

A I C T E

PRE - 1987

***N. V. RATNALIKAR**

The All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE), as we know today, is the apex body dealing with all aspects of technical and management education in the country. As U G C is for all the Arts, Science and Commerce and Higher Education, so is AICTE for all the Technical and Management Education, viz., engineering, technology, pharmacy, architecture, management, etc.

The AICTE as an organization has two distinct periods in its span of 56 years since its inception in 1945, namely, (1) from 1946 to 1987 and (2) from 1987 onwards. In the first period of 40 years, AICTE functioned only as a recommendatory body, and in the next period, i.e., since 1987 when the AICTE bill was passed by an Act of Parliament and it was vested with statutory powers. The details of this bill and that of the AICTE Act have been presented in this issue elsewhere. A brief account of the AICTE activities carried out during the period from 1945 to 1987 is presented

here, as all of us certainly would be interested in knowing it and its achievements.

The AICTE was set up by the Government of India on 30th November, 1945 on the advice of the Central Advisory Board of Education, in the first instance with advisory functions. The text of this resolution given in Annexure "A" describes the tasks assigned and the constitution of the AICTE. It will also be interesting to note that the constitution of the present AICTE is on lines similar to as that of AICTE of 1945; however, with some modifications to suit the changes that had taken place in education and industry scenario. AICTE, in its first year of existence, decided to set up three types of committees, for efficient discharge of its duties, (1) All India Boards of Technical Studies for achieving an uniformly high standards of education in technological subjects; (2) Regional committees of the Council, one for each region to perform general

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functions assigned to the Council and and to supervise the work of the higher technical institutions as are not affiliated to the Universities and may with the approval of the provincial Governments concerned join in the All-India Schemes' and (3) a Coordinating Committee to coordinate the activities of the above Committees and to act as a representative of the Council.

Phenomenal developments took place in this period even though, the AICTE was only a recommendary body.

1. Shri N. R. Sarkar
1946-1952

2. Prof Humayun Kabir
1952-1953

3. Moulana Abul Kalam Azad
1953-1958

4. Dr. M. M. Das
1958-1959

5. Prof Humayun Kabir
1959-1963

6. Shri. M. C. Chagla
1963-1968

It was in 1987 that the AICTE Act was passed by the Parliament ushering in the new AICTE and a new era for the growth and development in Technical and Management Education. The

Shri Arjun Singh 1987-1992

Dr. S.K.Khanna 1992-1995

The IITs at Kharagpur, Bombay, Madras, Delhi and Kanpur ; a chain of regional Engineering Colleges, Four TTTIs at Bhopal, Chandigarh, Madras and Calcutta and many other Technological Institutions were established during that period.

Many illustrious persons both from Politics (The Education Minister of the GOI being the Chairman of the AICTE) and Education, were associated with AICTE. A list of AICTE Chairman is presented below:

7. Dr. T. Sen
1968-1969

8. Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao
1969-1972

9. Prof S. Nurul Hasan
1972-1978

10. Dr. P. C. Chunder
1978-1981

11. Shri. S. B. Chavan
1981-1984

12. Smt. Sheila Kaul
1984-1987

history and development of AICTE and technical and management education in recent years is well known, and also given elsewhere in this issue. The names of the recent past Chairmen are given below:

Dr. S Rame Gouda 1996-1999

Dr. N.C.Nigam Since 29th Dec. 1999.

