

## INFORMATICS

## I NEWS

**Education Through Satellite**

The Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) in collaboration with Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully conducted an experiment of education through satellite involving its Head quarters and 10 regional centres by establishing a live interaction through one-way video and two day audio tele-conferencing between experts and students for resolving students problems and clarifying their doubts. The experiment is of great significance and lays foundation of man-education programmes such as eradication of illiteracy by the use of space technology.

IGNOU is exploring the establishment of a permanent audio teleconferencing network interlinking all the regional centres as well as the state open universities with the Maidan Garhi Campus.

**UNIVERSITY-INDUSTRY LINKAGE FOR R & D**

A programme for the generation of funds and resource mobilisation with a view to achieve self-sufficiency in University research programmes has been recommended by the Department of Science and Technology G.O.I.

The aim of this programme was to bring together scientists and industrialists on a common platform to discuss the strategy for establishing University-industry linkage for research and development. In applied sciences so as to make efforts to involve society in the development of Universities.

The industries would be required to donate funds for research and development and they would be entitled to 100 percent exemption of income tax. In return, industries would be able to refer the technical problems to the Universities and affiliated institutions for tackling them using the facilities and expertise available in the University.

**TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY FOR TAMIL NADU**

The Tamil Nadu state council for Higher Education has constituted a committee to work out the modalities of setting up technical University in the State under which all engineering colleges in the state would be brought.

**Cabinet Committee for Regulation of admissions and fees in private professional Institutions**

The Prime Minister Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao is reported to have set up a cabinet sub-committee to frame guidelines for admission and fees in private professional institutions before the next academic session.

**Vocational Courses in Kurukshetra University**

The Kurukshetra University is concentrating on vocational and job oriented courses in the areas of Mass Communication, Environmental Sciences, Bio-Mathematics. It is also expanding its directorate of correspondence courses with the addition of 12 post graduate departments and six diploma courses, in tourism, library science, hotel management, company law and computer course.

### **New Professional Courses in Osmania University**

The Osmania University proposes to start nine professional courses for postgraduate students from the ensuing academic session. The one year post-diploma programmes will be in Materials Science and Technology, Digital Signals and image Processing, Radar Communication and technology, Radiation Physics, Medical Biotechnology, Microbial Gene Technology, Plant Bio Technology and Animal Bio Technology. In addition, a three semester M. Tech. Course in Applied Chemical Technology and P.G. Diploma in Food Preservation and Food Technology are also proposed to be started from 1994-95.

### **International Computer Problem Solving Contest (ICPSC) of the WISCONS in University**

Nalini Foundation for Symbolic Logic, Saavitri, Nirmal Baug, Pune - 411009 has been organising this contest since 1989. In the past, the contest has been conducted in the cities of Bombay, Pune, Nashik, Bangalore, Jabalpur, Calcutta, Hyderabad, Jamshedpur, Pondicherry, New Delhi, Udaipur and every year contestants from India have ranked at the International level.

The next contest will be held on May 1, 1994.

In details can be obtained from Nalini Foundation, Pune.

### **New Courses from IGNOU**

The Indira Gandhi National Open University proposes to launch two new courses from July next year. These are an advanced diploma course in construction management and a course in water resources engineering the minimum duration of these programmes would be three years and a maximum of five years.

Candidates who have successfully completed three years diploma in Civil Engineering / Agricultural Engineering from a recognized Polytechnic or its equivalent and employed in related department / organisation or even self employed are eligible to apply.

## **II VIEWS**

### **Education and National Development**

Dr.R.Chidambaram, Chairman Atomic Energy Commission and Secretary Department of Atomic Energy GOI while delivering convocation address at University of Madras and raising the question as to what national development has to do with education, said : "for national development to take place, knowledge is important, imagination is more important and character is perhaps the most important.

So the role of the University and the Education system is not only to impart knowledge not only to nurture imagination and creativity in the young people but also to build up their character.

### **Education - A Fundamental Right**

Speaking at the valedictory address at the seminar on "Education as a Fundamental Right", Dr.Yashpal, the noted educationist said : "If people are denied education it could lead to serious social tension and this has to be avoided at all costs." He also pointed out that the right to education also meant the right to comprehend what was taught in schools, but this was not so

as several first generation learners did not find schooling an enjoyable experience.

### **Essence of Education**

Sathya, Dharma, Shanti, Prema and Ahimsa should constitute the lifebreaths of students. All these five values should be harmoniously cultivated and man's excellence will be incomplete in the absence of even one of the values. The welfare and well being of the world today hinge on the education we impart, Education acquires true meaning and significance if it is imbued with these five human values.

Bhagwan Sri Sathya Sai Baba  
Chancellor Sri Sathya Sai Institute  
of Higher Learning.

### **Review of Science Policy Urged**

Dr.C.N.R.Rao Director, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore while delivering the inaugural address at the 63rd annual session of National Academy of Sciences remarked that the Union Government should incorporate science and technology as integral part of the development process to ensure that India emerged as a competitive nation in the changing economic scenano. He was also critical of the new attitude among bureaucrats who felt that higher educational institutions and R and D Laboratories should earn funds on their own. He warned that if this attitude continues the laboratories could meet the fate of those in Russia and Hungary and the magnitude of the gap between science and technology in India and other countries would widen. No foreign Government or industry will give us the latest technology. We will get out-dated technology at expensive rate and with many conditions.

### **Books on Education and Allied Subjects for Libraries in Technical Institutions**

The libraries of Technical Institution hardly find any place for books on Education and Allied subjects. However now it is realised that the teachers administration and managements concerned with higher education should be exposed to arts, science and technology of Education, it is absolutely necessary that the libraries of Technical Institution also should have some books in this area.

The Engineering Education is enclosing herewith three lists of books on education which should be included in the libraries of engineering colleges and polytechnics. We hope that the institution will find these lists useful.