



# **PLENARY SESSION VIII: LEVERAGING DIASPORA EXPERTISE FOR KNOWLEDGE AND INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM**

09 Jan 2017

Economic Diplomacy Division,  
Ministry of External Affairs

# BACKGROUND

Under the PBD 2016 Conference titled “ **Role Of Diaspora In Transferring Knowledge And Encouraging Innovation (Science And Technology, Education, Start-up India)**” organised on 30<sup>th</sup> July, 2016 in New Delhi.

The session was chaired by External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj, and co-chaired by the minister of Department of Science and Technology, Dr Harsh Vardhan. It was co-ordinated by Shri Nagaraj Naidu, Joint Secretary, Economic Diplomacy Division.

25 domain experts from the diaspora, stakeholders and policymakers discussed the following:

- Strategising the development of India’s technological prowess.
- Harnessing diaspora’s collective energy.
- Developing knowledge base for India’s development.

# OBJECTIVE OF THE DISCUSSION

- Ways to engaging the diaspora with the Indian education, research, academic, business and scientific community.
- Suggestions to facilitate collaborations with the diaspora community to drive the innovation and start-up momentum.
- Nurturing ecosystem the government needs to create that would enable the diaspora to be associated and contribute to India's development.
- Steps that the government needs to take to India's education and technology into the 21st century.

# PARTICIPANTS

- Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi  
*DG, RIS*
- Shri Sheshadri Chari  
*Director, FSSS*
- Prof. M.C. Misra  
*Director, AIIMS*
- Dr. Ashish Nanda  
*Director, IIM Ahmedabad*
- Prof. V Ramgopal Rao  
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- Dr. Girish Chandran  
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- Mr. Venkatesh Shukla:  
*Former President of TiE Silicon Valley*
- Prof. Sakthi Kumar:*Co-Director(International Affairs) Bio Nano Electronics & Research Centre, Toyo University, Japan*
- Prof. Arcot Desai  
*Professor of Information Systems & Director, Institute of Innovation and Entrepreneurship Singapore Management University (SMU)*
- Dr. Nawal Kant Prinja:  
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- Mr. Heramb Kulkarni:  
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- Prof. Datuk Dr. N.S. Rajendran:  
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# RECOMMENDATIONS



TECHNOLOGY

EDUCATION

INNOVATION

# TECHNOLOGY

- Encouraging inter-disciplinary interaction by identifying priority areas for R&D and imbibing best practices from countries like Taiwan, Korea and China.
- Enhancing Government's spend on Research & Development and allocating additional R & D funding under relevant budgetary line items like Health, Defence, Energy etc.
- Building India's brand globally as a knowledge and innovation centre by improving the global perception of IITs , IISc and etc through faculty , student exchanges and enhanced research funding with a key role played by diaspora.
- Fast-tracking IP processing; institutionalise mechanism for commercialising patent through developing prototypes by combining relevant patents.

# EDUCATION

- Change in the education methodology – focus on quality and interactive components.
- Improving teacher quality through accreditation and upskilling.
- Establishing expert committees through diaspora participation.
- Promoting Skill India and vocational education as a respectable option by imbibing best practices from other countries.

# INNOVATION

- Engaging with diaspora in innovative ways for India's technological advancement.
- Providing the right eco-system to nurture the talent and transform creativity into marketable innovation.
- Focusing on India's intrinsic strengths and develop its own model of education.
- Attitude to Innovation to undergo a drastic change: Risk-taking and possibility of failure to be accepted.
- Setting up the National Innovation Institute with strong links to industry.
- Facilitating the presence of diaspora on boards of Indian start-ups.
- Worldwide mapping of diaspora strengths to build networks for India's priority sectors.





**ACTION TAKEN BY THE  
MINISTRIES/DEPARTMENTS ON  
THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

# DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

- Ramalingaswami Re-entry Fellowship to attract diaspora to return to their home country to pursue.
- Bio-design centers have been established at AIIMS, New Delhi; IIT, Madras; THSTI, Faridabad; IISc Bangalore and a multi-institutional alliance, i.e. National Bio-design alliance (NBA) to promote interdisciplinary fields of research.
- Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) has supported establishment of 20 Bio-incubators in various institutions to boost S&T innovation and entrepreneurship.
- BIRAC is also providing seed fund for sustainable entrepreneurship and enterprise development.
- Joint initiative with MHRD of promoting Start-up Ecosystem in institutes of repute.
- IMPRINT (IMPacting Research INnovation and Technology) to address and provide solutions to the most relevant engineering challenges faced
- VAJRA faculty scheme to tap the expertise of International Faculty / scientists including Non-resident Indians (NRI) and Persons of Indian Origin (PIO) / Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) in highly competitive areas of research and development.

# Initiatives by CSIR

- Scientist and Technologist of India Origin (STIO) program to attract NRI scientists for appointment as Distinguished Scientist.
- NRDC/DSIR and CSIR Tech have been created to facilitate valuation of patents and their commercialization.
- Set up the Academy of Scientific & Innovative Research (AcSIR) to guide research, undertake teaching and award degrees/diplomas in inter-disciplinary and trans-disciplinary areas of science and engineering that are not ordinarily taught in academic institutions and Universities.
- In process of creating technology incubation centres in laboratories of CSIR which will support both initial and growth phases of technology development by startups.

# MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES

- Established Chair Professorship at Universities/institutes to expose the young researchers to pioneers in the field of earth sciences.
- Adequate research being carried out by different scholars about the rich Indian history and the ancient system of knowledge.
- 20 new Design Innovation Centres (DIC), one Open Design School (ODS) and a National Design Innovation Network (NDIN), linking together all these schools, are proposed to be set up.
- Learning through ICT in classrooms.
- Study Webs of Active-learning for Young Aspiring Minds (SWAYAM) has been developed for hosting of Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs)



# MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

A proposal for liberalization and easing of Indian Visas is currently under consideration of the Government of India.

# MINISTRY OF AYUSH

- The Ministry of AYUSH is mandated to promote and strengthen awareness about AYUSH systems of medicine across the globe. The relevant Central Sector Scheme for Promotion of International Co-operation in AYUSH provides for strengthening of Health Centres/Institutes in foreign countries with AYUSH technical support and also support for infrastructure, equipment, etc., in a modest way.
- The Ministry of AYUSH has already initiated action to explore such possibilities and during the year 2015-16, has provided a yoga expert for "India-China College of Yoga" established in the Yunnan Minzu University, China under the MoU signed between the University and the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR).
- The Ministry of AYUSH is also considering a proposal received from Debrecen University, Hungary through the Indian Embassy in Hungary for setting up European Institute of Ayurvedic Studies. The Institute would be established as a joint venture between the Governments of India and Hungary, wherein, India will meet cost towards technical manpower requirements of the project.

# MINISTRY OF TOURISM

The Ministry of Tourism has already identified Medical Tourism as one of the growth areas for increasing tourism in the country. It has initiated a number of activities for the promotion and development of Medical Tourism to the country. It would be pertinent to point out that a National Medical and Wellness Tourism Board has been constituted under chairmanship of Tourism Minister to provide a dedicated institutional framework to take forward the cause of promotion of Medical Tourism, Wellness Tourism and Yoga, Ayurveda Tourism and any other format of Indian system of medicine. The Board works as an umbrella organisation that governs and promotes this segment of tourism in an organized manner. Under the Marketing Development Assistance scheme, Ministry of Tourism also provides incentives to stakeholders accredited by NABH.