

ASSOCHAM: The Edumeet & Education Excellence Awards

January 18, 2023

ASSOCHAM, The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India, hosted the 6th edition of The Edumeet & Education Excellence Awards 2023” on Wednesday, 18th January, at The Hotel Hindusthan International. The education-oriented event aimed to discuss, debate and outline the way forward in the Indian Education landscape and the roadmap for bringing a global touch to the learning sector.

Dr. Jitendra K. Das, Director General, FORE School of Management, who received the prestigious “**Lifetime Achievement Award in the field of Education**” at the august event, moderated a panel discussion titled “Education 5.0: Making India a Global Hub, Foreign University Partnership, Creating Centre of Excellence”.

The academics and public decision-makers gracing the panel were Prof. Naveen Das, Vice Chancellor (Officiating), Adamas University; Prof. Saikat Maita, Vice Chancellor, Maulana Abdul Kalam University of Technology (MAKAUT), West Bengal; Mr. Simaranpreet Singh, Director, JIS Group & ASSOCHAM National Committee & ASSOCHAM National Education Council Leader; Dr. Suborno Bose, Founder & Chief Mentor, IIHM Worldwide & Chairman, IndiSmart Group. The engaging discussion, featuring the academic tough leaders began with a presentation by Mr. Daniel Sim, Deputy Consul General, Australian Consulate General, Kolkata; the presentation elucidated the need for an increasingly robust strategic partnership between Australia and India towards better cross-country relationships, and mutual trade, prosperity and other exchanges.



In the opening remarks, Dr. Jitendra K. Das, Director General, FORE School of Management, stressed the importance of boosting the status of Indian educational institutions in the global forums. Setting

the tone for intentional partnerships, he said, “Essentially, we need to look at the direct contributions and the indirect contributions of the universities to the society at large.”

Proposing two ways to boost the education system, Dr. Jitendra K. Das continued, “...the internal systems, and policies, and procedures should be made in such a way that these outputs [the contribution to the society] become the primary focus of any activities you do in terms of the policy framework which attracts capital.” With this said, he hinted that the capital inflow will ameliorate the growth and contribution of the university to society. The second method he explains is, “The other is that you bring in the international partner and join in hands with them or you face them as a competition”.

Taking the discussion ahead, Dr. Naveen Das, VC (Operating), Adamas University, said, “NEP 2020, the kind of buzz it has created, to my understanding and reading, no other education policy in this country till now has created the kind of buzz NEP 2020 has done.” Further, the VC suggested that, much like the positive changes of economic liberalisation in the 90s, the forthcoming impact of the ongoing changes in education will be laborious but fruitful.

Further, on the note of a robust education model, in his address, Prof. Saikat Maita, Vice Chancellor, Maulana Abdul Kalam University of Technology (MAKAUT), West Bengal called for the need model customised to the singular goals of education in the Indian context. Towards the enhancement of education, he advised leveraging the local resources, heritage, culture and knowledge repertoire. Additionally, the professor emphasised the goal of education to uplift the underprivileged and said, “..the major challenge of our education system, is how to take care of this entire societal perspective, how to use this knowledge base or outcome of this higher educational institutes to improve the quality of life”.

On the note of an improved industry in India that the previous speakers mentioned, Mr. Simaranpreet Singh, Director, JIS Group & ASSOCHAM National Committee & ASSOCHAM National Education Council Leader, urged that as a nation, India needs to focus on first-level disruption via innovative ideas. To take India on the path of innovation and the first-mover category, the speaker pushed for more holistic and creative education. He said, “...students by the age of 13 are very creative and suddenly after 13, the creativity drops. So what is the reason behind that? We found that, mostly, the ICSE, CBSE system of examination is one of the major deterrents for that system. And I am hopeful that NEP 2020 will change the system. Creativity is a very important factor...”.

Further adding to the heft of the discussion, Dr. Suborno Bose, Founder & Chief Mentor, IIHM Worldwide & Chairman, IndiSmart Group, among many key points, discussed the urgent need for a robust vocational education, empowering every stratum of society with emergent skills and employability. Stressing the role of education in employability and better standards of living, the thought leader said, “In India, we have to create an employment platform also to encourage that [securing well-paying jobs].....I think education is directly related with the employability. And to make our students, more creative, more critical thinker, and to get into a employability, it needs a lot of support from the economy, from the politicians, from the thought leaders, and from the employers-very important because these are all interrelated.”

Further, the session explored the idea of enhanced education across every level of education, multilingual education and many other notions that could propel India as a leader on the world stage.

