

INFORMATICS

(I) NEWS

(A) I.I.I. NEWS

P. G. Diploma in Energy Conservation and Management.

The Department of USIC & Instrumentation of Shri. Krishnadevraya University, Anantpur proposes to start, in collaboration with the society for Conservation of forests Dept. Andhra Pradesh (Energy and Forest Dept. Govt. of A.P.) a correspondence course exclusively for working Engineers leading to a Postgraduate Diploma in Energy Conservation and Management.

The course is expected to develop the much required expertise in the various aspects of Energy Conservation and Management related to different industrial sector and the candidates, after completing the course would be able to (a) conduct energy audits in any industry (b) identify energy flows, construct energy and mass balances of various unit operations (c) evolve suitable strategies for efficient use of energy (d) work out suitable action plans for implementing the Energy Conservation options. (e) appraise the management of latest energy efficient technologies appearing from time to time (f) start a career as

qualified energy auditor/consultant.

The duration of the course is one year and is open for any graduate in Engineering Technology.

BITS - ASHOK LEYLAND MOU

Ashok Leyland and the Birla Institute of Technology and science (BITS) Pilani, have entered into a collaborative arrangement for upgradation of Ashok Leyland's shop floor 'personnel.'

The programme specially drawn up for the automobile manufacturer, would enable engineers with three or four years of experience to cope with the increasing demands of engineering management.

IIT KHARAGPUR - OPTEL TIE UP

The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kharagpur and Bhopal based Optel Communications have jointly set up the Optel -IIT R & D Centre for undertaking project development of technology for manufacturing erbium doped fibres under the Photonics. Technology Development Mission (TDM).

ANNA UNIVERSITY TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER LTD., (AUTI)

Anna University proposes to start AUTI, which will be a company to

commercialise. AU's technologies. The company would cater for the requirements of industry and provide an opportunity to the students and the faculty to develop their ideas into marketable propositions.

JOINT VENTURE TO PROMOTE BIO-MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY

The Fertiliser Jiant SPIC, the Anna University and Oxford International Bio-Medical Centre. signed an MoU for a joint venture to promote Bio-Medical technology.

The venture will work for developing the science of bio-medicine through training and exchange of students and faculty of bio-technology courses in India and abroad and will also look at the dissemination of latest information on the trends in bio-medical technologies and joint research and development.

(B) AICTE NEWS

• AICTE REGIONAL SEMINAR

AICTE sponsored Regional Seminar on Planning and Management of Pharmacy Education in India was organised by the University College of Pharmaceutical Sciences of Kakatiya University in Warangal recently.

• REGULATIONS FOR NEW TECHNICAL INSTITUTION

AICTE has laid down regulations for starting new technical Institutions, introduction of courses, or programmes and approval of intake capacity of seats for the courses. These are based on the points emerged in a workshop organised by AICTE.

• MOBILITY OF INDUSTRIAL PERSONNEL

AICTE has launched a scheme of Mobility of Industrial Personnel for placement in nearby Technical Institutions for a limited period. Institutions may invite top and middle level experts from industry under the scheme for influencing teaching and research, enlightening the teachers and students the present state of art in the industry and to help in hand-on experience and alive problems in the industries.

4. AICTE PANEL ON PAY SCALES

AICTE have appointed a committee headed by Mr. A. N. Shukla, Ex-chairman Railway Board to review the scale of pay of teachers in technical education Institutions. All concerned are invited to submit memorandum to the committee.

COMMITTEE ON TECHNICAL-VOCATIONAL EDUCATION.

The council has appointed a committee on Technical Vocational Education in the country under the chairmanship of Prof. Yash Pal, National Research Professor and former Chairman UGC.

(C) GENERAL NEWS

• JNU-IGNOU COMPUTER LAB

The Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) and Indira Gandhi open University (IGNOU) propose to set up a modern computer Laboratory. JNU will provide space, infrastructural facilities as well as teaching and technical staff and IGNOU will provide and maintain computers worth Rs. 30 lakhs.

• CSIR - SIDBI PACT

The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) have signed a pact under which CSIR would assist the small scale industrial Units in their technology acquisition, assimilation, upgradation and modernisation. CSIR in collaboration with SIDBI would offer viable technology cum Financial Programmes to the SSI Units.

3. IIT MADRAS TIE UP WITH UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE

IIT Madras and National University of Singapore (NUS) have entered in a MOU for academic exchange and co-operation in teaching and research in discipline of mutual interest, commercialisation of technologies and academic activities such as seminars, work-shops, conference.

• NEW P. G. COURSES AT GND UNIVERSITY

Guru Nanak Dev University proposes to introduce from the new academic session, two new P. G. courses in (i) information technology (ii) Material science and technology.

It would also start vocational courses of optical instrumentation, refrigeration, and air conditioning and repair a maintenance of electronic instruments.

5. FREE TECHNICAL EDUCATION FOR GIRLS

Punjab Government have decided to make education, totally free for girls in all government engineering colleges

and various technical institutions in the state.

(II) VIEWS

Hon. Dr. Manmohan Singh, Union Finance Minister GOI, at the fourteenth convocation of Shri. Sathy Sai Institute of Higher Learning, Pra Santhinilayam :

i) ON THE ROLE OF EDUCATION

Ancient Greek and Indian thought considered the human individual as a replica of the universe and the human self being a trinity of body, mind and spirit. Education which is a means of transforming society has to pay equal attention to all the three aspects of human personality.

..... The aim of the teacher is not to put into the mind knowledge that was not there before, though this is necessary, but to turn mind's eye to the light so that it can see for itself. The teachers role therefore is not to stick thoughts into his or her pupils head but to make them think for themselves in their quest for self realization and social harmony.

ii) ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

"Human knowledge, particularly scientific and technological, is increasing at a pace which was unthinkable only a few decades ago. The advances of science and technology is in turn forcing social, economic and political institutions everywhere to adjust and adopt to the fast changing environmental conditions.

Advances in the sphere of transport, communication and information technologies are fast creating an

increasingly interdependent global economy.

Properly harnessed, advances in science and technology (particularly the bio-technology, information and health care technologies) make it possible, as never before in human history, to ensure that chronic poverty, ignorance and disease can be eradicated. Technical progress helps to reduce the drudgery of human life and it can provide human beings more time for leisure and pursuit of culture and arts. "Technology has greatly contributed to democratisation of the enjoyment of leisure."

(3) ON THE DARKER SIDE OF MODERN AND TECHNOLOGY INTENSIVE ECONOMY

"The sheer rapidity of technological problem make the modern world, for all its technological marvels, an uncomfortable and unfulfilling place to live..... the new technologies and their products such as cars, refrigerators, television are creating a growing feeling of social isolation and erosion of bonds of neighbourly interdependence..... The Modern acquisitive society often prevents human being from cultivating the warm, affiliative side of human nature."

(4) ON SCIENCE AND SPIRITUALITY

"Thus, we have to combine the use of science and technology with a new spiritual awakening so that increased material well being and leisure are not wasted in costly excitements catering to the needs of the body but become the important means to kindle the higher impulses both for self perfection and

social cohesion based on the dignity of the individual human being, compassion, tolerance, gentleness, truthfulness and non-violence. If successfully accomplished, this mission might enable India to make a powerful contribution to the education of a truly universal human civilization of future based on both reason and morality, a synthesis of science and spirituality."

Dr M. S. Rajaji, Chief Secretary to Govt. of Andhra Pradesh, at the 138th Annual convocation of University of Madras.

ON WHAT IS EDUCATION :

"It has been said that in Education. 'E' stands for Enlightenment, 'D' for Duty, 'U' for understanding, 'C' for character, 'A' for action, 'T' for truth, 'I' for integrity, 'O' for oneness and 'N' for nobility."

Shri. T. N. Sheshan, Chief Election Commissioner of India at the 44th convocation of Maharaja Sayajirao University Baroda.

"If the child can come through the system consisting of a largely wooden syllabus, of a class which will have a teacher with no touch with student, of an institution which cannot even pay the teacher salary, buy potassium permanganate for its laboratory, of teachers' posts unfilled or filled by nepotism, of examination conducted on the basis of the most amazing criminality, of the amazing diversions to children's attention by the infusing of all kinds of politics into educational campus, of the distraction of Cinema, Radio and T.V. with its content of degeneration and violence and of the easy availability of

tobacco, alcohol and drugs, I want to say that we have reason to be enormously proud of our children."

ON PLIGHT OF TEACHERS

"Is it true that the teachers are not as good as the teachers of yesterday? Surely this is an irresponsible statement. The teachers of today working in infinitely more difficult conditions, than in the past are just trying to do as much justice as they can do to a class that is altogether too big, to a class in which there are perhaps an increasing number of persons without adequate interest, to a syllabus whose sole purpose seem to become comprehensive, to a discipline which has little need for what our ancient inheritors taught us to say, "after you treat your mother and father as god, treat the teacher as God." It is the teacher who suffers from a sense of grief that he alone in the whole country seems to receive the least attention at the hands of those who decide salaries and emoluments or even social respect. Even where the teacher has acquired enough philosophy, to believe that emoluments are not the sole criteria of all one needs, is it true that the Indian teacher feels that more than any where else in the world, it is he who receives the least public respect?"

Prof. Yash Pal, Chairman AICTE Committee on Technical and Vocational Education in his address to the members.

"While thinking of a name for this committee one title occurred to me." Technical Education for REAL India" Let me explain."

"The most prevalent education system in India is not even recognized as such. This is the system through which our farmers learn their crafts, including its science and technology and skills. Our craftsmen, potters, weavers carpenters, carpet makers, toy makers, mechanics for bicycles, tractors, motorcar also plumbers are prepared by the same system..... In addition, the system produces cultural values, social mores and wisdom. In spite of its existence and operation, we tend to overlook it and often try to by pass it. It is recognised that there will be inadequacies, in this enormous teaching learning engine embedded in our society. It is also recognised that the system would need additional support information, knowledge and skills. But bypassing this system completely, has been a tragedy particularly because we have not been able to replace it with anything far more meaningful. This non-formal system in fact can easily define the parameters of 'Real India'

"Is it possible then for us to devise strategies and methodology, no matter how revolutionary or different, which would build on the strengths which Indian society already has."

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