम शर्मा
7. श्री सोमयाजी विद्वान् सांब दीक्षित
8. प्रो. रहस बिहारी द्विवेदी
9. प्रो. कृष्ण श्रीनिवास अर्जुनवाडकर
10. प्रो. (डॉ.)सदाशिव प्रहराज
11. प्रो. इन्द्रदत्त उनियाल
12. डॉ. सत्य व्रत वर्मा
13. श्री वी. रघुनाथ शास्त्रीगल
14. प्रो. अमरनाथ पाण्डेय
15. प्रो. प्रताप बनर्जी

संस्कृत अंतर्राष्ट्रीय

1. श्री हुआंग बाओशेंग

फारसी

1. प्रो. मोहम्मद इकबाल
2. प्रो. हाफिज मोहम्मद जियाउद्दीन शामसी तेहरानी
3. डॉ. मोहम्मद मनसूर आलम

अरबी

1. डॉ. मोहम्मद अतीकुर रहमान
2. प्रो. जैनुस्सादिन सिद्दीकी
3. डॉ. मुहम्मद शहीदुल्लाह

पाली/प्राकृत

1. प्रो. अंगराज चौधरी

इसके अतिरिक्त, महामहिम राष्ट्रपति संस्कृत, फारसी, अरबी तथा पाली/प्राकृत के निम्नलिखित विद्वानों को महर्षि बदरायन व्यास सम्मान भी करती है।

संस्कृत

1. डॉ. ब्रज भूषण ओझा
2. डॉ. सोमनाथ दाश
3. डॉ. सम्पदानन्द मिश्र
4. डॉ. वीरनारायण एन. के. पांडुरंगी
5. डॉ. धर्मेन्द्र कुमार सिंहदेव

फारसी

1. डॉ. शाहिद नौखेज अजमी

अरबी

1. डॉ. मुजीबुर रहमान

पाली/प्राकृत

1. डॉ. महावीर प्रभाचन्द्र शास्त्री

शोक संदेश

संस्कृत जगत् के पुरोधा, श्री लाल बहादुर शास्त्री राष्ट्रीय संस्कृत विद्यापीठ, नई दिल्ली के यशस्वी कुलपति प्रो. वाचस्पति उपाध्याय का दिनांक 11.07.2011 को आकस्मिक निधन हो गया। संस्कृत जगत् की इस अपूरणीय क्षति को सहन कर पाना अत्यन्त कष्टकर है। प्रो0 उपाध्याय राष्ट्रपति पुरस्कार से सम्मानित थे तथा संस्कृत विद्या की गरिमा एवं गतिमता का पालन करना ही उनका धर्म था। मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय तथा द न्यूजलैटर की ओर से प्रो0 उपाध्याय के शोकाकुल परिवार के लिए आशा है कि वे इस असहनीय वेदना को सहन कर सकें।

Prof Amartya Sen Conferred Honorary Doctorate at NUEPA



Shri Kapil Sibal, Minister of HRD conferred the Degree of Doctor of Literature (Honoris Causa) on the Nobel Laureate, Prof. Amartya Sen, at a Special Convocation of National University of Educational Planning and Administration (NUEPA), in New Delhi on July 04, 2011.

Nobel laureate and celebrated economic scientist, Professor Amartya Sen, was conferred with the Degree of Doctor of Literature, honoris causa, by the National University of Education Planning and Administration (NUEPA) on July 4, 2011. Prof Sen is the second recipient of the Honorary Doctorate conferred by the NUEPA.

On this occasion, Prof Sen said that he felt "very honoured and privileged" to be associated with NUEPA. He also said, "India does have many achievements in the success of a relatively small group of privileged people well trained in Higher Education and specialized expertise."

Acknowledging the importance of education in helping the youth achieve great heights like the Nobel laureate, Shri Kapil Sibal, Minister of HRD, said on the occasion that the "Government is committed to giving access, equipment and quality as regards education to children." He even said that it will not be possible to achieve the inclusive growth which is central to the government policies if this commitment were not to be adhered to. He also spoke about the Government's plan to lay down a fiber optic network in the country soon, in order to bridge the quality gaps in teaching.

Prof Sen also commented on the current educational

system in the country and said, among other things, the low coverage and low quality of school education in India was extracting a heavy price in the pattern of our economic development. He suggested, "...India is still paying quite a heavy price for having a far less educated general labour force (as opposed to the privileged people with special education and technical skill, than, say China."

MoS Dr. Purandeswari Attends Informal East Asia Summit (East) Education Ministers Meet



Dr. (Smt.) D. Purandeswari, Minister of State for HRD, in a group photograph at the East Asia Summit of Education Ministers, in Bali, Indonesia on July 18, 2011.

In order to improve the Quality of Education through Regional Cooperation, an Informal East Asia Summit (EAS) Education Ministers Meeting was held in Bali, Indonesia in July 2011, in which Dr. D. Purandeswari, Minister of State of HRD, represented the country. Speaking on the occasion, the Minister emphasized upon creating better domestic demands with the help of a strong social welfare network and skill development. Calling education a "key sector," which encompasses all these factors, Dr. Purandeswari called for focus on the growth of educational opportunities.

Dr. Purandeswari expressed the hope that the new thrusts in cooperation between various Asian countries will not only open the doors for industry-academia interface, fresh partnerships between institutions, collaborative research projects, increased student mobility among others but more importantly, responsible interventions by stakeholders in the reform process of our education sector.

Minister Underlines Need for Reforms in HE

Parliamentary Consultative Committee Meeting

Shri Kapil Sibal, Minister of HRD, underlined the need for legislative reforms in the Higher Education sector during a meeting of the Consultative Committee of Parliament for the Ministry. The meeting took place on September 28th, 2011 and the subject of discussion was "Legislative Reforms in Higher Education." A presentation was also made to the Members of Parliament (MPs) by the Department of Higher Education, MHRD, which outlined the vision and contours of these legislative initiatives.

In the meeting, Shri Sibal pointed out that with the enactment of the Right to Education (RTE), a much larger number of children will be able to reach the Higher Education stage. As a result of this impending development, the Minister said, this sector needs to create capacity for the influx of those children in the form of better systems and regulations.

The MPs appreciated the envisaged reforms in the HE sector, particularly the Prohibition of Unfair Practices' Bill. At the same time, the MPs also raised a number of concerns, especially the expansion of the HE sector should not lead to increased rural-urban or rich-poor divide. The MPs were also concerned that unless the Secondary and Higher Secondary education sector, especially in government schools, is not improved the poorer sections will continue to be inadequately prepared to receive good quality higher education.

Talking about the proposed common entrance test for engineering institutions, the Minister said that this proposal seeks to give greater and more equitable access to all through a formulation which is being worked out.

The MPs, from the Lok Sabha, and the Rajya Sabha, who were present for the meeting include: Shri Jose K. Mani, Shri Jagdanand Singh, Dr. Nirmal Khatri, Shri G.M. Dudhgaonkar, Dr. M Thambi Dorai, Smt. Rama Devi, Shri Lalji Tandon, Shri Anant Geete, Dr. Ranjan Prasad Yadav, Shri Ishwar Singh, Shri Mohammad Shafi, Shri G.N. Ratanpuri, Shri Javed Akhtar, Shri D. Raja, Shri Avinash Pande and Dr. Tarun Mandal.. Also present were Secretary, Department of Higher Education, Smt. Vibha Puri Das and Secretary, Department of School Education and

Literacy, Smt. Anshu Vaish, besides other senior officials of the Ministry.

Rajiv Gandhi International Prize for Azim Premji

The Indira Gandhi National Open University's (IGNOU) Rajiv Gandhi International Prize for Technology in Education and Development was conferred to the Azim Premji Foundation on September 28th, 2011. Shri Kapil Sibal, Minister of HRD, presented the award to Mr. Azim Premji, at the India Habitat Centre in New Delhi.

Azim Premji Foundation is the first recipient of this award, which was instituted by the IGNOU in its Silver Jubilee Year. This award is given to an individual or an institution for having made significant contribution to the field of Educational Technology and it comprises a cash component of Rs. 5 lakh and a citation.

Shri Sibal also released a book compilation of the silver jubilee lectures by the Pro VC of IGNOU, Dr. Latha Pillai and Associate Professor Dr. Babu P. Ramesh. Mr. Azim Premji released a Compact Disc (CD) of interactive multi-course study material of the university.

Workshop on AISHE to Explain Survey Objectives

The importance of Higher Education in the development of a knowledge-based society like India cannot be undermined. Same is true for the need to develop a sound database on Higher Education, especially because the current database is inadequate and out-of-date.

The main survey is being conducted through the National University of Education Planning and Administration (NUEPA). The survey works with two main objectives, which are:-

- Identify and capture all the Institutions of higher learning in the country
- Collect the data from all the Higher Education Institutions on various aspects of Higher Education.

In this regard, three workshops have been conducted so far, the latest one organised on September 27th, 2011

to explain the survey objectives, access of AISHE portal, downloading/uploading the forms, various concepts used for filling the form and other technical details of the survey.

The workshop, conducted in New Delhi, was inaugurated and addressed by the Secretary (HE), Smt. Vibha Puri Das. Nodal officers of all the Central Universities, NITs, IITs, IIITs located in different parts of the country, and Universities located in Delhi participated in the workshop.

The survey began in July 2011, with the first workshop held in Gujarat, which was inaugurated by the Commissioner, Directorate of Higher Education, Smt. Jayanti Ravi, in Gandhinagar.

The second workshop was held in Patna, Bihar, which was inaugurated by Principal Secretary (Education) Shri Anjani Kumar Sinha. The Secretary Shri Shiv Kumar also attended the workshop.

In both the workshops before the Delhi workshop, the topic of discussion was the same - throwing light on the objectives and the progress so far in the AISHE survey.

All India Survey on Higher Education - Survey Begins

- A portal (<http://aishe.gov.in> or <http://aishe.nic.in>) has been developed through NIC for collection and compilation of the data.
- UGC has written to all the Universities to nominate a nodal officer for the University as well as colleges. NUEPA has written to all the Universities to upload its data and facilitate data submission/approval by its colleges.
- Survey has started in the month of July, 2011 with first workshop held in Gujarat. The Second workshop was held on 26th-27th August, 2011 in Bihar. The third workshop was organized in Delhi on September 27th, 2011.
- All the Institutions have to register on the portal for downloading/uploading the filled-in forms. About 300 Institutions have so far registered on the portal.

Appointments of Vice-Chancellors to various Central Universities in India between July and September, 2011

Dr. Sudhir S. Bloeria has taken over the charge of first Vice-Chancellor of Central University of Jammu on August 8, 2011. Prior to this, he was the Chief Secretary, Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

Prof. H. Nandakumar Sarma has taken over the charge of Vice-Chancellor of Manipur University on August 17, 2011. Prior to this, he was Professor and Pro-Vice-Chancellor in Manipur University.

Prof. Lalji Singh has taken over the charge of Vice-Chancellor of Banaras Hindu University on August 22, 2011. Prior to this, he was Bhatnagar Fellow, Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, Hyderabad.

Prof. Bolin Kumar Konwar has taken over the charge of Vice-Chancellor of Nagaland University on September 8, 2011. Prior to this, he was Professor of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology, School of Science and Technology, Tezpur University, Assam.

Prof. Sushanta Dattagupta has taken over the charge of Vice-Chancellor of Visva Bharati Santiniketan on September 29, 2011. Prior to this, he was Director, Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Kolkata.

UGC - British Council Sign 2nd Phase MoU of UKIERI



A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the University Grants Commission (UGC) and the British Council (UKIERI), in the presence of Shri Kapil Sibal, Minister of HRD, in New Delhi on August 16, 2011.

India and the United Kingdom signed a MoU for the second phase of the UK-India Education and Research Initiative (UKIERI) on August 16, 2011 and joined hands, once again, to support all activities and programmes as envisaged under the University-related initiative. This MoU is in continuation to the MoU signed between MHRD and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on behalf of the Government and the Devolved Administrations of the UK including Northern Ireland, which sets out the framework for UKIERI from 2011-2016.

The MoU was signed in the presence of Shri Kapil Sibal, Minister of HRD and Sir Richard Stagg, British High Commissioner to India. Under this MoU, both India and the UK will work together for implementation of strand programmes and activities in the Higher Education Institutions in India.

On behalf of the Government of India, Prof. Ved Prakash, Chairman of the University Grants Commission (UGC) signed the MoU while Mr. Rob Lynes, Director of British Council was the representative signatory of the UK.

The UGC-British Council MoU will be the guiding document for overall collaboration.

India to Set Up Cyber Security Chair in Tallinn University

India will establish a Chair on Cyber Security in Tallinn University and a Chair on Indian Languages, Literature, and History in one of the Universities in Estonia. A decision to this effect was taken during a recent visit of Shri Kapil Sibal, Minister of HRD, to Estonia. Shri Sibal went to Estonia on September 19, 2011 and during this sojourn, he met Estonian Prime Minister Mr. Andrus Ansip, Minister of Education, Mr. Jaak Aaviksoo, and Minister of Economic Affairs and Communications, Mr. Juhan Parts.

In a reciprocating gesture, the Estonia Government has announced 20 scholarships for Indian students who wish to enrol for an accredited doctoral programme leading to Ph. D degree in Estonian Universities in:-

Information and Communication Technology,
Material Technology, Environment Technology,
Biotechnology, Power Engineering, Health

IGNOU to Partner with US Community Colleges

Under the Obama-Singh Initiative 2011, the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) is finalizing a partnership with the well-established US Community College system. Prof. V. N. Rajasekharan Pillai, Vice Chancellor, IGNOU, said on August 21, 2011, "With the introduction of the proposed National Vocational Educational Qualification Framework (NVEQF) by the Ministry of Human Resource and Development (MHRD), the community college initiative would contribute significantly to the enhancement of the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) since it provides lateral entry to the university degrees."

IGNOU started the community college initiative consisting of modular level education, hands-on training and work integrated learning leading to the award of certificates, diplomas, advanced diplomas and associate degrees. From there it expanded and the community college scheme of the university has picked up with the participation of diverse grassroots level organisations, both in the private and public domain in the country.

Shri Kapil Sibal Holds Meeting of S&T Advisory Committee

Shri Kapil Sibal, Minister of HRD, took the first meeting of the newly constituted Advisory Committee of Science & Technology on July 1, 2011. While explaining the mandate to the members, Shri Sibal said that the Committee would be advising the Government on a holistic approach to research in science and technology on strategies, schemes and measures that provide a vision yet show a specific path for implementation.

The Minister said that the Committee could undertake the following:-

- To lay down the vision for science and technology development in the university system in the next decade with targets for achievement.
- Delineate strategies and measures to attract students to science and maths at the secondary level and simultaneously to improve teaching in science and maths in schools.
- Identify emerging areas in science and technology for focusing through the university system.
- Specify schemes with investment plans to facilitate creation of research infrastructure expanding the number of institutions of quality involved in research.
- Develop schemes to attract global talent in research to Indian Universities and initiatives for faculty potential enhancement.
- Develop mechanisms for competitive research funding and research audit of institutions.

Others who attended the meeting are Smt. Vibha Puri Das, Secretary (HE), Prof. Roddam Narasimha, Dr Anil Kakodkar, Dr M. K. Bhan, Prof A. K. Sood, Prof V. Kannan, Prof K. Vijayraghavan, Prof Baldev Raj and Prof Ashutosh Sharma.

HRM Chairs First Meeting of Re-Constituted NCPsL

On July 1, 2011, Shri Kapil Sibal, Minister of HRD, chaired the first meeting of the re-constituted National Council for Promotion of Sindhi Language (NCPsL).

The Council was re-constituted on May 18, 2011 for a period of three years.

At the meeting, the Minister agreed in principle to increase the Award money for Lifetime Achievement Awards from Rs.50,000/- to Rs.1.00 Lakh given to Sindhi Writers for his/her outstanding lifetime contribution in the Sindhi Literature and for Literary Awards from Rs.30,000/- to Rs. 50,000/- given to deserving writers in recognition of their contribution in the field of Sindhi literature. A demand was made by Council Members to open a Sindhi centre in Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU). In the meeting it was decided that a proposal in this regard will be sent by NCPsL to MHRD.

MHRD to Review National Translation Mission Functioning

The MHRD has decided to initiate measures to review the functioning of the National Translation Mission (NTM), which, in its first phase, is expected to translate knowledge texts. NTM, considered to be a significant initiative of the Central Government, is going to translate English texts in more than 15 disciplines, at graduate and post-graduate levels, into all the languages listed under the 8th Schedule.

The NTM is aimed at strengthening the growth and development of all Indian languages in a rapidly modernising society and pave way for a functioning knowledge society with healthy multilingualism. In this regard, the Director, Central Institute for Indian Languages (CIIL), Mysore, who is the nodal officer of the scheme and the Project Director, National Translation Mission (NTM) met Shri Kapil Sibal, Minister of HRD on June 29, 2011 and apprised him of the developments in NTM.

The NTM presentation reflected the Mission's mandate and its achievements that include the preparation and publication of Basic Dictionaries, creation of University Database and Databases of translations and translators, interactive website etc. The Status of publication of textbooks was also discussed. Shri Sibal was briefed about the short term and long term goals of NTM.

At the end of the meeting, Shri Sibal assured NTM that all support would be extended to address all problematic issues (manpower development being one of

them), and adequate measures would be taken to facilitate smooth functioning of the Scheme and ensure its successful outcome.

Copyright Board Reconstituted

The Copyright Board has been re-constituted w.e.f July 15, 2011, with Retired Justice Ramesh Chandra Chopra being appointed as its Chairman, for a period of five years. The reconstitution was done as per Section 11 of the Copyright Act, 1957.

The reconstituted Copyright Board also consists of other fourteen ex-officio Members. These are, two Joint Secretaries of the Central Government, seven Law Secretaries of State Governments and three Directors/Vice Chancellors of National Law Institutes and Directors of Indian Law Institute and Indian Society of International Law, New Delhi.

NVEQF Discussed at Consultative Committee Meeting of MHRD

At the meeting of the Consultative Committee of Parliament for Human Resource Development, held on July 13, 2011, the main subject of discussion was the National Vocational Education Qualifications Framework (NVEQF).

Addressing the meeting, Shri Kapil Sibal, Minister of HRD, said that this scheme aims to create a competency-based qualification framework for vocational education. He also said that it has been structured in such a manner that students can move from the formal education to vocational education and vice versa. According to the Minister, NVEQF is an attempt to provide opportunity to millions of Indians as this will be demand driven and people will be able to get jobs where required by the industry.

The National Vocational Education Qualifications Framework (NVEQF) provides a common reference for linking various qualifications. It is used for setting common principles and guidelines for a nationally recognized qualification system covering Schools, Vocational Education and Training Institutions, Technical Education Institutions, and Universities/Colleges. The NVEQF will act as a translation device to make qualifications more understandable to employers, students and institutions. It will promote transparency of quali-

cations, to facilitate workers and learners' mobility, both horizontally and vertically between different qualifications, thus encouraging lifelong learning.

73% Respondents Prefer Ministry's Proposal on National Testing System in Online Survey

The MHRD recently proposed to hold a single National Testing Scheme (NTS) for admission of students to undergraduate courses in science and engineering, in place of the multiple entrance tests conducted in different States, private engineering schools, including the IIT-JEE and AIEEE. In this regard, the Ramasami Committee has been constituted to design the scheme, which is to be based on a single examination evaluation so that applicants for admission do not have to multiple examinations conducted across the country by various institutions or consortium of institutions.

In order to generate public opinion on this proposal, MHRD sought cross-country feedback through a specially designed questionnaire. The Ministry launched the NTS Website (<http://india.gov.in/nts/ntshome.php>) in May 2011 to seek online responses, last date for which was till June 21, 2011.

The website registered 2063 responses, which have been analysed by the Committee, and an overwhelming majority, 73%, of respondents were in favour of the reforms in the examination system.

Out of the total responses, 98.5% were received from India and 11% were received from women. 74% of the respondents had science or engineering background. The response received from students was substantial with 59% of the respondents, while 32% were employed and 5% were parents.

The suggestions, received till June 21st, indicated preference for a single examination having high knowledge intensity and features such as alignment with the Class XII examination syllabus, affordable examination fee, judicious use of time and money and transparency in examination results. Majority of the respondents also supported the presence of a weighting factor for performance in the School Board examinations at Class XII.

The Ramasami Committee is separately undertaking extensive exercise with School Boards and academics, the

results of which would be submitted to the Ministry by September, 2011.

Faculty Shortage Task Force Submits Report

The MHRD appointed Task Force on Faculty Shortage and Design of Performance Appraisal System submitted its report to Shri Kapil Sibal, Minister of HRD, on August 9, 2011. The report is prepared in consultation with Vice-Chancellors of Universities, representatives of the Regulatory Bodies, students and faculty.

In its report, the Task Force has proposed that every academic institute should have an independent faculty recruitment and development cell to be headed by a senior faculty member who will report to the head of institution. The Task Force strongly feels that all administrative cobwebs should be removed so as to ensure smooth process of induction and promotion of faculty cadre.

The report also notes that administrative hindrances and delays are a major impediment in creating healthy strength of faculty members and recommended discontinuing inappropriate arrangements for hiring the service of guest faculty and faculty on contract basis. Some other recommendations included in the report are given as follows:-

- Proposal for a novel scheme of inducting young men and women in the academic profession, while they are pursuing their academic career
- Recommended an appropriate additional financial compensation for those faculty members who are carrying out research work besides their normal teaching load
- Recommended the establishment of a standing mechanism for collection of data and its analyses on a continuous basis
- Proposed a Performance Appraisal template which is essentially the same as notified by UGC recently

MHRD Receives Proposal Scheme to Attract Faculty

The Ministry of HRD received a proposal scheme in

August 2011 called "Academic Career Assistantship Program," which, if implemented, could help the Government address the faculty shortage in Higher Education institutions. According to the proposed scheme, financial incentives shall be offered to students in colleges and universities to join as faculty after completion of their education.

The scheme is proposed by the Sanjay Dande Committee of the MHRD, headed by Dande, Director of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur, who believes that this scheme will attract youth to take up academics as a career option.

According to the scheme, the students will be registered in a three-year course at post-graduate level. At the end of the course, the students will be provided with a regular master's degree as well as a post graduate diploma in Higher Education. For this diploma, the student will have to work as a teaching assistant and will have to attend some courses on teaching methods and philosophy.

Cabinet Enables Mobility of Faculty, Non-Faculty Personnel to CEIs

The Cabinet approved mobility of faculty and non-faculty personnel to newly established Central Educational Institutions (CEIs) and Scientific Institutions for a period upto 10 years on deputation basis on August 11, 2011.

The faculty, officers and such other employees, presently working under the Central Government or Central Autonomous Bodies including those already on deputation to the newly set up Central Educational Institutions (CEIs)/Scientific Institutions on the date of approval of this proposal and who are covered under the CCS (Pension) Rules, 1972 or an identical pension scheme before 01.01.2004 will be allowed to join / continue to work in the newly set up CEIs / Scientific Institutions on long term deputation basis for a period up to ten years at a stretch.

This would help the mobility of faculty and key administrative personnel which would in turn facilitate growth of new Central Educational Institutes by way of induction of competent faculty and key administrative persons.

Shri. E. Ahamed takes Charge as Minister of State for HRD



The Minister of State for External Affairs and Human Resource Development, Shri E. Ahamed meeting the Union Minister for Human Resource Development and Communications and Information Technology, Shri Kapil Sibal, in New Delhi on July 13, 2011.

Shri E. Ahamed assumed the charge of Minister of State for Human Resource Development on July 13, 2011. He met Shri Kapil Sibal, Minister of HRD, before assuming the charge at the Ministry.

In his introductory meeting with the senior ministry officials he understood the procedure and various functioning of the ministry. Terming his new portfolio as a challenge, Shri Ahamed said that he would try to live up to the expectations of the people.

Shri E. Ahamed was a Member of the Kerala Legislative Assembly for 5 consecutive terms from 1967 to 1991. He has had a long and distinguished career as a legislator and Parliamentarian. He represents the Malaappuram constituency of Kerala.

Appointments/Promotions

Shri Apurva Chandra, Joint Secretary; Ms. Veena Ish, JS; Shri R. D. Sahay, JS; Smt. Sarita Mittal, JS; Dr. Maninder Kaur Dwivedi, Director; Dr. Jaipal Singh, Director; Shri S. S. Pachauri, Director; Smt. Meenakshi Jolly, Deputy Secretary; Shri Amit Shukla, DS; Shri Vinod Kumar, Joint Director; Smt. D. S. Nagalakshmi, Under Secretary; Shri Umesh Kumar, US; Shri Sushil Bhushan, US; Shri Kamal R. Saha, US; Shri Sunil Bareja, US; Shri Rohtas Bankhar, US; Shri Sandeep Jain, US; Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh, US; Shri Sahdev Siingh, US; Shri Manjeet Kumar, US; Shri Sanjeev Shrivastva, US; Shri Arun Kumar, US; Shri Ram Swaroop, Assistant Director; Shri Ram Dayal, Senior Statistical Officer; Shri Suman Chandra Roy, SSO; Shri Avinash Gajanan Wagde, SSO

Retirements/Relieving

Shri Ramesh Tiwari, DS; Shri R. K. Bandhyopadhyay, DS; Shri P. R. A. Nair, DS; Dr. Vinit Kumar, Deputy Director; Smt. Indra Mehra, Section Officer (SO)



Sri Lanka's Senior Minister for Human Resource, Mr. D.E.W. Gunasekera called on Shri Kapil Sibal, Minister of HRD, in New Delhi on September 8, 2011.



Jordanian Minister of Education, Jordan, Dr. Tayseer Al-Nuaimi along with the Ambassador, Mr. Mohammad Sharari El-Fayez meeting Shri Kapil Sibal, Minister of HRD, in New Delhi on July 14, 2011.



Bhutanese Minister of Education, Mr. Lyonpo Thakur Singh Powdyel in conversation with Shri Sibal, in New Delhi on July 14, 2011.



Bangladesh's Minister of Education, Mr. Nurul Islam Nahid in conversation with Shri Sibal, in New Delhi on September 9, 2011.



Shri Sibal and the Minister of Education of the Republic of Mozambique, Mr. Zeferino Alexandre signing an MoU between India and Mozambique, in New Delhi on July 13,



Shri Sibal had a meeting with Mr. Farooq Wardak, Minister of Education, Afghanistan in New Delhi on September 9, 2011.