



सत्यमेव जयते

DEPARTMENT OF
HIGHER EDUCATION
MHRD
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

द न्यूजलेटर THE NEWSLETTER ON HIGHER EDUCATION

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"Educationists should build the capacities of the spirit of inquiry, creativity, entrepreneurial and moral leadership among students and become their role model."

- Maulana Abul Kalam Azad

The Vice President, Shri Mohd. Hamid Ansari lighting the lamp to inaugurate the National Education Day, 2010 function.

National Education Day Celebrated at Vigyan Bhawan

Call For 'Holistic' Education System To Lend Sustainable Growth

Ministry of HRD celebrated the National Education Day on 11 Nov.2010 to commemorate the exceptional contribution of veteran freedom fighter and academic par excellence, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, to the Indian education system. The main function was held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

Hon'ble Vice President of India, Sh. Mohammed Hamid Ansari, was the Chief Guest for the occasion. He inaugurated the function with lighting of the traditional lamp.

In his ceremonial address, Sh Ansari recalled the contributions of Maulana Azad, the First Education Minister of independent India and a great visionary, and quoted Maulana Azad, who had said, "The course of modern independent India was guided by his firm belief that the democracy cannot function while its citizens remained illiterate."

Hon'ble Vice President pointed towards the issues highlighted in the Mid-Term Appraisal of the Eleventh Five-Year Plan, to say that "all quality issues impacting on the learning outcomes of children must be addressed as a priority." With his words, Sh Ansari set the tone for the rest of the programme, exhorting all to

follow the footsteps of Maulana Azad and impart education in a way to provide opportunities for a better future to our children.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Kapil Sibal said that the government could not "afford to be complacent" even in wake of the fact that the national education system boasts of having churned out outstanding scientists, technologists, doctors, academics, economists, writers and philosophers. He stressed on a "paradigm shift" to say that we need to change the way our children are taught. The minister said, "Education should be child-centric instead of being exam-centric as it seeks to develop each child's genius."

Shri Sibal said that the quality of teaching and the quality of teachers are fundamental in the evolution of the modern education system. Pointing out, he said, "Good teachers are costly, but bad teachers cost even more."

Mr. Davidson Hepburn, President, General Conference of UNESCO, Mr. David Willets, Minister of State for Universities and Science, UK, Mrs. D. Purandeswari, Minister of State for Human Resource Development, Smt. Vibha Puri Das, Secretary, Higher Education also addressed the gathering.

The second issue of The Newsletter is with you. We are happy to share that we have received highly encouraging responses to the first issue of The Newsletter. While there have been several important events in the preceding quarter, the National Education Day celebrated on November 11, an occasion to rededicate ourselves to the exemplary vision of holistic education crafted by the first Education Minister of Independent India Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, was the most significant. We bring glimpses of the event for you in this issue.

Quality of higher educational institutions is determined, inter alia, by the presence of teachers, passionate about quality and students, fearlessly challenging them intellectually. Several initiatives are underway for attracting talented persons to the excitement of classroom teaching and research. We have recapitulated some of the more important initiatives in this issue.

The challenge of vocational education is being taken 'head-on', perhaps for the first time ever. By the time the current issue is with you, a National Conference of Ministries of State Governments

would have been convened by the Minister of HRD, Shri Kapil Sibal, for evolving a National Curriculum Framework for Vocational Education. Appropriately, we would be focusing on Vocational Education in our next issue; and I invite comments and suggestions on the said theme.

Higher Education policies are translated into action through institutional interventions. We intend to bring to you, from time to time, the role played by key institutions in the higher education sector. The special focus in the current issue is on the Consortium for Educational Communication (CEC), which is an inter-university centre of the UGC.

Finally, on behalf of the Editorial Board, I wish you all a very happy new year and request you to continue to give us the benefit of your feedback and suggestions.



Sunil Kumar

Discussion Forum

No organization can be expected to grow in a vacuum. Similarly, this newsletter will be sustained on constructive feedback of its readers, which we expect to receive regularly from all of you.

We are hosting a policy issue of great significance for all of us in every issue of Newsletter. The next issue will focus on Vocational Education.

The readers are requested to send in their feedback, in the form of comments, suggestions and ideas, regarding issues pertaining to the newsletter, in particular and education sector, in general.

You can send in your feedback on editor.edu@nic.in

So, waiting to hear from you!

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Role of CEC in e-Learning in the Higher Education

Education is a social obligation and to fulfil this obligation to the Indian society and the world at large the Consortium for Educational Communication (CEC), an Inter University centre of University Grants Commission (UGC) has been constantly imparting education and disseminating information and knowledge to the masses of the country with the use of various technologies in teaching and learning process in the Higher Education sector. Today with the convergence of Information Communication Technologies (ICT), imparting education to the masses have become more dynamic and a powerful tool for empowering the society.

The great educationist and philosopher and our Former President of India Dr. S. Radhakrishnan once said, which has relevance in today's knowledge-based economy and society, "The aim of education is not the acquisition of information, although important, or acquisition of technical skills, though essential in modern society, but the development of that bent of mind, that attitude of reason, that spirit of democracy which will make us responsible citizens." Keeping the objective of making education reach the unreached and with the use of ICT and its applications, CEC is imparting education to the unreached and developing the minds of the students into responsible citizens of the nation.

India with its existing infrastructure for higher education is said to be the second largest in the world and is still inadequate to attain the targeted Gross Enrolment Ratio of about 15 percent by the end of the 11th Five Year Plan as compared to the world average Gross Enrolment Ratio of 23 percent. MHRD, therefore, intends to use all possible means of imparting education under the banner of National Mission of Education through Technology. CEC and its seventeen Education Multimedia Research Centres (EMRCs) spread throughout the country, have launched E-courses which are Certificate Courses in E-Scripting for Film and Television in January 2010 and soon launching Editing for Films and Television using various technologies for imparting education via the Vyas-24 Hrs Higher Education Channel, the EDUSAT Network and the Internet.

CEC has been disseminating educational video programmes, which are transmitted through Doordarshan National Network in given slots, are now being telecast on 24x7 VYAS Higher Educational Channel since January

26, 2004. The VYAS Channel is available on DD Direct Plus, DTH Platform of Doordarshan and also on Dish TV. Recently two video programmes on the issue of "Ragging" titled "Ragging an avoidable crime" and another one titled "Anti-Ragging" have been produced by CEC and the video programmes are being disseminated to the students, teachers and the academic community to create awareness and prevention of the crime ragging in the Universities and Institutions of Higher Education in the country.

CEC also conducts the UGC-CEC Educational Video Competition and is meant to nurture, encourage and recognize excellence in educational video programme productions.

CEC has also instituted an award for Life Time Achievement in the field of Educational Communication, which has been named as the "Vikram Sarabhai Lifetime Achievement Award on Educational Communication." In 2010, this award was given to Shri Sam Pitroda, Advisor to the Prime Minister of India and Chairman, Knowledge Commission, for his distinct contributions in creating telecom and communication revolution in India, facilitating immensely the Information Communication Technology (ICT) and Educational Communication in the country. Shri Kapil Sibal, Hon'ble Minister of Human Resource Development in his speech appreciated the efforts made by CEC in encouraging media professionals to excel further in their respective fields. Shri Sam Pitroda, while addressing the audience emphasized on quality and said that "The key is to increase the number of users and not the courses. We need quality content to improve the quality of education."

CEC is also producing requisite environmental education video programmes and broadcasting them on its 24x7 Vyas Higher Educational Channel of CEC for imparting education to the masses on the issues related to environment. Further CEC organized "Prakriti Festival" regularly in order to encourage private documentary producers in the area of environment filming and to provide them with a platform to show their works to the concerned persons and general public in different parts of the country.

CEC and the INFLIBNET Centre of UGC provide information support for education and research in colleges and universities through their services and facilities. While CEC concentrates on creation and dissemination of multimedia-based learning e-resources, the INFLIBNET specializes in textual-based information retrieval services through its union databases and by facilitating access to

CEC has started, since December 4, 2010, providing bibliographical text-based databases of educational television video programmes, e-contents and Learning Objects Repositories produced by the Consortium and its seventeen Educational Multimedia Centres on INFLIBNET's Server along with their Union Bibliographical Databases of books and e-resources. This will enable Universities and Colleges, who are subscribers and members of INFLIBNET resources, to also have access to the CEC Databases as a one-stop destination of both print and non-print media resources.

full-text and bibliographic e-resources through consortium arrangements. Both the organizations make intensive use of Internet, Web and other communication technology to develop and disseminate their services.

Thus, CEC plays a major role to impart technology enabled "Blended Higher Education: through the use of Television, Edusat, Internet and the use of Information Communication Technologies and its applications to empower the masses and contribute in fulfilling its social obligation of capacity building of the nation and to build India as a knowledge society and knowledge economy.

Teachers – The Backbone Of Education System-Today & Tomorrow

Teachers are the backbone of a country's education system and India is no different. Right from the ancient times to the modern era, much significance has been accorded to the role of teachers in making or breaking a nation. Teachers like Dronacharya and Chanakya have, with their wisdom and far-sightedness changed the entire paths of their students' lives.

In the modern India, lakhs of teachers are playing an equal, if not more important, role in the lives of millions of children. These children will eventually grow up and write India's destiny. Therefore, it is imperative that the teachers should be well-trained, well-equipped and well-paid so that their efforts are successful and effectively rewarded too.

In keeping with this thought, the Government has taken several measures towards the welfare of teachers in the Higher Education sector, to enhance their skills and make them better-equipped for the future, of themselves, that of the children and also of the country.

These steps are being taken by the Government and centrally funded technical institutions and are mainly focussed on faculty recruitment, inculcation, retention and overall faculty development.

1) The retirement age for teachers has been



The President, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil, presenting the National Award for Teacher-2009 to Dr. Devendra Singh, Principal, Uttar Pradesh (Secondary School Teachers category), on the occasion of the 'Teacher's Day', in New Delhi on September 05, 2010. Union Minister of Human Resource Development, Shri Kapil Sibal and Minister of State for Human Resource Development, Smt. D. Purandeswari are also seen.

increased from 62 to 65 years in Central Educational Institutions. And in the select cases, subject to fulfillment of prescribed conditions, a teacher can be re-employed beyond the age of 65 years upto the age of 70 years.

2) The substantial hike in the salaries of the faculty and staff, as recommended by the Sixth Central Pay Commission, is expected to prove effective in retaining good faculty.

3) Special interviews are being conducted by IITs abroad to invite excellent faculty members with academic experience in foreign universities.

4) The faculty is also encouraged to take up research and consultancy work within and outside the country, for which the institutions have relaxed their leave rules.

5) Research institutes provide quite sustainable start-up grants. In order to attract both the senior and the young faculty members, the institutes offer fellowships in addition to salary as well as institute chairs, which are also considered to be an attractive add-on to the salary.

6) The Institutes are also taking care to provide better facilities to its staff, which includes residential accommodation, medical as well as educational facilities for the family.

7) In order to address the shortage of faculty members in the future, the IITs have even increased the intake in their Ph. D. Programmes.

8) The Institutes provide a grant of Rs. 3 lakh within a block period of 3 years, with which the faculty can attend national as well as international events like seminars and workshops.

Besides, the AICTE has also taken steps for the training and development of faculty, which are as follows:

- a. Increased intake in PG courses of all disciplines.
- b. All Government and aided institutions, having PG programmes for at least 5 years, declared Quality Improvement Programmes (QIP) centres for teacher training.
- c. In order to address shortage of faculty guides in Ph.D Programmes, the faculty members fulfilling minimum norms will be declared eligible as guides.
- d. The QIP scheme will also look into providing poly-technic faculty.
- e. Entry-level funding for research being enhanced.

Apart from the specific steps, as mentioned above, the Government has also shortlisted certain areas, as described below, to enrich the teaching fraternity of the country and help them in their professional growth:

Research & Development: To sustain the economic growth of a country and to ensure a steady pace of social development, it is important to keep up the research and development process. Such efforts are now being augmented at the level of Ph.Ds, which were hitherto not paid enough attention. The Government is keen on increasing manifold the current output of about 500 Doctorates per year in the field of engineering & technology. For this, the government is encouraging more investment from the corporate sector as well as increase the synergy levels between various educational institutions and universities.

Academic Performance Indicator: In order to ensure fair promotional opportunities for teachers, the UGC has devised an Academic Performance Indicator (API), Weightage Points (WP) and Performance based Appraisal System (PBAS).

Teachers devote their whole life to spread the light of knowledge, which helps us reach our destined goal in life. It is high time that we pay them back for their selfless service rendered to the nation.

Shri Sibal Addresses HT Leadership Summit

Improving the education system in the country is going to be a complicated task but if the whole nation comes together, the quality and quantity of education in India can be improved upon and the country can be empowered. Shri Kapil Sibal said this while addressing the Hindustan Times Leadership Summit.

Citing the difficulties in education in regions affected by the Naxalites as well as the North Eastern states, Shri Sibal said that if these areas are well connected, education could be imparted to children living in such areas.

While pitching for change in curriculum for better education, the Minister said that training the teachers was also an effective way to implement things.

HRM Honored With Stephen P Duggan Award



Shri Sibal was in New York on September 22, 2010, to receive the "Stephen P Duggan Award for mutual understanding." The Minister was awarded for his support towards global collaboration in education. In the picture: Shri Sibal receiving award at the hands of Mr. Sanford A. Ibrahim, CEO of Radian Group Inc., and Shri Sam Pitroda, Adviser to the Indian Prime Minister.

“I Want 60 Million More Young Indians To Attend College”

Talking about the present education scenario in the country, the Minister Shri Kapil Sibal, in a panel discussion hosted by Yale University, the US-India Business Council and the American India Foundation, during his visit to New York in September 2010 said that “it will take a few years to change the system.” He also said that his primary concern was to increase the number of school children studying further from school to college and university. His target in this regard is to have 60 million young Indians attending colleges in the coming years. This, he said, could be achieved with the opening of 50,000 new colleges and universities, which can only be built through public-private partnerships.

For those, who cannot make it to college or university, the Minister wants more avenues for vocational and trade schools so that young Indians could be trained in jobs for industries like automotive and energy.

The discussion was held at the Citibank headquarters in New York and it was attended, among others, by President of Yale Mr. Richard Levin and PepsiCo CEO Ms. Indra Nooyi. The moderator for the discussion was well-known journalist Fareed Zakaria.



Shri Kapil Sibal (sitting extreme right) at a panel discussion with (from left to right): Newsweek International Editor, Mr. Fareed Rafiq Zakaria, the Yale University President, Mr. Richard C. Levin, the PepsiCo CEO, Ms. Indra Nooyi and the Yale University Professor Shri Rakesh Mohan, in New York on September 21, 2010.

Round Table On Draft National Book Promotion Policy

Books are a person's best friend and Shri Kapil Sibal seems to have imbibed just this sentiment while floating a

proposal to have a “neighbourhood book policy” for the entire country. Shri Sibal was chairing a Round Table meeting on Draft New National Book Promotion Policy on October 16, 2010.

Under this policy, the government would promote and facilitate neighbourhood libraries and reading rooms on the lines of neighbourhood schools so as to encourage reading of books among Indian youth. He passed on this suggestion to the Task Force, which has been entrusted with preparing the Draft National Book Promotion Policy.

The Minister cited the Tamil Nadu model of libraries/reading rooms, which was appreciated by other members of the Round Table as well. He called upon the Task Force to involve the state governments in emulating the model and incorporate the same in its final report on the subject.

At the Round Table, participants put forth a range of suggestions, which were imperative towards drafting a holistic policy while Shri Sibal also asked the Task Force to meet students as well as parents, who were also stakeholders in this regard.

Exhorting the participants at the meeting to “take a fresh look” at the school text books, the Minister also asked them to review whether the government needed to enhance the involvement of the private sector in the publishing of school text books.

Speaking about the publishing sector, Shri Sibal said that “a huge opportunity awaits the publishing industry in the form of e-books, especially for children's books, which can be illustrated” as well as “a vast scope in the form of



Shri Kapil Sibal chairs a Round Table on Draft New National Book Promotion Policy, in New Delhi on October 16, 2010. The Secretary (HE), Smt. Vibha Puri Das is also seen.

translation of books from one Indian language to another." Shri Sibal pointed towards the need to reach out to potential authors, especially from smaller cities in the country, who could not find proper publishing avenues for their work. In this regard, the Minister asked the Task Force that an idea that could be looked at was the setting up of a national level website, connected to the states and to the districts, so that those who seek to author books can reach out to a committee/ committees consisting of government and non- government members. The Task Force was asked to work out the details & the sifting mechanism for this idea.

Shri Sibal Inaugurates CSIR Technofest



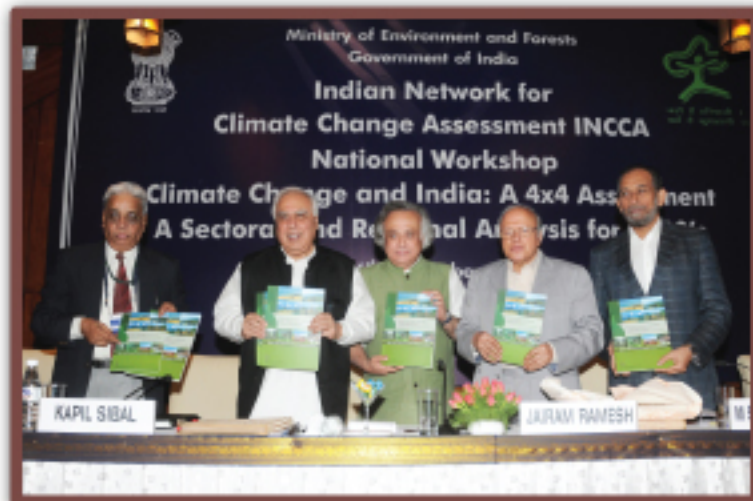
Shri Sibal going round at the 'Technofest' 2010 – Showcasing industry-CSIR linkages, in New Delhi on November 14, 2010.

The first-ever CSIR Technofest-2010 was inaugurated by Shri Kapil Sibal on November 14, 2010, as a part of the India International Trade Fair (IITF). CSIR is the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research and the CSIR Technofest-2010 is aimed at showcasing the organization's expertise in the fields of Science & Technology with the help of 15 theme pavilions.

The thrust areas of the CSIR Technofest-2010 are Science & Engineering leadership, Innovative technology solutions, End-to-End technologies in niche areas, Open innovation for inclusive growth, Nurturing talent in trans-disciplinary areas and Enabling scientific leadership.

While speaking on the occasion, Shri Sibal credited CSIR for making the right strides in the sectors like nutrition, high technology, petro chemical & engineering, thereby helping India reduce its dependency on imports.

Shri Sibal Releases IPCC Report On Climate Change



Shri Sibal launching the Climate Change report. Minister of State for Environment and Forests (Independent Charge), Shri Jairam Ramesh, the Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha, Dr. Swaminathan and other dignitaries are also seen.

A new study on key sectors of climate change science, "4x4 Assessment of the Impact of Climate Change," released on November 16, 2010, invites attention to the understanding of issues related to climate and its impact on people's lives. Shri Kapil Sibal, Union Minister for Human Resource Development, Science and Technology and Earth Sciences, released the report.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Sibal said, "The impact of global warming on one part of the country is different from the other part of the country. We need micro study and micro assessment which will make difference in lives of people."

He further said, "At the release of IPCC report, I suggested to have internal report of India at national and local level. The Ministry undertook a very important study. Let us understand issues of climate and its impact on lives of people. At the same time, the Minister also responded to a suggestion made by his ministerial colleague, Shri Jairam Ramesh, who looks after the Environment and Forests ministry. Shri Sibal assured Shri Ramesh that his ministry would extend all possible support to organize international conferences and start a world class journal on the issue.

The report, prepared by the Indian Network for Climate Change Assessment (INCCA), a network of 120 institutions and more than 220 scientists, usually undertakes scientific assessments of different aspects of climate change.

Need For Govt-Private Partnership



Shri Kapil Sibal (fourth from left) at the FICCI Higher Education Summit 2010 along with others present.

Shri Kapil Sibal inaugurated the FICCI Higher Education Summit 2010 on November 11, 2010, in which he laid emphasis on the need for a policy framework to invite substantial investment in the education sector in India. For this, he said, the global private sector had to show initiative and invest money into the educational facilities of the country.

While addressing the gathering, the Minister said that in order to grant the private institutions the autonomy that they deserve, both the government and the private sector had to work hand in hand. He said that this would also put in place a mechanism to develop accountability in quality education.

Shri Sibal said, "In the higher education sector, the private sector wanted total autonomy with no accountability while the Government did not wish to grant full autonomy but expected total accountability from the private players. This was not the way forward." The Minister also maintained that autonomy and accountability had to go hand in hand while asking for "strong partnerships" between the government and the private sector as well as between the different universities.

He also released a report on the occasion, entitled "New Realities, New Possibilities – The Changing Face of Indian Higher Education." The report is prepared by the professional services organisation, Ernst & Young, in association with FICCI.

केन्द्रीय हिन्दी निदेशालय द्वारा द्विभाषी वेबसाइट शुरू करना

केन्द्रीय हिन्दी निदेशालय ने 29 सितम्बर, 2010 को अपनी स्वर्ण जयंती मनाई। इस अवसर पर निदेशालय ने अपनी प्रथम द्विभाषी वेबसाइट शुरू की। वेबसाइट का शुभारंभ करते हुए श्री कपिल सिब्बल ने हिन्दी की प्रगति के लिए संयुक्त प्रयास के लिये जाने का समर्थन किया।

इस सम्बन्ध में प्रसन्नता प्रकट करते हुए कि आज हिन्दी भाषा 135 देशों में पढ़ाई जा रही है, मन्त्री महोदय ने कहा कि हिन्दी में कार्य करना कठिन नहीं है। उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि केन्द्रीय सरकार के सभी कार्यालयों द्वारा हिन्दी में कार्य करने के लिए तौर-तरीके आरंभ किए जाने चाहिए और अपनाए जाने चाहिए।

केन्द्रीय हिन्दी निदेशालय की स्थापना तत्कालीन शिक्षा मंत्रालय के अंतर्गत 10 मार्च, 1960 को की गई थी और तब से निदेशालय ने बहुत से अन्य कार्यक्रमों के जरिये हिन्दी के संवर्द्धन, प्रसार और विकास के लिए कार्य किया है।

इस अवसर पर उपस्थित अधिकारियों में डॉ० अनिता भटनागर जैन, संयुक्त सचिव, मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय, श्री आर.पी. सिसोदिया, निदेशक, मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय, प्रो० के.विजय कुमार, निदेशक, डॉ० शशि भरद्वाज, उप निदेशक, केन्द्रीय हिन्दी निदेशालय, शामिल थे।



केन्द्रीय हिन्दी निदेशालय की स्वर्ण जयंती के अवसर पर मंत्री महोदय द्वारा पुस्तकों का विमोचन।

New IITs

“Can Top-Up Faculty Salary” Planning to shift to Permanent Campuses

The eight new Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) will now be able to top-up the faculty salary from resources internally generated, however, with prior approval of the Ministry of Human Resource Development. This and several other matters of concern for the new institutes were taken up during an October meeting between the IIT directors and Shri Kapil Sibal.

The new IITs asked for enhanced fund allocation to meet the escalating costs of construction.

The eight new IITs have been started in Ropar (Punjab) (2008), Bhubaneswar (Orissa) (2008), Gandhinagar (Gujarat) (2008), Hyderabad (Andhra Pradesh) (2008), Patna (Bihar) (2008), Jodhpur (Rajasthan) (2008), Mandi (Himachal Pradesh) (2009) and Indore (Madhya Pradesh) (2009). IIT BHU (Banaras Hindu University) is also to be upgraded as an Indian Institute of Technology.

BESU Upgraded To IIST Status

The Bengal Engineering and Science University (BESU), Shibpur, West Bengal, will be upgraded to an Indian Institute of Engineering Science and Technology (IIST), as per a recent decision taken by the Union Cabinet. The conversion will take place over a period of 5 years and it will cost Rs 592.20 crore.

The decision will invite amendment of the NIT Act, wherein special clauses would be added to reflect the exclusive character of the Institute. The IIST would be an “Institute of National Importance” and it would be covered under the NIT Act and its organizational and governing structure will be on the lines of the National Institutes of Technology (NITs).

IIST would combine under-graduate education, post graduate education and

research in engineering and science under the same umbrella. The admissions to IIST will be through national level entrance exam namely, All India Engineering Entrance Examination (AIEEE).

‘Centre For Pakistan Studies’ At Panjab University

To facilitate the systematic study of India's relationship with its immediate neighbor, Pakistan, the Panjab University (PU) is mulling setting up a “Centre for Pakistan Studies.”

The University is likely to take up the proposal at the next meeting of the University's syndicate, which is its executive decision-making body.

PU Vice Chancellor R. C. Sobti informed, “The department of Urdu ... could be developed into the Centre for Pakistan Studies with a view to improve bilateral relations between India and Pakistan.”

The University recently organized a lecture on “Indo-Pak Dialogue: Track-II Diplomacy,” under its collaboration with the External Affairs Ministry, which is organizing other such lectures in a series on India's foreign policy.

IIM Calcutta To Open Offshore Campus Soon

In its Golden Jubilee year, IIM – Calcutta is going to take a step beyond the country's borders and set up an offshore campus. However, the Institute made it clear that this expansion was not aimed at making any kind of profit.

IIM-Calcutta celebrated its Golden Jubilee on November 14, 2010 and at the same time, the Institute announced that it has been receiving proposals from offshore educational institutions to launch a foreign campus soon. It would introduce its flagship two-year postgraduate diploma in business management once the offshore campus is in place.

Although the location is yet not decided, the new IIM-Calcutta campus is likely to come up in a Middle East or South East Asian country.

IGNOU Orientation Prog For Madrassa Teachers

The IGNOU Institute of Professional Competence Advancement of Teachers (IIPCAT) organized an orientation programme for Madrassa teachers of Nagaon and Morigaon districts in Assam at the Kampur College of Nagaon. The main objective of the programme was to help the madrassa teachers orient themselves towards the methods of modern teaching in subjects of general curriculum.

During the programme, the teachers were trained with the help of 17 modules, which included – “Education – What is it?, Basics of Education, Teacher as facilitator, Madrassa education and its features, Madrassa education in the Indian context, etc.

The office in charge of the IIPCAT, Professor D. S. Bhattacharjee, was the coordinator of the 5-day orientation programme, which was attended by 45 teachers from the vicinity.

IIM-C Celebrates Golden Jubilee Year

The first Indian Institute of Management, IIM-Calcutta (IIM-C), celebrated its golden jubilee on November 14, 2010. The three-day event, during November 14-16, included a two-day convention on "Management Education in India."

Directors of all the IIMs and renowned management schools in the country as well as world renowned academicians and industry leaders discussed significant issues faced by the management schools in India.

The Institute was ranked 12th in the Asia Pacific region according to the 2009 QS Global 200 Business Schools Report.

IGNOU Silver Jubilee Lecture

In the coming years, the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) is going to focus on education and sustainable development with thrust on areas like food and water security, weather and climate, environment and ecosystem. This was stated by ISRO Chairman Dr. Radhakrishnan, as he delivered the 11th Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) Silver Jubilee Lecture on "ISRO Saga Forward."

It is pertinent to mention here that ISRO has been interacting with IGNOU for more than a decade on using satellite capabilities for education and health sector.

Meanwhile, IGNOU also hosted the sixth Pan Commonwealth Forum (PCF6) on Open Learning between November 24 and 28, 2010 in Kerala. The theme for this year's PCF6 is "Access and Success in Learning: Global Development Perspectives."

JMI Celebrates 90th Anniversary

Jamia Confers Honorary Doctorate Upon Dalai Lama

On November 23, 2010, prestigious university, Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI) created history by conferring the Degree of Doctor of Letters (Honoris Causa) upon his Holiness Tenzin Gyatso, better known as the Dalai Lama, the exiled spiritual leader of Tibetans. The occasion was JMI's Annual Convocation and Shri Kapil Sibal was the Chief Guest.

Shri Sibal conferred the degree upon the Dalai Lama and referred to him as a "noble soul" while delivering the Convocation Address. In his address, he said, "In keeping with the secular traditions of Jamia, we have chosen to honour a noble soul."

The Minister called Jamia the "crème de la crème of our Central Universities." He further said that the "distinctive spirit that guides the education at Jamia" was "best captured by Dr. Zakir Husain as the fusion of Quami Tehzeeb and the Insaani Tehzeeb."

The citation presented to the Dalai Lama on the occasion reads "Jamia Millia Islamia honours His Holiness the fourteenth Dalai Lama of Tibet, one of the most respected figures and teachers of our times, who stands for rationality, humanism, non-violence, peace and benevolence."

Just a few days before the annual convocation, JMI celebrated its 90th birth anniversary and at a function organized to celebrate the occasion, dignitaries from all over the country and the world were present.



From right to left: Shri Sibal, His Holiness Dalai Lama and Mr. Najeeb Jung, Vice Chancellor of JMI, during the annual convocation on November 23, 2010.

Ph. D. Scholarship/Fellowship Rates Revised

The Ministry of HRD, Government of India has decided to revise the Scholarship/Fellowship rates in technical institutions funded by All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and the Central Government. The revised rates are given in the table below.

The Ministry guidelines also specify that the

local institution, where the research fellow/associate would receive the scholarship/fellowship, will be responsible for reviewing the performance of the fellow after two years. This performance review will be carried out by an appropriate review Committee constituted by the Head of the Institution.

The revision of emoluments for all categories of Junior Research Fellow/Senior Research Fellow comes into effect from April 1, 2010.

S.No.	Qualifying Degree	Existing rates Per Month	Revised Emoluments per month
1	Graduate Degree in Professional Courses (BE/B.Tech or Equivalent) and GATE or equivalent qualification OR Post Graduate Degree in Basic Sciences (M.Sc. or Equivalent) and NET qualified.	1st & 2nd year Rs.12,000/-	1st & 2nd year Rs. 16,000/-
		3rd & 4th year Rs.14,000/-	Upto 5th year Rs.18,000/-
		5th year Rs.15,000/-	
2	Post Graduate Degree in Professional Courses (M.E. / M.Tech or Equivalent)	1st & 2nd year Rs.14,000/-	1st & 2nd year Rs. 18,000/-
		3rd & 4th year Rs.15,000/- *	3rd & 4th year Rs.20,000/-
* no assistance would be available beyond 4th year			

Credit Transfer System To Bring 'Student Mobility' In India

Taking cue from the Universities in the US, Canada and Europe, the Association of Indian Universities (AIU) has decided to work out a system for credit transfer between the Indian universities and affiliated institutions. This move, when implemented, shall introduce the unique concept of "student mobility" in India, allowing student of a particular college under a particular university to shift to another college either under the same or a different university.

The credit transfer system is a concept in which there will be a common method for

assessment of grades offered by various universities, bringing parity into credits and developing a "comprehensive model for transfer of credits."

Currently, student mobility is a concept unknown to the country and after the introduction of the credit transfer system, students will not need to be confined to a single institution. The government will define a set of criteria, which would allow the student to go to another university and study for a specified period of time and bring back the credit earned to the first university.

Financial Assistance For Upgradation Of NE Technical Institutions

After having received a total of 191 applications during 2009-10 for financial assistance to upgrade the technical institutions in the North-Eastern (NE) States, the AICTE approved suitable proposals worth Rs 3004.03 lakh.

The projects were sanctioned under various schemes including the Modernization and Removal of Obsolescence (MODROBS), Staff Development Programme (SDP) and Seminar Grant.

Besides, under the scheme of Sub-Mission Polytechnics under Coordinated Action for Skill Development, five polytechnics received financial assistance worth Rs 10.00 lakh each.

IIM-Kozhikode, IIT-Kanpur, Yale University Join Hands For Academic Leadership

The prestigious Yale University of the USA has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) each with the Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Kozhikode and Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur. This move is believed to contribute to advancement of higher education in India, particularly for development of academic leadership.

Shri Kapil Sibal, who was present when the MoUs were signed, expressed hope that the partnership, to be effective January 2011 onwards, will bring changes at the two new Centres of Excellence for Academic Leadership (CEAL), to be established at Kozhikode and Kanpur.

Dr. Debashis Chatterjee, Director, IIM-Kozhikode and Dr. Sanjay Dhande, Director, IIT-Kanpur, signed the MoU with Dr. Richard Levin, President of Yale University. Smt. D. Purandeswari, Minister of State for HRD, was also present at the time of the signing ceremony.

Under the partnership, the Yale University, in consultation with the respective institutions, would develop a new "India-Yale Leadership Programme," which would bring international exposure to University and academic leaders in India. The programme will focus on participants at the levels of vice-chancellors, directors and deans and sensitize them to the "best practices of academic administration and institutional management in the United States."

Besides, the three institutions would also take up joint faculty research on higher education and organize workshops and seminars in specific areas of academic administration and leadership. The first in the series of such programmes would take place at New Haven, Connecticut next year.

IGNOU, Gothenburg University To Preserve Culinary Art Together

To address the "urgent need for capacity building in culinary art," the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) has signed an MoU with Gothenburg University, Sweden, under which a new "Institute of Culinary Arts" will be set up.

At the signing ceremony, Prof Ulf Hanning of the Gothenburg University, who was also the Chief Guest, said, "We shall be researching on and documenting the disappearing Indian cuisines from different parts of the country. We shall also focus on Gastronomy and food processing."

MoUs Between India, Spanish Universities

To encourage joint activities in areas like engineering, technology and biological sciences, a group of Indian institutes of management, science, information, foreign trade and education will sign agreements with the Alliance 4 Universities (A-4U) of Spain.

In India, the alliance will take place with the IIM-Bangalore, IIS-Bangalore, IIIT-Bangalore, IIFTI, BIMT, Consortium of National Institutes of Technology of India & Jaypee Education System.

Yale President Richard Levin stated, "Yale is pleased to undertake this important and much needed effort on higher education with IIM – Kozhikode and IIT – Kanpur. We look forward to working with them to advance the cause of higher education in India by sharing what we have learned over three centuries as an institution and we similarly look forward to learning from our partners in India in this age of global education."

IIT Madras, Nissan Sign MoUs To Encourage Automobile Research

Students of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras will now be able to carry out research work related to automobile sector, thanks to the two agreements that their institute has signed with the prestigious carmaker Nissan. The Japanese company, through its philanthropic wing, the Nissan Science Foundation (NSF), will not only groom talented students but will also contribute towards the development of the automobile sector in India.

Under one of the agreements, the "Nissan Foundation Scholar program," the foundation will give financial aid to selected students, including a short training stint at the Nissan headquarters in and an internship at Nissan's R&D Centre (RNTBCI) in India till 2015.

As per the second agreement, the premier technical education institute of the country will also have the "Nissan Support Program" with RNTBCI, which is valid upto March 2013.

The collaborative effort will also involve exchange of students, lecturers and researchers between Spain and India. An A-4U delegation has already visited education facilities in India during the last week of November.

Canadian Universities Offer Investment Worth 4 Million CAD

Canadian Universities have announced funding worth 4 million Canadian dollars to propel a series of India-specific initiatives including the new Globalink Canada-India Graduate Fellowship.

Eight Canadian Universities, including the University of British Columbia (UBC), have joined hands to put together this investment, which involves 51 scholarships of the value of more than 3.5 million Canadian dollars. These scholarships will be given to those students from India who have taken part in the MITACS Globalink program this year.

Stressing upon the importance of technological solutions affordable for the common man, Shri Sibal hoped that the Indo-Canadian Universities' collaboration would break new ground in this direction. He said that while research is required to break frontiers of science in the fields of nano technology, science and research are also required to find solutions for problems like poverty, water crisis, global warming and energy crisis.

The two sides also signed four MoUs on the occasion between:

- The UBC and IIT Delhi for renewing a long-standing student mobility agreement
- The University of Ontario Institute of Technology and Amal Jyothi College of Engineering
- The Royal Roads University and the Indira Gandhi National Open University
- The Royal Roads University and the CAN School of Business

The four MoUs are focussed on goals regarding undergraduate students spending time at each others' institutions, offering a Bachelor of Applied Science in Nuclear Power degree and establishing an educational partnership.

PM Announces India-US Higher Education Summit 2011

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh announced on November 8, 2010, that Indo-US ties in the education sector held "great promise" and the two countries were "better equipped to be partners in building the knowledge economy of the future."

To further this understanding between the two countries, the PM announced that next year, both the countries would hold a Higher Education Summit, in July next year in Mumbai over a course of three days.

In his opening remarks at a joint press conference with the visiting US President Barack Obama, Mr Singh said, "Cooperation in the field of education holds great promise because no two other countries are better equipped to be partners in building the knowledge economy of the future."

At present, about 100,000 Indian students are studying in various American institutes in the US.

Speaking after Mr. Singh, President Obama stressed upon the fact that "knowledge is the currency of the 21st century" and the two countries needed to "increase exchanges between our students, colleges and universities, which are among the best in the world."

Shri Kapil Sibal was present at the time when the summit was finalized between the two leaders. The HRD Ministry is working hard to ensure many more tie-ups in the future.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Sibal said, *"We intend to empower our students by providing access to the finest university education the world has on offer. And in Scotland, with its higher learning tradition that goes back to the Renaissance, we have found a worthy partner."* He also said more emphasis needs to be given to promotion of vocational courses, which will sharpen skills.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Salmond said *"Scotland is an ideal partner for India as it seeks to grow its education sector and enhance its research and development capabilities of which are needed to sustain strong and stable economic growth. Scotland's education industry is renowned for excellence, achievement and innovation. From further and higher education to cutting edge research and development, there is great opportunity for mutual benefit in this area"*.

India, Scotland Extend 'Learning' Links

Furthering the horizons of higher education in India, Shri Kapil Sibal held a successful meeting with Mr. Alex Salmond, First Minister of Scotland, vowing to strengthen the two countries' learning links.

Four MoUs were signed between the Higher Education Institutions of India and Scotland, which were a progression on an overarching MoU signed in 2009 between the Association of Indian Universities (AIU) and Universities Scotland.

The four MoUs are:

- Between University of Abertay Dundee and Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) in Allahabad to promote joint research and student exchange programmes.
- Between University of Edinburgh and University of Delhi to promote joint research and student exchange programmes. Edinburgh University is also opening up a new office in Mumbai.
- A partnership agreement between Glasgow Caledonian University (GCU) and Sitaram Bhartia Institute of Science and Research in New Delhi to deliver programmes which could see thousands of people in India spared unnecessary amputation through diabetes. It has forged partnerships with the MV Diabetes Research Centre in Chennai, Lilavati Hospital in Mumbai and Max Health Care, also in Delhi.
- Between Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) and India's National Accreditation Board for Education and Training (NABET) to develop skills and training.

India, UK Sign MoU For Second Phase Of UKIERI

In order to take ahead the UK-India Education and Research Initiative (UKIERI), India and UK signed an MoU for the second phase of the initiative, which will be funded by both the governments.

Shri Kapil Sibal signed the MoU on behalf of the Indian Government while Universities Minister David Willetts represented UK. This pact will go beyond the 600 new partnerships already created between Indian and British Institutions.

After signing the MoU, Shri Sibal said, "We are focusing largely on collaborations in the field of higher education the MoU focuses on skill development, leadership and quality in education, and student exchange along with the UK's cooperation in setting up the innovation universities in India."

The UKIERI is an ambitious programme spread over five years and it aims to improve the educational links between India and the UK.



Shri Sibal and the U.K. Science Minister, Mr. David Willetts, at the MoU signing ceremony of the Deptt. of Biotechnology, in New Delhi on November 11, 2010.

Calls For Consolidated Cooperation In Indian Ocean Region

Stressing upon the enhanced regional cooperation between the Indian Ocean littoral states, Smt. D. Purandeswari, Minister of State for Human Resource Development, has said that the initiatives proposed by the member states should be consolidated in the coming years. She was addressing the Council of Ministers Conference of the IOR-ARC (Indian Ocean Rim – Association for Regional Cooperation) at Sana'a, Republic of Yemen on August 5, 2010.

Smt. Purandeswari was there as the Leader of the Indian delegation and the conference saw the participation of representatives from 18 countries, located on the Indian Ocean Rim. Dr. Ali Mohammed Mujawar, Prime Minister of Yemen delivered the inaugural address at the event.

While highlighting the strategic importance of the Indian Ocean region, the Minister said, "The importance of the Indian Ocean maritime trade and transport has grown in recent times.

Smt Purandeswari informed the Conference that the Indian Government was committed to strengthen the activities of the IOR-ARC and invited the participating



Smt. D. Purandeswari at the Council of Ministers Conference of the IOR-ARC (Indian Ocean Rim- Association for Regional Cooperation), at Sana'a in Republic of Yemen on August 05, 2010.

countries to participate in the upcoming India International Trade Fair (IITF) as well as the Annapurna World of Food India 2010.

The Minister also spoke of India's plan to formulate a programme for the fishing community under its Ministry of Earth Sciences, which would provide the fishermen with credible advisories on Potential Fishing Zones.

IIM Boards Not To Be Dissolved

The Ministry of HRD has made it clear that the existing boards of the IIMs throughout the country will not dissolved. It was the Bhargava Committee, which had suggested that in order to revamp the IIMs, the government needed to restructure the society of IIMs and Board of Governors. The Committee had also recommended that further powers be provided to the board to select and appoint chairman and director.

While insisting that the report was under examination with the government, Shri Kapil Sibal said in the Lok Sabha, "There are no plans to dissolve the existing IIMs boards."

The Bhargava Committee, being headed by R. C. Bhargava, former chairman of Maruti Udyog Limited, has been set up to review and suggest changes in the functioning of IIMs.

IIT Rajasthan Allotted Projects Under NMEICT's \$35 Laptop Device

The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Rajasthan has been allotted two projects under the Ministry of HRD's ambitious \$ 35 Low Cost Access-cum-Computing device. These projects pertain to purchase of 1 lakh such devices and carrying out intensive laboratory and field tests across the country.

The decision was taken at the second meeting of the National Apex Committee and the 16th meeting of the Project Approval Board of National Mission on Education through Information & Communication Technology (NMEICT).

The lab tests are aimed at ensuring that the device is suitable to be used in all geographical regions and in all climatic conditions.

Committee Constituted On Rajiv Gandhi National Institute for Youth Development

A Committee has been constituted to look into a proposal to convert the Rajiv Gandhi National Institute for Youth Development (RGNIYD) into Rajiv Gandhi Central University or Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth and Sports. The RGNIYD is presently an institution deemed to be University.

The Committee is being chaired by Professor Ved Prakash, Vice Chairman, UGC.

Among other things, the Committee would "examine the feasibility of converting the existing institution deemed to be university to Central University/National Institute of Youth and Sports and recommend on the appropriateness of broadening the mandate of the institution to include sporting activities as an important aspect of youth development."

Central Universities Discuss Admission Procedures To UG, PG courses

In a significant development, Shri Kapil Sibal and the Vice Chancellors of Central Universities admitted to the fact that using entrance tests for admission to Undergraduate courses in Indian colleges, was an "immense burden" on the students and applicants.

At a meeting of the Vice Chancellors of Central Universities, chaired by Shri Sibal, the participants, therefore, felt that the admissions to Undergraduate courses could be made on the basis of a combination of marks secured by the candidate in Class 12 and the scores obtained in a common aptitude test, which was to be conducted nationally. The participants also felt that the weightage between the two may be decided by the individual universities.

Besides, admission to the Post Graduate programmes may be made on the basis of marks obtained at the graduate level and a common test having some subject component.

It was decided at the meeting that the Central Universities could work out the modalities in this regard, keeping in mind specific requirements while the special admission arrangements already in place at Central Universities will stay put.

The VCs' meeting with Shri Sibal also agreed that a four-year integrated BA/BSc/BCom-cum-Bed course may be introduced from the next academic session, to cater to the need for a specialized pool of teachers.

Pvt. Institutions Welcome NARA Proposal

Representatives of private higher education institutions have welcomed the Ministry's initiatives towards setting up a National Accreditation Regulatory Authority, a legislation which is currently under consideration in the Parliament.

This was expressed during a meeting that the representatives had with Shri Kapil Sibal recently.

The private higher education institutions have also said that instead of clubbing the quality institutions with the rest, the government should keep a separate set of rules and guidelines for the quality institutes in the country. The representatives also pitched for access to long term funding on priority lending rates, which would help them to set up additional infrastructure.

3-day UGC-AIU Meet Discusses 'Governance Of Higher Education'

The All India Vice Chancellors' Conference under the ambit of University Grants Commission – Association of Indian Universities (UGC-AIU) was organised in November this year. During the conference, the participants, including Vice Chancellors of Universities from 28 States and 30 foreign delegates, deliberated upon the main theme, "Governance of Higher Education."

The foreign representatives belonged to countries like Australia, Bhutan, Canada, Taiwan, France and the UK. The 85th Annual Meeting of Association of Indian Universities was also organized along with the meet, which took place at Bharati Vidyapeeth Deemed University, Pune.

Dr. A. R. Lakshmanan, former Judge, Supreme Court of India, was the Chief Guest for the occasion. He recommended autonomy for Indian Universities so that these institutions could function effectively, provide wholesome development and improve productivity. Professor M. D. Tiwari, President, AIU, said that the suggestions and inputs provided by the participating VCs shall be taken into consideration.

AICTE Brings E-Governance Into Transactions

Taking a historic step towards an improved educational structure, the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has introduced e-governance into transaction of all its business from online submission to processing of the applications. This is being done to improve transparency and clarity as well as easily assured communication between the institution and its applicants.

In order to bring in a reformatory zeal to the system of technical education in the country, a few more steps are as follows:

Online submission of applications all year round: The process for the approval of cases electronically started for the year 2010-11 w.e.f 10th January, 2010. It facilitated tracking of applications and emphasized on Self declarations by Institutions rather than inspections.

Norms for Land Requirement: Land requirement for engineering Institutions in mega cities reduced from 3 to 2.5 acres and in metro cities from 5 to 4 acres.

IIM Vision: Autonomy Plus Accountability

Shri Kapil Sibal held a meeting with the Chairpersons and Directors of IIMs on the vision of the IIMs and the important steps needed to be taken in this direction. The meeting was held on October 13, 2010.

While enlightening the participants about the steps taken by the Ministry in the past one and a half year, Shri Sibal said that autonomy should go hand in hand with accountability. To ensure this, he suggested, the respective IIMs' Directors and Boards should take steps to prepare annual action plans and key performance indicators at each level and be fully accountable and transparent.

While citing the steps taken in providing autonomy to these institutions, Shri Sibal enumerated:

- Full powers to the Boards of IIMs to create posts within the approved norms
- Freedom to open centres in India and abroad
- Amend rules of the IIM within the framework of Memorandum of Association and Rules
- Power to acquire & dispose property not fully or partially funded by the MHRD.

The meeting also considered the reports of Committees constituted in the last meeting in Bangalore on certain key issues.

Review Meeting on Educational Statistics for N-E States

A review meeting on Educational Statistics was held on December 21-22, 2010, at Agartala (Tripura) for the North-Eastern States. This meeting was fourth in the series of such meetings. Earlier three meetings were held in Delhi under the Chairmanship of Secretary (HE), MHRD. Representatives of six States, namely, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland and Tripura attended the meeting.

The meeting reviewed the data supplied by the States in respect of School Education as well as Higher Education. In the meeting various issues relating to coverage timelines, quality and reliability were discussed. The first day of the meeting was devoted to School Education and second day to Higher Education. Principal Secretary, School Education and Principal Secretary, Higher Education, Govt. of Tripura addressed the gathering on respective dates.

AICTE Organisational reforms:

To strengthen the organization and enhance the functioning and performance of the Council, the following measures and practices have been adopted.

- Introduction of e-governance system for transparency.
- Website is being modified to make it more user friendly
- Office Manuals for adopting procedures have been drafted.
- Induction training / orientation programmes for incumbents are being drafted.
- Proper Records management, retention / weeding are being carried out.
- Personnel are appointed on deputation basis.
- Execution of Work order for Construction of Permanent Building at JNU
- Council is also exploring the possibility of Digitization of records.

French Delegation Signs MOUs Seeking Enhanced Cooperation In Education

Seeking enhanced cooperation between India and France, in the field of education and scientific research, Shri Kapil Sibal met Ms. Valerie Pecresse, French Minister for Higher Education and Research on December 6, 2010. Ms. Pecresse was accompanied by a large delegation of senior academics and scientists while the Indian side had Dr. T. Ramasami, Secretary, DST, Shri Ashok Thakur, Addl. Secretary, MHRD, Shri Amit Khare, JS (ICC), MHRD, Prof. Devang Khakhar, Director, IIT-Bombay and Prof. Govindan Rangarajan, Head, International Division of IISc, Bangalore.

Both leaders discussed the need to have more arrangements for cooperation in the field of education and research such as Nanotechnology, Biotechnology, Weather prediction, Aerospace engineering, Advanced Mathematics, etc.

Two important MOUs were also signed during the meeting, which pertained to:

1. Setting up an International Joint Laboratory between Institut De Recherche Pour le Developpement and the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore.

2. Academic collaboration between the Indian Institutes of Technology and ParisTech – Paris Institute of Science and Technology.

The second MOU is between 7 Indian Institutes of Technology (Kharagpur, Bombay, Madras, Kanpur, Delhi, Guwahati and Roorkee) and Institutions under ParisTech namely:

- AgroParisTech (Institut des Sciences et Industries du Vivant et de l'Environnement), Arts et Métiers ParisTech (Ecole Nationale Supérieure d'Arts et Métiers), Chimie ParisTech (Ecole Nationale Supérieure de Chimie Paris),

- Ecole des Ponts ParisTech (Ecole Nationale des Ponts et Chaussées),

- Ecole Polytechnique,

- ENSAE ParisTech (Ecole Nationale de la Statistique et de l'Administration Economique),

- ENSTA (Ecole Nationale Supérieure de Techniques Avancées),



Shri Kapil Sibal meeting the French Minister of Higher Education and Research, Ms Valerie Pecresse in New Delhi on December 6, 2010.

- ESPCI ParisTech (Ecole Supérieure de Physique et de Chimie Industrielles de la Ville de Paris),

- HEC Paris (Ecole des Hautes Etudes Commerciales),

- Institut d'Optique Graduate School,

- MINES ParisTech (Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Mines de Paris), and

- Telecom ParisTech (Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Télécommunications)

NIMHANS Declared Institute of National Importance

The Government has declared the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS) at Bangalore as an 'Institute of National Importance.'

NIMHANS is the fourth such institute to be accorded this honor, the other three being, All India Institute of Medical Science (AIIMS) at New Delhi, Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER) at Chandigarh and Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research (JIPMER) at Puducherry.

Task Force

All India Survey On Higher Education

A reliable and sound database for Higher Education is the demand of time, with this in view, Department of Higher Education of MHRD has proposed to conduct an All India Survey of all the higher education institutions located in the country. Various statistics relating to student enrollment, teachers, etc. are proposed to be collected during the survey. The Task Force, constituted for this purpose, will explore the mechanism of conducting the survey. The survey is proposed to be conducted under the over all supervision and guidance of the Task Force.

Additional Secretary (HE), Department of Higher Education, MHRD is the Chairman of the Task Force while Deputy Director General (Statistics), Deptt of HE is the Member Secretary. Representatives of UGC, AICTE, Medical Council of India, ICAR, National Statistical Commission, Representative of states, IGNOU, NIC, etc are the members of this Task Force.

Evolving Geospatial Education Strategy

Another Task Force was constituted under the chairmanship of Dr. K. Kasturirangan, Member, Planning Commission, which would prepare a national strategy for geospatial education in the country and recommend implementation of geospatial education programmes at desired levels.

The Task Force will also identify and evaluate the human resource requirement in the burgeoning geospatial industry, besides developing and designing geospatial oriented educational programmes for technical and non-technical institutions.

Representatives of UGC, Indian Institute of Survey and Mapping, AICTE, IIT Kanpur, IIIT Bangalore are other members.

Shri Amit Khare, Joint Secretary, Deptt of HE, is the Member Secretary.

MHRD, UIDAI To Track Student Mobility Through Electronic Registry

The Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) and the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) signed an MoU to ensure tracking of student's mobility by creating an electronic registry of all the students mobility by creating an electronic registry of all the students in India. The MoU was signed in the presence of Shri Kapil Sibal and Shri Nandan Nilekani, chairman, UIDAI on October 27, 2010.

Shri Amit Khare, Joint Secretary, MHRD and Shri Anil Kachi, Deputy Director General, UIDAI, signed the MoU on behalf of their respective organizations.

Under the proposed MoU, the student mobility would be tracked right from the primary/elementary level through secondary and higher education, as well as between the institutions. Imprinting of UID number on performance record of individual students (marksheets, merit certificates, migration certificates) will also be helpful to prospective employers and education institutions. UID number will help in tracking problems of fake degrees too.

The MHRD would provide all support to the UIDAI in conducting proof of concept (PoC) studies, pilots to test the working of the technology & process of enrolment into the UID database, etc.



Shri Kapil Sibal and the Chairman, UIDAI, Shri Nandan Nilekani witnessing the signing of an MoU between the MHRD and the UIDAI, in New Delhi. The Minister of State for Human Resource Development, Smt. D. Purandeswari is also seen.

IGNOU To Collaborate On Unique Identification Project

The ambitious project of the Government of India, the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has enlisted the expertise of the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) for the implementation of its Unique Identification Numbers (UID) project.

In this regard, an MoU was signed between UIDAI Chairman Nandan Nilekani and IGNOU Vice-Chancellor V. N. Rajasekharan Pillai.

ICPR Lifetime Achievement Award To Prof. Chattopadhyaya, Prof. Balasubramanian

Acknowledging their intellectual accomplishments, Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh conferred the Indian Council for Philosophical Research (ICPR) lifetime achievement award upon Prof. D. P. Chattopadhyaya and Prof. R. Balasubramanian, on December 22, 2010.

While underlining the increasing need for interdisciplinary studies and to promote unification of knowledge and philosophy, Dr. Singh said, "As the mother of all sciences, philosophy is necessarily inter-disciplinary. Therefore, it should be pursued not merely as a separate discipline, like economics and political science, but as a trans-disciplinary subject taught along with other subjects."

Addressing the gathering, Shri Kapil Sibal complimented both the awardees and said that that government was taking steps towards compatibility between equivalent fellowships awarded by the ICPR and the UGC.

He said, "Young brilliant students opt for more lucrative professional streams leading to societal distortion reflected in our societal values. I believe the time is ripe to bring about a balance between the professional and applied disciplines on the one hand and basic ones on the other, that is the 'outer' and 'inner' disciplines."



Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, presenting the ICPR Silver Jubilee Award for distinguished life-time achievement in Philosophy to Prof. R. Balasubramanian, in New Delhi on December 22, 2010. Shri Kapil Sibal is also seen.

Bills Introduced In The Parliament:

In the recent past, the Ministry has initiated various legislative measures in the form of Bills introduced in the Parliament, to streamline activities related to development of Higher Education. Among these are:

▪ **Bill On Copyright (Amendment) Bill:** The Bill was introduced in Rajya Sabha on April 19, 2010 and was referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee (PSC) whose report has now been received.

▪ **Bill on Unfair Practices in Higher Education:** In order to curb prevalence of unfair practices in the educational institutions throughout the country, MHRD introduced Prohibition of Unfair Practices in Technical Educational Institutions, Medical Educational Institutions and University Bill on May 3, 2010 in Lok Sabha. The Bill is currently under examination by the PSC.

▪ **Bill on National Educational Tribunal/State Educational Tribunals:** To fast-track disputes related to HE sector, the MHRD tabled the Educational Tribunals Bill in the Lok Sabha on May 3, 2010.

▪ **Bill On Independent Accreditation Authority for HE:** Already being considered an ambitious effort, the MHRD also introduced the National Accreditation Regulatory Authority for Higher Educational Institutions Bill, 2010 in Lok Sabha on May 3, 2010. The Bill is presently with the PSC.

▪ **Bill on Regulating Entry and Operations of Foreign Education Providers:** With the Indian education sector opening up to foreign players like nothing before, the Ministry also tabled the Foreign Educational Institutions (Regulation of Entry and Operations) Bill, 2010 in the Parliament on May 3, 2010. The Bill is presently with the PSC.

▪ **Bill on Amendment to National Institution of Technology (NIT) Act:** The National Institute of Technology (Amendment) Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on April 15, 2010.

Besides the above, the government efforts to fine-tune the education system continue with the following Bills:

1) Bill on amendment to the **Central Educational Institutes (Reservation in Admission) Act, 2006** was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on August 2, 2010.

2) Bill on amendment to the **Institute of Technology Act, 1961**, was introduced in the Lok Sabha on August 30, 2010.

First Newsletter of Deptt. Of Higher Education Released

The first newsletter of the Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development was released by Shri Kapil Sibal on September 9, 2010. The newsletter, titled "Newsletter On Higher Education," is an attempt to build a communication channel between the government and the public.

The newsletter is also expected to act as a means for the citizens/stakeholders to stay abreast of the activities of the Department and articulate their views and comments on public policies on Higher Education.

The easy to view and read quarterly newsletter is available 'online' as well. The inaugural issue of the Newsletter has sections on main features, campus notes, exchange of ideas, vichar vimarsh, etc. All 'surfers', teachers, students, academics, administrators, management of Institutions and other leadership positions, alumni and all those who wish Indian higher education system to improve are invited to contribute to this publication with their valuable ideas and suggestions.

Free Education To CWG Medal Winners

To recognize the valiant efforts of the medal-winning sportspersons on the field during the recently-held Commonwealth Games, 2010, the Government is going to provide free education to them for the entire duration of their studies. The support will be provided for as long the medal winner wants to continue his or her studies.

Shri Kapil Sibal announced this as a "token of appreciation and a gesture towards encouraging sports talent among students of different categories and age-groups. The expenditure on the college-going students, including those in professional colleges, would be borne by the University Grants Commission (UGC). The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) would bear all such expenditure on education of all those currently in Schools, irrespective of whether they are in CBSE-affiliated schools or not.

The monetary support to CWG medalists will comprise of the tuition fee as well as the maintenance expenditures.



Shri Sibal releasing the Newsletter On Higher Education on September 09, 2010.

AICTE Relaxes Norms Of Student Intake In Technical Institutions

In order to facilitate setting up of new higher education institutions, the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has decided to relax its norms.

The Council has proposed that the engineering and technological institutions can seek an intake of 300 candidates in the first year itself, instead of the 240 earlier. Similarly, the intake in MCA, MBA, PGDM, pharmacy and art and craft institutions can admit 120 candidates instead of 60.

In architecture and town planning, the AICTE has doubled the first year intake from 40 to 80.

Trilingual Master Plan of Sri Lanka

In pursuance to the decision taken during the official visit of Sri Lankan President, Mr. Mahinda Rajapaksa, to New Delhi between June 8 and 11, 2010, a team of language experts, led by Dr. Anita Bhatnagar Jain, Joint Secretary (Languages) of MHRD visited Sri Lanka between November 12 and 17, 2010. The Sri Lankan government had sought the assistance of the Government of India for their project "10 Year Presidential Initiative to steer Sri Lanka towards a Trilingual (Sinhalese, Tamil and English) Society."

Under the plan, it is proposed that the Indian Government would support Sri Lanka through its CIIL, Mysore for Tamil language and through the English & Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad, for English language.

Promotions

Shri N.K. Sinha, IAS, has been promoted as Additional Secretary in the Bureau of Technology Enabled Learning (TEL).

The following Ministry Officials were promoted from the post of Deputy Secretary to Director:

Shri Shri I. P. S. Bakshi;
Shri G. R. Raghavender;
Shri J. R. Aggarwal;
Shri C. P. S. Nonghulo;
Dr. Harvinder Singh;
Shri S. P. S. Sangwan;

Appointments

Shri A. K. Singh has joined as Joint Secretary, HE;
Shri Amarjit Singh, Joint Secretary;
Shri G. K. Dwivedi, PS to MoS (HRD);
Smt. Alka Bhargava, Director;
Shri Virender Singh, DS;
Smt C. R. V. Hariharan, DS;
Shri Jitender Bhatti, Assistant Personal Secretary to HRM;
Shri Ramji Pandey, US;
Shri S. Bhattacharyya, US;
Shri Juglal Singh, US;
Shri Arun Kumar, US;
Shri R. P. Tewari, US.
Shri B. B. Mukherjee, US;
Shri Santosh Kr. Verma, US;
Smt Mamta Yadav, Assistant;
Shri Saurabh Arora, Stat. Inv.;
Smt Jayshree Dey, Stat. Inv.;
Ms Nisha Goel, Stat. Inv.;
Shri Nandan Varmaji, UDC;
Smt Janaki Vishwanathan, UDC;
Smt Champa Suri, PA.
Smt Sudha Wadhwa, PA.
Shri Nikhil Arora, Sr. Hindi Translator.

Retirements

Shri Hasib Ahmad, Member Secretary,

National Council for Teacher Education;
Shri J. R. Aggarwal, Director;
Shri S. K. Ohri, Deputy Secretary (DS);
Shri Ravi Chand, US;
Shri Vijendra Singh, Assistant Director;
Shri Yash Pal, Section Officer (SO);
Smt. Promila Choudhary, SO;
Shri Proloy Chowdhury, SO;
Shri Anil Kumar, SO;
Shri A. K. Bhatt, SO;
Shri A. C. Chhatwal, SO.
Shri V. K. Behal, Personal Secretary (PS);

Shri Krishan Lal Khurana, Personal Assistant (PA).
Smt Geeta Agrawal, Assistant.
Shri Tej Ram, UDC;
Shri Rama Kant Yadav, Sr. Peon.
Shri Om Prakash, Safai Karamchari.

Transfers from MHRD

Smt Manisha Verma, Director
Shri Arvind Suri, Director;
Smt Neelam S. Rao, Director;
Dr. D. K. Paliwal, DEA;
Shri K. L. Nandwani, US;
Shri R. S. Bhatia, US;
Shri D. Roulngul, US;
Shri S. S. Mahlawat, US;
Shri T. V. A. Ram, US;
Shri K. S. Kusala Kumar, US;
Shri D. S. Uikey, SO;
Shri Bherav Dutt, SO
Shri M. K. Sahay, SO;
Ms. Pratibha Saxena, SO;
Shri V. T. Likhari, SO;
Shri Chunda Oraon, SO;
Shri Dhiraj Singh, SO;
Shri Parminder Singh, SO;
Shri S. C. Sharma, SO;
Shri R. C. Ghildiyal, SO;
Shri Theodore Tigga, SO;

Shri C. Sarkar, SO;
Shri T. K. Ghoshal, SO;
Shri Ramesh Chander, SO;
Shri Tanmoy Roy, SO;
Shri Kanwaljit, Assistant.
Shri Jagtar Singh, PS;
Shri Subhash Chand, PA;
Ms. Manisha Jha, PA.
Shri Yadvir Singh, UDC;
Shri Ramji Prasad, UDC;
Shri Shailesh Shah, UDC;
Ms. Geeta Devi, UDC;
Shri Ajay Kumar, UDC;
Shri Biswajit Kumar, UDC.

Prof P. Rameshan is Director IIM- Rohtak

Prof P. Rameshan has been appointed Director of the newly established Indian Institute of Manager (IIM), Rohtak. A Ph. D. in economics from IIT, Kharagpur, Prof Rameshan has been coordinating the activities of the Centre for Strategic World Trade Organization (WTO) Research at IIM-Kozhikode.

Condolence Message

Shri L. T. Lakra, a Section Officer in MHRD, passed away recently. He had joined the MHRD in 1984 and had been working at various positions for the past more than 26 years. A condolence meeting was also held in the Ministry to pay homage to the deceased. May God grant peace to the departed soul.