

'Protect the indigenous character of education'

IIT-K GOLDEN JUBILEE: Sam Pitroda interacts through video conferencing

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KANPUR: Eminent educationists participated in a six-hour long deliberation on the 'challenges before higher education' on the second day of Golden Jubilee celebrations of IIT-K and advocated autonomy and research-based reorientation of higher education and technical education, on Sunday.

Chairman of National Knowledge Commission Sam Pitroda, who participated at the deliberations through video conferencing said, a national level debate is on long over reforming higher education but for want of implementation of recommendations nothing could be done in this sector.

He said the existing age-old higher education system needed complete over-hauling as the number of students and the affiliated colleges has been increasing each year.

A single university granting affiliations to unlimited number of colleges could not maintain quality control. The colleges needed autonomy, flexi-

bility and efficient system of fund generation for their development, he said.

He said solutions have been given from time to time to the government for improving higher education system but no one bothered to take them seriously. Now it was high time to act on the solutions at the level of Vice-Chancellor, the state governments and the central government to protect the indigenous character of the country's education system and also to prove that it can meet future global challenges due to fast changing technologies.

Rajya Sabha member Arun Shourie said there was a need of launching a movement against affiliating colleges with universities.

Each college should be given autonomy to prove its worth, he said.

He said in an era when knowledge was available free on Internet the students will not prefer to go to colleges unless they found teachers highly updated.

There was need to upgrade teachers' knowledge of their

respective subjects, he added.

Chairman Board of Governors of IIT-K Professor M Anandakrishnan stressed the need to humanize technical education as technocrats had a major role to discharge in making a strong society.

He said the present crisis before higher education was due to non-implementation of even 20 per cent of the recommendations of the Kothari Commission.

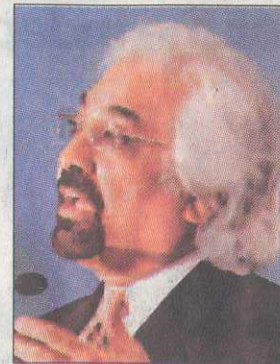
He suggested that a consensus over the future of higher education should be formed. But it should not be based on emotional aspects of people or communities.

Former director of IIT-Bombay, Ashok Misra, stressed the need for inclusion of commercial research in the curriculum for industrial development.

Later at a panel discussion over the challenges to higher education Gautam Barua (IITGauhati) Pawan Agarwal (West Bengal), Pankaj Jalota (IIT Delhi) and Rajiv Sanghal (IIT Hyderabad) participated with fervour.

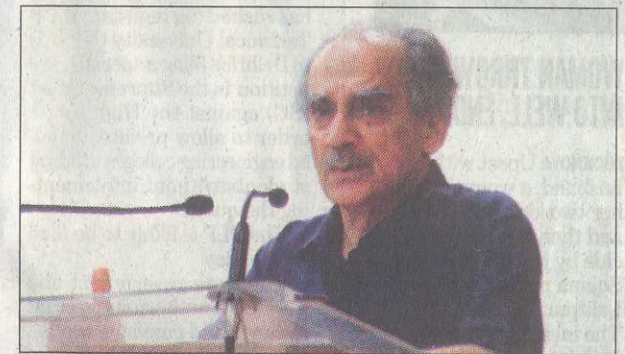


■ (Above) Professors and students listening in rapt attention at a Golden Jubilee function at Indian Institute of Technology-Kanpur on Sunday and (Right) Chairman of National Knowledge Commission Sam Pitroda addressing the audience through video conferencing during a workshop on higher education at IIT-K on Sunday.



LEADER SPEAK

Shourie talks politics, wants action on terror



■ Arun Shourie addressing the people at IIT-K on Sunday. HT PHOTO

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KANPUR: Noted journalist and BJP leader Arun Shourie denounced the joint statement issued by India-Pakistan over the decision to exchange information pertaining to terrorism and said it was a 'political blunder', here on Sunday.

He was here at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT-K) to participate at a workshop on higher education.

Talking to Hindustan Times on the sidelines of the workshop, he said undoubtedly India would share information pertaining to terrorists honestly, but Pakistan could not be trusted.

For want of trust between the two countries neither country will believe the information supplied by them to the other, he alleged. Shourie said there was a nexus between Army, Inter Services Intelligence (ISI) and terrorists in Pakistan.