

INFORMATICS

I. NEWS :

A) I.I.I. NEWS :

University - Industry - Interaction

The Dean of Technology, Anna University proposes to seek ideas from industrialists on their requirements from the universities in the fields of leather, ceramics, chemicals and textiles which are crucial players in foreign trade. The Dean proposes to build up a corpus of Rs. 25 crores from industries after which a matching grant could be availed from Government and other sources. The purpose of the corpus funding would be to set up chairs in these disciplines.

IGCAR - IIT Madras Accord

The Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research (IGCAR) Kalpakkam and the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras, have signed memorandum of understanding (MoU) to take up collaborative research project, in areas of Structural Mechanics, Thermal Hydraulics and Component Treating. Later, the collaboration would be extended to Chemical Technology, Instrumentation and Control, Computer Applications, Materials and other areas.

Analog Devices & IIT Madras Collaborate

Analog Devices Incorporated a U.S. based Semi Conductor manufacturer is reported to have teamed up with the IIT Madras and the Midas Communication Technologies Private Limited to develop a Digital Enhanced Cordless Telecommunication (DECT) based Wireless Local Loop (WLL) system called Cordect. It will provide a cost effective solution to the installation of telephone services in India. The pair of costly cables that links the exchange to the subscribers premises in the conventional system which is the major bottleneck in expanding the services at a fast pace, had been overcome with the development of Cordect which is now being field tested at Adyar Exchange in Madras.

Research Consortium Project

A Technology window and a "cyclotron" are the major establishments that will come up in the consortium to be set by the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research (IGCAR), Kalpakkam, in association with Universities and industries in this region.

Building up a Science and Technology Community through close interaction and making available the skills, expertise and technologies of the IGCAR and universities to the industry can be achieved by such a consortium.

By pooling available resources and closely interacting with one another, the members will act as a catalyst for curriculum development at all levels.

The first phase as an action plan consisting of (i) creation of an organisation structure (ii) Establishment of the technology window (iii) The cyclotron and the laboratory on environmental science and technology.

Centre for University - Industry Dialogue

Punjabi University, Patiala plan to set up a centre for a meaningful University - Industry Dialogue. Initially the proposed centre will cater to the needs of the industry, dealing in biotechnology, computers, pharmaceuticals and business management. Its purview will be enlarged at a later stage.

The Department of Bio-Technology will provide short-term courses and expert advice in the areas of industrial and environmental bio-technology. The Department of Computer Science and Engineering shall provide expertise in software development for scientific applications such as computer graphics, modelling and simulation, finite element analysis and artificial intelligence. Technical know how to develop software for commercial application will also be available.

The Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences and Drug Research Cell shall provide expert services in brochure

product profile, preclinical and clinical evaluation, bio-equivalence studies, formulation and product development, pharmaceutical analysis and standardisation of the product.

The Department of Business Management will provide consultancy on market surveys, product development, cost reduction, marketing and financial strategies and organisation development.

B) AICTE NEWS :

Matching Grants to Technical Institutions

AICTE has initiated a scheme of "matching financial grants to technical institutions" under which the council shall provide financial assistance proportionate to the resources mobilised by the institutions towards augmenting the corpus fund. The Institution shall have to create an Endowment Fund mobilising the resources from non governmental sources, public undertakings, industries and other user agencies and the corpus accrued under the endowment fund shall have to be invested by the institution as per the overall guidelines issued by the council from time to time.

Doctoral Fellowships in Engineering and Technology -

Upto 10 National Fellowships named after eminent engineers and technologists (5 - Dr. M. Visvesvaraya and 5 - Dr. A. N. Khosala) have been constituted for Ph.D. Studies in Engineering and Technology in thrust and emerging area of national priorities. They will provide opportunities to truly outstanding

persons who have demonstrated capabilities in research and are willing to undertake advance study and research in engineering and technology leading to Ph.D.

C) GENERAL NEWS :

100 Polytechnics for Delhi

The Government of Delhi is reported to have decided to set up 100 polytechnic centres in resettlement colonies as well as rural areas of the city in order to provide self employment opportunities to the weaker section of the society.

The centres would provide training programmes in cycle repair, book binding, scooter repair, typing, embroidery, art painting and plumbing and an interest free financial assistance of Rs. 10,000/- would be provided to each trainee in case he/she would like to set up his/her own business.

Computer Network at BHU

The Banaras Hindu University has acquired a main frame computer network at a cost of Rs. 2.5 crores having a capacity of 22 Gabyte. It has inbuilt system of upgradation without disturbing the existing facility. The main system consists of the following sub systems -

- a) Ansy for finite element Analysis used by mechanical, civil and engineering.
- b) Oracle Relational Database management system.
- c) Mathematical packages.
- d) Prolog Artificial Intelligence package.
- e) Compilers Fortran Pascal Cobol.

- f) Task Broker for distributing jobs transparently to existing resources.
- g) HP uni standard operating system
- h) FDDI 100 Megabites per second latest network technology.
- i) Ethernet 10 megabites per second.
- j) Network-components for distributing the computer resources on the net work.

NBA Accreditation for Anna varsity Engineering Courses

B.E. programmes in electrical, mechanical, civil and computer science, Engineering and B. Tech. in Chemical Engineering offered by Anna University got 'A' grade recognition while gaining accreditation from the National Board of Accreditation (NBA) signifying that the courses met all the NBA norms or excelled the norms.

Quota for Srilankan Tamils in Engineering Colleges

The Tamilnadu state Government is reported to have decided to reserve seats for Srilankan Tamil Students and Srilankan Tamil refugees in polytechnics and engineering colleges. The reservation is 20 seats in polytechnics and 20 seats for engineering colleges and these will be created over and above the sanctioned strength.

Review Panel for Regional Engineering Colleges

A high powered nine member committee headed by Dr. R. A. Mashelkar, Director General & Secretary, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has been set up to review the working of 17 regional engineering colleges in the country.

The terms of reference of the committee include the review of their achievements as against their objectives, suggest their role in building high quality technical education base in the country, indicate methods of teaching and formulation of new programmes and curriculum. Further it will examine funding arrangements and suggest means for a close participation of RECs industry and other institutions.

Industry Oriented Technology courses

The Central Electrochemical Research Institute (CECRI), a trans-disciplinary institute, devoted to all aspects of Electrochemical Science and Technology, plans to conduct training courses during Aug. 1996 - March 1997 in the areas of chlor - Alkali technology, Electrochemical reactor design, instrumental methods of analysis, pollution control and Monitoring, Water treatment technology, Information technology for Libraries, Storage Batteries, Lead Acid battery technology, corrosion science and Engineering and Industrial Metal Finishing.

Dr. Mashelkar Elected to Royal Academy of Engineering -

Dr. R. A. Mashelkar, Director General of Council Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has been elected foreign member of the prestigious Royal Academy of Engineering of United Kingdom.

The honor comes to him for his lifetime achievement in the field of polymer science, engineering and technology.

II. VIEWS :

Justice Ranganath Mishra
chairperson, National Human Rights
Commission at the convocation of the
Indira Gandhi National Open
University, New Delhi.

The Light of Learning :

"Nature has endowed man with the facility of acquiring knowledge through education. While in the animal kingdom, knowledge is gathered by direct experience for the homosapiens, this is available through experience of other people. Light dispels darkness; knowledge gathered through education removes darkness from within and gives enlightenment. That is why, from early stages of development, mankind realised the importance of education and learning and devoted great attention to them. The goddess of learning was one of the first to be worshipped by man."

Rear Admiral J. J. Baxi, Chairman and Managing Director, Bharat Electronics LTD., Bangalore at The 18th Convocation of Institute of Technology of Banaras Hindu University.

Coping With future Technology

"There is now such an immense transfer across national boundaries not only of capital but also of technology. It has resulted in the production of the final product through joint production schemes in different countries. Also the simultaneous transmission and reception of news, information and knowledge has cut across geographical boundaries and time areas / zones".

"What Mahatma Gandhi said of

education for India in English is extraordinarily relevant to our use of foreign capital and technology. It is worth recalling his thought in extenso. Quote." I do not want my house to be walked on all sides and my windows to be stuffed. I want the cultures of all lands to be blown about my house as freely as possible. But I refuse to be blown off my feet by any. I would have our young men and women with literary tastes to learn as much of English and other world languages as they like and then expect them to give the benefits of the learning to India and to the world like a Bose and a Ray or the poet himself. But I would not have a single Indian to forget, neglect or be ashamed of his mother tongue or to feel that he or she can not think or express the best thoughts in his or her own vernacular. Mine is not a religion of the prison house" Unquote.

"Being from a technical background and heading a major Public Sector undertaking in electronics. I may attempt to indicate the likely trends of emerging technologies which will have wide ramifications in our personal life. Such as Genetinc Engineering, Interactive Multisensory, Multimedia, personal communication network, advanced compact laser disks, flat displays; high performance computing EDI, Robos, etc.. The revolutionary technologies likely are : virtual reality, high definition T.V. Photonic....

It is our wisdom to harness the power of the technologies to improve the quality of life of the common man in general and take the country to greater height in its economic developments.

Mr. Justice A. S. Anand of Supreme Court of India; at the Convocation of the Lukhnow University -

Education a self elevating experience.

"It appears to me that the feeling of disillusionment that is expressed by the youth is because they look upon education only as a means to a very narrow end - a lucrative career. No doubt, that should be a major concern particularly in an over populated developing country like ours but education has to be looked upon not only as a means to a defined goal but as a self elevating experience. The years that an individual spends pursuing and imbibing knowledge, lay the foundation for much more. It is only at the time of formal institutional learning that there is an opportunity to acquire a spirit of enquiry, of scientific endeavour, of lessons of history, of philosophical objectivity and sensitivity to issues larger than just earning a living. Wisdom in not merely acquiring knowledge but learning how to use it for the benefit of mankind. The remarkable opportunity that is available in the universities for interaction with individuals from a vast segment, enables one to take a more holistic view and to strive towards a just and human society."

Dr. R. A. Mashelkar the Director General of CSIR at the 33rd convocation of IIT Madras -

Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)

Dr. R. A. Mashelkar called for urgent steps to protect the country's intellectual property and vigorous association between the industry and scientific institutions for long time research and

development. The greatest challenge would be posed by patents. Skills in reading and exploiting patents would be 'most crucial' in the coming years. "A patent literacy mission will have to be launched with a sense of urgency". Now the country is in a position to properly protect patents or understand the implication of patents awarded to competitionrs.

The Hon. Prime Minister Mr. H. D. Devegowda while releasing " The Technology Vision 2020".

.....The Government is committed to promote Technology Development and the industry and business houses should complement the efforts through greater emphasis on investment in science and technology projects. While it may not be

necessary for the country to develop everything, it must be remembered that in the highly competitive world today, a nation was judged and respected for its indigenous technological strength.

The network of national laboratories, the strength of industry the entrepreneurial spirit of the farmers and the technical capability of the work force, gave the country special competitive edge in all sectors of economy including national security. The Government was keen to not only consolidate these positive aspects but also provide avenues for forward looking action by agriculturists, business and industry leaders, service providers, scientists, technologists, Government agencies and non Government organisations.

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