

## India Can Re-emerge as Global Powerhouse in Education: Vice-president

The vice president of india, shri m. Venkaiah naidu has said that india has the chance to re-emerge as the global powerhouse in the field of education and called for revamping the syllabi and improving the infrastructure to impart world class quality education.

He was addressing the gathering after inaugurating the new campus of the central university of kerala and dedicating the educational institution to the nation, in kasargod, kerala today. He said that india was once known as 'vishwaguru' and people from across the globe used to come here to study and acquire knowledge and expertise in different domains.

The vice president said that from private educational institutions to central universities like this, every academic organization must work in a mission mode to revamp the educational architecture in tune with the requirements of the 21st century to make india a leading nation in the field of education and innovation.

He said the education system should aim at the creation of a new, inclusive society, non-violent and non-exploitative, consisting of highly cultivated and motivated individuals inspired by love for humanity and guided by wisdom. He asked the students to be the torch bearers of our culture, traditions, ethos and customs. There is nothing wrong in adopting and assimilating good practices from elsewhere, but always remain rooted to our age-old culture and heritage, he added.

The vice president

recalled the famous words of the father of the nation - "I do not want my house to be walled in on all sides and my windows to be stuffed. I want the culture of all lands to be blown about my house as freely as possible. But I refuse to be blown off my feet by any".

The vice president said that education must lay the foundation for the progress of a nation adding that higher education, in particular, has an important role in building a knowledge-based society of the 21st century. He further said that higher education system should expand qualitatively and quantitatively for the betterment of the nation and society. Graduates need to be competitive not only in a local or national context, but in an increasingly global market, he added.

The vice president said that in this 'global village' our graduates as future leaders need a new kind of intercultural understanding, respect for common rules and fair play, an understanding of different interests, views and ways of thinking, and the ability to analyze and synthesize, he added.

The vice president expressed the hope that in future various courses, including science & technology, will be taught in respective local languages in various states.

Expressing his concern over the increasing atrocities on women and girls, he said that the mindset has to be changed to address this menace. He emphasized the need for people to collectively fight against social evils like atrocities on women and caste discrimination.

# Small Number of People Plotting Return to Power

With just about 12 months left for voting in the 2019 general election to commence, it is only natural that political activity is getting more and more frenzied. It is also natural that the opening shots of this long and gruelling election campaign are being fired by the opposition. Being in government and having control over the state, the ruling party has the relatively non-glamorous work of governance to focus on. Since the opposition has no such luxury, its emphasis on grabbing the headlines at any cost — even if it means doing the political equivalent of streaking across the pitch during a tense ipl game — is perfectly understandable, if simultaneously both disruptive and destructive. The demands of being noticed often necessitate polemical excesses and even adventurism.

I guess adventurism was inherent in the notice for the impeachment of the chief

justice of india that was submitted by the congress and left mps of the rajya sabha. The champions of impeachment were fully aware that there was little chance of the rajya sabha chairman giving a green signal to the proceedings, more so since the charges against the chief justice were based on suspicion rather than established fact. Nor did the clutch of lawyer-mps, linked to the erstwhile political establishment, really believe that the impeachment motion had the slightest chance of being passed in the rajya sabha by a two-third majority. The real reason was to fish in the troubled waters of an intra-judiciary dispute and make the highest court of the land dysfunctional by crippling the chief justice. Maybe it also had something to do with delaying a verdict on the ayodhya dispute beyond the general election or possibly it had something to do with securing the appointment of an interim

chief justice. Whatever the motives, there is little doubt that this was political adventurism in full play.

The second half of the budget session had been totally non-productive, thanks to the sustained disruption of parliament by mps from andhra pradesh, tamil nadu and the congress and trinamool congress. Had yet another pillar of the state been involved in an unseemly controversy, indian democracy would have been engulfed in an almighty crisis which in turn would have affected governance and, by implication, the standing of the narendra modi government. India would have experienced the sort of political paralysis that used to be the hallmark of neighbouring states such as bangladesh and pakistan.

From a narrow political perspective, the determination of the congress to create a national crisis would have been understandable had there

been evidence that the bjp government was badly faltering. That, however, does not seem to be the case. There may be hiccups in some sectors but the overall economic growth that india has been experiencing remains unaffected. The disruptions caused by demonetisation and introduction of gst are fast being ironed out. Even the growth in new jobs is encouraging. Most important — apart from a few by-elections — there is nothing to suggest that the bjp election machine is in disarray. The party is giving the incumbent congress government in karnataka a run for its money and the outcome on may 18 may even bring smiles to the faces of modi and amit shah.

Had the congress' adventurism been an extension of widespread mass discontent and a movement that resembled, say, the jp movement of 1973-75, modi would have

reasons to be seriously concerned. However, both the disruptions in parliament and the attempted palace coup in the supreme court were substitutes for mass action. They were undertaken precisely because they involved no popular participation.

There are two discernible reasons for the congress overplaying its hand at this stage.

First, within the opposition ecosystem there is as yet no clarity on the battlelines for 2019. Ideally, all the parties would love to put up a single candidate against the nda in each constituency. That possibility should not be entirely discounted. However, there is still a big gulf between the proponents of a federal front where the lead is taken by the regional leaders such as mamata banerjee, k chandrasekhar rao, n chandrababu naidu and mk stalin and a congress-led front that posits rahul gandhi as the alternative to

modi. The congress is clearly looking to pitch rahul as the alternative to modi in an election that could be quasi-presidential. However, since the support for the congress is unevenly spread across india, such an election strategy may lack penetration. The present shenanigans were aimed at demonstrating that the congress, and only the congress possesses the ability to inject politics with extra fire power. Then there is the growing desperation of the old establishment that is finding itself edged out of positions of power and influence. Beginning from those who once held grace and favour appointments and extending to the influence peddlers in business, academia and media, there is profound unease over the possibility of modi securing another term. The projection of rahul as the alternative to modi was not an organic process that was a consequence of stirrings from below.

# India's Growing Urban Crisis

If moussourie is being discussed here, it is not because of the reasons cited above but its civic infrastructure, which is crumbling under the weight of tourist influx and growing population. To cite examples, the water supply is a little more than half of what is required, the sewage system is in a mess, and traffic barely moves through its downtown area.

A picturesque tourist destination like moussourie should not have been this way. But it is, and so are most other cities in india, including 10 of its largest ones whose populations are shown in crores/lakhs in brackets after them — mumbai (18.4), delhi (16.3—19.1 according to some sources), kolkata metropolitan area (1.4 crore), chennai (87 lakh),

bengaluru (85 lakh), hyderabad (77 lakh), ahmedabad (63 lakh), pune (50 lakh), surat (45 lakh) and jaipur (31 lakh). All these cities suffer from varying degrees of shortage in water and power supply besides inadequate sewerage and solid waste management systems. There is gross overcrowding. Traffic, when not at a standstill, crawls — particularly during peak hours. Pollution levels are alarmingly high, thanks to exhaust fumes of automotive vehicles, whose numbers are increasing rapidly, and industrial waste discharge.

Bengaluru, india's it hub, provides an example of how terrible things are at many urban centres. Poor maintenance of roads and drains has made it vulnerable to flooding during heavy rains. The absence of an efficient garbage disposal system has led to the dumping of huge quantities of solid waste, generated all over the city, into the stormwater drains. This, as well as illegal constructions blocking the drains, prevents water from flowing through these to the lakes, and remaining for days in stagnant pools in many parts of the city. Untreated discharge of toxic industrial waste by highly polluting units within the city has made the water of the lakes unusable. The frothing witnessed in the bellandur lake, the largest in the city's south-eastern suburb, provided a striking indication of the state-of-affairs. Not surprisingly, the national green tribunal has asked the state government to submit a detailed plan for reviving this 910-acre water body, besides directing the karnataka state pollution control board to shut down about 100 polluting units around it.

Things, doubtless, are particularly calamitous in bengaluru. The situation in many metropolitan cities, however, are — or nearly — as bad. Though their ills are not identical with those of bengaluru, delhi, mumbai and kolkata have their own serious infrastructural inadequacies. According to a survey of 1,600 cities of the world by the world health organisation, delhi's air quality is the worst of any major city in the world. It causes irreversible damage to the lungs of 2.2 million or 50 per cent of its children. Kolkata's air is almost as bad. According to a six-year-old study completed by the chittaranjan national cancer institute in 2007, 70 per cent of kolkata's inhabitants suffered from lung cancer and various respira-

tory diseases like dyspnea and asthma.

Chennai and mumbai get flooded after every spell of heavy rain. In the case of the former, flooding is the result not of natural causes but ill-conceived development projects blocking drainage and encroaching upon water bodies which received much of the rain water. For example, the pallikarai marsh, which drains water from a 250-kilometre catchment area, has been reduced in size from 50 square kilometres some years ago to 4.3 square kilometres at present. In mumbai, the drainage of rainwater is prevented by high tides when the latter occur during heavy rains. Sometimes, even sea water enters the city. Ill-conceived 'development' projects have destroyed spaces like wetlands, wastelands, mangroves and salt-pan lands, that absorbed water from high tides, besides blocking many critical drainage channels.

An important question arises here: can the devastating pattern of urban 'development' witnessed so far be undone and a more rational approach, adequately anticipating future pressures and requirements and recognising the compulsions of regional physical features, take its place? An affirmative answer is virtually impossible to give. Reducing pollution levels, ensuring adequate water and power supply, public health care, eliminating traffic jams and snarls, will require huge funds and political will, neither of which has been much in evidence. Even significant progress in this direction will not help if the pressure of population continues to grow. This is particularly so because the existing constructions, that have played havoc with drainage and water bodies, will be nearly impossible to dismantle, given the physical dimensions of the task and inevitable opposition from vested interests.

Crumbling urban infrastructure, as has been repeatedly pointed out, means not only disruption and discomfort in people's lives but inefficiency, social tension and crime. The prospects are daunting. The numbers of both cities and people living in them are scheduled to rise steeply. According to a study by the jawaharlal nehru national urban renewal mission directorate, which comes under the union urban development ministry, and delhi-based think-tank national institute of urban affairs, the number of metropolitan

cities in india is set to increase from 53 in 2011 to 87 in 2039. The number of those living in cities would rise from 31 to 50 per cent of india's total population during the same period, which will also see the population of the 10 largest cities increase from 9.3 crore to 14.9 crore.

The matter has not escaped attention. There have been two lines of approach. The first relates to efforts to ensure planned development of the cities through bodies like the union government's housing and urban development corporation mandated with building low-cost housing and implementing urban development, as well as state government-run city-specific organisations like the kolkata (earlier calcutta) metropolitan development authority, the chennai (ear-

lier madras) development authority, the mumbai metropolitan region development authority and the delhi development authority. Some planned development has occurred but it has fallen far short of requirement. The causes of poor progress include lack of funds, rampant corruption and inefficiency. And, of course, planning has often been skewed. The second line of approach has sought to address the issue of migration from rural areas. Here too, not much has been achieved. The process has continued unabated mainly because of the lack of healthcare and educational facilities in the rural areas. Primary and community health centres in the districts lack doctors, medicines and staff. Communication is poor, power supply erratic and often suspended for long spells.

## ONGC drills 503 wells in FY'18 – Highest in 27 years

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd (ONGC) has drilled 503 wells in 2017-18, which is the highest number of wells drilled in last 27 years.

Among the 503 wells, 119 exploratory and 384 development wells were drilled. In order to assess the prospectivity of existing acreages in a time-bound manner and add to the company's reserve base, more focus was laid on exploratory drilling.

During FY'18, ONGC's planned capex outlay on drilling activities was Rs 16,038 crore with a target to drill 496 wells including 110 exploratory and 386 development wells. However, the company has drilled 503 wells at a cost of approx Rs 14,200 crore which is 11.5% lower than the budget outlay. The initiatives taken by the company to optimize cost and enhance

operational efficiencies has yielded additional savings in the fiscal year ended March 31, 2018.

This is the second consecutive year that ONGC has drilled over 500 wells. Last year, the company drilled 501 wells at a cost of Rs 15,440 crore. This comes at a times when the company is looking to step up domestic output in line with the clarion call given by Hon'ble Prime Minister to reduce 10 percent import dependence by 2022.

Speaking about the achievement, Mr Shashi Shanker, CMD ONGC said, "We have taken measures to improve our operational efficiency by better well designs, inducting new technologies, improving cycle-speed, standardization of well testing procedures and minimizing idling period of rigs". (13-1)

## Suparn Verma Snippets

The multi talented director cum writer cum producer Suparn Verma has recently become the talk of the town for his recently launched series Kaushiki that streams on VIU. Based on the storyline of group of friends, the series have been receiving rave reviews from the masses.

In a recent chat with Suparn, he just spilled the beans on how he thinks that Rajeev was the perfect fit for the character of Mrityunjay, "Rajeev is a skilled actor and we all know that, I must say he has given a phenomenal performance as Mrityunjay in Kaushiki. He is an extremely hardworking actor that I have come across."

"Precisely, he was so dedicated to his work that he used to not drink or eat anything unless he is done with his shot. Such dedicated actors are rarely seen and I respect his attitude towards work. He



has a long way to go in his career and my wishes are always with him" exclaimed Suparn.

Well truly, such dedication towards work will make him climb mountains. For more updates on Kaushiki and to watch the riveting episodes of the series stay tuned to VIU. (20-4)

## This Summer, experience 'Healthy Cooling' with Intex's Air Conditioners



**Ahmedabad,** With a focus on Air-Purification and Environment, Intex Technologies, a major consumer electronics company, today launched a new range of air-conditioners offering consumers 'Healthy Cooling' with the use of eco-friendly refrigerants - R410a & R32.

"Our foray into Air-Conditioners last year was well received in the market and this year, Intex has introduced variants with a focus on air purification and environment to give a healthy cooling experience to consumers. Having a consumer-centric approach, the eco-friendly range apart from being energy efficient & effective is

high on style and aesthetics. Within consumer durables, Air Conditioner is the least penetrated category and Intex being an established brand in Tier 2 & 3 cities will surely be able to make a mark with its environment friendly affordable range," said.

Ms. Nidhi Markanday, Director - Intex Technologies. The eco-friendly Air Conditioners come in 14 models across three categories - Intex Inverter Split AC, Intex Fixed Split AC and Intex Window AC. The Efficient, Effective & Economical range will be available at an affordable price of INR 19,000 to INR 35,000. (19-10)

## LANXESS brings Technology empowered education to municipal schools in Jhagadia

Celebrating its 10th anniversary year of CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) initiatives globally in the field of Education, LANXESS India Private Limited, the leading specialty chemicals company reaffirmed its commitment to the region by supporting five schools in Jhagadia with interactive e-learning tools in a major push for quality education infrastructure. This followed the company's efforts of improving the infrastructure facilities of two municipal schools - Anganwadi school, Fulwadi and Secondary school in Selod.

Over the past years, LANXESS has closely worked with government and local communities to conducted various CSR initiatives in the field of Health and Educa-

tion. LANXESS believes that it is their inherent responsibility to support education as it is among the necessary building blocks for any developing country.

In 2017 - 2018, the company initiated key CSR outreach projects in Jhagadia and its surrounding region for providing better education. LANXESS contributed towards upgradation of the municipal schools by providing best in class infrastructure and amenities. The company announced the completion of its CSR projects in an event which was held on the 3rd of May, 2018 in the presence of Utpal Kachchhi, Head-Site Infrastructure, LANXESS Jhagadia and Sunder Rajan, Head - CSR, LANXESS India. (1-7)

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Pursuant to Regulation 29 read with Regulation 47 of SEBI (Listing Obligation and Disclosure Requirements), Regulations, 2015 Notice is hereby given that the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company will be held on Saturday, 26th May, 2018 at the registered office of the Company at Surat, inter-alia to consider and approve the Audited Financial Result for the last quarter ended (Q4) and Twelve months period 31/03/2018.

The said notice may be accessed on the company's website at www.shantaindustrieslimited.com and may be accessed at BSE website at www.bseindia.com.

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(DIN: 00831830)

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