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द न्यूजलैटर THE NEWSLETTER ON HIGHER EDUCATION

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“Education is a better safeguard of liberty than a standing army.”

- Edward Everett

Shri Pranab Mukherjee, the President, launching the Aakash Version 2.0 tablet, on the National Education Day 2012, Dr. M. M. Pallam Raju, Minister of HRD, Dr. Karan Singh, the President of ICCR, Dr. Shashi Tharoor and Shri Jitin Prasada, both Ministers of State of HRD are also seen.

President Dedicates Aakash Version 2.0 to Nation

On the occasion of National Education Day, on November 11, 2012, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, the President of India, released and dedicated to the nation, Aakash Version 2.0 tablet. The tablet was unveiled in the presence of Dr. M. M. Pallam Raju, Minister of HRD, Sh. Jitin Prasada, and Dr. Shashi Tharoor, Ministers of State of HRD.

The Aakash Version 2.0 is a full-fledged tablet computer for which the Ministry, along with IIT Bombay, has created several useful educational applications. The tablet could be instrumental in allowing teachers and students in the remotest parts of the country to join a classroom and benefit from the lectures delivered by the best of academics.

Among the initiatives that can be run on Aakash Version 2.0 tablet are ‘Ten Thousand Teachers Training Programme - a live video interaction with participants, Clicker applications for real time feedback in country-wide classroom, Daisy Books for differently-abled students, NCERT content, GNU Khata- an accounting package for barefoot accountants in rural areas and Scholarship Portal integrated with Aadhar.’

The dignitaries also paid rich tributes to Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, India’s first Education Minister, on this day, which also happens to be his 124th birth anniversary.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Raju said that the Government is keen to promote research and innovation in the educational institutions and create the right educational eco-system because in a knowledge economy, the wealth of a nation will not be measured in terms of its natural resources but in terms of its human capital. The Minister said even more important than development of job skills is the need to develop appropriate values of tolerance, non-violence, secularism and humanism amongst children and youth.

Dr. Tharoor invited the audience’s attention to a ‘world undergoing unprecedented changes in almost every sphere of human life.’ He also emphasized that it is all the more imperative that India bring about far-reaching educational reforms to cope up with these dynamic challenges.

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The last three months saw MHRD working at a frenetic pace, right from unveiling Aakash Version 2.0 tablet on the National Education Day, November 11, 2012, to joining the National Bio-Design Alliance with the Department of Bio-Technology. Technology is going to be the future of Higher Education in India, therefore, it is only imperative that the Higher Education Institutions get abreast of the latest technological developments, be it in the form of a tablet computer or a national alliance on bio-design.

Aakash Version 2.0 is the next step towards realizing the objectives of the ambitious MHRD initiative called the NMEICT. The Mission has, so far created several useful educational applications, which will help students and teachers in the remotest parts of the country to access high quality learning material developed through the Mission or available otherwise on the net and thereby join the mainstream educational process.

MHRD Institutions - Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) New Delhi and Madras as well as the Indian Institute of Science (IISc.) Bangalore - have joined the National Bio-Design Alliance, which will foster an integrated, multi-disciplinary approach to training of young innovators in the field.

The Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE) endorsed the proposed "Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan" in principle. This paves way for enhanced financial support from the Central Government to the State funded higher educational institutions for taking forward the reforms in the higher education sector. Rs 25000 Cr is earmarked for this purpose.

A report on the reading habits of the youth of North-East was also released in November, 2012, which highlights the scenario as prevalent in the region. It is heartening to know that youth in the north-eastern states performed much better than those in the states like Maharashtra. The Report

clearly suggests that the north-eastern states, despite the geographical difficulties, have a greater proportion of readers among its youth population.

I may venture to say that the Higher Education system in the country has a bright future not only because of myriad of initiatives taken to reform it but because the youth of the country is well aware of them and are ready to play their active role in this process.



(Anant Kumar Singh)

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CABE Endorses 'Rashtriya Uchcharat Shiksha Abhiyan'



Dr. M. M. Pallam Raju, Minister of HRD and Dr. Shashi Tharoor, Minister of State of HRD at the 60th Meeting of the Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE), in New Delhi on November 8, 2012.

At the 60th meeting of the CABE, which is the highest advisory body to advise the Central and State Governments, the following resolutions were adopted after extensive deliberations between participants:

- 1. The CABE meeting endorsed in-principle the proposed "Rashtriya Uchcharat Shiksha Abhiyan."**
- 2. The meeting discussed the report of the CABE Committee on University Reforms and also accepted the recommendation to incentivise the State Universities and Institutions.**
- 3. The CABE approved the suggested Action Plan for implementation of the recommendations of the Justice Verma commission and also endorsed the recommendations of the Commission.**
- 4. It was decided that other issues such as National Higher Education Framework, role of States in mandatory accreditation and reform in polytechnic sector be discussed in the next CABE meeting.**

Besides adopting the above resolutions, the CABE meeting also had presentations made by the officials and academicians on the following issues:

- CABE Committee on University Reforms

- National Framework in Higher Education
- Role of States in Mandatory Accreditation
- All India Higher Education Survey
- Reforms in Polytechnic Sector

60th CABE Meeting

HRM Calls for Participatory Approach To Education



Dr. M. M. Pallam Raju, Minister of HRD and Dr. Shashi Tharoor, Minister of State of HRD at the 60th Meeting of the Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE), in New Delhi on November 8, 2012.

The Sixtieth Meeting of the Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE) was held on November 8, 2012, under the chairmanship of Dr. M. M. Pallam Raju, Minister of HRD.

In his opening remarks, Dr. Raju reiterated the emphasis on adopting a participatory approach between Central Government, State Governments, academic, autonomous institutions, private sector and all other stakeholders. He said that it was only through participation of all that the common goal of empowering the children and youth of India through education and knowledge can be achieved.

The Minister said that the purpose of education should be to build an inclusive, fair and just society. He also invited attention to the difficulties faced in developing national policies for a country as diverse and as large as India, while respecting and incorporating regional aspirations. He said that implementing an "inclusive agenda of growth is a real challenge."

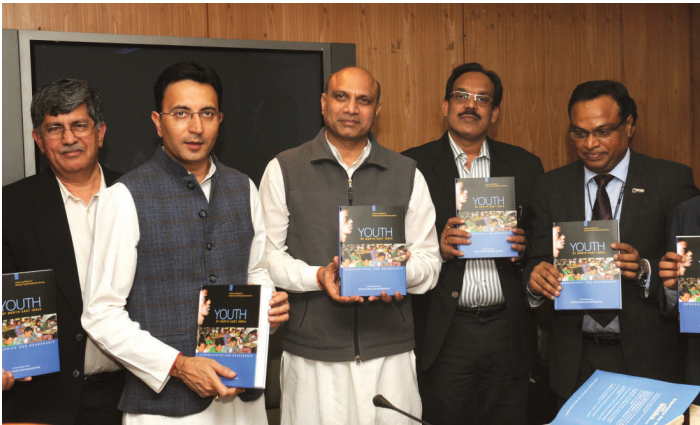
Developments in Higher Education

Talking about the importance of Higher Education, Dr. Raju identified areas of critical focus as those already identified during the XI Plan period, such as strengthening of the State Institutions, Faculty Development, strengthening Research and Innovation in Basic Sciences and Social Sciences, Skill Building and Vocational Education.

Speaking in response to the Committees formed during the 58th Meeting of CABE, he said that the respective agencies would take further action on the reports and presentations made during the meeting.

The Minister called for a 'meaningful exchange of views on all the agenda items' and invited the participants to 'contribute to making this a fruitful deliberation.' Other participants at the meeting were Dr. Shashi Tharoor, Minister of State of HRD, Shri Rahman Khan, Minister of Minority Affairs, 18 Ministers-in-charge of Education from various States/UTs, Ms. Shantha Sinha, Chairperson of NCPDR, Shri Ashok Thakur, Secretary (HE), Shri Rajarshi Bhattacharya, Secretary (SE&L), etc.

Dr. Raju Releases Report on Reading Habits Of N-E Youth



Dr. M. M. Pallam Raju, Minister of HRD, releasing the National Book Trust (NBT) Report on the Reading Habits in the NE Region, in New Delhi on November 20, 2012. The Minister of State of HRD, Shri Jitin Prasada, is also seen.

Dr. M. M. Pallam Raju, Minister of HRD, released a report, "Youth of North-East India: Demographics and Readership in New Delhi", on November 20, 2012. Shri Jitin Prasada, Minister of State of HRD, was also present on the occasion.

While releasing the report, Dr. Raju said that the reading habits of individuals were facing a real

challenge in the world of TV and Internet. He stressed upon the importance of developing a reading habit for people, especially the young. He also said that one could develop a reading habit in a conducive ecosystem, where libraries, book shops and teacher encouragement play an important role.

The Report analyses the reading habits of the literate youth in the north-eastern states and their exposure to different forms of media, and how diverse socio-economic and motivational factors impact their reading habits. The reading of 'leisure or non-text books' among the literate youth is the special focus of the study.

One of the salient features of the report is that the north-eastern states performed much better than even states like Maharashtra, which is the leading state of the country in terms of economic well-being. The Report reveals that the north-eastern states, despite their economic backwardness, have a greater proportion of readers among its youth population. The National Book Trust (NBT) had assigned to National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) the National Youth Readership Survey (2009-10) and this Report is a follow-up study of the same Survey.

MHRD Year-end Review 2012 - Ground Reality

The Ministry of Human Resource Development's Department of Higher Education released its Year End review on December 26, 2012. According to the review, the Department has taken long strides in terms of infrastructure development and introduction of technology into the sector. Out of these, some initiatives were launched previously and are still being implemented while some initiatives have been launched afresh in 2012. This review states the factual position of the Higher Education sector in the country, as on date.

Central Universities

Sixteen Central Universities have been established and all of them have become functional.

Indian Institute of Management

Seven Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) have been established and all of them have become functional.

Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs)

Eight new IITs in Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Orissa, Punjab, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh have commenced their academic activities. Land for these IITs has been identified and all, except

Developments in Higher Education

Gandhinagar and Indore, have taken up construction of their permanent campuses.

Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIITs) under (PPP) mode

20 IIITs and approximately 1000 polytechnics are proposed to be set up under this mode. 15 State Governments have identified land for setting up of the Institute. In four cases, the State Governments have also identified the industry partners.

National Institutes of Technology (NITs)

The Government has established 10 new NITs at Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Goa, Delhi, Uttarakhand and Puducherry. As on date, there are approximately 1600 students pursuing undergraduate programmes.

Indian Institutes of Science Education & Research (IISERs)

In order to promote excellence in science education, five IISERs have been established in Mohali (Punjab), Kolkata (West Bengal), Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh), Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala) and Pune (Maharashtra).

International Collaborations

During the last 3 years, Education Exchange Programme (EEP)/MOUs have been signed with 12 countries, bringing the total number of such exchanges to 41.

Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace & Sustainable Development

Agreement has been signed with UNESCO for establishment of Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace & Sustainable Development This is first Category-I Institute of UNESCO in the entire Asia-Pacific Region established at New Delhi. It will serve as a platform for India to emerge as a global leader in the areas of education for Peace and Sustainable Development.

Low Cost Access-cum-Computing Devices (LCAD)

Hon'ble President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, launched the Low Cost Access-cum-computing Device, 'AAKASH-2' on November 11, 2012, the Education Day. Aakash-2 is powered by a processor running at 1Ghz., has 512 MB RAM, a 7" capacitive touch screen and a battery which works for 3 hours.

Virtual Lab

On February 23, 2012, 89 Virtual labs were launched for

quality enhancement so that the learners in distance education system and those located in remote & backward areas can reap the benefit of quality and relevant education, through ICT mode.

National Book Promotion Policy

The draft of National Book Promotion Policy has been approved by Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE) in its 58th meeting held on 7th June 2011.

Higher Education for Minorities

Academies for professional development of Urdu Medium Teachers have been set up in three Central Universities viz (i) Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) (ii) Jamia Milia Islamia (JMI) and (iii) Maulana Azad National Urdu University.

Education of Scheduled Castes /Scheduled Tribes

- Remedial Coaching at UG/PG level
- Coaching Classes to prepare for National Eligibility Test (NET)
- Coaching Classes for Entry in Services
- Establishment of SC/ ST Cells in Universities to safeguard their interest.
- Establishment of Equal Opportunity Cells (EOCs) for sensitizing university/college community on problems faced by SC/ST students in higher education.
- Post-Graduate Scholarships to SCs/STs and Minorities
- Post-Doctoral Fellowships for SCs/STs Measures Initiated by the IITs To Prevent any Form of Caste-Based Discrimination
- Regional Centre of Indira Gandhi National Tribal University, Amarkantak, M.P. has been inaugurated on 9th September, 2009 in Manipur with the launch of M. Phil programme of Political Science.

Education of Women

- Establishment of Day Care Centres in Universities and Colleges.
- Indira Gandhi Scholarship for Single Girl Child for pursuing Higher and Technical Education
- Construction of Women Hostels for Colleges
- Development of Women's Studies in Universities and Colleges
- Capacity Building for Women Managers in Higher Education
- Post-doctoral Fellowships for Women

MoS Tharoor Pitches For Girls' Education At 18th Justice Sunanda Bhandare Memorial Lecture

Making a strong case for education of young girls to usher social change, Shri Shashi Tharoor, Minister of State of HRD, called it a “national shame” that the enrolment ratio of boys and girls continued to differ at different levels. He also rued the fact that nearly one out of every three women in the country was illiterate.

While addressing the audience at the 18th Justice Sunanda Bhandare Memorial Lecture on “Educating Women - The Quest for Equality” on December 5, 2012, Shri Tharoor said, “It really is that simple. There is no action proven to do more for the human race than the education of the female child. Scholarly studies and research projects have established what common sense might already have told us: that if you educate a boy, you educate a person, but if you educate a girl, you educate a family and benefit an entire community. The evidence is striking. Increased schooling of mothers has a measurable impact on the health of their children, on the future schooling of the child, and on the child's adult productivity. The children of educated mothers consistently out-perform children with educated fathers and illiterate mothers. Given that they spend most of their time with their mothers, this is hardly surprising.”

He further added, “The health advantages of education extend beyond childbirth. The dreaded disease AIDS spreads twice as fast, a Zambian study shows, among uneducated girls than among those who have been to school. Educated girls marry later, and are less susceptible to abuse by older men. And educated women tend to have fewer children, space them more wisely and so look after them better; women with seven years' education, according to one study, had two or three fewer children than women with no schooling.”

Quoting from the flagship report of former UNICEF head, Carol Bellamy, the MoS said, “The failure to invest in girls' education puts in jeopardy more development goals than any other single action.”

He called lack of educational opportunities for women as a ‘matter of deep national concern’ and emphasised that “we have a long way to go to fulfil this particular tryst with destiny.”

Others who were also present on this occasion are Justice Altamas Kabir, the Chief Justice of India, Shri Muralidhar Bhandare, the Governor of Odisha, Justice Damar Murugesan, the Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court, and trustees of the Justice Sunanda Bhandare Foundation.

New Delhi Commitment Adopted at E9 Ministerial Review Meet



Dr. M. M. Pallam raju, Minister of HRD and Dr. Shashi Tharoor, MoS of HRD, at the closing session of E-9 Ministerial Review Meeting on Inclusive Relevant and Quality Education for All, in New Delhi on November 10, 2012.

The review meeting of Ministers of Education and heads of delegation of the E-9 countries ended in New Delhi on November 10, 2012 with the adoption of the New Delhi Commitment. The meeting was on the topic “Inclusive Relevant and Quality Education for All.” The nine member-countries, Bangladesh, Brazil, China, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Nigeria, and Pakistan, have decided to work on the following issues:

- Curriculum reform and development of teaching and learning materials;
- Strategies for making schools inclusive;
- Professional development of teachers to impact learning for all;
- Use of ICTs for enhanced access and learning; and
- Develop institutional capacities for assessing learning outcomes

Events

Dr. M. M. Pallam Raju, Minister of HRD, who addressed the media after the meeting, said that the most important outcome of education was decreasing population growth and higher enrolment for girls in particular. Dr. Shashi Tharoor, MoS of HRD, informed that during the discussion, Nigeria appreciated India's success in terms of school enrolment.

During the three-day meeting, the participants took stock of the progress made under the Education for All (EFA) goals. The member-states also recognized the central role of education in the endeavors of development as well as in promotion of peace and social cohesion. The nine member-states have now decided to adopt a systemic approach to addressing the challenges of education quality, relevance and learning effectiveness. In this context, they welcomed UNESCO's efforts in developing an instrument for diagnosis and analysis of education systems.

MoS Prasad Inaugurates 3-Day Seminar in Jamia Millia Islamia



Sh. Jitin Prasad, MoS of HRD, speaking at the inaugural function of 'Ibn-e-Safi' Seminar at Jamia Millia Islamia, in New Delhi on December 14, 2012.

Sh. Jitin Prasad, MoS of HRD, inaugurated the 3-day seminar on bestselling Urdu fiction writer 'Ibn-e-Safi', organized by Department of Urdu, Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI), in collaboration with the Urdu Academy, Delhi. Sh. Prasad was the Chief Guest for the occasion while Sh. Najeeb Jung, Vice-Chancellor, JMI, presided over the inaugural session.

The seminar, which took place from December 14 to 16, 2012, discussed the prolific writer and his chief works, including his two book series "Jasoosi Duniya" and "Imran."

Sh. Haroon Yousuf, Minister of Food & Civil Supplies, Government of Delhi and Shri S. M. Ashraf, renowned fiction writer were the Guests of Honor while Prof. Shamim Hanfi, Professor Emeritus, Department of Urdu, JMI, delivered the key-note address on the occasion.

NCMEI Celebrates Eighth Foundation Day



Dr. M. M. Pallam Raju, Minister of HRD, Shri Jitin Prasad, Minister of State of HRD, and other dignitaries at the 8th Foundation Day of the National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions, in New Delhi on December 28, 2012.

At the Eighth Foundation Day function of the National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions (NCMEI) on December 28, 2012, Dr. M. M. Pallam Raju, Minister of HRD, sought the participation and co-operation of the general public in promoting the educational welfare of the Minorities, in general and the Muslims, in particular. While addressing the audience at the function, Dr. Raju said, "The XI Five Year Plan had also underlined that education is the critical factor that empowers participation in the growth process and a key element of XI Plan strategy was to provide essential education to those large parts of our population who are still excluded from these."

He also mentioned the Prime Minister's 15-point programme and the recommendations of the Sachar Committee while saying that the government was committed to promote education and welfare of minority communities.

The NCMEI was established in 2004 and since then, it has issued Minority Status Certificates to 7021 educational institutions.

MHRD Institutions Become Part of National Bio-Design Alliance

A number of MHRD Institutions have been made partners in the National Bio-Design Alliance of the Department of Bio-Technology. The Institutions that are part of this alliance are Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) New Delhi and Madras and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc.) Bangalore.

Other partners in this alliance are:- All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi, Regional Centre for Bio-Technology (RCB), Faridabad, Translational Health Science & Technology Institute (THSTI), Faridabad, International Centre for Genetic Engineering & Bio-Technology (ICGEB), Delhi, and Christian Medical College (CMC), Vellore.

The partners signed a Memorandum of Association in December to coordinate with each other on the Bio-Design programmes in the country.

As per the Bio-Design Alliance, the engineering and medical schools would be brought together to promote innovation through a multi-disciplinary approach. The partner institutions will be required to share ideas, facilities and resources towards training of Fellows/Interns as well as young innovators.

Indo-German Chemical Conference at IISER Bhopal



The leading Indian and German chemists as well as young researchers of IISER, Bhopal, pose together.

The Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), Bhopal, organized an Indo-German conference,

titled “Complex Chemical Systems”, from December 3 to 5, 2012. Apart from the leading chemists of India and Germany, the conference was also attended by delegates from the German embassy, DFG and DAAD.

According to the participants, the meeting offered them a platform to discuss vibrant topics as well as help young IISER researchers to “cultivate ethos of collaborative international research.”

Ghani Khan Choudhary IET Set Up in Malda

As a result of a decision taken at the Union Cabinet meeting, held on November 22, 2012, the Ghani Khan Choudhary Institute of Engineering and Technology (GKCIET) will now be established soon in Malda, West Bengal. The Union Cabinet has already approved the establishment of this Institute in its meeting, held on November 20, 2008.

The Union Cabinet has approved the construction of the Institute’s permanent campus in the 100 acres of land, presently available.

University Hockey & Cricket League Launched

In order to provide impetus to cricketing and hockey talent at University level, the Government has launched the national level University Cricket League (UCL) and University Hockey League (UHL). In this regard, an Organising Committee has been constituted under the chairmanship of Minister of HRD. The Committee will have member-representatives of the University Grants Commission (UGC), the Association of Indian Universities (AIU), Vice Chancellors of several Universities, New Delhi Municipal Corporation (NDMC), Delhi District Cricket Association (DDCA), Hockey India, and NDTV media group

In a meeting of the Organising Committee, held on October 4, 2012, AIU and NDTV entered into an agreement to collaborate on the organizing effort of both the UCL and the UHL.

Under the UCL, 8 top University teams will play each other in the T-20 format. These 8 teams will be selected out of a zonal competition. Similarly, the UHL will also be played among the top 8 University teams, selected through a zonal contest.

India Signs Education MoU with Korea



Dr. Shashi Tharoor, MoS of HRD and Dr. Lee Ju-ho, Minister of Education, Science & Technology, Republic of Korea, exchanging the signed documents of MoU on Educational Cooperation, in New Delhi on December 12, 2012.

Taking their ongoing cooperation in the field of education a step further, India and the Republic of Korea signed an MoU on December 12, 2012. The MoU was signed between Dr. Shashi Tharoor, MoS of HRD and Dr. Lee Ju-ho, Minister of Education, Science and Technology, Republic of Korea.

According to the MoU, the two countries would cooperate in education through Exchange of scholars, teachers, researchers; organization of training programmes for teaching professionals; facilitating mutual recognition of educational qualifications; exchange of academic scholarships for Higher Education, etc. The two countries are also going to form a Joint Working Group (JWG) to supervise the implementation of the programmes enlisted in the MoU.

While signing the document, Dr. Tharoor and Dr. Ju-ho appreciated the existing collaborations between the Universities in both the countries, besides highlighting the need to increase that cooperation in other areas too.

India, Australia Sign MoC for Student Welfare



Shri Ashok Thakur, Secretary (HE) and Mr. Peter Vergheese, Australian High Commissioner to India, signing the MoC in the presence of Shri Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of India and Ms. Julia Gillard, Prime Minister of Australia.

When Ms. Julia Gillard, Prime Minister of Australia, came to India recently and met Sh. Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of India, the two leaders discussed the issue of student mobility and welfare between the two countries. In this regard, the two nations decided to sign a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) to ensure that the mobility and welfare of the students of either side was taken care of in the other country.

The MoC was signed on October 17, 2012, between Shri Ashok Thakur, Secretary (HE) and Mr. Peter Varghese, Australia's High Commissioner to India.

India Signs EEPs with 7 Countries

In the year 2012, India signed seven Educational Exchange Programmes (EEPs) with seven different countries.

On February 7, 2012, Shri Kapil Sibal, the then Minister of HRD signed an EEP with Mr. Arvin Boolell, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade of Mauritius. The Programme was signed while Mr. Boolell was on a visit to New Delhi.

Another EEP was signed between India and Yemen on April 2, 2012 at Sana'a, Republic of Yemen. India also signed an EEP with Qatar on April 9, 2012, during the visit of The Emir of the State of Qatar to New Delhi. When Mr. Saidov N. S., Minister of Education, Tajikistan, came on a

Exchange of Ideas

visit to India with his President, His Excellency Mr. Emomali Rahmon, an EEP was signed between the two countries on September 3, 2012.

The country also signed an EEP with Burundi on September 18, 2012, during a visit of the President of the Republic of Burundi, His Excellency Mr. Pierre Nkurunziza. During the year, India also signed these agreements with Belarus and Trinidad & Tobago.

5 MoUs Signed at First India-New Zealand Education Council Meet



Shri Kapil Sibal, the then Minister of HRD, addressing the meeting, in New Delhi on October 19, 2012.

India and New Zealand co-chaired a meeting of the Joint Education Council on October 19, 2012. While Sh. Kapil Sibal, the then Minister of HRD, represented the Government of India, Mr. Steven Joyce, Minister of Tertiary Education, Skill and Employment represented New Zealand government at the meeting.

The two Ministers discussed the scope of cooperation and how to further that in the fields of academia, business and industry. The two countries also discussed the avenues of bilateral collaboration in the education sector in the future.

At the meeting, five MoUs of cooperation between different institutions were also signed:

1. MoU between the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports of the Government of the Republic of India and Sport New Zealand of the Government of New Zealand on Cooperation in the field of Sports. The objectives of this MoU are to encourage and promote an exchange of programmes, experiences, skills, techniques, information and knowledge.

2. Educational Partnership Agreement between University of Delhi, India and Massey University New Zealand. The MoU covers the following activities:-

Joint teaching (Including online, blended and distance education); Joint Quality Enhancement (Including benchmarking and academic development); Exchange of publications, academic material and other information; Exchange of students, Student study abroad.

3. Memorandum of collaboration between Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), India and the Open Polytechnic of New Zealand. Objectives of the partnership are:-

Establish a network of partnership for vocational education through distance education; Share of experiences through communication of faculty; Develop strategies for design development and implementation of Under Graduate and Post Graduate programmes with entry and exit point; Develop joint R&D project collaborations; Create avenues for ICT enabled education; Establish interface learner space.

4. MoU between Victoria University, Wellington, New Zealand and Jawahar Lal Nehru University of India. Objectives of the partnership are:-

Exchange of faculty members; Exchange of students; Joint Research activities; Participation in seminars and academic meetings; Exchange of academic material and other information; Special short term academic programmes; Exchange of Administrative managers/coordinators; Joint Cultural Programmes.

5. MoU between Waiariki Institute of Technology of New Zealand and Punjab Technical University, India. The principal objectives of this agreement include:-

Developing opportunities for fee paying students to pathway onto Waiariki qualifications and/or obtain credit for courses towards a qualification at the Punjab Technical University; Establishing a long-term harmonious relationship that will enhance such outcomes; Joint development of Sports management in Management/Business Degree; Explore the option of upgrading one of Punjab Technical University's Institute of Technology as per New Zealand Industrial Trade Partner standard and joint delivery of vocational programmes in conjunction with other ITPs of New Zealand.

MHRD's 'In-Principle' Approval to Indira Gandhi Centre for Sustainable Development



Dr. M. M. Pallam Raju, Minister of HRD, in meeting with Dr. Alice Prochaska, Principal, Somerville College, University of Oxford in New Delhi on December 7, 2012.

The Ministry of HRD has granted its 'in-principle' approval for the Indira Gandhi Centre for Sustainable Development to be set up at the Somerville College, University of Oxford. The approval was announced after Dr M. M. Pallam Raju, Minister of HRD, had discussions with a delegation of the Somerville College, led by Dr. Alice Prochaska, Principal. The Government has already established an Inter-Ministerial Committee to take the proposal further.

The Somerville College, besides being a constituent college of University of Oxford, is also the alma mater of Late Smt. Indira Gandhi, former Prime Minister of India. The Centre is being planned to honor her legacy to the world by way of addressing issues related to sustainable development. It will have three core activities to carry out:

1) Support talent and leadership development: The establishment of Graduate/Ph.D. scholarships available to Indian students at Oxford, with a cohort of Indian graduate students participating directly in research of relevance to India.

2) Advance sustainability research: The Centre will strengthen interdisciplinary and pioneering research into food security, environmental sustainability and international governance by establishing post-doctoral positions and fellowships.

3) Build an inspirational research facility on the University of Oxford's new campus: The Indira Gandhi Centre building will be designed to house an innovative "incubator" environment, fostering new thinking and robust solutions to the challenges facing India and South Asian communities today.

NIT Meghalaya Foundation Stone Ceremony

The Foundation Stone of the National Institute of Technology, Meghalaya, was laid on October 12, 2012 in Sohra, Cherrapunjee. The location that is known worldwide for having the second highest rainfall in the world has now become the home of one of the 30 NITS that have been established as the Institutes of National Importance by the Government of India.

State Nodal Officers Review Meeting on AISHE

A Review Meeting of the State Nodal Officers on All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) (2010-11) was held on October 4, 2012 at the National University of Education Planning and Administration (NUEPA), New Delhi. The meeting was inaugurated by Shri Ashok Thakur, Secretary (HE).

While addressing the meeting, Shri Thakur impressed upon the participants the need to have a "good, reliable, robust system of collection of data." He said, "The Department without statistics is directionless." He appreciated the efforts put in by Shri Sunil Kumar, former Additional Secretary, Department of Higher Education, Dr. Vijay P. Goel, DDG (Statistics) and the team at the Statistics Division for gathering statistics for the Survey. He also welcomed the 'good response' that the Ministry received from the State Governments and Universities in statistics collection.

The Review Meeting was attended by representatives from all the States except Andaman & Nicobar, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Daman & Diu, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Goa, Lakshadweep and Puducherry. In addition to this, representatives from UGC, NUEPA and NIC also participated in the meeting.

Before the Secretary inaugurated the meeting, Dr. Goel

welcomed the participants and at the end of the meeting, Shri Sanjay, Director, MHRD, presented the Vote of Thanks to Secretary and all those who have contributed in completing the Survey.

International Winter School on Stochastic Analysis

The School of Mathematics at the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Thiruvananthapuram, organized an international Winter School on Stochastic Analysis between December 3 and 20, 2012. Distinguished Mathematicians, Post-Doctoral Fellows and foreign students participated in the event, which was organized in collaboration with the International Centre for Theoretical Sciences, TIFR.

Another event, an International Conference on Chromosome Stability, was organized by the IISER's School of Biology between December 17 and 19, 2012.



Dr. M. M. Pallam Raju, Minister of HRD, releasing the National Book Trust's (NBT) Wall Calendar on the theme "Indigenous Voices of India" to commemorate the 150th Birth Anniversary of Swami Vivekananda (1863-1902), in New Delhi on January 9, 2013. Also seen in the picture are Shri Ashok Thakur (extreme left), Secretary (HE) and Shri A. K. Singh (extreme right), Joint Secretary (CU&L)



Dr. Shashi Tharoor, Minister of State of HRD, receiving Mr. Stephen Harper, Prime Minister of Canada, at Air Force Station, Palam, in New Delhi on November 5, 2012.



Shri Jitin Prasada, Minister of State of HRD, receiving Mr. Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation, at Air Force Station, Palam, in New Delhi on December 24, 2012.

Appointments

Shri Y.S.K. Sesukumar, OSD to HRM

Shri B. Madan Mohan Reddy, Additional PS to HRM

Shri M. K. Aravindakrishnan, Addl. PS to HRM

Shri Vikas Ahlawat, OSD to MoS (Dr. Shashi Tharoor)

Smt. Rina Sonowal, Director (Dir)

Shri Alok Mishra, Dir

Shri B. D. Shivani, Deputy Secretary (DS)

Shri B. B. Mukherjee, DS

Shri Des Raj, DS

Smt Nita Gupta, DS

Shri Sajith Kumar, Under Secretary (US)

Shri Sujith Kumar, US

Shri Anil Gairola, US

Shri Rajendra Prasad, US

Shri A. K. Singh, US

Shri Jitendra Kumar Thakur, US

Shri Dalbir Singh, US

Shri P. K. Srivastava, US

Shri Rajendra Sharma, US

Shri D. P. Majhi, US

Shri R. K. Chaudhary, Section Officer (SO)

Shri Rajesh Kumar Jain, SO

Shri M. S. Rawat, SO

Smt Madhur Bala Bassi, SO

Smt Lily Joseph, SO

Smt Pratibha Rani, SO

Shri R. K. P. Dhawan, SO

Shri Kiran Kumar Bhatnagar, SO

Smt C. S. Seethala, SO

Shri Rajesh Kumar Sharma, SO

Shri Ashok Kumar Ghosh, SO

Shri Hari Ram Jothy, US

Transfers

Shri Pramod Kumar Tiwari, Dir

Shri T. P. Singh, SO

Shri Sanjay Mehta, SO

Shri Bhim Prakash, SO

Shri S. K. Suman, SO

Retirements

Smt. Usha Sharma, Assistant Director (AD)

Shri Ram Swaroop, AD

Shri V. K. Sharma, US

Shri B. Ishtiakh Hussain, SO

Shri Randeep, SO

Shri V. K. Aggarwal, US

Shri Megh Ram, SO

Shri B. B. Sharma, SO

Shri Bal Ram Verma, SO