

I) NEWS

A School of Micro electronics :

Karnatak University is getting an aid of 5.2 billion Lira from the ITA school of Italy for starting a school of micro-electronics covering areas like telecommunication, computer science, fiber optics and digital instrumentation. It will serve as a resource centre for the entire region undertaking extensive research and development work. The assistance will be in the form of manpower and materials.

Training in Personal Computer Technology.

The IIT Madras has set up a new cell catering for a one year apprentice training programme in Personal Computer Technology for Graduate Engineers (Electronics / Computer Science graduates) consisting of small computer technology, peripheral equipment, manufacturing technique, surface mount technology, trouble shooting and repairs, software tools.

The practical training will include the fault tracing, repair, and upgrading PC.s.

Fellowship for Scientists in M.P.

The Madhy Pradesh Government has introduced ten fellowship in different areas of science and Technology Priority would be given to those young scientists who are engaged in educational institutions and Universities in remote area.

National Seminar

As a part of Silver Jubilee activities of the ISTE a national seminar on Role of central Government / State Government / AICTE / UGC / Universities Directorates of Technical Education, in Technical Education was organised by the ITI Delhi chapter of ISTE on 19th Oct.1992, Dr. D.S.waminathan Member planning Commission, in his inaugural address emphasized among other things, the need for ensuring cost - effectiveness in technical education and retraining and using distance education mode for B.Tech. and M.Tech. Programmes. Prof. N.C.Nigam Director IIT Delhi gave a key note address on "Private Initiatives in Technical Education".

II VIEWS

New Areas For The Ambedkar Open University

Mr. Krishan Kant Governor of Andhra Pradesh who was the chief guest at the decennial celebrations of Dr. B.R.Ambedkar Open University stressed that time was now ripe for the Ambedkar Open University to venture into more contemporary areas of Science and Technology and development of professional and technical skills.

The Teacher

Justice A.R.Lakshmanan of Madras High Court while delivering the convocation address of the Alagappa University Karaikudi observed that : A teacher removes and dispels the darkness in the students mind. It is the teacher who enlightens the students and moulds their future. Therefore, they are entitled to great respect and reverence".

III REPORTS ON SEMINAR / WORKSHOPS

ISTE Workshop on Performance Appraisal and Development System (PADS)

A workshop on PADS was arranged on 19th June 1992 by the ISTE, Regional Engineering College chapter Rourkela. Some of its recommendations are.

- 1] The present system of evaluation has a number of drawbacks and as such can not achieve the above goals. It should be replaced by a simple, open, participative and data based performance appraisal and development system.
- 2] The framework and general formats of an efficient PADS and the strategies of its implementations suggested in the "Work book for implementations" published by ISTE is Recommended to be a general guideline.
- 3] Appraisal by students is essential for the teaching performance of respective teachers.
- 4] PADS should be developed specific to an Institution separately, considering its goals and objectives.
- 5] It was felt that the State Government of the respective Governing Bodies of the various Institutions of Orissa should issue directives to the Heads of the Institutions for implementing PADS as early as possible. In the mean time work, should be initiated for the development and formulation of a suitable system in each Institution.

IV NEWS FROM ABROAD

Tasmania - A New Attraction

Many Indian students like their brethren in Asia Pacific region are attracted to the Australian Maritime College (AMC) in Tasmania which has the finest facilities in maritime education and training. In 1991, 62 Indian students who were practising sea fares came to the AMC to increase their professional knowledge as deck officers and marine engineers. It conducts along with others bachelors degree courses in naval architecture, marine engineering and short courses in electronics, fire fighting, cargo-handling etc.

" Do Not Stand on Side Lines."

Referring to complaints of low standards of students entering University, the secretary of State for Education U.K. John Patten while addressing the committee of Vice Chancellors and principals remarked " if that is the case - and you must be judges - then you must make your views known. The academic community should not simply stand on the side lines and complain. Nor should it seek to do the job of schools for them. Talk of an additional and essentially remedial foundation year for undergraduates is simply not on Forget it"

"Instead the Universities should maintain standard by rejecting applicants who fail to measure upto requirements. That will ensure that schools adapt and improve."

LIBRARY OF THE FUTURE

A highly sophisticated computer system which will be handling between 10 to 15 million. bibliographical entries covering 400 km of shelves, costing 24 million Pounds will open in 1995 at the library of France. But one main challenge has been not so much the scale of project as the aim of finding new ways to make the system, user friendly Some of the features are :-

- i) A researcher will be able to reserve documents/books from home through, the telecommunications network or from a local library who will then be allocated a place in one of the reading rooms, so that no time is wasted.
- ii) The system ties a catalogue query to an instruction to the appropriate stock keeper who then puts the book on an automatic transport system delivering to particular reading room.

iii) Special computer aided reading stations for computer friendly researchers.

V) PROFILE OF AN ENGINEERING TEACHER

Dr. Vijay N. Gupchup,
Pro-Vice Chancellor, University Of Bombay



Dr. Vijay N. Gupchup, the Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the University of Bombay, was the Principal of the Victoria Jubilee Technical Institute, a leading College of Engineering in Bombay. After graduating from the University of Bombay in 1985 with a degree of Bachelor of Civil Engineering, he proceeded to the United States to join the Massachusetts Institute of Technology for graduate studies. He obtained the degrees of Master of Science and Doctor of Science in Civil Engineering in 1953 and 1962 respectively. He has specialized in the field of Structural Engineering.

Dr. Gupchup worked with the Bechtel Corporation in the United States before returning to India, when he joined Engineers India Ltd., in New Delhi as a Design Engineer. Returning to Bombay in 1966, he started his consulting practice in Structural Engineering and later joined the Victoria Jubilee Technical Institute as Professor and Head of the Structural Engineering Department in 1967. He took over as the Principal of V.J.T.I in 1983.

During his career of more than 25 years, he has combined his interests in the field of Structural Design with his teaching and research activities and has been a Consultant to many Government and private organisations for the Design of Structures, Analysis of structural failures and proof checking of Structural Design. He has guided many students towards Masters Degree in Civil Engineering at the University of Bombay and has published several research papers.

Dr. Gupchup is actively associated with academic bodies, particularly the University of Bombay, as a Member of the academic-committees. He was a member of the Research Advisory Council of the Structural Engineering Research Centre, a Council of the Structural and Industrial Research Laboratory - at Madras. His present interests include study of safety of Nuclear structures from the point of view of Civil Engineering Design aspects and he is actively associated with the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board as Chairman of the Civil Engineering Design Review Committee for the 235 MWe and 500 MWe Nuclear Plants in India.