

Students Must Rebel, Challenge Status Quo

— Says HRD Minister

“children cannot innovate unless they are encouraged to be inquisitive”–HRD Minister



“India lacks in innovation in education as children are discouraged to ask questions in schools—something which should not be allowed to go on”,—said Human Resource Development Minister Prakash Javadekar Thursday. He said: “Unless you rebel, unless you challenge the status quo, how can you innovate anything?”

The minister further said: “Innovation is a process of rebellion essentially. Unless you rebel, unless you

challenge the status quo, how can you innovate anything,” he asked, emphasizing the Modi government’s focus on innovation in education. “Why do we lack innovation in India? Because, we don’t allow questioning. We don’t promote inquisitiveness. If a child asks questions in school, he is asked to sit down. This should not go on. We need to promote inquisitiveness, children should ask questions,” the newly-appointed HRD minister said.

Javadekar said, “if children are encouraged to be inquisitive, innovation would follow as the status quo would be challenged and there would be transformation”. He said, “PM Narendra Modi’s mantra is sustainable development which does not adversely impact nature but ensures progress of all, for which innovation is the key”. He said, “the development in the IT sector has brought a revolution in the media industry. Transformation is the result of new ideas.

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Infosys will focus on more innovation hubs in US:—Nandan Nilekani

He says India, US exchange share great deal of innovation models Infosys plans to set up multiple innovation hubs in the US — the largest export market for Indian information technology (IT) services firms — with its first centre in Indiana, where it will be hiring over 2,000 local engineers. The Bengaluru-

based IT major will replicate its Indian model of hiring thousands of freshers from campuses and then training and deploying them on projects for customers, in the US.

“Increasingly, we are looking at how to create more innovation hubs in the US. We will be hiring 2,000 people



in Indiana to create local innovations. What we are realising is, over the decades we have built deep capabilities in creating learning infrastructure and capacity building, and that investment is very valuable,” said Nandan Nilekani, chairman, Infosys, on Tuesday.

“(We are) hiring people locally and will see how using our learning infrastructure we can do capacity building for the future,” he added.

Indian IT firms, which traditionally sent engineers to work on projects in the US, have been increasingly facing a political backlash, putting pressure on them to hire local

employees. At the same time, a shift in how clients spend technology budgets towards digital projects, where engineers need to work with customers instead of remotely delivering software, is also pushing them to hire more local engineers.

Nilekani, who returned at the helm of India’s second-largest IT services company in August, said the company would look to create more innovation hubs beginning with Indiana and use its deep capabilities in training to educate local people in new technologies. He said opportunities were there to exchange innovation models with the US companies, using India’s digital initiatives.

The Infosys chairman said rapid changes in use of technology across businesses would require a new set of skills and Indiana was one of many such innovation hubs planned to supplement that. US Consul General to India, Robert Burgess, said the bilateral trade last year expanded to nearly \$115 billion, an all-time high, while the two-way investment reached \$40 billion. “We are seeing cooperation expand in new areas,” Burgess said. India and US may have a great potential through sector-focused trade agreement. Paula Stern, chairwoman, The Stern Group Inc, said the two nations could benefit significantly through a sectoral agreement for cooperation on IT, e-commerce and cyber security. “I think it could jump-start a much broader geo-strategic relationship.”

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Innovation real way to achieve country’s prosperity:—HRD Minister

“Innovation is the real way of achieving the nation’s prosperity and we can achieve it by allowing creativity and allowing young minds to experiment and letting their crazy ideas come out,” Union HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar said. He was addressing students at KPIT Sparkle 2017 event.

“We want to change this all and that is why we are bringing innovation as prime theme education, especially in higher education, and that is the policy of the Narendra Modi government,” Javadekar said.

The 3rd edition of the design and development innovation contest, in collaboration with the College of Engineering, Pune (COEP), received 1,500 ideas on the theme of Smart Cities from over 10,500 engineering and science students across India. Felicitating the winners of the contest, the BJP leader said though there are several organisations in the country they have become bureaucratic.

“Bureaucratic approach can not lead to research and so research culture, research freedom and research methodology need to be developed,” he said. In order to bring the best of the best talent back to India, government has come up with Global Research Innovation Network, the minister added.

The contest received 1,500 ideas from over 10,500 engineering and science students across 300 colleges in India. The grand finale saw 35 top teams present prototypes of their solutions on Smart Cities. Team AlphaGears from the Mangalore Institute of Technology and Engineering won the Platinum prize of Rs 10 lakhs for their project on frictionless gear transmission system for vehicles using poly-magnets. Team Robo-X-Prime from R C Patel Institute of Technology, Shirpur, Maharashtra, won the Gold prize for developing an inspection robot for power transmission lines. The Silver



prizes were won by Team Robo-Climb from College of Engineering, Pune (COEP) for their autonomous vehicle solution called Wall Climbing Robot, which can be used

for transportation of goods as well as humans over the distance and Team Traffic Eye from BITS, Pilani for their project Traffic Eye to check traffic violations.

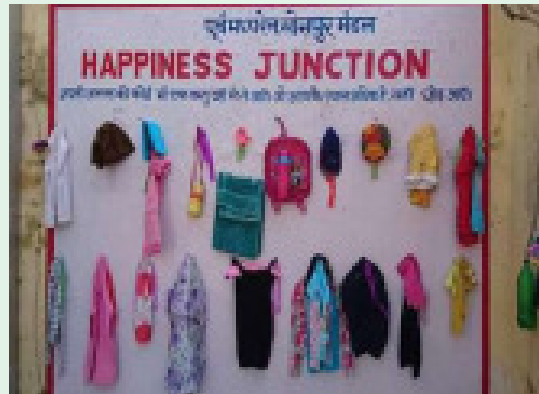
The most popular project award went to Team Humanoids from Kalinga Institute Of Industrial Technology, Bhubaneswar, for their project on the device to control emission of exhaust gas using plasma technology, which results in less electric power consumption with no harmful gases discharged in air. Padmashree Dr. Kiran Karnik, Former President, NASSCOM, Ravi Pandit, Co-founder, Chairman & Group CEO, KPIT, Dr Raghunath Mashelkar Chairman of the Innovation Committee, KPIT were present.

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Happiness Junction

An innovative Initiative by Indian Railway

Recently the Indian Railway has an innovative initiative to create a happiness function for passengers at the Sonapur railway station in Saran District in Bihar. The idea is to facilitate the passengers to effectively utilize the time available with them while waiting for the trains. For that purpose, the railway has provisioned to provide certain facilities the television, recreational centre, kids zone, a book cafe, newspaper stall and several other facilities that passengers can avail during their waiting time. Another innovative feature of the happiness function is to introducing a charity section, where people can leave and donate the useless or excess items like clothes, shoes and bags, etc. that might be useful for the needy and poor peoples. From this junction the needy people can take away the item of their need and choice. In this way everyone could get a share of happiness in life by way of charity as it will bring colours in the life of the needy persons. According to the Divisional Railway Manager Mr. Manoj Kumar Agarwal this kind of innovative initiative in social sector is certainly a welcome step and may be replicated at other places. □□



Imagination is not only the uniquely human capacity to envision that which is not, and therefore the fount of all invention and innovation. In its arguably most transformative and revelatory capacity, it is the power to that enables us to empathize with humans whose experiences we have never shared.

—J. K. Rowling