



सत्यमेव जयते

DEPARTMENT OF  
HIGHER EDUCATION  
MHRD  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

# द न्यूजलैटर THE NEWSLETTER ON HIGHER EDUCATION

## SPECIAL ISSUE

January 7, 2012

## Message



At the outset, let me wish our Diaspora and the NRI community a glorious start to the second year of the second decade of the twenty-first century. I would like to applaud and salute the Indian Diaspora-for it is mainly your endeavours, hard work and enterprise that have propelled India at the center stage of global attention. And the excellent brand equity that you have established abroad has helped to dispel the conventional image of India as a land of 'snake charmers and elephants' to a 'knowledge power house' that it is today, respected and feared alike.

Our school educational system has given rise to an increasing number of young people enrolling into secondary, tertiary and vocational education streams. The Gross Enrolment Ratio of our youth in higher education is increasing at over 15% per annum. Thus, by 2025, our overall educational system would need to be catering to as many as 250 million youth, more than the population of most countries!

Our vision is to build a truly innovative educational system for our youth to acquire skills in critical thinking, analytical reasoning, problem solving, communications and to develop people who have ambition and self confidence. To make this a reality, our educational system offers tremendous opportunities for collaboration and cooperation to our Diaspora. Skills development, networking of Institutions, devising and financing of advanced research, twinning arrangements and PPP initiatives for new educational institutions are just a few of them. We do hope that our Diaspora would come forward to partner us in this 'Great Adventure.'

  
(Kapil Sibal)

Minister of Human Resource Development,  
Communications and Information Technology

ई. अहमद  
E. Ahamed  
ای احمد



विदेश एवं मानव संसाधन विकास  
राज्य मंत्री  
भारत सरकार  
*Minister of State for External Affairs &  
Human Resource Development  
Government of India*



### Message

Higher Education, today, is a vibrant sector, which holds the key to new India. The Indian Higher Education system has made progress in leaps and bounds, which is visible, not only in the number of educational institutions in the country, but also in the number of students from foreign countries getting education in those institutions. With India on its way to become a pulsating center of education in South Asia, it is time we cast a look at what it offers - to its own youth, as well as to those of other countries in terms of a quality Higher Education.

An attempt to record the developments taking place in the field of higher education was made by the Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development, when it brought out the first Special Edition of its quarterly publication, The Newsletter on Higher Education, dedicated to the Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas in January 2011. This year, the department is bringing out its next special edition, which celebrates the modern Indian higher education system in consonance with the Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas 2012.

I would like to congratulate the Department of Higher Education for bringing out the second Special Edition of the Newsletter on Higher Education and I hope that this issue will help those interested in studying in India to get a perspective on the educational opportunities available. I would also like to wish the readers a very Happy New Year 2012.

(E. Ahamed)

डा. डी. पुरंदेश्वरी  
Dr. D. PURANDESWARI



राज्य मंत्री  
मानव संसाधन विकास  
भारत सरकार  
नई दिल्ली-110 115  
MINISTER OF STATE FOR  
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI-110 115

## Message

I am happy to know that the Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development, is bringing out a Special Edition of the MHRD Newsletter on Higher Education on the occasion of the Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas, 2012.

Knowledge is key to future progress, as it has been the differentiator of past development of nations. India, with its developmental challenges and immense human capital base, cannot afford to let the opportunity of synergies slip out of their hands. It is imperative to devise and facilitate the means for knowledge collaboration between India and its Diaspora.

The 21st Century is acknowledged by all as the “Knowledge Century” which means that Knowledge or brain power should be reflected in a country’s competitiveness, advancement and human capabilities. Human capabilities are a function of the well-being of a people and the investment we make in human capital formation. The ability of a nation to make best use of its knowledge or brain power will ultimately determine its place in the comity of nations in the present century. Lifelong learning education should therefore be a high priority for all. It is fundamental to the development of a nation. It builds the base for economic and social growth, and develops the capacity of individuals to contribute to, and benefit from that development.

Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, our great philosopher-statesman, used to observe that in order to build up a modern India, we need a meaningful and effective canalization of the youth force towards well-defined and welfare-oriented goals. We are an ancient civilization but a modern nation state and while we may justifiably bask in the glory of the past, the future of India will be bright if and only if our youth power contributes to the goals of the development with dedication, determination and fortitude in order to fulfill the uphill task of nation-building.

Today, India stands unique in the degree of its diversity. Apart from racial, cultural, linguistic, and social diversities, different States in India also tread different paths toward economic progress. But even under these conditions, market forces have struck solid roots. Such is the resilience of market forces, that for more than two decades they have been driving the economy ever higher, notwithstanding periodic political and ideological aberrations. Underpinning the forward movement is India’s commitment to democracy.

Before I end, may I assure our NRI brothers and sisters, that wherever they may be, they are part and parcel of the Indian psyche. We would never lose sight of their problems and difficulties but would stand unitedly strengthened by mutual ties of togetherness between them and this land of their forefathers.

  
Dr. D. Purandeswari

## Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas 2012 - A Step Forward



11th Plan, generally known as the Plan for Education and Health, has played a seminal role in placing education centre stage in national priorities. In the final year of the 11th Plan, the Government looks

confidently at building on the solid foundations laid in the course of the Plan: the Right to Education as a fundamental right; expansion, inclusion, quality as the corner stones of higher education; renewed emphasis and commitment to professionalisation of vocational education. As part of the effort to improve quality, Government is engaged with diverse international partners, seeking collaboration, mobility for students and faculty, cutting edge technology, developing and honing of intellectual resources, and sharing an abiding concern with global challenges of deprivation, food insecurity, ill-health, ecological degradation and energy crises.

Institutions of higher learning have forged partnerships across the globe, engaging globally and deploying high science in the service of local problem solving.

The India-US Summit, following up on the Singh-Obama Knowledge Initiative, the commencement of the UKIERI-II programme, engagement with the EU in strengthening India Study Centres, engagement with China in a multi-dimensional partnership and taking forward the relationship with Australia, represent some of the key developments on the international scene in the year.

While the contribution of the Indian Diaspora to the efforts in the education sector have been documented, we look forward to their increased role, brethren overseas in this ambitious task of reaching education to the unreached in any time, anywhere mode. The potential for Diaspora contribution to the Indian growth story in education is yet to be adequately realized. Through this newsletter, we showcase more opportunities for the same.

**Vibha Puri Das**

Department of Higher Education  
Ministry of Human Resource Development

## *Editorial Panel*

### Patron

Vibha Puri Das,  
Secretary (HE)

### Editor-in-Chief

Anant Kumar Singh  
Joint Secretary

### Editor

Vijay P. Goel  
Deputy Director General

### Associate Editor

Mamta Verma  
Director (PIB)

### Editorial Board

G. S. Bothyal, Joint Secretary

R. D. Sahay, Joint Secretary

H. R. Joshi, Director

G. R. Raghavender, Director

Sanjay, Director

Prakhar Viplava Gupta, Deputy Secretary

### Editorial Assistance

Bindu Sreedathan, Joint Director

Ruchika Gupta, Deputy Director



## 'Aakash' Presented at 36th Session of UNESCO General Conference

At the 36th Session of UNESCO General Conference in Paris, Shri Kapil Sibal, Minister of HRD presented \$35 'Aakash' Tablet to Ms. Katalin Bogyay, President, UNESCO. The device has been developed by India for distribution to students in Higher Education in India.

Shri Sibal was leading a high-level Indian delegation to UNESCO for the Session, which was held at the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris from October 25, 2011 to November 10, 2011. The Indian delegation had representatives from the Ministries of Human Resource Development, Culture, Science, Information and Broadcasting and External Affairs.

While addressing the Conference during the 'General Policy debate', Shri Sibal made an emphatic appeal to empower the youth by giving them the tools of education. The Minister also referred to the historic milestone achieved by India - enacting an enabling legislation to constitutionally guarantee the Right to Elementary Education.

*Following is an excerpt of the Minister's speech during the debate:-*

*"Literacy in the 21st century will carry a different connotation. It will no longer mean knowledge of the three "r's", but the ability to connect and comprehend*

*We have taken the lead in attempting to develop an access device - Aakash (meaning 'sky') - that aims to provide a medium for every child to access the digital world and to learn from the vast repositories of knowledge contained therein. Aakash presently costs less than \$50 and our endeavour is to further reduce the cost to less than \$35. We are going to provide Aakash to every student in higher education and gradually to every child in secondary education. We dedicate this device to the children of the world. We will equip our children with the tools to face the challenges of the 21st century.*

*I also believe that the nature of delivery of educational services in higher education is changing*



*Shri Kapil Sibal, Minister of HRD, presenting \$35 'Aakash' Tablet to the President of the UNESCO General Conference, Ms. Katalin Bogyay at the 36th Session of the UNESCO General Conference.*

*rapidly. It may be too early to write the epitaph for the classroom, but the classrooms of the 21st century will be different from those that served us in the past. The content of pedagogy too would be radically altered. The silos that fragmented knowledge have already started collapsing. Customized learning across cultures will be the dominant theme of higher education. We need to open up the university as a learning space, embrace collaborative knowledge production, and break down the walls between institutions. The university as a physical entity may no longer remain the unit of learning space."*

Earlier, Shri Sibal had launched 'Aakash,' a low cost access-cum-computing device, on October 5, 2011 in New Delhi. On this occasion, the device was also distributed among 500 children. While launching Aakash, Shri Sibal emphasized that the device will help in eliminating digital illiteracy. He also underscored the need for having high quality study content to be made accessible to students through the device and through other means.

## **First India-US Higher Education Summit in Washington D.C.**



*Sh. Kapil Sibal, Minister of HRD, and Ms. Hillary Clinton, the US Secretary of State at the India-US Higher Education Summit, at Washington DC on October 13, 2011.*

The first India-U.S. Higher Education Summit was jointly organized by the Government of India and the Government of United States in Washington D.C. on October 13, 2011. The Summit was jointly inaugurated by Shri Kapil Sibal, Minister of HRD and Ms. Hillary Clinton, the US Secretary of State. The event was attended by government officials and academics as well as individuals from the private sector who are involved in the Higher Education sector.

Recalling the considerable progress made by both the countries in achieving bilateral educational success, Shri Sibal and Ms. Clinton reaffirmed the strategic partnership between the two countries and acknowledged the immense possibilities for further collaboration. The event also launched the expanded India-US Higher Education Dialogue, as an annual bilateral event.

The main objective of the summit was to further strengthen Higher Education collaboration and exchange of ideas between the Indian and American

institutions. The summit also highlighted the importance of education as a pillar of the India-U.S. Strategic Dialogue.

In a joint statement, issued toward the end of the Summit, both the sides agreed to:

- (A) Promote strategic institutional partnerships for further strengthening and expanding collaboration in the priority areas of higher education;
- (B) Encourage expansion and deepened collaboration in research and development;
- (C) Foster partnerships in the areas of vocational education and skills enhancement;
- (D) Further strengthening program for student and faculty enrichment and exchange; and
- (E) Welcome involvement of the private sector in the two countries to support and deepen such collaboration.

The Summit is expected to provide a platform to the industry leaders, academia, and government officials on both side so that they can evolve further collaboration for mutual benefit in areas like student and faculty exchange, collaborative research, skill development, and innovation.

## **Kapil Sibal, David Willets Co-Chair India-UK Education Forum**

The fourth UK-India Education Forum was held on November 15, 2011, which was co-chaired by Shri Kapil Sibal, Minister of HRD and Mr. David Willets, UK Minister for Universities and Science. Besides reviewing the educational understanding between the two countries, the Forum endorsed stronger and deeper collaboration between the academia, private sector, and governments on both sides. The members of the Forum also welcomed the progress made in the Indo-UK educational relationship since last Forum.

Both the Ministers also announced awards under the UK India Education and Research Initiative (UKIERI) and





Shri Kapil Sibal, Minister of HRD (Centre), Mr. David Willets, UK Minister for Universities and Science, and Smt. Vibha Puri Das, Secretary, Higher Education at the UK-India Education Forum, in New Delhi on November 15, 2011.

reiterated their support to the programme. The awards, funded by the UKIERI in its first year, are given to encourage academic community to further engage and disseminate their learning to schools, universities, other fellow students and friends in both the countries.

Out of a total of 161 awards for 2011-12, 67 are for Higher Education Partnerships, 7 Skills Partnerships, and 87 Facilitation grants to travel between UK and India.

While acknowledging the work done by the UK Qualification recognition task force under strand 4 of UKIERI (Enhancing Mobility), the Ministers noted that both sides need to work on the key area of credit transfers and mutual recognition, to make the UKIERI an even better success.

## Indo-US Educational Partnership held Important

Underlining the importance of partnership between India and the US, in the education sector, Shri Kapil Sibal, Minister of HRD, said - that the "two countries, through partnership, can find the solutions for tomorrow..." (while addressing the US India Business Council (USIBC) on October 13, 2011.)

The Minister pointed out that India is the land of opportunity and it has a vast demographic advantage,

which needs to be harnessed in a manner to serve the world. Speaking of today's interconnected world, Shri Sibal said that the problems do not remain confined to the region in which they emerge. He suggested that the solutions to global problems can only be arrived at by studying them in the regions that they exist.

## Indian Students Abroad - UNESCO Statistics

The Ministry of Human Resource Development publishes its periodical assessment of the statistical development of Higher Education in its "Statistics of Higher and Technical Education." One of the major highlights of the 2007-08 edition of this publication is destination-wise list of the number of Indian students studying abroad.

With the Second Special Edition of The Newsletter on Higher Education in offing, it is only imperative that we cast a look at what these figures entail. However, before we do that, let it be known that the data was sourced from the "UNESCO Institute for Statistics." It would not be preposterous to say that Indian students are studying all over the world, right from the United States to Iran. A total of 1,76,881 Indian students have taken up studies abroad.

For the given year, the highest number of Indian students, 94664, is studying in the United States. Australia comes second with as many as 26520 Indian students studying for various courses in the country. The top three is completed with the United Kingdom, which hosts 25901 Indian students.

Apart from these three countries, quite a significant number of Indian students is also receiving education in the universities and institutions of countries such as Russian Federation (4314), New Zealand (4094), Germany (3257), Canada (3219), Ukraine (1785), Cyprus (1076), Malaysia (1065), and France (1038).

However, that is not all, because countries such as Kazakhstan, Italy, Japan, Thailand, Ireland, Saudi Arabia, Poland, Oman, Tajikistan, Austria, Bahrain, Norway, Romania, and Czech Republic, also host Indian students for various educational courses.

## Inroads for Bilateral and Multilateral Cooperation

India has already entered into Educational Exchange programs (EEPs), also called MOUs in some cases, with 36 countries, including France, Australia, Brazil, Hungary, and South Africa, apart from less-developed countries like Ethiopia, Ecuador, and Rwanda. The EEPs/MOUs envisage cooperation on initiatives such as:-

1. Exchange of scholars/students/researchers;
2. Sharing of information/publications;
3. Organizing joint seminars/workshops/conferences, etc;
4. Working toward mutual recognition of qualifications;
5. Developing institutional linkages; and
6. Providing scholarships to students/researchers.

In addition, the Ministry of Human Resource Development has been making efforts to strengthen cooperation with foreign countries through mechanisms like the Joint Ministerial Statement on Education between India Australia, India-UK Education Forum, India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) group, etc.

## South Asian University - A Pledge for Future

An Inter-governmental Agreement for the establishment of the South Asian University (SAU) in New Delhi was signed during the fourteenth SAARC Summit, held in New Delhi in April 2007. The dedication of land identified for SAU near the campus of Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) was done on May 26, 2008. The South Asian University Act entered into force on January 11, 2009. India had committed to bearing 100% of the capital cost towards the establishment of the University. The cost of running the University will be met through contributions from all SAARC Member States. The University is operational since August 2010. As per the plan of expansion under Phase-1, the University will have eleven faculties by the end of 2014 and it is expected to be fully established by 2015.

## Yale-India Initiative - Developing Leadership for Tomorrow

A Memorandum of Understanding between Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut, USA, Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, and Indian Institute of Management, Kozhikode, was signed on October 28, 2010 at New Delhi. The MOU aims at developing of leadership programmes in the area of Higher Education.

The "India-Yale Higher Education Leadership Programme" under the Yale-India Initiative was held in USA from September 25th to October 8th, 2011. Nine resource persons and 34 academicians from India participated in the Programme. The objective of the Programme was to develop the awareness of pro-active academic leadership among a select group of Vice Chancellors/ Directors of Indian Universities/Institutes.

## Obama-Singh Knowledge Initiative - A Step Ahead

The Obama-Singh 21st Century Knowledge Initiative was launched during the visit of Hon'ble Prime Minister to USA in November, 2009. Both the Governments have pledged US \$5 million for this endeavor which will fund University linkages and Junior Faculty Development. The University Grants Commission, the apex body for universities in India, has made a financial provision for this purpose. A Joint Working Group with three members each from USA and India has been constituted for implementation of this programme.

The programme will work for the following components:-

- Faculty Development
- Academic Leadership Programs
- Development of Community Colleges
- Enhancing Institutional Linkages

The Requests For Proposals (RFPs) have been issued by both sides (UGC from Indian side and USIEF from the US side). Last date for receipt of proposals was November 1, 2011. About 130 proposals have been received for examination by the Joint Working Group.



## **Direct Admission of Students Abroad (DASA)**

India is fast emerging as a hub of knowledge super power, especially with its pool of technically qualified professionals. The world class education provided under the Indian Education System, through a wide range of general and specialized courses, is also relevant to the needs of the changing world. In addition to this, India is also an attractive destination for international students because of the quality of education, the cost of education and living, which is fairly low.

In order to facilitate the entry of Foreign Nationals/Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs)/Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) to premier Indian Institutions, the Ministry of Human Resource Development formulated the DASA scheme in 2001-02. In the academic year 2010-11, the responsibility to coordinate the admission process under this scheme was entrusted to the NITK Surathkal for a period of three years.

The eligibility criterion for this scheme was also modified during the last two years. According to the changes in the eligibility criteria, there is now a requirement of scores from an internationally recognized competitive examination, i.e., Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) Subject Test and other such relevant changes.

As a result of this, applicants from different countries have shown interest in this scheme and are seeking admissions to Indian Higher Education Institutes. In the recent years, students from more than 30 countries have sought admission to different Institutes covered under DASA scheme.

The present admission process is online, merit and choice-based, where the students are able to pay the required registration and tuition fees online, while filling the online application form. The Government has also introduced a scholarship scheme for top meritorious students, who enjoy partial tuition fee waiver.

Owing to the success of under graduate admissions under this scheme, post graduate programs, M. Tech and MBA, were also introduced under DASA scheme from the last academic year, 2011-12. The admission criterion in these programs is going to be of the international standards, including basic qualifications and mandatory requirements like the GRE/GMAT scores.

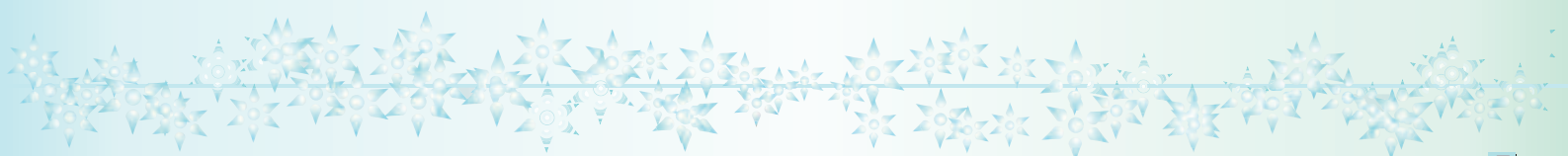
*For more and updated information please visit at [www.dasanit.org](http://www.dasanit.org) or [www.nitk.ac.in](http://www.nitk.ac.in).*

## **Scholarship Programme for Diaspora Children (SPDC)**

The EdCIL (India) Limited has been executing a Scholarship Scheme for Diaspora Children (SPDC) on behalf of the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs (MOIA) since 2006.

Those who can apply to this scheme must be undergraduates in Professional and Non-Professional Courses (except Medical and related courses). The selected applicants are provided financial assistance, primarily towards tuition fee, admission fee and post admission services.

The scheme is applicable to Indian Diaspora from 40 select countries having larger concentration of Persons of Indian origin. For the purpose of the SPDC, the Indian Diaspora shall comprise of PIOs and NRIs. Scholarship shall be provided to 100 selected students equally distributed between NRIs and PIOs. For further details, visit the website of MOIA, [www.moia.gov.in](http://www.moia.gov.in) or [www.edcilindia.co.in](http://www.edcilindia.co.in).



## Reversing The Brain Drain - Bringing Indian Scientists Home

In order to facilitate research work by Indian scientists working abroad, in their respective fields of work as well as in home country research programs, the Ministry of Science and Technology implements several programs, whose details are as follows:

**1) Department of Science and Technology (DST)-Ramanujan Fellowship Program** for brilliant Indian scientists and engineers, especially those who wish to return to India, to take up scientific research positions at any of the scientific institutions and universities in India. All areas of science are covered under this Fellowship and the Fellowship is given for 5 years duration with fellowship of Rs. 75,000 consolidated per month and a contingent grant of Rs.5 lakhs per year.

**2) Department of Science and Technology (DST)-Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE) Faculty Scheme "Assured Opportunity for Research Career (AORC)"** offers contractual research positions at any Indian reputed institution/academia of their choice to Indian citizens and people of Indian origin including NRI/PIO status with PhD (in science, mathematics, engineering, pharmacy, medicine, and agriculture related subjects) from any recognized university in the world. This scheme offers young achievers an opportunity for independent research in the near term and emerge as a future leader in the long term. The scheme requires applicants to be in the age group of 27-32 years. Each selected INSPIRE Faculty receives a consolidated amount equivalent to the scale of the Assistant Professor of an IIT as Fellowship amount. In addition, a Research Grant of Rs 7 lakh per year for 5 years shall also be provided to each successful candidate.

**3) Department of Science and Technology (DST) - Collaborative Projects with Scientist and Technologists of Indian Origin Abroad (CP-STIO)** for strengthening institutional and human capacity building, enhancing technology entrepreneurship and augmenting stronger

alma-mater relationship. This program provides annual sponsorship of up to 20 joint projects based on a Call for Proposal. In this program, collaborative project based visit of STIO into India (1 per year of 2-12 week duration) are co-funded by DST and Indian partnering and beneficiary host institution.

**4) Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) -Senior Research Associateship (SRA) Scheme** is meant to attract Indian nationals as well as Indian scientists working abroad to work in India for 3 years. The candidates selected under this scheme are appointed in the scale of Scientist B (PB-III Grade Pay Rs.5400 for natural sciences degree holders & Grade Pay Rs. 6600 for medical and engineering science degree holders).

**5) Department of Biotechnology (DBT)- Ramalingaswami Re-entry Fellowship** for Indian nationals who are working in overseas institutions/universities in various fields of biotechnology and life sciences and are interested in returning to India to pursue their research interests at any of the scientific institutions/ universities initially for 5 years. Ramalingaswami Re-entry fellows would also be eligible for regular research grant through extramural and other research schemes of various S&T agencies of the Government of India. This program provides for upto 50 fellowships annually. Fellowship awardees is given Rs. 75,000/ pm, House Rent Allowance of Rs. 7,500/- p.m. as well as a research/contingency grant of Rs.500,000 per annum from 2007 onward.

**6) Department of Biotechnology (DBT) - Welcome Trust (WT) Alliance** aims at encouraging scientists of Indian origin working abroad to return to India through a four-tier fellowship program on biomedical research at post doctoral level (Senior Fellowship, Intermediate Fellowship, Early Career Fellowship, Margadarshi Fellowship). DBT & WT have committed Pound Sterling 8 M each year for a period of 5 years from 2009 onwards. The total award for a Senior Fellowship typically amounts to INR 4.5 Crores; for an Intermediate Fellowship, which amounts to INR 3.5 Crores; and for Early Career Fellowship, which amounts to INR 1.5 Crores.

## Schemes to Attract Faculty

### Scheme for Enhancing Faculty Resources of Universities (ENCORE)

This scheme for enhancing faculty resources of Universities represents an important link in a chain of programmes and schemes initiated for the up-scaling of quality and excellence in Higher Education in the Eleventh Five-Year Plan (2007-12).

It recognizes the presence of intellectual and scholarly resources available outside the university and college mainstream both with public sector and private sector organizations - and the scheme is meant to tap these resources. Professionals and specialists with these organizations possess rich and varied background and experience, and have the ability to enrich university instructional and research programmes.

Through this scheme, universities in the country are likely to bring about a qualitative improvement in their class-room and laboratory work as well as in their research activities. On the other hand, the Scheme may also benefit, directly or indirectly, the targeted professionals. It may facilitate them to pay back to society what they have received, to get out of their job-routine, and to add to their curriculum vitae.

#### Objectives

- To enlarge and deepen the learning process in the universities in India by enlisting the help and cooperation of professionals and experts from outside the university-and-colleges mainstream;
- To stimulate quality and globally comparable research at M.Phil. and Ph.D. levels; and
- To cumulatively enrich academic milieu in the universities so as to sustain knowledge-creation and quest for excellence.

#### Target Groups

- (a) Research organizations supported by AEC, ICAR, ICSSR, CSIR, etc.
- (b) Central and state public-sector undertakings (PSUs), especially from their R&D Units.

(c) Business (industrial and trading) corporations, especially their field and R&D wings.

(d) NRIs and PIOs working with overseas academic, research and business organizations, and

(e) Overseas academicians and researchers having a demonstrated interest in Indian issues.

### AICTE Emeritus Fellowship

The Scheme of Emeritus Fellowship of AICTE intends to utilize the services of highly qualified and experienced superannuated Professors at AICTE approved institutions/Colleges/University Departments imparting technical education in stimulating and achieving excellence in Technical Education i.e., in Engineering and Technology, Architecture, Town Planning, Management, Pharmacy, Applied Arts and Crafts and other areas.

There may be one hundred positions of Emeritus Fellowship at a time.

#### The Fellowship is awarded for:

- (i) Proposing, executing, guiding and monitoring of projects in various engineering/Technology and related fields;
- (ii) Carrying out research and development in application areas of professional/technical education;
- (iii) Generation of indigenous learning resource materials.
- (iv) Developing emerging sectors of knowledge/innovating schools of thought in the field of Technical Education.

An Emeritus Fellow is also allowed by AICTE to take up sponsored research and consultancy both within the framework of the rules and regulations of the Host Institution. For further details, please visit [www.aicte.ac.in](http://www.aicte.ac.in).



## **Indo-US Conclave on Engineering Education**

Introducing the revolutionary concept of a “meta-university,” in consonance with the open content and open-access movement, Shri Kapil Sibal, Minister of HRD, hoped that it would be possible to establish a “transcendent, accessible, empowering and communally viable framework” for Higher Education worldwide.

Shri Sibal, who was speaking at the inauguration ceremony of the Indo-US Engineering Education Conclave, said this while speaking on the subject, “Universities for the 21st Century: Promoting Innovation and Education.” The Conclave was inaugurated on January 10, 2011.

In his address, Shri Sibal said, “The emerging meta-university, built on the power and ubiquity of the Web and launched by the open courseware movement, will give teachers and learners everywhere the ability to access and share teaching materials, scholarly publications, scientific works in progress, tele-operation of experiments, and worldwide collaborations, thereby achieving economic efficiencies and raising the quality of education through a global endeavour.”

He concluded by saying that the present day universities needed to share and partner with each other in terms of;

- 1) exchange
- 2) collaboration
- 3) co-innovation
- 4) co-creation and
- 5) connection of course content, knowledge & learning.

Smt. Vibha Puri Das, Secretary (HE) and Shri T. Ramasami, Secretary, Deptt of Science & Technology, also addressed the two-day conclave.

## **IGNOU signs MoUs with three Chinese Universities**

The Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) has signed memorandum of understanding (MoUs) with three Chinese Universities, namely Open University of Hong Kong (OUHK), Human Normal University (HNU) and Qingdao Technological University.

The IGNOU has identified areas of common interest with the three institutions and according to the agreements, the collaboration will take place in areas like faculty, student-exchange programmes, development and sharing of course material and services for lifelong learning.

According to the MoUs, the Universities may accept professors from both the institutions as exchange of teachers to teach in their Universities for a specified period. Besides, the Universities may also allow each other’s students to study in the other university for one semester or more.

## **Japanese Grant to Upgrade University**

Japan’s Mitsubishi Corporation has signed an agreement with the IGNOU, which includes a grant of 724,000,000/- Yen to IGNOU for the upgradation of its Electronic Media Production Centre (EMPC). The EMPC serves as the nodal centre for managing the Gyan Darshan channels and Gyan Vani stations.

With the sanctioned grant, the University would be able to transform its equipment into high definition format in video studios, Non-Linear Edit Suites, Graphics, Duplication and Field Recording, etc. The agreement was signed on May 23, 2011 and the new equipment would be installed and operational by October 2011.



## Secretary HE Visits Brussels, Warsaw for 1st India-EU Policy Dialogue



*Smt. Vibha Puri Das, Secretary (HE), presenting books to the India Study Centre at Warsaw on June 27, 2011*

After signing two joint declarations, one on cooperation in the field of education and the second on cooperation and dialogue in the field of multilingualism, India and the European Union (EU) held the first India-EU Policy Dialogue on May 25-26, 2011 at Brussels in Belgium. This was followed by a visit of Smt. Vibha Puri Das, Secretary (HE) to the India-EU Study Centre at Warsaw University, Warsaw (Poland) on May 27, 2011.

Smt. Das was leading the Indian delegation to Belgium. Other members of this delegation were: - Prof. Ved Prakash, Acting Chairman, UGC, Prof. S. S. Mantha, Acting Chairman, AICTE, Prof. Panchanan Mohanty, Professor in Applied Linguistics, Centre for Applied Linguistics and Translation Studies, University of Hyderabad and Mr. Amit Khare, Joint Secretary (ICC), Department of HE, MHRD. The EU delegation was led by Mr. Xavier Prats Monne, Deputy Director General, DG Education and Culture, EU.

## Chinese Vice Minister of Education Visits India

Ms. Li Weihong, China's Vice Minister of Education, was in India between June 3 and 7, 2011, leading a high-level delegation, which held discussions with the



*Smt. Vibha Puri Das, Secretary (HE) with Ms. Li Weihong, Chinese Vice Minister for Education in New Delhi on June 6, 2011*

MHRD officials on June 6, 2011. Smt. Vibha Puri Das, Secretary, HE, led the Indian delegation.

The two sides discussed the enhanced cooperation between India and China in the education sector, teaching of Chinese language in India and student exchange programmes among other issues.

## MoS Dr. Purandeswari's visit to Canada



From Right to Left: Dr. D. Purandeswari, MoS of HRD, Mr. John Baird, Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Shashishekhar Gavai, Indian High Commissioner to Canada, Prof. Sunaina Singh, former Shastri President and Dr. Braj Sinha, Shastri President.

Dr. D. Purandeswari, Minister of State of HRD, led an Indian delegation to Canada from June 17 to 22, 2011. During the visit, she also participated in the Education Summit of Vice Chancellors, organised by the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada at Ottawa and the first India-Canada Innovation Summit at Carleton University, Ottawa, co-organised by the Shastri Indo-Canada Institute (SICI).

At the Vice Chancellors' Summit, Dr. Purandeswari, who delivered the Keynote address, said, "Education can no longer be considered a goal in itself, but rather should be considered a powerful driver of socio-economic change." She emphasised upon the importance of the current reforms being implemented to improve Indian education system.

## **Indo-German Education Initiative to Set Up Meta-Universities**



Shri Kapil Sibal, Minister of HRD, and Dr. Annette Schavan, German Federal Minister of Education & Research, witnessing the signing of an MoU between University of Hyderabad and Westfalesche Wilhelms University of Germany, in New Delhi on May 31, 2011.

Shri Kapil Sibal, Minister of HRD, met his German counterpart, Dr. Annette Schavan, in New Delhi on May 31, 2011, and discussed with her the consortia approach of twinning between universities of the two countries where two to three Indian Universities could partner with two to three German Universities for conducting degree-level courses.

In this regard, Shri Sibal said that setting up of such Meta-Universities was going to be a welcome step to collaborate further in the Higher Education sector between the two countries. He further stressed that both the countries offered enormous opportunities in

the fields of Higher Education and Skill Development and mutual recognition of Degrees and Diplomas awarded by the Indian and German educational institutions would encourage the mobility of students between the two countries.

Speaking during the meeting, Shri Sibal said that India could host this year's Indo-German Higher Education Summit in November/December 2011 to be co-chaired by both the Ministers with the participation of academics, senior government officials and public & private industry on both sides. He also offered that the Summit could explore issues like:

- (i) Development of junior faculty including doctoral & post-doctoral programmes.
- (ii) Mutual recognition of qualification, particularly in vocational education.
- (iii) Joint research programmes

The two sides also signed two MoUs, between IIT Mandi & University of Stuttgart representing TU9 Germany and University of Hyderabad & Westfalesche Wilhelms University of Germany.

## **India, New Zealand Joint Education Council**

India and New Zealand have decided to establish a Joint Education Council (JEC) to carry forward the cooperation in the educational sector between the two countries. The two countries already have an Education Exchange Programme, which was signed on April 12, 2010, during the visit of Shri Kapil Sibal, Minister of HRD, to New Zealand.

During another meeting, held on June 28, 2011 between the Prime Ministers of both the countries, an Education Initiative which is a jointly-funded programme to enhance bilateral cooperation in higher education, research, and skills development, has also been announced.



Sri Lanka's Senior Minister for Human Resource, Mr. D.E.W Gunasekera called on Shri Kapil Sibal, Minister of HRD, in New Delhi on September 8, 2011.



Jordanian Minister of Education, Jordan, Dr. Tayseer Al-Nuaimi along with the Ambassador, Mr. Mohammad Sharari El-Fayez meeting Shri Kapil Sibal, Minister of HRD, in New Delhi on July 14, 2011.

Bhutanese Minister of Education, Mr. Lyonpo Thakur Singh Powdyel in conversation with Shri Sibal, in New Delhi on July 14, 2011.





Bangladesh's Minister of Education, Mr. Nurul Islam Nahid in conversation with Shri Sibal, in New Delhi on September 9, 2011.



Shri Sibal having a meeting with Mr. Farooq Wardak, Minister of Education, Afghanistan in New Delhi on September 9, 2011.

Any suggestions/Comments/feedback should be mailed to [editor.edu@nic.in](mailto:editor.edu@nic.in)  
This special issue is also available at:- [www.education.nic.in](http://www.education.nic.in)