

## INFORMATICS

### I I. I. I. NEWS

#### (1) Joint AICTE-CII Meeting :

The AICTE organized a meeting with (CII) Confederation of Indian Industries, to discuss effective collaboration between AICTE and CII in the area of Industry Institution Partnership.

It was decided that CII and AICTE would jointly participate and launch some selected short and long term programmes for the benefit of both academic institutions and industries. The following major action points emerged out of these discussions :

- (I) AICTE-CII Joint Seminars
- (II) Mobility of Industrial Personnel
- (III) Thrust areas of pursuit at universities
- (IV) Adoption of one or two Institution by Industry
- (V) Establishment of new Institutions by the Industry.

#### ITI, IIT Sign MoU :

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was recently signed by the Director, Rae Bareli Plant of ITI Limited and Director IIT Kanpur for identification and development of commercially viable and globally competitive technologies. With this arrangement, ITI Rae Bareli will have easier access to R&D facilities at IIT Kanpur and in return IIT Kanpur will

get fabrication facilities available at ITI Rae Bareli.

#### BITS-Ashok Layland Sign MoU :

Ashok Layland and the Birla Institute of Technology and Science (BITS) are reported to have entered into a collaboration arrangement for the upgradation of Ashok Layland shop-floor personnel.

#### IIT Kharagpur, Opel Tie up :

The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kharagpur had entered into a joint venture with the Bhopal based Opel Communications for an optical fibre research and development centre. This R&D centre is expected to undertake project development of technology for manufacturing the erbium-doped fibres under the photonics Technology Development Mission (TDM) as sanctioned by the centre.

According to Professor K. L. Chopra, Director, IIT Kharagpur, this Project was taken up in view of the very fast growth in the telecom sector and growing importance of fibre optics in this sector. He said that this new venture with Opel was one of the several joint ventures, IIT had entered in recent times to make a synergic approach of academy and industry and also to make itself financially self-sufficient in view of the freezing of governments grants.

## II AICTE NEWS

### AICTE Panel Submits Report on Autonomy

The five member panel headed by Dr. Ponnuswamy was established by AICTE to formulate norms for conferment of autonomous status on Engineering Colleges and Polytechnic. This panel has submitted its report to AICTE recently. AICTE is now expected to release its finalised norms and conditions for conferment of autonomy.

### AICTE Panel on Pay Scales

The AICTE has appointed a committee to review the pay scales of the teachers in Technical Education Institutions. The committee is headed by Mr. A. N. Shukla, Ex-Chairman Railway Board.

All those concerned are invited to submit their suggestions to this committee for their consideration.

### Modi Award to AICTE Chairman Prof. S. K. Khanna

The first Dr. Kedarnath Modi National Award for excellence in Education Management and Information Technology 1995 has been awarded to Prof. S. K. Khanna, Chairman AICTE.

### Planning and Monitoring Boards for AICTE Approved Institutions

The AICTE has requested approved institutions to constitute Planning and Monitoring Board. Accordingly, every Institution shall have a Planning and Monitoring Board (PMB) to continuously monitor and review its standards and fulfillment of norms. The PMB may include the Principal, 2-3 Heads, 2-3 Teachers, Librarian, representatives of State Governments, University and that of the Regional Offices of the AICTE. The PMB shall continuously monitor the

functioning of the Institutions and submit its annual appraisal reports as prescribed to the University, State Government and the Regional Office of the AICTE, and after 2-3 years, there shall be an external evaluation of the institution with regard to the observance of the norms and standards of the AICTE.

## III GENERAL NEWS

### Self Financed Engineering Colleges in Gujrat

Gujrat Government has permitted two Self Financed Engineering Colleges with a total intake of 220 seats. One of these Colleges is Nirma Institute of Technology (NIT) financed by the leading soap and detergents manufacturers - NIRMA.

### Technology Missions for I.I.T.s

The MHRD has launched seven "Technology Missions" to be implemented by the five IITs and the Institute of Science, Bangalore. The Technology Missions include the fields of photonics, genetic engineering and bio-technology, new materials, energy efficient technologies, food processing and engineering and integrated design and manufacturing. The National Research Development Corporation (NRDC) which is the technology transfer arm of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR) are involved in locating suitable industrial partners for the missions.

### Soft-Loans for Higher Studies

The Central Government has decided to give soft-loans upto Rs. 1 lakh to the students pursuing professional courses. This is to cushion the blow of "privatisation" of higher education. This National Loan Scheme is modelled on the American System of subsidizing higher education. This is a purely commercial

scheme where the Government will take loans from banks at the current rates of interest and subsidise the interest rates when it passes the loans to students. The Government however, will not guarantee these loans.

The Government has identified 50 institutions including IITs and IIMs and University Departments for implementing this scheme. If the scheme is successful, it may be extended to other institutions, may be even to private ones.

#### **Guru Jambheshwar Technical University**

All Engineering Colleges in Hariyana are reported to have been affiliated to the newly set up Guru Jambheshwar University. This was disclosed by the Vice - Chancellor, Dr. K. L. Johar. He said that being a technical university, affiliation of these colleges to this university would, in time, lead to a considerable improvement in the standards of the trades.

#### **IV VIEWS**

**Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, Scientific Advisor to the Defence Minister, at a Seminar-cum-exhibition co-sponsored by the Army and CCI recently at New Delhi.**

#### **On Industry and R&D Establishment Partnership**

A Partnership between Private Industry and State owned R&D Establishments could help, generate know-how to build advanced weaponry. Industries can take initiative to enlist Indian Defence and other R&D Labs. to become partners. This makes the industries R&D investment less and results in faster acquisition of Technology.

**Dr. V. C. Kulandai Swamy, former Vice Chancellor of Anna University and IGNOU at a 2 day workshop on networking of Autonomous Colleges recently held at Madras.**

#### **On Autonomy of Educational Institution**

"Students' mobility and sharing of teachers would ensure better coordination among Autonomous Institutions". He further said, "for encouraging students' mobility, credit system must be introduced as it would enable mobility and introduce flexibility with regard to students' ability to understand and grasp subject." As the gifted and talented teachers were rare, they should be identified and shared with other institutions as Visiting Lecturers. If teachers found it impracticable to visit other colleges their lectures could be videographed and cassettes could be made available for others."

**Dr. P. K. Ponnuswamy, Vice Chancellor, Madras University while inaugurating this workshop said :**

"Lack of innovation by autonomous colleges in their functioning, confusion over what constituted autonomy and apprehensions of victimization among a section of the college teachers were some factors responsible for the 'poor growth' of autonomous colleges in the country."

"Though there was wide-spread acceptance of the concept, autonomous colleges, barring a few, did not do anything significant that would distinguish them from the conventional colleges. The admission of students was not fair, and they did not appoint controllers of examinations. Moreover, they did not have any interaction with industries."

**Prime Minister P. V. Narsimha Rao presiding over the convocation of Visva Bharati in Shantiniketan,**

"Reshaping the country's system of higher education in terms of the new social agenda" and said his Government was committed to raising the investment in the education sector to 6% of GDP

in the 9th plan from present 3.7%.

With the introduction of the new economic policy, the investment in education had come to assume a new role as a catalyst in the national development process. There is a growing need for linkage between Education and Industry.

★

**Subscriptions :**

**In India**

Rs. 400/- p.a. for Institutions & Organizations

Rs. 200/- p.a. for Individuals

Rs. 50/- single copy

**Outside India :** US\$ 60/- p.a.

**Advertisement Rates :**

Rs. 5000/- - Cover Page No. 4      Rs. 4000/- - Cover Page No. 2

Rs. 3000/- - Cover Page No. 3      Rs. 1500/- - Inner Full Page

Rs. 12000/- - Sponsoring one complete issue

**Address for Correspondence :**

The Editor,

The Journal of Engineering Education

"Shriniwas", B-8, Kasturba Society, Vishrantwadi,

Pune - 411 015 (INDIA)