

INFORMATICS

I NEWS

Academic Audit System for Universities

UGC'S justice Punnayya Committee Report recommends "Academic Audit- System" for monitoring performance and to promote efficiency and cost effectiveness. More accountability, academic efficiency, generation of internal resources to meet part of the expenditure, creation of corpus fund, strict stipulations on student-teacher and teaching-non teaching staff ratio and revision of fee structures are the other important features of the report.

First University in Private Sector :

The GOI has cleared a proposal to set up the Rajiv Gandhi National University of Computer Sciences. It will have a distinction of the first University in private sector. Modelled on the University of California and Carnegie Mellon University of USA it will be imparting exclusively the computer education. It will have an Institute offering certificates, diplomas and postal diploma courses. A college offering degree, postgraduate degree and a software development centre to develop software packages. It will not receive any funding from the Govt. The admissions will be through an all-India entrance test and strictly on the basis of merit with reservation for N.K.I. It proposes to charge tuition-fees within a system of refundable deposits by students. No capitation fee or donation will be charged from any student.

Workshop on Technical Terms in Hindi :

The workshop on "Technical Terms in Hindi" organised at S.D.College Muzaffarnagar by the commission for Scientific and Technical Terminology (CSTT), discussed evolution of scientific and technical terminology in Hindi for progressive use of Hindi in teaching of undergraduate science subjects. The CSTT is engaged in the work of updating its terminology as well as evolution of newly emerging terminology in various disciplines of science.

University Industry Interaction :

The delegates attending a two day national seminar on co-operation among university, Research and Industrial Enterprises recently organised at the Birla Institute of Technology, Pilani called for greater co-operation among these three sectors to promote national development. They concluded that to inculcate a competitive outlook among Indian Industries, institutionalised efforts are essential for creating co-operation, among University, research and industrial enterprises. For use of facilities, exchange of personnel and collaborative programmes with well-defined terminal objectives. It was decided therefor to form a national association with representatives from all these sectors to create awareness and influence-formulation of policies on the subject.

B.Sc. DEGREE Course for Supervisors

Anna University and Ambattur Industrial Estate Manufacturers Association Technology Centre. Educational Trust (ATCET) are jointly commencing a B.Sc. (Industrial Management) Course, the first of its kind involving basic sciences, and engineering and

management studies to fulfill a long felt need of especially small scale industries of upgrading the skills of their supervisory cadres. It would have working students sponsored by Industries and would be funded by a Rs.50 lakh corpus made available by the ATCEI.

The course represents a rare instance of "demand side" approach to technical Education and has been carefully designed to suit the needs of users (Industries.)

New Model for Lab - Industry Link

Dr.S.K.Joshi, Director-General CSIR suggested that certain CSIR Laboratories could be integrated with industries as a part of the national effort to compete in the new global trade environment. As a beginning the Indian Institute of Petroleum (IIP) could function as a "dedicated laboratory" of the petroleum industry. The IIP while retaining its links with the CSIR could develop new technologies for different units in the petroleum industries and at the same time maintain the confidentiality required by them for business purposes.

AICTE IN ACTION

Prof.S.K.Khanna, Chairman, AICTE declared that AICTE had completed, for the first time, the evaluation of all technical institutions in the country. He said, all attempts would be made to prevent unrecognised institutions from making admissions during the forthcoming academic year. The council will also function in a more decentralized manner with the active involvement of technical institutions. AICTE aims at developing a sound system of technical education where excellence, relevance and participation are of prime importance.

International Sun DAY

The school of Energy Studies, Shivaji University-Kolhapur celebrated the International SunDAY, to create an awareness about utilization of Solar Energy, Experimental Demonstrations of more than 15 Solar Energy based equipments were arranged in workshop organised on the day.

IIT at Guwahati

The Sixth I. I. T. after Kharagpur, Bombay, Kanpur, Madras, Delhi will be established at Guwahati in the Eighth plan for which Rs. 53 crores have been earmarked. B. Tech. programmes in Computer Science and engineering, electronics and communication engineering and mechanical engineering among other often will be introduced.

HEARTY FELICITATIONS

Shri R. B. Jatkor, Librarian Govt. Polytechnic Amravati, on his nomination as chairman of the ILA Central Sectional Committee on polytechnic Libraries.

P. Sivakumar, Dr. B. Mukhopadhyaya, Dr. Arunkumar from T. T. T. I.P. Madras on their co-authoring a paper entitled "Training Teachers in developing Counseving Skills: Video Feedback Model of Micro teaching" which received National award constituted by NCERT New Delhi under "Innovative Experiments and Practices in Teacher Education."

STATE Project Implementation Unit. Maharashtra State for the World Bank Assisted.

Projects for technical education on its starring a quartely News Letter 'prerana'.

II VIEWS

Reorientation of Research towards Industrial Needs

The Secretary General of the Association of Indian Universities Prof. K. B. Powar while participating in the two day National Seminar on co-operation among University, Reserch and Industrial Enterprises held at BIT, Pilani called for creation of a data bank for research work being done in different areas. He pointed out that out of 3000 Ph. D studies in Science & Technology only about 250 have referance for Industries. Therefore, he stressed that research should be reoriented to suit industrial needs.

Knowledge and Wisdom

Mr. Kamalnath, Union Minister of Environment & Forests while delivering the annual convocation address of the Institute of Management Technology said " While knowledge was acquired in colleges and institutions, the acquisition of Wisdom was a continuous process. Wisdom lies in establishing a congruence of personal and corporate objectives with social and national goals. To do otherwise would be working at cross purposes rendering both unsuccessful in the long run. "

Education, Individual & Society

Dr.Karan Singh former Education Minister and Indian Ambassador to United States while delivering convocation address at University of Delhi asked, "Has education helped the students to increase their physical strength ? Has it helped them develop intellectual capability and emotional maturity ? Can students preceive the aesthetics of society and are they imbibing socially desirable values ? And finally, has education enabled the students to identify their spiritual powers. He remarked that the body was the temple of the diving and education must equip students with physical education as much as it must with moral and spiritual education. He said beauty was the reflection of the devine in our puranic texts. Women were worshipped. He regretted that the modern trend was to look upon them only as "sex objects".

III NEWS FROM ABROAD

STRATEGIES FOR CHANGE & DEVELOPMENT IN HIGHER EDUCATION

UNESCO has recently put out a policy poper entitled "Strategies for change and development in-Higher Education". Beginning with an analysis of trends in higher education, the paper sets out policy choices with regard to these main challanges terms of relevance, quality and inter nationalisation. No doubt last twenty five years saw unpreceded quantitative expansion. But it was associated with constant inequalities in access. Financial constraints and decline in quality leading to broadene gap between developing and developed countries in scientific and technological know-now.

The rethinking and reform in higher education is centering around diversification of higher education, involvement of academy and Industry in partnership, advanced studies in science and technology, producing professiona land managerial specialists with advanced training.

Curbing Plagiarism

The University Polytechnic of Catalonia (UPC) in Barcelona, Spain, is the first educational institute to introduce a patent protection scheme for student's work such as computer programmes, architectural projects to prevent plagiarism of student's work by professors. Investigation into complaints from students against six professors prompted the University to take such measure.

Genetic Engineering Approach to produce "immortal" cell cultures

It has become possible to replace 70 percent of traditional laboratory experiments using rats, mice and other animals needed by drug companies and clinical investigation, by using "immortal" cell cultures. Prof. Caroline Mac Donald (Paisley University, Scotland) revealed that genetic engineering technique could be used to immortalise mammalian cells by introducing viral oncogenes into primary cells, which promote their rapid division but the resulting cell lines retain many of the characteristics of their tissue of origin. The new biocultures will give clinicians and drug companies better and more stable sample for toxicity research in to new drugs and treatments.