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"Education makes a people easy to lead, but difficult to drive; easy to govern, but impossible to enslave."

- Henry Peter Brougham

Shri Kapil Sibal, Minister of HRD, addressing the 59th CABE Meeting in New Delhi on June 6, 2012.

59th CABE Meeting

Child's Interest is of Paramount Importance

The Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE), the highest advisory body to advise the Central and State Governments in the field of education, held its 59th meeting on June 6, 2012. In his opening remarks, Shri Kapil Sibal, Minister of HRD, who chaired the meeting, appreciated the role of CABE Committee in charting the course of action in the education sector. He stated that while making policy prescriptions, the child's interest should be the foremost consideration. He added that since education is one sector which impacts the socio-economic fabric of the country, the challenge, therefore, is how to cope with these changes and address the issues of access, inclusion and quality in education.

Highlighting the importance of teacher and teacher education in the society, Shri Sibal proposed to have a National Mission mainly to address the quality related issues. He said that the teacher is no longer the sole repository of knowledge and inputs of information flow from difference sources. Therefore, he insisted, we should have a National Mission to address issues relating to

teacher education in a holistic manner.

Referring to the higher education sector, HRM mentioned that a major challenge before us is to increase our Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) which is less than the global average. To achieve higher GER, we need to explore newer ways of access as the existing conventional models would not be adequate and concept of Meta University needs to be considered. He also proposed to set up a Credit Guarantee Fund to facilitate larger numbers of students to gain access to higher education. HRM also highlighted the use of ICT in education and appreciated the work done by the CABE Committee on ICT in School Education which has submitted its report. The Minister also appreciated the outgoing members of the previous CABE Committee for their valuable contributions.

Other attendees at the meeting were Smt. Krishna Tirath, Union Minister of State (I/C) for Women & Child Development, Dr. Narendra Jadhav, Member (Education), Planning Commission, Ministers-in-charge of Education from 18 States/UTs, Shri Ashok Thakur, Secretary (HE), Smt. Anshu Vaish, Secretary

SECTIONS

- Events
- Campus Notes
- Exchange of Ideas
- Vichar Vimarsh
- Appointments / Retirements

Preparation of Twelfth Five Year Plan is in its final stage. Looking at the future of Higher Education in India, the Ministry has, in consultation with the experts in the field, presented its priorities and concerns to the Planning Commission and expects an outlay commensurate with the challenges it has to address during the XII Five Year Plan.

The XI Five Year Plan has been a landmark for the MHRD in more than one way. Opening of new IITs, IIMs, IIITs, NITs, Central Universities, Degree colleges and starting projects such as the National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (NMEICT) are just some of the major initiatives realized during the XI Plan. Several legislative measures for academic reforms have also been initiated.

Twelfth Plan would focus on enabling policy environment, appropriate institutional framework and a multi-pronged strategy to address issues of expansion, equity and excellence in a coordinated manner. The National Mission on Teachers and Teaching, Research & Innovation, growth of Open Distance Learning (ODL) system, use of ICT and skill development will be the cornerstones of our strategy. All policies and programmes must result in serving the 'interest' of the learners the best.

Parliament has given its nod to some of the most important initiatives of the Ministry, namely - amendments to the Copyright Act, 1957, National Institute of Technology (NIT) Act, 2007, and Indian Institutes of Technology Act, 1961. In case of the first, the Presidential assent has been received while in case of the last two, it is still awaited. The main objective of the Copyright (Amendment) Act 2012 is to grant the much-delayed justice to song writers, artistes and performers, who can now seek royalty for their creations. The IIT (Amendment) Bill seeks to bring the 8 new IITs within the purview of the Act and to declare IIT, BHU an IIT, (BHU), Varanasi. The main objective of the NIT (Amendment) Bill, 2011, is to bring the new 10 NITs and 5 Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISERs) under the purview of the NIT Act, 2007.

As you can see, a lot is happening in the Higher Education sector, which will have impending effect on the future of millions of students. As always, the readers', especially, the student community's feedback

is imperative to this process because they hold the key to the future. We look forward to their free and frank feedback eagerly.



(Anant Kumar Singh)

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Discussion Forum

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(SE&L), Dr. M. K. Bhan, Secretary, Department of Biotechnology, Dr. T. Ramasami, Secretary, Department of Science and Technology, among others.

After deliberations on the agenda items, the CABE resolved as under:-

(i) CABE decided to constitute a Committee for assessment and implementation of Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation (CCE) in the context of the no detention provision in the RTE Act. While there was agreement that Board Examinations are not required, guidelines for implementation of CCE need to be evolved for examining and testing the child during the elementary education cycle. The CABE Committee would be chaired by Smt. Geeta Bhukkal, Minister of Education, Haryana which will include other State Education Ministers with representation from academics and civil society. The Committee will submit its report in 3 months.

(ii) It was decided to constitute a CABE Committee for developing the framework and processes of the National Mission on Teachers and Teaching. The Committee would be headed by Dr. (Smt.) D. Purandeswari, Minister of State for HRD. The Committee will include other State Education Ministers with representation from academics and society. The Committee will give special focus on Teacher Educators and developing teachers for inclusive education for children with special needs.

(iii) The report of CABE Committee on ICT in School Education and the draft National Policy on ICT were unanimously adopted. Suggestions were made on making available digital version of text books on Akaash Tablet for use by both teachers and students in schools, focus on capacity building of teacher educators and need for States to review their current ICT Policy and strategies in the light of the provisions of the National Policy.

(iv) The proposed concept of Meta University as a collaborative platform for a network of universities with a view to utilize, create and synergise between different programme/activities and institutions providing credit based multi-disciplinary courses was appreciated by members. It was felt that the States universities and other state institutions could take similar innovative measures to bring a paradigm shift in higher education.

(v) Members endorsed the initiative to create a Credit Guarantee Fund to ensure better flow of credit to deserving students.

Indo-US Higher Education Dialogue 2012

Shri Sibal Launches 'Connect to India' Initiative



Shri Kapil Sibal, Minister of HRD, is seen on the dais as Ms Hillary Clinton, US Secretary of State addressed the Indo-US Higher Education Dialogue in Washington, D.C. on June 12, 2012.

Taking the educational partnership between India and the US a step forward, the second Indo-US Higher Education dialogue was held in Washington, D.C., United States, on June 12, 2012. Shri Kapil Sibal, Minister of HRD and US Secretary of State, Ms Hillary Clinton, were co-chair at the dialogue.

On the occasion, Shri Sibal proposed the launch of "Connect to India" initiative that will make available opportunities for students in the US to spend some time in India's quality institutions for learning about Indian life, society, culture, economy, polity and business. Speaking on the need to appreciate, manage and preserve our diversity through education and learning by experience, the Minister said global students would understand and learn about management of diversity in India far better than elsewhere in the world.

Addressing the audience, Shri Sibal said that the digital world is challenging the lecture-driven teaching traditions of the university. With open content and open-access, we are seeing the early emergence of a meta-university. The Internet and the Web will provide the communication infrastructure, while the

open-access movement and its derivatives will provide much of the knowledge and information infrastructure. The meta-university will reinterpret the concept of a University as not just a traditional, physical space of learning, but as a repository of knowledge and information that can be delivered in multiple ways, and can be accessed from anywhere, at anytime.

In her speech, Ms Clinton said the dialogue not only represents the commitment of both the governments but also of both societies to provide more opportunities to the youth to achieve their aspirations. Secretary Clinton highlighted three focus areas to achieve the same - Work force development, Research in grand challenge areas like sustainable development, energy, public health, and Developing open education resources.

The Higher Education Dialogue devises the future strategy for effective partnerships to carry out innovative research. Some of the areas identified for research and innovation are -

- a) Public health
- b) Cyber security
- c) Development of Meta University
- d) Increasing connectivity through National Knowledge Network (NKN)
- e) Educational Technology

After the dialogue, awards were announced under the Singh-Obama Knowledge Initiative and a presentation was made of the web portal on Indo-US Higher Education Dialogue, developed by AICTE.

India, US Announce 8 Institutional Partnership Projects

Under the Singh-Obama Knowledge 21st Century Knowledge Initiative, a joint working group of both the countries has selected 8 Institutional Partnership Projects for awards. The joint announcement in this regard was made by Shri Kapil Sibal, Minister of HRD and Ms Hillary Clinton, US Secretary of State, in Washington, D.C. on June 12, 2012.

The projects selected are as follows:



Shri Sibal and Ms Clinton during the deliberations under the Indo-US Higher Education Dialogue.

(A) Indian-led partnerships:

1. Mahatma Gandhi University

Project Title: An Interdisciplinary and Community Oriented Approach toward Sustainable Development.

Partner Institutions: Brown University, Duke University and Plymouth State University.

2. Banaras Hindu University

Project Title: Paradigm Shift in Energy Scenario for the 21st Century toward Renewable Energy Sources required for both India and the U.S.

Partner Institution: University of Pittsburgh.

3. Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur

Project Title: International Program for Sustainable Infrastructure Development.

Partner Institution: Virginia Tech University.

4. Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi

Project Title: Resource Building for Ecosystem and Human Health Risk Assessment with Special reference to Microbial Contamination.

Partner Institution: Drexel University.

(B) U.S.-led partnerships:

5. Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

Project Title: Capitalizing on the Demographic Dividend: Enhancing Talent Development Capacity for India and the U.S. in the 21st Century.

Partner Institution: Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai.

6. University of Montana

Project Title: Impacts of Climate Change and Changes in Socio-Economic Structure on Traditional Agriculture and the Development of Sustainable Communities among Indigenous Populations.

Partner Institution: Bangalore University.

7. Cornell University

Project Title: Implementing Reformed Curriculum in Emerging areas of Agriculture and Food Security in Two State Agricultural Universities of India.

Partner Institutions: University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad and Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel University of Agriculture and Technology, Meerut.

8. University of Michigan

Project Title: The Joint Development of a Master's Degree in Education for Health Professions Faculty in the United States and India.

Partner Institution: Maharashtra University of the Health Sciences.

The announcement was followed by information that each project will receive a three-year grant of approximately \$250,000. The main aim of these awards is to encourage mutual understanding, educational reform, and economic growth within these institutions as well as the countries.

Major Reforms in Offing after 45th IIT Council Meeting

The 45th meeting of the IIT Council was held under the chairmanship of Professor M. M. Sharma, Member, IIT Council. Shri Kapil Sibal, Minister of HRD and also

Chairman, IIT Council, was not able to attend the meeting, therefore, a statement from him was read out at the meeting on his behalf.

At the onset of the meeting, Prof. Sharma, who is also Chairman of Board of Governors, IIT Madras and Chairman of the Standing Committee of IIT Council requested the Secretary of the Council to brief the participants of the meeting about the developments related to the issue of Common Entrance Examination and its relation to the IIT entrance.

Chairman, Joint Admission Board (JAB) was also requested to brief the Council about the recommendations of the JAB meeting held on June 23, 2012.

The JAB recommendations are as follows:-

(a) JEE ADVANCED examination be held after JEE MAIN with a suitable time gap. Only the top 150,000 candidates (including all categories) in JEE MAIN be qualified to appear in the JEE Advanced examination.

(b) Admissions to IITs be based only on category-wise All India Rank (AIR) in JEE ADVANCED, subject to condition that such candidates are in the top 20 percentile of successful candidates of their Boards in applicable categories.

(3) JEE ADVANCED examination should have an exclusive Joint Admission Board (JAB) and Joint Implementation Committee (JIC) with the same composition as at present. The JAB and JIC will also coordinate with the organizing body responsible for conducting JEE MAIN.

After going through the JAB recommendations, the Council decided that the proposed plan for admission to IITs at the undergraduate level be implemented by the year 2013. The JAB was also advised to constitute a group for coordination with the Council of Boards of School Education (COBSE) so that the students, and public at large, could be educated about the PERCENTILE versus PERCENTAGE approach being adopted by the Council. The JAB committee has been requested to submit its report by October this year.

Before the IIT Council meeting, deliberations and consultations have been going on for two years, after which it was approved that a Common Admission Examination (CAE) shall be conducted for admission to various Engineering courses in the country. In this regard, a meeting of the Joint Councils of Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), National Institutes of Technology (NITs), Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIITs), and other Central Educational Institutions approved the CAE earlier this year.

Shri Kapil Sibal, Minister of HRD, who presided over the meeting, said that multiplicity of entrance examinations to various courses in Engineering has been a cause of concern to society. When a student, intending to pursue a course in Engineering, has to pursue various such examinations, it imposes a burden on him in terms of time, payment of examination fees as well as the stress caused due to scheduling and preparing for each examination. As a result, the students have to restrict their choice of institutions for which they can compete.

The Government has been working on reforms in the examination system by moving towards a common national test to reduce the burden on the students and at the same time preserving the autonomy of the State Governments and institutions in devising its admission process.

It has also been seen that present system neglects the Class XII examination process completely while granting admission to students in various Engineering institutions. As a result, there is an almost complete disregard to the Secondary School system and neglect of education imparted in schools impacting quality and access. The meeting deliberated on the fact that students and their parents were forced to seek access to outside-the-school instruction methods to enable the students to prepare for the multitude of entrance examinations.

The proposed reform attempts in the examination process for Engineering courses are, therefore, also an attempt to bring the focus back on the schooling system by giving weightage to performance in Class XII Board examinations, normalized on percentile basis.

Now with the latest recommendations and suggestions coming in from the IIT Council meeting, it is expected that the major reforms in the Engineering entrance examination would be finally realized.

Dialogues with States Crucial To Policy Formulation: Sibal



Shri Kapil Sibal, Minister of HRD, addressing the State Education Ministers' Conference in New Delhi on June 5, 2012.

At the State & UT Education Ministers' Conference, held on June 5, 2012, Shri Kapil Sibal, Minister of HRD, emphasized the importance of centrality of State Governments both in policy formulation as also in their effective implementation. He recalled the cooperation extended by the State Governments in the Education sector and thanked all the State Education Ministers for the same. With education being a Concurrent subject, Shri Sibal maintained that consultations and continuous dialogue with the States becomes crucial in a federating structure. He added that such interactions had been extremely useful in shaping the initiatives and policies of the Ministry, ranging from the Right to Education to the various reforms in Higher Education.

Shri Sibal chaired the Conference and other attendees included Shri E. Ahamed, Minister of State for HRD, Ministers of Education representing various State and UT Governments, Shri Ashok Thakur, Secretary, Higher Education, and Smt. Anshu Vaish, Secretary, Department of School Education & Literacy.

The following issues were discussed at the Conference:

Prof. Sanjay G. Dhande, Director, IIT Kanpur, made a presentation on the reforms proposed in the entrance examinations for admission to engineering institutions. He explained in detail the process adopted in consulting various stakeholders and the details of the decision arrived at the meeting of the Joint Council of IITs, NITs and IIITs in its meeting on May 28, 2012. The respective Directors of IIT-Guwahati, and IIT-Kharagpur, Prof. Gautam Barua and Prof. Damodar Acharya, explained the percentile normalisation process and the modalities for organisation of the common test. After detailed deliberations, the proposal for a common examination process for admission to engineering programmes was supported unanimously. The States were of the opinion that IITs should also adopt the same format as other central educational institutions in the long term. The States were requested to convey their decision on the year of joining in the common admission process and the relative weightage to normalized Class XII Board marks, performance in JEE-MAIN and JEE-ADVANCED by June 30, 2012 to enable preparations to be made accordingly.

Shri R. D. Sahay, Joint Secretary, Department of Higher Education, MHRD, also made a presentation on the draft Bill for establishment of IIITs and the implementation of the Scheme for IIITs on public-private partnership mode. The draft Bill was discussed in detail and States unanimously supported the Bill. There was a demand from States that the Bill should be moved at the earliest for Parliamentary approval. It was informed that the Central Government intends to introduce the Bill in the Monsoon Session of Parliament. The Scheme for establishment of IIITs was discussed in detail and various suggestions were offered by the States.

Smt. Archana Chitnis, Minister of Education, Madhya Pradesh presented the Report of the Group of Ministers on the "Concept and Framework of the Community

College Scheme" in the Conference. The Report was unanimously accepted by the States and UTs. While welcoming the setting up of Community Colleges, the State Education Ministers agreed that the concept of Community Colleges will be paradigm shift leading to skill development and energisation of the community and the youth will be educated not only for taking employment, but more importantly for becoming self-employed. It was decided to start 200 Community Colleges on a pilot basis in academic session 2013 and then scale up gradually.

AISHE Task Force Meeting Takes Stock of Survey Progress

The All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) began in July 2011 with the aim to identify and capture all the institutions of higher learning in the country and to collect the data from these institutions on various aspects of HE. A Task Force was constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri Sunil Kumar, Chief Secretary, Government of Chhattisgarh, with representatives from MHRD, UGC, AICTE, MCI, IASRI, CSO, Universities, State Higher Education Departments, as its various members. The Task Force has been entrusted with the responsibility to lay out the modalities and proper conduct of the Survey. The Force held its sixth meeting on Jun 22, 2012 to discuss the progress of the survey and future Plan of Action.

Present Status

With the work going on in full swing, around 15,000 Institutions including 553 universities have registered on the AISHE portal (<http://aishe.gov.in> or <http://aishe.nic.in>), which has been developed for collection and compilation of the data. Registration of institutions is the first step towards integrating them with the Survey, after which the data capturing begins. Out of these, more than 10,000 Institutions, which included 425 universities, have uploaded data on the portal.

Progress on Enrolment

The Survey work is completed in the States of Mizoram, Gujarat, Daman & Diu, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and In the States like Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura, Nagaland, Puducherry, Survey is nearing to completion.

New Initiatives on Parliamentary Grounds

A. Copyright (Amendment) Act, 2012 - After Shri Kapil Sibal, Minister of HRD, introduced the Copyright (Amendment) Bill, 2010 in the Rajya Sabha on April 19, 2010, the Bill has remained the Ministry's constant endeavor to protect documents, which are of national importance and form a part of the national assets. The Copyright (Amendment) Act, 2012 was passed by the Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha, respectively on May 17, 2012 and May 22, 2012. The Hon'ble President of India, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil, assented to the same on June 7, 2012 and the Amendment Act came into being.

B. Amendment to National Institute of Technology (NIT) Act - The National Institute of Technology (NIT) (Amendment) Bill, 2010, was introduced in the Lok Sabha on April 15, 2010. The same was passed by the Rajya Sabha on April 30, 2012 and by Lok Sabha on May 11, 2012. The Presidential assent to the amendment is awaited.

C. Indian Institutes of Technology (Amendment) Bill, 2011 - The bill recommends inclusion of eight new IITs within the purview of the Institutes of Technology Act, 1961 as well as Introducing the Institutes of Technology (Amendment) Bill. The Bill has been passed in both the Houses of the Parliament and awaits the Presidential assent.

Approach To XII Five Year Plan

The Department of Higher Education has sought to put its focus on the following areas of education in this sector:

1) Focus on Quality: The Department will pay more attention to improving the quality of Higher Educational institutions, in terms of infrastructure, curriculum, faculty, and facilities.

2) Additional Enrolment: The Department will work out ways to enhance the enrolment in Higher Educational

institutions. In this regard, there will be efforts to ensure that at least 10 million more students join the educational process as against the current enrolment figures.

3) Skill Enhancement: This remains another focus area of the Department, which wants its students and teachers under the Higher Education sector, to adopt better skills, which make them more of an asset to the national mainstream.

4) Research Culture & Innovation: This focus area is also a priority for the Department of Higher Education, as it will lead India into a bright future. In this regard, the Ministry has signed MoUs with a number of countries, including the US and the UK. These collaborative efforts will encourage research and innovation in keeping with the changing times, thus, lending an edge to the country and its professionals.

5) Faculty Development: Since teachers are the all-important cogs in the wheels that run the sector of Higher Education, it is important to focus on their development too. In this regard, an important step is the proposed National Mission on Teachers and Training.

KEY OBJECTIVES & STRATEGIES:

To achieve the desired success in the aforementioned focus areas, the Ministry has decided to adopt the following key objectives and strategies to achieve the same:

a) Additional Enrolment - Besides strengthening the new central institutions set up during the XI Five Year Plan, the government will also focus on expansion and consolidation of state institutions through an umbrella scheme with substantial support by Centre. Community Colleges and Community Polytechnics will be paid attention to and the government will also address the critical access gaps.

b) Greater Social Inclusion - This objective will address gaps in terms of communities, castes, and gender. It would be achieved by continued strengthening and sustenance of existing schemes such as Scholarships, Girls Hostel, and opening of new Degree colleges.

c) Quality Enhancement - This is an objective quite dear to the Ministry, therefore, a multi-pronged strategy has been devised to achieve it. Apart from the proposed National Mission on Teachers and Training, the government will focus on establishing Centres in Frontier Areas of Sciences, besides strengthening research in Basic Sciences and Social Sciences. The recommendations of the M.M. Sharma Committee will also be implemented and there will be encouragement of enhanced use of technology in the educational stream.

NATIONAL MISSION on TEACHERS & TRAINING

This proposed initiative is focused on faculty development, which remains an important aspect of development of Higher Education sector. The government will adopt a four-pronged strategy under

this mission to achieve the all-round development of the teachers employed in Higher Education. The four arms of this strategy are:

1. Strengthening of Academic Staff Colleges
2. Schools of Education in Central Universities
3. Regional Centers of Education
4. Use of National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (NMEICT)

ICT & TECHNOLOGY-ENABLED EDUCATION:

Identifying the need for latest information and communication technology in propagating quality education in the country, the NMEICT will be ensured to provide content to all disciplines and connectivity within all colleges. The Akaash tablet, a path-breaking attempt to take technology to the poorest of poor, will ensure that the individual student feels empowered to make use of information and communication technology. With the networking of institutions, there will be more of collaborative learning and the colleges will become education hubs. Tools such as digital libraries and learning resource centers will also change the face of Higher Education in India.

RESEARCH & INNOVATION:

The M.M. Sharma Committee's recommendations will provide a pathway to follow in enhancing research and innovation in Higher Education. Besides, the government seeks to pay attention to research in basic education as well as the Social Sciences subjects. Strengthening of education in the Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) sector will also lend an important impetus to research innovation.

NATIONAL VOCATIONAL EDUCATION QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK (NVEQF):

This project provides a 'Common Reference Framework' to link various qualifications and setting up common principles and guidelines for a nationally recognized qualifications system. This will address skill shortage in various sectors besides allowing the students to take up education that serves across various sectors. A unified system of national qualifications will serve schools, vocational education and training institutions as well as the Higher Education sector. The NVEQF gives a useful boost to integrating efforts in education and training systems to encourage life-long and continuing learning among students.

The XI Plan was a landmark in terms of development of Higher Education. The Department of Higher Education's focus on these pointers of future, otherwise known as initiatives, is expected to ensure that the XII Plan proves to be the same as well.

RUSA Endorsed

Education Should Focus On Students, Not Institutions - Says Minister



Shri Kapil Sibal, Minister of HRD and Smt. Vibha Puri Das, Secretary (HE) at the meeting of State Higher/Technical Education Secretaries, in New Delhi on April 13th, 2012

At the meeting of State Higher/Technical Education Secretaries, on April 13, 2012, Shri Kapil Sibal, Minister of HRD, was of the opinion that the present affiliation system in Higher Education system needed to be changed so that the focus of education would be on students and on learning. He wants the education system to focus away from examinations and institutions.

Besides, Shri Sibal also announced constitution of a five-member committee to work out a framework to ensure mobility of students within the Institutions like Universities and Colleges. For this, he also suggested that the Universities should have semester system of classes. Secretary (Higher Education) of Gujarat has been appointed the Convener of the committee.

While Shri Sibal presided over the meeting, held in New Delhi, Dr. (Smt.) D. Purandeswari, Minister of State for HRD inaugurated the meeting, Smt. Vibha Puri Das, Secretary (HE), Prof. Ved Prakash, Chairman, UGC, Prof. S. S. Mantha, Chairman, AICTE, and senior officials of the MHRD as well as the Planning Commission took part in the meeting. The event was also attended by representatives of 28 States/Union Territories.

Important decisions taken in the meeting:-

- 1) Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) - RUSA, or the proposed campaign for Higher Education, has received endorsement from the States for its broad outlines and contours. The Central Government was exhorted to finalise the scheme at an earliest.
- 2) Plan Allocation of HE - After the Central Government had requested the States to enhance plan allocation for HE, the State Secretaries reacted favorably to the request and promised to take up the issue with their respective State governments. Besides, they also agreed on the need to undertake comprehensive perspective planning for HE.
- 3) Community College Programme - The states seemed eager to take part in the MHRD's Community College programme scheme, the details of which were explained to the State Secretaries.
- 4) National Vocational Educational Qualifications Framework (NVEQF) - The AICTE Chairman explained the Framework in detail at the meeting. Although, some states are participating in the NVEQF pilot project, those, which are not, have agreed to integrate the Framework in their existing Vocational Education programmes.
- 5) Research & Innovation - While the Research and Innovation agenda of MHRD received widespread appreciation, the State Secretaries also agreed to the need to step up investments in this regard by way of earmarking of funds in institutions of HE.
- 6) Mission on Teachers & Teaching - Besides the need for a transparent system of recruitment to be put in place, the State Secretaries also appreciated the central role of faculty and teacher education. They also wanted to know the details of the proposed Mission in Teachers and Teaching. Regarding the proposed Schools of Education, the States wanted to know the details of inputs for pattern of funding.
- 7) All India Survey on Higher Education - Showering praise on the AISHE, the States appreciated MHRD's efforts to collect a robust data base under this Survey. Besides, the States also ensured that they would make all efforts to complete the survey by May 31st, 2012. They assured that they would instruct all the colleges to upload the data on the AISHE portal immediately.

Innovation at the Meeting:-

While the plans and procedures were discussed among the Central Government and the State Secretaries, a few innovative ideas, already under action in various States, were also mentioned during the course of meeting:

- a. *MoU with IIT Kharagpur for teacher training in Chhattisgarh.*
- b. *The well-established Community Polytechnic in Tripura.*
- c. *The prestigious Rajiv Gandhi University of Knowledge Technology in Andhra Pradesh.*
- d. *Gujarat's Choice-based Credit System or Multi-Varsity system between IIM Ahmedabad, IIT Gandhinagar, and University of Gujarat.*
- e. *West Bengal's suggestions for a compressed system of Vocational Education.*
- f. *Distribution of laptops to final year students of Tamil Nadu.*
- g. *Education hubs introduced in Haryana and Himachal Pradesh.*
- h. *Three engineering colleges based on Public-Private Partnership mode in Jharkhand.*

Need to Redefine Literacy, Says Minister

Shri Kapil Sibal, Minister of HRD, inaugurated the 4th International Policy Dialogue Forum on Teacher Challenges for EFA on May 29, 2012. He opened the Forum with an emphasis on the "need to redefine literacy." Shri Sibal said that literacy needs to be redefined in the context of 21st century requirements, keeping in mind the huge advances in technology. He also asked the UNESCO to lead from the front in this effort. Apart from the Dialogue Forum, the Minister also inaugurated a walk-in-exhibition that showcased India's contemporary approach to teacher education.

Outlining the fact that a lot needs to be done in the



Shri Kapil Sibal, Minister of HRD, addressing the Fourth International Policy Dialogue on Teacher Challenges for Education for All in India on May 29, 2012.

field of education in India, Shri Sibal underlined the regions where challenges to be faced are the greatest. He said that this is the only way to prevent demographic advantage from turning into a demographic disaster. Similarly, he also said that we need to strategize for less advantaged regions while pointing out the need to redefine the role of teachers.

He suggested a few ways to improve the quality of teachers, some of which are:-

- Creating a pool of pedagogy.
- Creating data banks with high quality teacher education material.
- A pool of high quality teachers, whose teaching can be web cast.
- A system of evaluation of teachers, in the form of self-evaluation.

In addition to the Minister, others who addressed the Conference were Smt. Anshu Vaish, Secretary (SE&L), Mr. Joao Cravinho, Ambassador and Head of Delegation (Delegation of the European Union to India, and Mr. Shigeru Aoyagi, Director and UNESCO (Representative to India, Bhutan). Shri Ashok Thakur, Secretary (HE) gave the vote of thanks.

Apart from other things, the Conference, held on May 29th and 30th, also focused on six areas of teacher education, which are:-

Continuing professional development of teachers in India

Decentralization: challenges and steps forward

Feminization of the teacher force

Public-private partnerships to address the teacher gap

Inclusive education for children with special needs

Monitoring & Evaluation

Strategic Management, and Sociology, etc. Besides, 298 PGDM and 52 PGDCM diplomas were also awarded to successful students.

Addressing the students on this occasion, Shri Sibal said, "The country is in need of leaders. We have an incredible dearth of leadership in polity, governance and major financial institutions."

10,000 Teacher Training Project of NMEICT Inaugurated

Under the Talk-to-a-Teacher project of the National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (NMEICT), Shri Kapil Sibal, Minister of HRD, inaugurated the training programme for 10,000 teachers on June 25, 2012. The training programme, first of its kind in the world, would be conducted by IIT Bombay.

Under the programme, simultaneous training of 10,000 teachers of engineering colleges would be conducted using the broadband network and ICT tools. The training would be conducted at 168 remote centers, located across the country. The programme includes lectures delivered from IIT Bombay by Professors of IIT Bombay and IIT Madras. The training uses software A-View, audio-video connectivity, live interactions and lab sessions.

It was IIT Bombay that developed the method of synchronous education, which allows the participants to follow the training programme from a center of their convenience, and Prof. D. B. Phatak is the man leading this mission. The programme allows the participation of a large number of lady teachers, who normally are unable to join contact programmes at distant locations, owing to family commitments.

A-VIEW software development and this mega workshop are a part of the Talk to a Teacher, funded by the National Mission on Education through ICT, an initiative of the Department of Higher Education, MHRD.

While inaugurating the programme, Shri Sibal also interacted with the remote centers located at Kanyakumari, Rajkot, Srinagar and Nagpur.

IIM-C Celebrates 47th Annual Convocation



Shri Kapil Sibal, Minister of HRD, addressing the 47th Annual Convocation of Indian Institute of Management, Kolkata, on April 2, 2012.

The 47th Annual Convocation Ceremony of the Indian Institute of Management, Calcutta (IIM-C) was held on April 2, 2012, at the Joka campus. Shri Kapil Sibal, Minister of HRD, was the Chief Guest on the occasion, which saw some of the brightest minds in management sector being recognized with diplomas and titles. Shri Ajit Balakrishnan, CEO, Rediff.com and Chairman of IIM-C Board of Governors, and other dignitaries were also present during the ceremony.

During the ceremony, Professor Shekhar Chaudhuri, IIM-C Director, also read out the Annual Report for the year 2011-2012. Ten Fellowships were awarded in subjects such as - Finance & Control, Operations Management, Marketing, Behavioural Science,

राष्ट्रपति ने संस्कृत, फारसी, अरबी, पाली/प्राकृत के विद्वानों को पुरस्कार प्रदान किए



भारत की राष्ट्रपति श्रीमती प्रतिभा देवीसिंह पाटिल तथा केन्द्रीय मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री श्री कपिल सिब्बल संस्कृत, पाली/प्राकृत, अरबी और फारसी के विद्वानों के साथ ।

भारत की राष्ट्रपति श्रीमती प्रतिभा देवीसिंह पाटिल ने हाल ही में संस्कृत के विद्वानों, संस्कृत (अंतरराष्ट्रीय) के विद्वानों, फारसी के विद्वानों, अरबी भाषाओं के विद्वानों एवं पाली/प्राकृत के विद्वानों के सम्मान में प्रमाण-पत्र प्रदान किए। वर्ष में एक बार स्वतंत्रता दिवस पर संस्कृत, पाली/प्राकृत, अरबी और फारसी के क्षेत्र में किए गए व्यापक योगदान को मान्यता प्रदान करते हुए ये विशिष्ट पुरस्कार प्रदान किए जाते हैं। जिन विद्वानों को पुरस्कार दिए गए, उनकी सूची नीचे दी गई है। पुरस्कार समारोह वर्ष 2010 एवं 2011 के लिए था।

2010 के लिए दिए गए पुरस्कार निम्नानुसार हैं—

संस्कृत

1. प्रो. वी. स्वामीनाथन
2. प्रो. उमाशंकर शर्मा "ऋषि"
3. डॉ. शंकर देव शर्मा अवत्रे
4. प्रो. विजय पांडया देवशंकर

5. श्री एच.वी. नागराजा राव
6. पंडित मोती राम शास्त्री
7. डॉ. देवीप्रसाद खांडेराव खारवांडीकर
8. श्री भुवनेश्वर कार
9. पंडित मदन मोहन शर्मा
10. श्री जी.आर. रामचंद्रा सास्त्री
11. प्रो. सीतानाथ डे
12. डॉ. कपिल देवा द्विवेदी
13. डॉ. गणेश दत्त शर्मा
14. डॉ. जयदत्त उप्रेती
15. श्रीमती गौरी धर्मपाल

संस्कृत (अंतरराष्ट्रीय)

1. प्रो. कसाबा टोडोस्सी

फारसी

1. डॉ. एस.एम. तलहा रिजवी "बरक्यू"
2. डॉ. मोहम्मद युसुफ

अरबी

1. प्रो. मोहम्मद अब्दुल मजीद
2. सईद अहमद पालनपुरी
3. प्रो. अशफाक अहमद नदवी

पाली/प्राकृत

1. डॉ. उदय चंद्र जैन

2011 के लिए दिए गए पुरस्कार निम्नानुसार हैं—

संस्कृत

1. प्रो. कनियम्बक्कम इलायाविल्ली गोविंदन
2. डॉ. नोद नाथ मिश्रा
3. डॉ. सत्यदेव चौधरी
4. डॉ. मनिमाई ईश्वरमाई प्रजापति
5. डॉ. विजयपाल
6. पंडित केशव राम शर्मा
7. श्री सोमायाजी विद्वान संबा दीक्षित
8. प्रो. रासबिहारी द्विवेदी
9. प्रो. कृष्णा एस. अर्जुनवाडकर
10. प्रो. (डॉ.) सदाशिवा प्रहाराजा

11. प्रो. इंद्रा दत्त उनियाल
12. डॉ. सत्यव्रत वर्मा
13. श्री वी. रघुनाथा सास्त्रीगल
14. प्रो. अमरनाथ पांडेय
15. प्रो. प्रताप बनर्जी

संस्कृत (अंतरराष्ट्रीय)

1. श्री हुआंग बाओशेंग

फारसी

1. प्रो. मोहम्मद इकबाल
2. प्रो. हाफिज मोहम्मद जियाउद्दीन अलियास शमसी तेहरानी
3. डॉ. मोहम्मद मंसूर आलम

अरबी

1. डॉ. मोहम्मद अतीकुर रहमान
2. प्रो. जैनस साजिदिन सिद्दीकी
3. डॉ. मोहम्मद शाहिदुल्लाह

पाली/प्राकृत

1. प्रो. अंगराज चौधरी

इसके अतिरिक्त राष्ट्रपति ने संस्कृत, फारसी, अरबी एवं पाली/प्राकृत के विद्वानों को सहर्ष महर्षि बदरायण व्यास सम्मान पुरस्कार भी प्रदान किए —

संस्कृत

1. डॉ. ब्रज भूषण ओझा
2. डॉ. सोमनाथ डैश
3. डॉ. संपदानंद मिश्रा
4. डॉ. वीरनारायण एन.के. पांडुरंगी
5. डॉ. धर्मेन्द्र कुमार सिंहदेओ

फारसी

1. डॉ. शाहिद नौखेज आजमी

अरबी

1. डॉ. मुजीबुर रहमान

पाली

1. डॉ. महावीर प्रभाचंद्रा शास्त्री

AICTE Deploys Microsoft's Cloud Technology for Engineering Students



Shri Kapil Sibal, Minister of HRD, briefing the media about the two Five Year Integrated Management Programme to be started by AICTE from 2012-13 in New Delhi on April 12, 2012.

With its decision to employ Microsoft Live@edu as a part of its strategy to broaden educational reforms, the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has become the biggest customer of the Cloud Technology. AICTE Chairman Prof. S. S. Mantha announced joining hands with the Microsoft at a function held on April 12, 2012, in the presence of Shri Kapil Sibal, Minister of HRD. Live@edu is a collaborative communication service that offers everything from Microsoft Office Web Apps, email, and instant messaging to storage to the students as well as faculty members of the institutions.

This is one of the many initiatives that AICTE has undertaken in the company of IT majors and other industrial players. The Cloud Technology would be applied to more than 10,000 technical colleges and institutes throughout the country. This technology is good to expand students' access to high-quality technical education and collaboration, in an attempt to prepare the students to become a workforce for the future. Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Mantha said, "Microsoft's cloud platform will make for a truly progressive ecosystem and contribute to the country's technical education by providing a better communication and collaboration platform for institutes and students."

Shri Sibal also launched two new management programmes of AICTE on the occasion. The first one is a five-year Integrated Masters level Management programme, which will educate and groom the students to gain entry-level managerial positions in manufacturing/services organisations. Besides, the students will also be able to start or run their own ventures after gaining good business knowledge. The programme would provide an undergraduate degree in 3 or 4 years, after which the student will also get a Master's degree in 5 years. The admission would through a Common Entrance Test, which would be conducted by the AICTE.

The second new programme will be a five year Dual Degree Management Course, to commence from this academic session. The admissions will be on the basis of a Common Entrance Test at 10+2 level. After this programme, the students would be able to work at management levels in the core engineering industry.

IIM Lucknow Joins GMAC

The Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Lucknow, has joined the Graduate Management Admission Council, which administers the GMAT exam. The only other IIM to be a member of this Council is IIM Ahmedabad. The Institute seeks to get access to a larger student base and the latest market research in management education with the GMAC membership.

DU's Hindu College Gets Star Status for Science Research

Hindu College, under the Delhi University, has received the Star status under the Star College scheme of the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Ministry of Science and Technology. This means that the college will receive research funding from the Ministry for four departments - Physics, Chemistry, Botany and Zoology. Under this scheme, selected colleges receive Rs 10 lakh as one-time non-recurring grant for each science department and Rs 2 lakh per year as a recurring grant for consumables for two years.

India-Israel Launch Research Initiative

India and Israel have agreed in principle to establish a long-term programme to bring researchers from both sides together in order to carry out research in areas of mutual interests. Shri Kapil Sibal, Minister of HRD, who visited Israel in April 2012, had a meeting with Israel's Minister of Finance, Dr. Yuval Steinitz, Israel's Minister of Education and Chairman of the Council for Higher Education, Mr. Gideon Sa'ar and Israel's Chairman of the Planning and Budgeting Committee, Prof. Manuel Trajtenberg. It was during this meeting that both the countries decided to carry forward their two decade-long diplomatic ties. The joint programme is expected to facilitate mutually beneficial research and academic activities on both sides.

The UGC will coordinate this programme on behalf of India while the Israel Science Foundation (ISF) will handle things on the Israeli side. The areas of cooperation under this programme are Renewable & sustainable energies, Bio-medical sciences, cyber-security, Humanities and Social Sciences, etc.

UKIERI Round Tables on Innovation, Skills Development



Shri Kapil Sibal, Minister of HRD, and other dignitaries at the India-UK Round Table on Innovation and Skills Development, in New Delhi, on April 20, 2012.

On April 20, 2012, Shri Kapil Sibal, Minister of HRD, presided over the India-UK Round Table Conference on Innovation and Skill Development. The Round Table was a part of the UK-India Education and Research Initiative (UKIERI).

In his speech, Shri Sibal, "Economic resources defined

the milestones of the 20th century but the defining story-line of the early 21st century will be that of human resources. Today's challenges are qualitatively different from the past in their global reach. Therefore, engagements like we are having today in the backdrop of a successful partnership initiative like UKIERI are extremely important and we have a lot to learn and share."

Revealing that the Government of India had declared the 2010-2020 decade as the "Decade of Innovation," the Minister said that innovation is the "engine for national and global growth, employment, competitiveness and sharing of opportunities in the 21st century." He further said, "India is uniquely poised to reap the advantage of the comparatively young population, its leadership role in ICT and software, with over 800 million people connected through mobile phones that provide for unprecedented advantages for development of inclusive models of innovation for making the country to become not merely a knowledge producing economy but a knowledge sharing society. Our core idea of innovations is to go beyond R&D parameters and to produce affordable and qualitative solutions that address the needs of people at the bottom of the pyramid, and focus on inclusive growth model and the National Innovation Council acts as a catalyst in this effort to break barriers and seize new opportunities. The National Innovation Council has made several recommendations to support entrepreneurship arising from University research. Sector Innovation Councils are also formed for focusing on specific sectors."

Round Table on Skills Development

The UKIERI Round Table on Skills Development was organized jointly by the Ministry of Human Resource Development and UKIERI to bring together key stakeholders engaged in working on the agenda of skills development in India and the UK. Both the sides agreed to work under the aegis of the UKIERI programme to collaborate on strategic areas of importance since there are a lot of opportunities to engage and build capacity. In his inaugural address, Shri Sibal said that though India faces the challenge in numbers, but it has the benefit of a positive demographic dividend. Some of the key recommendations that came forth at the Round Table are:-

- a) Developing a Further Education Leadership Development Programme.

b) Support training of trainers through ICT and online training as well as training arrangements through UK companies & Indian schools.

c) Focus on Assessment & certification, Quality Assurance, Vocationalisation of Education.

d) Develop a qualification framework designed to provide flexibility to students for multiple entry and exit options.

Round Table on Innovation

The Round Table on Innovation was organized to share experiences and focus on specific steps that Universities and Governments of India and the UK can take in fostering innovations. While delivering the inaugural address, Shri Sibal said that the UKIERI initiative has led to the creation and dissemination of new knowledge and its application which is critical to

the progress of development of the society. The relevant stakeholder organizations, which participated in this Round Table included - National Innovation Council and Planning Commission. Some of the key recommendations of this Round Table are:-

a) Converting researcher-to-researcher collaboration into strategic partnerships.

b) Supporting linkages between education, employability and employers.

c) Creating opportunities to share technology, skills and knowledge transfers between India and the UK.

d) Encouraging training to support entrepreneurship.



Shri Kapil Sibal, Minister of HRD, releasing a special cover at the Fourth International Policy Dialogue Forum on Teacher Challenges for Education for All in India and E-9 meeting on Teacher Development for Inclusive Relevant Quality Education, in New Delhi on May 29, 2012. Shri Ashok Thakur, Secretary (HE), Smt. Anshu Vaish, Secretary (SE&L), and Mr. Joao Gomes Cravinho, Ambassador of the European Union, are also seen.



Shri Kapil Sibal, Minister of HRD, giving away the gold medal, at the 47th Annual Convocation of Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Joka, in Kolkata on April 2, 2012.

Committee to Review UGC Regulations

The Government of India has constituted a Committee to review the UGC (Institutions Deemed to be Universities) Regulations, 2010. The Committee will have the following members:

1. Joint Secretary (Higher Education) MHRD (Convener)
2. Joint Secretary, UGC (Co-convener)
3. Prof. P.N. Tandon, Professor Emiretus, Department of Neurosurgery, AIIMS, New Delhi (Member)
4. Prof. Goverdhan Mehta, National Research Professor, former Chairman, NAAC & former Director, IISc. Bangalore (Member)
5. Prof. M. Anandkrishan, Chairman, IIT Kanpur (Member)
6. Prof. Mrinal Miri, Former Vice Chancellor, NEHU & former Chairman ICPR (Member)

Other members of the Committee include Director, TISS Mumbai, Vice Chancellor, Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE) Bangalore, Director, IIFT New Delhi, and Vice Chancellor, TERI University New Delhi.

The committee will examine whether there are any anomalies or infirmities in the Regulations vis-à-vis any other Policy/rules/regulations applicable to the Higher Education sector and suggest suitable amendments. Besides, the Committee will also examine the provisions of the Regulations vis-à-vis the need to regulate institutions as deemed to be universities so that while institutions deemed to be universities maintaining high academic standards are encouraged to expand and exercise autonomy, whereas those maintaining average academic standards are regulated and motivated to enhance academic standards to protect academic interests of students.

A meeting of the Committee was held on May 28, 2012, in which it was decided to have a broad-base consultation process by seeking feedback on the UGC Regulations (for Institutions Deemed to Universities) 2010 from the stakeholders and those familiar with the implementation of the regulations.

Consultative Committee on Madrasa Education Scheme

A meeting was held under the chairpersonship of Shri Kapil Sibal, Minister of HRD, on June 25, 2012 to discuss the implementation of the Scheme for Providing Quality Education in Madrasas. During the meeting, it was decided to set up a Consultative Committee for the implementation of the scheme. The Committee would consist of 21 members including representatives of teacher associations, chairmen of Madrasa Boards, concerned State Government officials as well as officials representing the Ministry.

It was decided that the Committee members would meet twice a year to discuss and streamline various implementation issues under the scheme. It was mooted that the grievance Redressal would be prompt, implementation faster, and quality outcomes for students would be made possible.

Shri E. Ahamed and Dr. (Smt.) D. Purandeswari, Ministers of State for Human Resource Development, were also present at the meeting. Representatives of Madrasa teacher associations, State Madrasa Boards, State Government officials, etc took part in the meeting.

The scheme has, so far, benefited more than 10,000 Madrasas and 26,755 teachers. Under this scheme, modern subjects like Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Hindi and English are introduced in Madrasas. Financial assistance is provided for teacher training, libraries, establishing science and computer labs, as well as facilitating science and Mathematics kits to students. The scheme also provides for the Madrasas to be linked to the National Institute of Open Schooling, which assesses and certifies the regular curricula as well as the vocational education under the Madrasas.

Shri Sibal Suggests Setting Up of Council of Deemed Universities

At a meeting of the Vice Chancellors of Deemed-to-be-Universities, on June 25, 2012, Shri Kapil Sibal, Minister of HRD, suggested the setting up of a Council for all the Deemed universities, which would help these universities to coordinate matters of common interest. The Council would have representation of Vice Chancellors, prominent academicians, and UGC as well as MHRD.

The meeting was held to discuss the Joint Entrance Examination for admission to Engineering courses and implementation of uniform accounting standards in these institutions. The participants were explained the concept and modalities of the Joint Entrance Examination, over which, detailed discussions were also held.

Vice Chancellors' Conference Held

Vice Chancellors of 36 Central Universities participated in a Conference held on June 22, 2012. The main issue discussed at the Conference was the role of the Central Universities in improving the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) through introduction of undergraduate courses as well as courses under the Open & Distance Learning

(ODL) mode. Besides, the role of quality checks in capacity building of teachers for schools, development of vocational education within the framework of NVEQF and assisting institutions hosting Community Colleges in the next academic year, was also deliberated upon.

At the Conference, the Vice Chancellors agreed unanimously that there was need for accreditation of the Central Universities to advance academic quality and act as examples for the Higher Education sector in India. Besides, the meeting also dwelt at length on the adequacy and effective deployment of funds, especially in the field of research and innovation. At the conference, it was decided that common problems like absence of pension portability under the NPS in the Central Universities set up after 2004 could be taken up at the level of Government.



Shri Kapil Sibal, Minister of HRD, giving away the gold medal, at the 47th Annual Convocation of Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Joka, in Kolkata on April 2, 2012.



Shri Kapil Sibal, Minister of HRD, giving away the gold medal, at the 47th Annual Convocation of Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Joka, in Kolkata on April 2, 2012.

Shri Ashok Thakur, Secretary, Higher Education



Shri Ashok Thakur has been appointed as Secretary, Department of Higher Education, MHRD, on May 24, 2012. Before this, he was Special Secretary, Department of Higher Education, MHRD. Shri Thakur, who joined this Department in May 2008, has also held the charge of Technical

Education Bureau. He joined the Indian Administrative Service in 1977 and since then, he has held several positions including those of the Joint Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development and the Principal Secretary, Tourism, Culture, Youth Services & Sports, Forests, Industries, Town & Country Planning and Home in the State Government of Himachal Pradesh. Shri Thakur has also worked as a faculty member at the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, Mussoorie.

Born in 1954 in Himachal Pradesh, Shri Thakur did his Post-graduation in History from Panjab University, Chandigarh in the year 1975. He was also awarded Diploma in International Economic Relations from International Institute of Public Administration, Paris, in the year 1984-85. In addition, Shri Thakur is also an alumni of Kennedy School of Government as well as IDS Sussex University.

Smt. Vibha Puri Das, is now Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs



Smt. Vibha Puri Das, Secretary, Department of Higher Education, MHRD, has now been appointed as Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, on May 24, 2012. She is succeeded by Shri Ashok Thakur. A career civil servant for about 35

years, Smt. Das was Secretary (HE) since November 23, 2009. She took charge of the post at a crucial juncture when large-scale reforms in the Higher Education sector were on the anvil.

Smt. Das joined the Indian Administrative Service in 1976 and started her civil service career from the post of Sub Divisional Magistrate in Ranikhet. She has also worked in various other capacities with the State Government of Uttar Pradesh besides also being the Commissioner, Entertainment & Betting Tax, Special Secretary (Finance), Managing Director of UP Handloom Development Corporation, and Managing Director of UP Small Industries Corporation.

She did her Post-graduation in Political Science from Jawahar Lal Nehru University, New Delhi. She has also done Certificate Course in International Approaches to Development and Poverty Alleviation from Institute of Development Studies, Sussex.

Prof. Pathan Retires as VC, CUK



Prof. A. M. Pathan, who holds the distinction of being the first Vice Chancellor of the Central University of Karnataka (CUK), retired recently. Recognised as an able administrator, Prof. Pathan is also a humane academician who has worked tirelessly

to provide quality Higher Education in various parts of India. He began his academic career as lecturer of geology at the Bangalore University and before taking up charge as VC, CUK, he served as Vice Chancellor of the Karnataka University, Dharwar and Maulana Azad National Urdu University.

Tezpur University's VC gets second Term

Prof. Mihir Kanti Chaudhuri, VC of the Tezpur University,

Napaam, has been granted an extension of five years, as a result of which, he will continue to be the VC till 2017. He took charge of his second term from May 21, 2012. Before he was made the VC of Tezpur University in 2007, Prof Chaudhuri held various positions in Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati and Department of Chemistry, North-Eastern Hill University, Shillong.

Dr. Somnath Dasgupta is VC, Assam University

Dr. Somnath Dasgupta has succeeded Shri Tapodhir Bhattacharjee as the new VC of Assam University, Silchar. Dr. Dasgupta will be the fifth VC of the Central University, which was set up in 1994. Prior to this, he was the Director of the National Centre of Experimental Mineralogy and Petrology (NCEMP), which comes under the University of Allahabad. Besides, he has also served as Director of the Geological Survey of India, Jadavpur University, Kolkata.

Appointments

Shri Ashok Thakur, Secretary (Higher Education)

Smt. Amita Sharma, Additional Secretary

Smt. Ankita Mishra Bundela, Deputy Secretary (DS)

Shri D. P. Majhi, Under Secretary (US)

Shri A. S. C. Chauhan, Section Officer (SO)

Shri Harish Chandra (SO)

Shri Chandresh Yadav (SO)

Transfers

Smt. Vibha Puri Das, Secretary (Higher Education)

Shri J. P. S. Yadav (SO)

Shri Gopal Krishna (SO)

Retirements

Shri Y. P. Mittal, Economic Advisor (EA)

Shri N. K. Pillai (DS)

Shri U. S. Rajput, Assistant Director

Shri K. C. Nautiyal, Deputy Director

Shri M. L. Bhatia (US)

Smt. Anjali Vadodkar (SO)

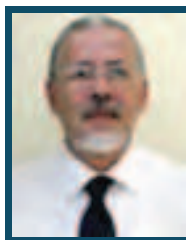
Shri O. P. Anand (SO)

Shri V. K. Nautiyal (SO)

Shri Chand Kashyap (SO)

Shri Balkrishan Sharma (SO)

Prof. Syiemlieh Appointed Member, UPSC



Prof. David R. Syiemlieh, Vice Chancellor, Rajiv Gandhi University (RGU), Itanagar, has been appointed as Member of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC). Prof. Syiemlieh had been appointed as VC of the RGU in January 2012. At that time, he was working as the Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the North Eastern Hill University, Shillong. He has demitted his office at RGU to take up the new assignment.

Prof. Sunaina Singh is VC, EFLU



Distinguished academician, Prof. Sunaina Singh, has taken up the charge of Vice Chancellor of the English and Foreign Languages University (EFLU) on May 14, 2012. Before this, she was Head and Chair, Department of English, Osmania University. Prof. Singh has also held the post of President of the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute from 2009-2011. A Ph. D. in Comparative Literature, Prof. Singh has done her postdoctoral research in areas such as Postmodernism, Women's Writing, Diaspora, and South Asian Literatures.

Lt. Gen. Shah Takes Over as VC, AMU



Lt. General Zameer Uddin Shah has been appointed the new VC of Aligarh Muslim University (AMU). Born on August 15, 1948, the General Officer has studied and trained at St. Joseph's College, Nainital, National Defence Academy, Khadakvasla, Defence Services Staff College, Wellington, Army War College, Mhow, and National Defence College, New Delhi. Besides holding prestigious command, staff and instructional appointments in his 39-year-long career in Army, Lt. Gen. Shah has also served on a diplomatic assignment as Defence Attache in Saudi Arabia between 1994-1997.