



सत्यमेव जयते

DEPARTMENT OF  
HIGHER EDUCATION  
MHRD  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

# द न्यूजलेटर THE NEWSLETTER ON HIGHER EDUCATION

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Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani, Minister of HRD, meets innovation scholars of the 'In-Residence' Programme, in New Delhi on July 15, 2014.

## Union Budget 2014 has Many Aspects to Promote Education, says HRM

Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani, Minister of HRD, has pointed out that the Union Budget 2014, announced on July 10, 2014, has many aspects, which would promote education in the country. The Minister was of the view that the budgetary announcements reflected the developmental strategy of the Government and its mandate of "Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas". Her optimistic view of the Union Budget is substantiated by the following facts-

1. The Budget focuses on education and skill development. In particular, the Plan Budget of Higher Education has been considerably increased in 2014-15. Overall, the Budget of the Ministry of HRD (Plan & Non-Plan), of both the Departments of Higher Education and Department of School Education & Literacy taken together, will witness an increase of 12.3% from Rs. 74,621 crores to Rs 83,771 crores.

2. The Budget has put special focus on education of girl child, making it one of the major priorities for the Union Government.

3. To elaborate on Point No. 2, the Budget resolves to provide the residual one lakh girls

toilets and drinking water facilities in schools which will benefit 100 lakh girls in the first phase. These facilities will encourage girls to enroll in schools as well as complete their education.

4. The Minister feels that the "Beti Bachao Beti Padhao" scheme, announced in the Budget, would not only improve the adverse sex ratio but also ensure that girls are educated.

5. The gender mainstreaming, emphasised in the Budget, will sensitize students, teachers and the community at large to be more sensitive to the needs of girl child and women and will promote growth of a more harmonious society. This will benefit all girls in the country.

6. The 'Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya's Teacher Training Programme,' with a Budget provision of Rs. 500 crore, would enable the Government to better train students who aspire to become teachers in our professional colleges. This will improve the quality of teachers that we would produce and will eventually lead to improvement in learning outcomes of the

The budgetary announcements in the Union Budget 2014 are highly encouraging for the Department , in particular and the education system, in general. Along with an increase in budget allocation, the schemes announced are also an indication that things are going to get better for the Higher Education in the country.

From education of girl child to provision of clean toilets and drinking water facilities in schools, from teacher training programmes to madarsa modernisation effort, from publishing of braille books to Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs ), the Budget 2014 opens new vistas of education.

The country also had discussions for further cooperation in Higher Education with the US, Japan, South Australia, Norway and other countries. This will pave further way for globalization of the education systems and better learning and career opportunities for Indian students abroad.

Innovation is the flesh and blood of the education system and keeping up the spirit were the eight innovation schools of the 'In-Residence scheme' launched in 2013 by the Hon'ble President Shri Pranab Mukherjee.

To sum up, these are times of change and the Department is at the forefront with a lot of plans for the future. The readers' opinion and suggestions, as always, will be a welcome support in this direction.

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students in our school system. The scheme is believed to benefit nearly 20,000 teacher trainees studying in Teacher Education Institutions.

7. The additional amount of Rs. 100 crore, provided in the **Budget for madarsa modernization**, would enable 10 lakh Muslim children to get education of a national standard, certified through the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS). This would enable Muslim students to progress to Higher Education or Vocational Education, depending on their choice.

8. The Budget provides for **Rs. 30 crore for School Assessment Programme**, to ensure assessment of quality of schools through parameters like student learning outcomes, quality of teaching by teachers, etc. Public display of such school performance would enable students and parents to make a more informed choice about schools.

9. To help the visually challenged students in the country, the Budget has announced support to States to set up **15 Braille presses**, which would facilitate publishing of Braille books.

10. The announcement of 5 IITs, 5 IIMs and the **National Centre for Himalayan Studies in Uttarakhand** in the Budget is a welcome step. The new IITs would come up in Jammu, Chhattisgarh, Kerala, Goa and Andhra Pradesh. The new IIMs would be set up in Himachal Pradesh, Bihar, Punjab, Maharashtra and Odisha.

11. Virtual classrooms and **Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC)** are planned for which a provision of Rs. 100 crore has been made in the Budget. A national e-library will also be created which will be a repository for all educational resources.

12. The Budget also proposes setting up of **Lok Nayak Jai Prakash National Centre for Excellence in Humanities** in Madhya Pradesh- a first of its kind initiative.

### HRM Meets Innovation Scholars

Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani, Minister of HRD, met the eight innovation scholars of the 'In-Residence' programme on July 15, 2014. The Innovation Scholars In-Residence Scheme was launched in 2013 by Dr. Pranab Mukherjee, Hon'ble President of India, to promote the spirit of innovation and provide further impetus to the grassroots innovation activities.

The scheme was envisaged to encourage the creative and innovative potential of people and open up Rashtrapati Bhawan for greater participation and involvement of common man in its activities. The scheme welcomes creative persons, including writers, artists and innovation scholars, to stay in Rashtrapati Bhawan. These grassroots innovators are then provided an environment to work on a project in hand and take their ideas forward. The scheme provides mentoring support so that the innovations can be used for the progress and welfare of society.

### Government Seeks Safe Guidelines for Student Excursions

In the wake of the accident in Himachal Pradesh in June 2014, in which 24 students were washed away in the Beas river in Himachal Pradesh while on an educational tour, Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani, Minister of HRD, said that the Government has asked the University Grants Commission and the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) to frame guidelines on enforcing student safety during excursions or study tours. It may be recalled that 24 students of the V.N.R. Vignana Jyothi Institute of Engineering and Technology from Hyderabad, were washed away near Mandi in Himachal Pradesh on June 8, 2014.

## India, and US agree to collaborate for SWAYAM, GIAN and New IIT

During the visit of Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi to U.S.A, it was agreed to further strengthen the cooperation in Higher Education. President Obama and Prime Minister Modi agreed for implementation of Global initiative of Academic Network to strengthen the education and research system in India. It was also agreed that top US Institutions will also extend technical cooperation for the development of a new IIT in India.

GIAN aims at tapping the talent pool of scientists and entrepreneurs to engage with the institutes of higher education in India to augment the country's existing academic resources, accelerate the pace of quality reforms, and further strengthen India's scientific and technological capabilities. The proposed India-US Cooperation will be beneficial for adoption of newer methods of pedagogy; infuse creativity and innovation driven learning and professional rigour at a relatively lower cost; boosting research in cutting edge technologies and to build stronger academic networks between both countries. The US faculty would undertake teaching at Indian Universities, networked research initiatives in topics of mutual interest and development of international entrepreneurship programmes by making the curriculum more industry oriented for better employability.

The proposal envisages the creation of a channel for US academics in science, technology, engineering and mathematics to spend part of their time teaching in academic and research institutions across India. To start with, the programme would facilitate inviting up to 1000 faculty every year from amongst the best institutions in the US, who will be deputed to identified institutions in India.

Ministry of HRD and the U.S. Department of State also agreed for Indo-US partnership for Study Webs of Active-Learning for Young Aspiring Minds (SWAYAM), a programme for Online Education. Under the cooperation, the SWAYAM platform server will be based in India and US universities will be invited to offer post-graduate academic programs with certification on the SWAYAM platform.

The new Indo-US Partnership for Online Education (IUPOE) programme is aimed at a mechanism that will enable the top universities of the US to create and share online courses (and associated assets) on the Indian "SWAYAM" platform. SWAYAM is an online platform of the Ministry of HRD through which online programmes/courses will be offered to students in India. Each American University will share courses created by its top educators. The cooperation programme will be integrated to strengthen the National Mission on Education through the use of ICT (NMEICT) in India.

## Two days Vice-Chancellors' Retreat at Chandigarh

**Highlights of the retreat are:**

- All the Central Universities were requested to complete their NAAC accreditation or reaccreditation (as the case may be) as per time frame given by UGC in its Regulation. UGC will take up the matter with NAAC (National Assessment and Accreditation Council) for opening the Regional Centers to expedite the process of accreditation.
- A working Group comprising Vice-Chancellors of English and Foreign Languages University, University of Delhi, Central University of Gujarat and Jawaharlal Nehru University was constituted for developing a framework for the National Ranking System. The group will submit its report within one month.

### SKILL INDIA INITIATIVE

- Council of Industry - Higher Education Collaboration (CIHEC) is being operationalized to identify initiatives to promote research, mobilize resources, develop market ready manpower and enhance employability. The Council will collaborate with Placement Cells of Central Universities for identification of the emerging areas as per the requirement of the neighbouring industries to make the students employment ready. The CIHEC will also help train counsellors at all Placement Cells for better counselling and placements. Each

University should establish a Placement Cell (if not already established) for all disciplines (not restricted to Science and Professional disciplines) only. Every Placement Cell will have counsellors who should give in-house training for skill development and coordinate placements.

- 100 Centres of Skilling Excellence, called Knowledge Acquisition and Upgradation of Skilled Human Abilities and Livelihood (KAUSHAL) Centres will be established for skill development in one year. These centres will coordinate the entire skill development efforts of higher educational institutions. Enhanced funding shall be provided by the UGC. UGC will frame guidelines on the scheme within a month.

- The working Group comprising of Vice-Chancellor of Central University of Kerala, Central University of Jharkhand, BBAU, Tripura University and Pondicherry University, University of Delhi and Central University of Gujarat was constituted to frame the guidelines on the following:

- (i) Common admission
- (ii) Common curriculum
- (iii) Student mobility
- (iv) Faculty mobility
- (v) National System of Credit Transfer

The Working Group should submit its report within one month.

- Under the GIAN (Global Initiative for Academic Networks), the Universities will provide a list of eminent scholars, researchers of the University (within a month) both from within the country and outside, who they would like to invite in their universities as guest speakers/scholars in residence etc.

#### **DIGITAL INDIA INITIATIVE**

- The VCs were requested to encourage the faculty in Central Universities to offer free online courses to citizens under the Digital India initiative of SWAYAM (Study Webs of Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds) through the MOOCs platform created by MHRD through IIT Mumbai.

- National E-Library has been envisaged as an online portal that will democratize access to knowledge by ensuring that quality content are available in a digital format to all citizens. It will become operational in the academic year 2015 and the CUs should actively participate in it.

- Campus Connect Program has been launched to ensure Wi-fi enabled higher educational institutions. All CUs were requested to ensure that their campuses/constituent colleges become fully wi-fi enabled as soon as possible.

- Each Central University will display on its website, within a period of one month, all relevant information including profile of teachers, calendar of activity of university, academic calendar, names of members of all statutory bodies alongwith their tenure, research output, information on budget, vacancy, tenure of Registrar, Finance Officer etc.

- UGC was requested to formulate regulations where in the students coming out of Vocational stream are not discriminated against vis-a vis the students coming out of general streams.

- 40 great personalities of India would be identified. All universities were requested to locate the schools/colleges/universities which had the proud privilege of teaching these great personalities and take action to develop/improve the facilities and infrastructure in these institutions.

Smt. Irani also exhorted all VCs to ensure prevention of sexual harassment of students and staff at all costs. All Central Universities should ensure proper facilities and infrastructure for disabled students, she added.

### HRM Sets 13-Point Agenda for IIMs At IIM Conclave in Bengaluru

Setting out a 13-point agenda for IIMs, Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani, Minister of HRD, asked the Institutes to bring their management expertise in various areas to the fulfillment of the National Development Goals. Smt. Irani was addressing the IIM's Conclave with Chairpersons and Directors of 13 IIMs in Bengaluru on August 31, 2014. The interaction focused on issues related to national development goals, admission process in IIMs, review of the institutes, National Ranking Framework for the management institutions, ICT and other pedagogical innovations and initiatives to scale up research in IIMs especially the socially relevant research as also to have greater impact on national policy implementation.

The Minister asked Chairpersons and Directors of IIMs to come up with strategies for making the country both manpower ready and teacher ready. She said that along with IITs, IIITs and Central Universities, the IIMs should create a mechanism for a Global Talent Pool of eminent persons, who could then contribute their expertise not only to IIMs but to other institutions in the country as well. She also said the IIMs needed to create a knowledge consortium, based on efforts by IIM Ahmedabad, by bringing together various institutions so as to make possible ideas like credit transfer and twinning programmes.

Smt. Irani also directed the IIMs to develop a special programme for students of the North-Eastern states on the lines of a similar programme developed by IITs, called Ishan Vikas. She said that IIMs needed to work with local industries and local communities with a view to enhance their management capacity. She also asked IIMs to contribute their management expertise to such national projects as development of Smart Cities and Green Cities.

The HRD Minister also asked IIMs to develop a framework for ranking management institutions with a view to rank institutions world over as per priorities of the developing countries as also help domestic institutions pursue academic excellence to achieve the goalposts set by the National Ranking Framework.

### HRM attends First NWYA Foundation Day celebration



Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani, Minister of HRD, releasing the 'Handbook for NSG Commandos and Families' at a function of the NSG Wives Welfare Association, at Manesar, Haryana, on July 20, 2014.

On July 20, 2014, Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani, Minister of HRD, was the Chief Guest at the first Foundation Day celebration of the NSG Wives Welfare Association (NWYA). On the occasion, a theme-based musical dance show, "Shaurya - Ek Abhiviyakti," was also organized.

The event saw a host of senior dignitaries from CAPFs, officials from local administration and various NGOs attending the musical extravaganza. Smt. Radha Chaudhury, President, NWYA welcomed the guests and highlighted the initiatives of NWYA in undertaking various activities for women empowerment, social awareness and welfare of NSG personnel and their families.

Smt. Irani also felicitated 10 women achievers of NSG for their outstanding contribution in the field of education and medical care. Speaking on the occasion, Smt. Irani, congratulated NWYA for its spectacular role in the field of women empowerment and in providing a definite support base for NSG personnel and also conveyed the commitment of Government to strengthen the NSG set-up in the best possible manner to meet all challenges in future.

### College Connectivity through Campus Connect and NMEICT

The Ministry of Human Resource Development is planning a new programme called "Campus Connect." Under these programme 21,000 colleges and 20 classrooms in each college will be made Wi-Fi enabled. Totally, 4.2 lakh classrooms will be made Wi-Fi enabled and this will help around 1.5 crore students. Students will be given access only to those websites which are academically relevant.

All the buildings of 600 universities that have 1 Gbps bandwidth will be made Wi-Fi enabled. This includes Government of India funded institutions, State Government universities and also private universities. This will help around 20 lakh students. The whole campus of all the 140 centrally funded Institutions of Ministry of HRD will also be made Wi-Fi enabled.

The National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (NMEICT) aims to leverage the potential of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in teaching and learning process. The Mission also aims to provide 20 Broadband connections of 512 Kbps speed to over 25,000 colleges and 2000 polytechnics and optical fiber connectivity one Gbps to 419 universities/ university level institutions in the country which includes internet facility.

The NMEICT scheme has three major components viz. (i) content generation; (ii) providing connectivity to universities and colleges; and (iii) Research and development of low cost access device.

Under the NMEICT scheme, the activity of providing connectivity to 419 Universities/ University level Institutions and all colleges including polytechnics is in progress. So far connectivity to 403 Universities/ University level institutions and 21,026 colleges in the country has been provided. Under this scheme, no central assistance has been provided by the Central Government directly to States to implement the scheme/ project. However, as provided in the Mission document, funds have been released to universities/university level institutions of the country for various projects.

For connectivity to universities and colleges, central share of 75% of the cost is directly released to the BSNL/ MTNL (implementing agency) with the stipulation that the balance 25% of the cost (10% in case of institution of North East Region) would be deposited by the concerned institution directly to BSNL/ MTNL.

### President attends Golden Jubilee Convocation of Pt. Ravishankar Shukla University



The Hon'ble President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, addressing at the Golden Jubilee Convocation of Pt. Ravishankar Shukla University, at Raipur, Chhattisgarh, on July 26, 2014.

Attending the Golden Jubilee Convocation of Pt. Ravishankar Shukla University on July 26, 2014, at Raipur, Chhattisgarh, the Hon'ble President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, called the Centres of Higher Learning as the guiding light not only for students but for the society as a whole.

Speaking about Chhattisgarh as the land of history, culture and heritage, he said that the University must also instill a belief system that is rooted in our universal wisdom and philosophy. The President said a country like India, having the largest young population in the world, must be better equipped in preparing human resource; a culture of excellence must be promoted in our higher academic institutions; core competencies must be nurtured; academic cooperation between institutions must be encouraged; research must be of a high order and should be prioritized keeping in mind local issues as well as fields of specialization.

### President Inaugurates NIT Tiruchirappalli's Golden Jubilee Celebrations



The Hon'ble President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, addressing at the inauguration of the Golden Jubilee celebration of National Institute of Technology, at Tiruchirappalli, in Tamil Nadu on July 19, 2014.

On July 19, 2014, the Hon'ble President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, inaugurated the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the National Institute of Technology Tiruchirappalli.

Talking to students on the occasion, the President said knowledge and innovation are the underpinning of progress and prosperity in the twenty-first century. In this age of globalization, we can derive competitive advantage only from an eco-system that is conducive to new learning, research and innovation. NITs must work towards promoting scientific temper in their students. Yet, given the present socio-economic condition of our country, the thrust of research must be to erase backwardness and wipe out deprivation. Innovations must improve the state of the underserved, who want a positive difference in their lives. Institutions like NIT Trichy must support ingenious ideas that promise betterment for those aspiring to rise up the socio-economic ladder - help a farmer till the soil better, an artisan perfect his craft or a small entrepreneur improve the productivity of his venture, he said.

The President said India has recently become a permanent member of the Washington Accord, which is an international accreditation agreement amongst 17

countries for professional engineering degrees. India's entry will enable global recognition of our degrees and increase the mobility of our engineers. It will enjoin our technical schools to adhere to global benchmarks in quality.

### President Pranab Mukherjee asks Students to become 'Agents of Change'



The Hon'ble President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, at the First Convocation of the Central University of Kerala, at Kasaragod, on July 18, 2014. The Governor of Kerala, Smt. Sheila Dixit, the Chief Minister of Kerala, Shri Oommen Chandy and other dignitaries are also seen.

The Hon'ble President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, who was speaking at the first Convocation of the Central University of Kerala in Kasaragod on July 18, 2014, said that India's success lies in mobilizing all the positive forces to fight the scourges of poverty, deprivation and backwardness. At the same time, he said, the success of students lies in becoming the agent of change, the catalyst in mitigating the hardships and sufferings of the people. Shri Mukherjee was of the opinion that by the virtue of having access to Higher Education, the students were privileged as well as morally responsible to do that.

He said, "It is alright to have personal ambitions. But it should not be the 'be all and end all' of life. While pursuing your individual goals, always keep the bigger picture; the higher calling; the greater good, in mind. Treat your personal aims and the greater good as one integrated whole, without separating them."

The President said if students are the future of this nation, it is the teacher who shapes them. Teachers in ancient India led exemplary lives, worthy of the



reverence they received. India needs such teachers in greater numbers today, who are not only dedicated towards teaching and committed to their students but are also driven by a selfless desire to mould the moral fiber of our society.

At the Convocation, the President also named the campus of the University as 'Tejaswini Hills, after the river in the region.

### HRM attends Vivekananda University Convocation



Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani, Minister of HRD, speaking at the Ninth Foundation Day and Annual Convocation of Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda University at Belur Math, West Bengal on July 4, 2014.

Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani, Minister of HRD, was the Guest-in-Chief at the Convocation ceremony as well as Foundation Day celebrations held on July 4, 2014, at the Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda University (RKMVU) in Belur Math, West Bengal. Professor Ajoy Kumar Ray, Director, Indian Institute of Engineering, Science and Technology, Shibpur, West Bengal, was special guest on this occasion.

Revered Swami Suhitanandaji Maharaj, Chancellor of the University and General Secretary of Ramakrishna Math and Ramakrishna Mission presided over the programme. Among others present in the programme, there were Swami Atmapriyanandaji Maharaj, Vice Chancellor of the University, Swami Duirgananda, Registrar and Swami Sarvottamananda, Pro Vice Chancellor.

### DU Colleges to Admit Students to 3-year Undergraduate Prog from 2014-15

Speaking about the UGC's written directive to all the colleges under the University of Delhi, asking for compliance to admit students at undergraduate level for academic year 2014-15 in Rajya Sabha on July 7, 2014, Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani, Minister of HRD, stated that the UGC had constituted an Advisory Committee in this regard comprising five eminent academics and chaired by Prof. S. K. Joshi.

The Minister informed the Parliamentarians that the Report of the Committee, along with information furnished by the University of Delhi on May 28, 2014, was considered by the Commission in its 501st meeting, held on June 13, 2014. Consequently, the Commission, while observing that the Four-year Undergraduate programme (FYUP) was a deviation from the pattern of 10+2+3 structure enshrined in the National Policy on Education (NPE). It was also observed that the ordinances affecting the departure from the established national pattern did not have the approval of the competent authority. In view of the same, the Commission decided to issue an advisory to the University of Delhi to review the continuation of FYUP. This advisory was issued by UGC to University of Delhi on June 16, 2014.

Considering the fact that the FYUP introduced by the University of Delhi would create complications for the students who are going to opt for migration in other universities since all other universities follow a system of three-years undergraduate education for general degree programmes and in the exercise of powers conferred under section 12 of the UGC Act, 1956, the Commission issued the following directive to the University of Delhi on June 20, 2014:

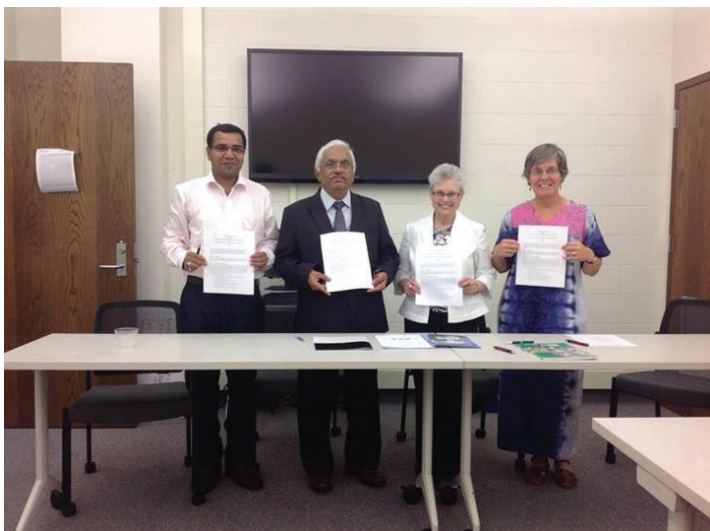
(i) The admissions for the academic year 2014-15 and the subsequent academic years in the University of Delhi (including the constituent and other colleges under it) for the general undergraduate programmes shall be made in the three year structure which was prevalent in the University of Delhi prior to introduction of FYUP;

(ii) Appropriate arrangement shall be made by the University of Delhi for students, already admitted in the academic year 2013-14 in the FYUP, to migrate to the three year undergraduate programme structure so that they do not lose an academic year for obtaining undergraduate degrees, and for this purpose, ensure that students acquire necessary academic and other competences during the next two academic years;

(iii) Take all other steps as may be necessary to adhere to the 3-year undergraduate programme as envisaged under the 10+2+3 structure under the NPE 1986, while ensuring that students are facilitated through the process of transacting the curriculum under the 10+2+3 structure.

The University of Delhi has also reported that the Academic Council of University of Delhi has decided to replace, with effect from the academic year 2014-15, the syllabi/scheme of examination under the FYUP with scheme/syllabi which was in existence in 2012-13.

### NIT Silchar signs MOU with University of Illinois



Dr. Kishor Chandra Satpathy, Librarian & Prof. N. V. Deshpande, Director, NIT Silchar with Ms. Paula Kaufman, Interim Director, Ms. Susan Schnuer, Associate Director of Mortenson Centre for International Library Programs, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

The Central Library, National Institute of Technology, Silchar, Assam, has entered into a collaborative MOU with University Library & Mortenson Centre for International Library Programme of University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, USA. The MOU, signed on June 6, 2014, will focus on creating world class Library Information System facilities at the NIT.

The memorandum was signed by Prof. N. V. Deshpande, Director and Dr. Kishor Chandra Satpathy, Librarian on behalf of NIT Silchar and by Ms. Paula Kaufman, Interim Director, Ms. Susan Schnuer, Associate Director of Mortenson Centre for International Library Programs and Mr. Walter K. Knorr, Comptroller on behalf of University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Specific activities envisioned as part of the collaboration include -

- Development of a technology roadmap for the new library at NIT Silchar.
- Assistance in planning library facilities that support research, services, and studying.
- Professional development for staff.
- Exploration of possible exchanges of academic staff.
- Assistance in collection development.

### More Institutes of Higher Education in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana

The Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of Higher Education has decided to establish one Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), National Institute of Technology (NIT), Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT), Central University (CU) and one Tribal University (TU) in the State of Andhra Pradesh. In the State of Telangana, one Tribal University (TU) has been decided to be established. This is in accordance with the 13th Schedule of Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014.

The Government of Andhra Pradesh and Government of Telangana have been requested by the Central Government for identification of land and physical infrastructure for starting of courses in these institutions.

The academic session can start after the approval of the Expenditure Finance Committee and the Cabinet for establishment of each institution. The admission process in IIMs, IIT, NIT and IISERs are mostly over therefore admission in current academic session is not possible. In the Union Budget 2014-15 token provision of Rs. 1 crore for each institution has been made for starting of preliminary activities like preparation of detailed project report.

### India and Japan Agree to Further Strengthen Cooperation in Education



Smt. Smriti Irani, Minister of HRD, and Mr. Hakuban Shimomura, Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Japan, witnessing the signing of the Letter of Intent to establish academic cooperation between Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR) with the Japan Society for Promotion of Science (JSPS), in New Delhi on August 5, 2014.

When Mr. Hakuban Shimomura, the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Japan met Smt. Smriti Irani, Minister of HRD, on August 5, 2014, both sides agreed to further strengthen the bilateral cooperation in the education sector.

Smt. Irani appreciated Japan for their advancement in education as well as in technology, and appreciated the assistance of Government of Japan for the development of the new IIT in Hyderabad and the Pandit Dwarka Prasad Mishra Indian Institute of Information Technology, Design and Manufacturing (IIITDM) in Jabalpur. She also proposed that India and Japan could cooperate for the sharing of knowledge resources through the National e-library initiative of the Indian Government and also in India's Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs).

Two Letters of Intent towards establishing academic cooperation between Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) and Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR) with the Japan Society for Promotion of Science (JSPS) were also signed during the meeting for the advancement of academic cooperation in the fields of humanities and social sciences between Indian and Japanese Researchers.

### India-South Australia Collaborate in Education and Vocational Training Sectors



Mr. Jay Weatherill, Premier of the Australian State of South Australia, called on Smt. Smriti Irani, Minister of HRD, in New Delhi on August 22, 2014.

During a meeting between Mr. Jay Weatherill, the Premier of South Australia and Smt. Smriti Irani, Minister of HRD, in New Delhi on August 22, 2014, it was decided to further strengthen the corporation in the Education and Vocational Training sector.

Smt. Irani appreciated the interest taken by South Australia in a long term partnership with India in the following five fields: i) Higher education and vocational training; (ii) Aerospace and Defence; (iii) Renewable energy; (iv) Water management; and (v) Mineral resources. Mr. Weatherill also mentioned that even though South Australia is a small State with a population of 1.65 million, it does have good public universities like University of Adelaide and a good environment for foreign students.

Smt. Irani said that Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad and IIT, Bhubhaneshwar could collaborate with the Australian institutions in the area of mining technology. Similarly, IIT, Kanpur, which has a Department of Aeronautical Engineering could collaborate in the area of aerospace. The HRD Minister further said that Indian institutions would also be interested in collaborating with Australian institutions in the area of Water and Sanitation as well as that of Renewable Energy.

### India First Country to Ratify Marrakesh Treaty

India has become the first country to ratify the Marrakesh Treaty, which facilitates access to published works for persons who are blind, visually impaired or otherwise print disabled. India ratified the Treaty on June 30, 2014, thus becoming first of the 79 WIPO (World Intellectual Property Organisation) member states, who are signatories to the Treaty, to ratify it. After 20 countries ratify this Treaty, it will come into force.

Shri Dilip Sinha, the Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations, handed over the the Instrument of Ratification to Mr Francis Gurry, Director General, WIPO at a ceremony organized during the 28th Session of SCCR (Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights) in WIPO Headquarters.

The main goal of Marrakesh Treaty is to create a set of mandatory limitations and exceptions for the benefit of the blind, visually impaired and otherwise print disabled (VIPs). It addresses the “book famine” by requiring its contracting parties to adopt national law provisions that permit the reproduction, distribution and making available of published works in accessible formats - such as Braille - to VIPs and to permit exchange of these works across borders by organizations that serve those beneficiaries.

Once the Marrakesh Treaty comes into force, it will facilitate access to published works for the millions of blind, visually impaired and otherwise print disabled persons in India. It would go a long way in establishing equal rights and opportunities for education and employment for them.

The Treaty will facilitate import of accessible format copies from the member states by the Indian authorized entities such as educational institutions, libraries and other such institutions working for the benefit of visually impaired persons. This will also facilitate translation of imported accessible format copies and export of accessible format copies in Indian languages. The Indian Copyright (Amendment) Act, 2012 is in harmony with the Marrakesh Treaty.

### India and Norway Strengthen Educational Ties



Mr. Eivind S. Homme, the Ambassador of Norway to India, calling on Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani, Minister of HRD, on July 22, 2014.

In a meeting dated July 22, 2014, Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani, Minister of HRD and Mr. Eivind S. Homme, Ambassador of Norway to India discussed the collaboration between India and Norway for high altitude studies at the National Institute of Himalayan Studies which was announced in the General Budget 2014. Smt. Irani also emphasized on collaboration in the area of energy studies.

The Minister also talked about the Joint Research Programme being planned by India and Norway in thematic areas like clean energy, climate change, Arctic studies, oceanography, information security, biotechnology, marine sciences, geo-hazards etc. with the financial commitment of Rs. 8.5 crore from each side over a period of five years.

Ambassador Mr. Eivind S. Homme highlighted that Norway places great emphasis on girls' education throughout the world. Smt. Irani reciprocated by saying that education and empowerment of girls is a priority topic for her, both as a Minister as well as an individual.

She highlighted that “Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao” - “Save the Girl Child, Educate the Girl Child” has been announced by the Government focusing on the girl child.

### IIT Bombay, WUSTL Announce Joint MBA Programme

The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay and the Washington University in St. Louis (WUSTL) have launched a Joint Executive Master of Business Administration (MBA) programme on June 30, 2014, to be offered in 2015. The salient features of the programme are as under:

- (i) The new programme is the first of its kind to confer an Executive MBA degree from both an Indian and an American University.
- (ii) This Executive MBA programme is meant for the executives, professionals and entrepreneurs with a minimum 7 years of experience of quality.
- (iii) The curriculum of the programme is rooted in the leadership development and innovation.

(iv) Faculty from the IIT Bombay's Shailesh J. Mehta School of Management and WUSTL's Olin Business School will be jointly offering the courses.

(v) Apart from teaching business fundamentals, it will address leadership, strategic management, growth and innovation.

Details of the programme are also available on site [olin.wustl.edu/embamumbai](http://olin.wustl.edu/embamumbai) or [som.iitb.ac.in/jointEMBA](http://som.iitb.ac.in/jointEMBA). The MBA degree will be conferred to these executives jointly by IIT Bombay and WUSTL. The participants will benefit personally and professionally in enhancing their knowledge to enable them being responsible innovative global leaders of tomorrow.



**Shri Satya Nadela, CEO, Microsoft, calling on Smt. Smriti Irani, Minister of HRD, in New Delhi on September 30, 2014.**

### Meeting Roundup

#### UNESCO Director meets HRM



Mr. Shigeru Aoyagi, Director, UNESCO, New Delhi office, meeting Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani, Minister of HRD, in New Delhi on July 3, 2014.

Mr. Shigeru Aoyagi, Director and UNESCO Representative to Bhutan, India, Maldives and Sri Lanka, held a meeting with Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani, Minister of HRD, on July 3, 2014.

The UNESCO Director started with thanking the Government of India for its continuous support to UNESCO and particularly to the UNESCO New Delhi Office, which he informed is one of the first field offices of UNESCO established in 1948. He made a brief mention of the important upcoming UNESCO regional and international meetings, for which he requested India's representation. He also invited the Minister to consider the Ministry's active involvement in the International Literacy Day and UN advocacy month for Global Education First Initiative in September 2014.

Appreciating UNESCO's role and commitment to education and in particular eradicating illiteracy, Smt. Irani pointed out that adult illiteracy has been a huge challenge in India. She reaffirmed India's commitment to it and said that the Government considers this as its biggest challenge and that it will strive hard to empower the whole nation through education. She expressed keen interest in collaborating with UNESCO in this area.

#### UN Women Deputy Executive Director meets HRM

Ms. Lakshmi Puri, UN Women Deputy Executive Director, met Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani, Minister of HRD, in New Delhi on July 8, 2014. She briefed the Minister on UN women's global mandate and invited her attention to the need to "understand the importance of education



Smt. Lakshmi Puri, Deputy Executive Director, UN Women Assistant Secretary General, met Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani, Minister of HRD, in New Delhi on July 8, 2014.

as an enabler and beneficiary of gender equality and women's empowerment..." Ms. Puri also emphasised that her organisation is "keen to support the Ministry in educational programmes to improve women's economic, social and political voice, participation and leadership and empowerment."

#### Assam CM calls upon HRM



Shri Tarun Gogoi, Chief Minister of Assam, calling on Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani, Minister of HRD, in New Delhi on July 8, 2014.

Shri Tarun Gogoi, Chief Minister of Assam, called upon Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani, Minister of HRD, in New Delhi on July 8, 2014. During the meeting, Shri Gogoi discussed the education scenario in the state with the HRM and apprised her of the schemes being implemented by the State Government for the improvement of the same.