

INFORMATICS

1. NEWS

NBA for Quality Assurance -

A proposal to set up a National Board of Accreditation (NBA) under AICTE to periodically conduct evaluation of technical institutions or programmes is reported to have been cleared. Accreditation shall be of an institution or a programme.

The details regarding guidelines, norms, standards, and procedure are to be finalised by the NBA and an action plan will be drawn for introducing a programme of accreditation in institution of engineering, technology, managements, pharmacy. etc. at degree and diploma level.

While considering total accreditation of an institution, the infrastructural facilities and the management of the institution should also be evaluated, besides the academic programmes.

Technical University for Belgaum.

A new Technical University named as Dr. M. Visvesvaraya Technical University has started functioning from the academic year 1994-95 at Belgaum, Karnataka.

B. Tech in Computer Engineering -

Guru Nanak Dev University is reported to have introduced a B. Tech. degree course in Computer Engineering under the Department of Computer Science and Engineering from the current academic year. The intake for this course is 30, and admission will be on the basis of merit in CET.

Vocational Courses at Delhi University

Delhi University proposes to introduce thirteen new vocational courses at the undergraduate level at B.A. (Pass) and B.Sc. (General) courses. The new courses include among others, Rural technology, Electronic Equipment Maintenance and Computer Maintenance.

Course on Flight Control & Guidance

The aerospace engineering department of I. I. T. Bombay, proposes to introduce a programme for Indian Air Force Officers on "flight control & guidance" from this year. It has also introduced a course on spacecraft technology.

AICTE Financial Assistance Schemes

AICTE has started two schemes; i) Financial Assistance to organise seminars
ii) Travel grants to encourage high standards in technical education and research.

The schemes envisage promoting opportunities to scholars, and industries for sharing of knowledge and financial assistance for organising seminars, symposiums, conferences, workshops. etc. in the fields like. architecture, pharmacy, townplanning and applied arts and crafts from Rs. 2000/- to Rs. 1 lakh may be given for an event – local to Inter-national . The conference confined to "technical work" and "paper presentation." should be based on original research work and organised in collaboration with a professional body.

Under Travel Grant scheme, partial financial support is to be provided to individuals to attend the conferences/ seminars / symposia being held abroad.

Computerised system for admission

Bharat Electronics LTD. (BEL) Bangalore, computerised on line liquid crystal device.(LCD.) display systems to the authorities of the Common Entrance Test(CET) Special cell to be used during interviews for admissions of students to professional colleges in Karnataka. A student seeking admission to a professional college, can have an option of the college on spot. LCD has pannels which display the availability, status of courses and seats in all engineering, medical and dental colleges.

Haryana Govt. to spend Rs. 117 cr. on technical education

Haryana Govt. is to spend Rs. 117 cr. on technical education in the eighth plan. It will set up one polytechnic in every district.

AICTE Recognition for Master of Rural Management

AICTE has recognised the Master of Rural Management course of the Gujarat Vidyapith.

Recognition for Industrial consultancy at IIT Madras

Since the time IIT Madras decided as a policy not to accept routine testing but to concentrate on research based industrial consultancy, industries have come to recognise, the value of research based consultancy which is reflected in the fact that during 1993-94 this institute earned for 3.74 cr. from consultancy projects. Under sponsored research, it has projects worth 5 cr. The institute had during

1993 -94 filed applications for grant of patents in India for five major innovations/inventions.

Financing Technical Education

A high powered committee headed by Dr. D. Swaminaathan on mobilisation of resources for Technical education setup by AICTE has recommended among other things.

i) Setting up of Education Development Bank for giving soft loans for development and setting up of institution and assisting needy students.

ii) National loan scholarship scheme for needy students through Education Bank

iii) Levying of education cess on Industries.

iv) Income tax rebate on donations and contribution to recognised technical institutions.

Technical Universities in Tamilnadu

All Govt/Govt aided, and self financing engineering colleges in Tamilnadu will be attached to a Technological University proposed to be set up in Tamilnadu.

Punjabi University B. Tech. recognised

AICTE has granted recognition to the B.Tech. Computer Science Degree of Punjabi University.

New B. Tech. courses in Osmania University

Osmania University proposes to start four year B.Tech. courses in food processing and preservation technology, leather technology and textile technology with an intake of 16 students in each faculty from the year 1994-95

2. VIEWS

Prof. W. R. Rao, the former chairman ISRO, while delivering convocation address at IIT Bombay

" Our own scientific policy was beautifully enunciated by Par Jit Nehru in the 1958 resolution..... what has gone wrong is the implementation of this policy by the socio - political system which is devoid of scientific temper and appreciation of science, which still considers science and technology as an embroidery and not the major social fabric and which has failed to actively promote science and technology in a focussed and purposeful manner."

Ibid

Ibid

"Our Universities must be able to produce a generation of innovators not imitators, planners not paper pushers, job creators not job seekers and thinkers but not followers."

Prof. S. K. Khanna, Chairman AICTE, during his visit to Gujarat Vidyapith

Prof. Khanna stated that there was a great mismatch between technical education and Industrial development. There was no precise information on exact manpower requirement in each sector; requiring technical training. He said that each Industry should adopt a technical education institute dealing with higher education.

The Hon. Vice President Mr. K. R. Narayanan at IIT Delhi convocation

The Vice President said it was not enough for research and development to be continued in Government Laboratories. The expanding private sector will have to share the burden to a substantial extent and Universities and other educational and research institutions will have to co-operate with industry to produce the required results.

3. NEWS FROM ABROAD

WB recommends Private Financing of Education

The World Bank recommends brand shift toward much greater private financing of all aspects of higher education including setting up private Universities, higher tuition fees, and loan for students. Its report paints a picture of higher education in crisis around the World, dwindling resources and mushrooming enrolment have led to underpaid lecturers neglected libraries and overcrowded and decaying buildings...

WB wants to see a wider range of institutions; more private colleges, more catering for sub - degree level students, to enable higher education to respond better to this need of the labour market. It calls for public colleges and Universities to generate their own income. 30% of their spending should come from non- Govt. Sources. Students should be made to pay a greater share of this cost of higher education because they will benefit from it through fatter salaries. The needy should be given help through students loans, work study schemes, and scholarships.

Degree offered Through PBS Telecourse Programme

Sixty community colleges have joined with 22 Public television stations in USA to offer associates of arts degrees through distance learning tele courses... students wishing to earn degree will study via telecourses that utilize video programme distributed through broadcast or tape; text books and study guidance. All courses will be led by instructors, who will establish course requirements and

evaluate and work with students. The students will pay tuition to the community colleges which will award credits and degrees.

FORTH COMING SEMINARS/CONFERENCES

Sr. No.	Proposed Date	Title	Theme	Name of the Organisor	Name of the Organising Sec
1)	19-22 Dec 1994	National Seminar of Indian Association of special Libraries & Information Centre (IASLIC)	Networking of Libraries Problem & Prospects	The Indian Institute of technology, B'bay (IIT, B'bay)	Dr.S.K.Ganpule Gen. Seceretary Central Library IIT B'bay 400076
2)	Nov 8-11	23 rd IFTDO WORLD CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION	Global changes & stability in 2000 AD - strategic issue	Indian Society for Training & Development	IFTDO conference Indian Society for Training & Development, B-41 Institutional Area, New Mehrali Road, Delhi 110016.

★

To Our Readers

The views and opinions expressed in this journal are those of individual authors. The contributors are not supposed to have the last word. Readers are welcome to join issues with them.

Our colomns are as much open to you - The Readers - as They are to the contributors. Your communication should, however, be brief and to the point.

To stir the minds and initiate discussion is one of our aims, besides dissemination of knowledge.

Editor.