New Delhi: Indian Institute of Technology Delhi, and Jawaharlal Nehru University are coming together to offer programs under the meta-university scheme. The institutions, which are in dialogue for over a year now, are planning to sign a formal understanding by December 2013 which will facilitate PhD scholars from either to earn credits by studying in both.

The long term plan includes conducting master’s programmes jointly and faculty exchange. Unlike Delhi University and Jamia Millia Islamia, which announced its first course (master of mathematics education) in the 2012-13 academic session, IIT-Delhi and JNU said they will go as per the original agreement and were in talks to first initiate research collaboration before starting any academic programme.

According to director of IIT Delhi RK Shevgaonkar, the dialogues are in final stage and “the two institutions will sign a formal MoU soon on the collaboration. According to plans so far, we are starting with research and would like to allow our respective PhD scholars to earn credits for doing part of their studies in either institution.”

While IIT Delhi is trying to tap the potential of humanities and social science studies in JNU for scholars researching in these areas, collaboration with JNU’s biotechnology faculty is also on the cards. “Research is very specialized and we get a lot of students for research in humanities. Our students can go to JNU and study in their school of social sciences or language and earn credits. Similarly, JNU students from the school of physical and natural sciences as well as biotechnology can benefit from our programmes,” Prof. Anurag Sharma, dean, academics, said.

In humanities, students from both institutions will get to select courses offered and IIT and JNU will work out on the modalities for credits transfer. The students will get their degrees from respective institutions.

IIT is aiming at doubling the number of PhDs in the next four to five years. At present, it offers around 180 to 190 PhD degrees which is likely to go up to 400 to 450 annually. At present, there are 2,101 PhDs enrolled and, according to Sharma, “we have allowed more candidates to register for PhDs so that we get to the desired number in another four years. As an institution, our focus is on research, which is why even the meta-university concept we are starting with JNU is to do with research collaboration”.

Jubilation at IIT-Kanpur over Bharat Ratna to CNR Rao

Abhinav Mahatra, TNN | Nov 18, 2013, 12.36 AM IST

KANPUR: CNR Rao, who has been named to receive Bharat Ratna Award, has served as a faculty member in at the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur. He has also served as the chairman, board of governors, IIT-K from 2002 to 2005. People associated with him were rejoiced to learn that Rao would receive the highest civilian award.

“I was deputy director when Prof Rao was chairman, board of governor, IIT-K. For three years from 2002 to 2005, I have worked with him. It is a great feeling that he has been awarded with the highest civilian award. He deserves it,” said Kripa Shanker.

Shanker, former vice-chancellor of Uttar Pradesh Technical University (UPTU), while recalling the time spent with Rao said: “He had temperament for research. It was he who had opened nano-technology centres in the country. He promoted researchers and created an atmosphere for advanced research in the country.” Rao is humane and understanding. He has administrative skills and listen to the woes of people around him.

IIT-K registrar RK Sachan was also full of praise. He congratulated Rao and said that his connection with IIT-K makes everybody proud here. Hemant Gupta, a researcher at the institute, said that he feels proud that one of the former professors institute will get the highest civilian award.

Rao was also given Padma Shri and Padma Vibhushan by the Indian government and Karnataka Ratna by the Karnataka government. He has won several other international prizes and awards.

He is also the recipient of Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Award for Science and Technology in chemical science.
Sushil Vachani is IIM-B director

Our Bureau
Chennai, Nov. 17:

After Harvard Professor Ashish Nanda's appointment as the IIM-Ahmedabad director, IIM-Bangalore has taken the next big step in adopting global practices in management education. The institute has appointed Sushil Vachani, the strategy and innovation professor at Boston University’s School of Management, as director, confirmed an official at IIM-B. He will join in a month. A mechanical engineer from IIT-Kanpur, Vachani is also an IIM-Ahmedabad (1976) and Harvard Business School alumnus who comes with extensive managerial and consulting experience.

Alumnus proposes merger of ISM-Dhanbad and IIT-Sindri

SINDRI: Former Nasa scientist and president of North America chapter of BIT Sindri alumni association, Nile Pandit has proposed for merger of BIT Sindri with ISM Dhanbad to form IIT Dhanbad-Sindri and called upon the institute alumni to study the feasibility of the merger and work out procedural details to convince the state government for approval of the proposal. Addressing the annual alumni meet of BIT Sindri here on Sunday, Pandit informed that he had a detailed parley with state science and technology secretary A K Pandey on the overall development of the institute. While the proposal for granting full autonomy to the institute was not accepted as the government was not ready to lose control over this only government engineering college of the state, the secretary has assured to look into the proposal of merging BIT Sindri with ISM Dhanbad as this is the only way in sight to ensure overall development of the institute, he said. "I met the state chief minister Hemant Soren in this regard and expect that the matter would soon be discussed in the state cabinet, he added and called upon the house to approve the proposal," he said. Expressing concern over the fact that more than 60% faculty positions in the institute lay vacant, Pandit said the institute and the students were suffering a lot due to tardy hiring process and said the state government has miserably failed in maintaining the other infrastructural facilities of the institute campus.

Earlier S S Garuryar of NCR chapter called upon the institute administration for proactive role to rope in the services of institute alumni and offered all possible help for creating a database of top-notch alumni of the institute. Y N Chaddha, former professor of Detroit University, S C Sinha, P K Sinha, Rajesh Raj Ashutosh Kumar, Chiranjeev Kumar, B P Singh, Rajan Prasad, Pransay Sinha were prominent among others who addressed. Scholarships worth Rs. 2.4 lakhs were distributed on the occasion. While Chaddha donned a cheque of $3000 for scholarship to third-year girl student, the 1978 an 1983 batch announced to fund construction of one suite each in the institute alumni house. The 1984 batch announced to donate a sum of Rs. 4.8 lakh for renovation of girls hostel. The 1990 batch announced to finance four mess rooms of hostel number 7 and 8.

Institute director S K Singh welcomed the guests and Shweta Kumari compered.
Professor CNR Rao reveals steps to develop futuristic hydrogen fuel

Laxmi Ajai Prasanna, TNN Nov 17, 2013, 11.23AM IST

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Moments before being conferred with the Bharat Ratna, Professor CNR Rao revealed how nano-materials in the presence of sunlight can split water into hydrogen and oxygen to develop futuristic hydrogen fuel as a major energy source at a lecture in Thiruvananthapuram.
He was speaking on the relevance of energy technology and new ways of storage while presenting a lecture on ‘Chemistry: Glorious Past and Exciting Future’ for Chemistry students and teachers.

After the lecture Professor CNR Rao had a meeting with Dr. Suresh Das director of CSIR’s National Institute of Interdisciplinary Science and Technology and executive secretary of Foundation for Capacity Building in Science (FCBS). “He is the most decorated scientist in the country and the advisor to the Prime Minister on science and technology. He is also the National Research Professor, Linus Pauling Research Professor and Honorary President of the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR), Bangalore. He is an internationally recognised scientist who has championed for the cause of Science in India,” Suresh Das told TOI.

"While nearing 80, CNR Rao is doing research and actively involved in guiding students into research. He is the president of FCBS, an autonomous organisation aimed at strengthening science education and research," Das said. His wife Indumathi Rao is the honorary coordinator of the JNCASR, Bangalore, he said. Every year he visits Thiruvananthapuram.

Research student G U Kulkarni said, "Professor CNR Rao has guided me in my research; he is a leading scientist in solid state chemistry in the world and making headway in oxide super conductivity and into nano chemistry".

The lecture formed part of a workshop organised by FCBS with JNCASR, Bangalore. "I am happy and surprised," CNR Rao reacted the moment he was congratulated for receiving the coveted Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian award.

He joins the league of three scientific stalwarts who have been conferred the Bharat Ratna earlier including Nobel Laureate and physicist CV Raman in 1954, civil engineer M Visvesvarayya in 1955 and aeronautical engineer API Abdul Kalam in 1997.

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**Nasa orbiter to unlock secrets of Mars atmosphere**

Maven, Which Blasts Off Today, Will Try To Unravel How The Once Wet, Warm Planet Turned Cold & Dry

Cape Canaveral: Nasa begins its newest Mars spacecraft's journey on mission to understand the Red Planet's past climate, coming on the heels of the Curiosity rover, Maven will be the 10th orbiter to be launched to Mars by Nasa. Three have failed, remaining two others are operating in orbit, chief investigator Bruce Jakosky, a leader of the University of Colorado’s Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics in Boulder, said.

"It's possible the atmosphere changed over time to the cold, dry environment that we see today," Jakosky said. "What we don't know is what the driver of that change has been."

Maven — short for Mars Atmosphere and Volatile Evolution, with atlas, Nasa’s latest mission — is the first spacecraft devoted entirely to studying Mars’ upper atmosphere. India’s Mangalyaan will also study the atmosphere but go a step further, seeking out methane, an indicator of life.

"Scientists believe that formed the early atmospheric water and carbon dioxide went down into the crust of the Martian surface, leaving behind a carbon dioxide atmosphere," Jakosky said. "The spacecraft will study how this happened and whether it’s still happening."

Maven holds eight scientific instruments to measure the upper atmosphere for an entire Martian year — half a Martian year. The long, narrow image above shows the spacecraft carrying the Maven spacecraft at the launch pad at Florida’s Cape Canaveral Air Force Station on August 15, 2013. The spacecraft is composed of two Baltimore-based aircraft carriers, each with a wingspan of 122 meters — as long as a school bus and as heavy as 240,000 pounds — which will carry an 8-kilometer cloud system above the surface for atmospheric sampling, and its orbit will stretch from high above the planet to just above the surface. "The spacecraft is designed to study the planet's upper atmosphere, especially its composition and dynamics, to understand the planet's climate and history, and to help guide future human explorers who journey to Mars," Nasa said.

The spacecraft carries an atmospheric lidar system to serve as a communications relay for Mars. Two active Martian rovers, Curiosity and Opportunity, will study the planet's surface, geology, geology and geology, as well as the possibility of life, as part of the mission's goals.
HT, Chandigarh, Nov.18, 2013

Educational institutes exempted from service tax

HT Correspondent
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CHANDIGARH: In a major relief to all educational institutes, the Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC) has exempted all educational institutions from paying any service tax for services provided to them.

The order issued in September this year, is still not known by many running educational institutes here in the city.

When paying service tax was announced as mandatory by all business and commercial establishments, the educational institutes had then sought a clarification.

On clarification sought by various educational organisation, CBEC stepped ahead and clarified through its circular that no service tax shall be charged on services provided to the educational institutions.

This would certainly allow such institutions to save a lot of amount which may be further applied for the betterment of educational services.

Notably, educational institutions have been relieved from paying service tax on the services availed by them which provide assistance in running of their institution.

These services are termed as “Auxiliary Educational Services”, which means any services which provide sup support.
IIM-K makes students dream big

The institute has been devising new courses, especially in the wake of the 2008 economic crisis, to equip its students to face the management challenges of the future, writes ABDUL LATHEEF NAHA.

The figure of Arjuna in the courtyard of the Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Kozhikode, is symbolic in many ways of the premier management institution in the State. As its Director, Debashis Chatterjee puts it, the image indicates the alertness and readiness of a person.

The institute has made huge strides, especially in the wake of the 2008 economic crisis, in equipping its students to face the management challenges of the future.

When the global economic crisis started throwing questions about the effectiveness of the business and management programmes offered by the world’s major institutions, the institute responded to the situation by quickly adopting a futuristic approach.

The return of Humanities and Liberal Arts to the campus was an immediate effect of the introspection made by the institute and its faculty led by Prof. Chatterjee. Currently, the campus has five faculty members dealing with different aspects of the social, economic and political structure within which business takes place. Special thrust is being given on the humanistic aspect of business and management.

"Before the manager comes the human being. The ultimate aim of any institution is to create good human beings," Prof. Chatterjee says.

Keeping that objective in mind, the institute has given shape to a few elective programmes for its students. All of those programmes have become hugely popular with other IIMs trying to emulate their Kozhikode sister.

"Self-incorporated" is one such course, which has already begun to catch the imagination of the students. The programme, a brainchild of Prof. Chatterjee, is designed in 24 sessions. Several workshops and a one-time mentoring session make it unique.

Human qualities

The programme covers aspects such as positive attitude, self-awareness, courage and confidence, health and fitness and time management. Autobiography and self-disclosure are two unique features of this programme. The project makes the students practise and gain the skills of effective written communication, reflection and self-expression in the written form.

They will explore the different approaches in communicating their lives, dreams, achievement, aspirations and dilemmas to their readers.

Using the learning and insights, participants will endeavour to reflect their own lives and put together a cogent piece of
writing that reflects their life, aspirations and dreams. The project will give an opportunity for participants to explore several competencies, such as self-awareness, a positive attitude, courage and confidence, creativity and communication and articulate ways of developing them.

“I don’t make any big claim about this programme,” Prof. Chatterjee says. “Incorporated,” he explains, “is the body. We are discussing the importance of understanding one’s potentials in a perspective which is rooted in values and culture.”

Pointing out the achievements the cricketer Sachin Tendulkar made and the farewell he received from the cricketing world, Prof. Chatterjee says these are because of Sachin’s anchoring in core values.

Peeyush Patil, a student, says the “Self-incorporated” programme will be a boon to those who lost their self. It will help in regaining one’s conscience and soul. As the body is a medium of expression, he said, it is just the soul that matters in the end.

“Social Transformation” is yet another programme rooted in addressing the persona. “We have tailored our new programmes to suit the business needs of the future,” A.F. Mathew, Professor, says.

The institution believes that the manager of the future should have a clear idea about the circumstances in which he or she works. Factors such as social structure, communities, caste, religion, and nationality should be understood well and taken care of. “This is where the Humanities as subjects play a crucial role in moulding the modern manager,” Professor Mathew says.

“Evolution of Indian Business” is yet another course unique to the IIM-K. Although the IIM, Ahmedabad, has run such a course for about three decades, it wound it up not because of lack of demand but because of lack of efficient faculty. The IIMs, Ahmedabad and Bangalore, are chalking out plans to revive the programme.

“You cannot manage the future effectively without understanding the past in the right perspective. This programme offers a basic understanding of how business evolved in India,” says M.G. Sreekumar, corporate communications manager at the IIM-K, says. The programme covers the business history from the early period to the modern age.

**Museum**

The IIM-K launched a business museum as a precursor to the business history course. “Unlike the museums which are a venerable repository of old items, the IIM-K business history museum offers a focal discussion point and various symposia rooted in business,” Dr. Sreekumar says.

With the intention of taking the museum to further heights as a debating platform, the IIM-K launched a heritage lecture series last year. Eminent business historians from across the world are flying down to offer lectures.

The IIM-K has tied up with the Calicut Heritage Forum headed by the historian M.G.S. Narayanan to promote history as an academic subject from a business perspective.

The role of communities that have made it big in business such as Marwaris, Parsis and Chettiar is discussed at length as part of the IIM-K programme.

History is certainly not a core subject for the managers. But the IIM-K launched the programme with the aim of instilling the right perspective among students to deal with situations requiring analysis.

*The return of Humanities and Liberal Arts to the campus was an immediate effect of the introspection made by the institute.*


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AIIMS embraces technology

Medical education is adapting technology to enhance the learning and teaching process. **Aaditi Isaac** reports

In medical education, traditionally, students have been taught through different techniques, which include blackboard, slides, field visits, etc. "With changes being made in the curriculum, using tech aids has become a priority to help students. The changes include use of animations, videos, etc," says Dr PK Julka, dean (academic), All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Delhi.

He further adds, "The modules we are designing have become interesting with the use of animation and videos. For example, when we teach students about lung cancer through videos, animations, we teach them about the basic disease, how to deal with it and through videos, we teach them about chemotherapy and radiotherapy at the same time. Therefore, students get a 360 degree perspective."

Julka feels students tend to grasp concepts better through audio-visual aids, and this new technique of teaching is across specialisations — orthopaedics, cadaver, surgery, radiotherapy, drug interactions, targeted therapy, immunotherapy, etc.

The traditional system of teaching in the country needs to be revisited and new techniques introduced not just at the graduate level, but also at the Masters level and above. "Innovations are adopted inside and outside the classroom. Use of robotics in surgery, radiotherapy and many more areas are not only helping us do a better job but are also helping us improve the quality of surgeries and accuracy," he concludes.

After award, Rao calls netas idiots

**Bangalore:** Venting out the dissatisfaction in the scientific community over "inadequate" funding, Bharat Ratna awardee and eminent scientist C N R Rao on Sunday had an angry outburst as he called politicians "idiots" for giving them "so little".

Addressing a press conference a day after the Bharat Ratna award was announced, Rao, who is the chairman of Prime Minister's Scientific Advisory Council, stressed the need for providing more resources for research.

"....for the money that government has given to scientific sector, we have done much more," he retorted, when a reporter asked if he felt that the standard of the scientific research in the country had come down. "....Why the hell these idiots, these politicians have given so little for us. Inspite of that we scientists have done something," Rao said, losing his cool.

"Our investments are marginal, comes late.... for that money we have got, we have performed. For the money we have been getting it is not bad at all, after all this kind of money is nothing." Asked about China progress, the scientist said, "We also have to take blame on ourselves, Indians we don't work hard, we are not like Chinese. We are easy going and we are not as much nationalists... If we get some more money, we are ready to go abroad."
Survey helps colleges assess their strengths and weaknesses

Amutha Kannan

AICTE-CII Survey of Industry-linked Engineering Institutions gives colleges insight into their academic shortcomings

When the results of the second ‘AICTE-CII Survey of Industry-linked Engineering Institutions’ were published recently, only eight colleges bagged awards from among 660 in six engineering streams, and one each in pharmacy and management. Three among the eight were from Tamil Nadu, four from Maharashtra, and one from Jamshedpur, Jharkhand. There is a sense of achievement that three colleges from Western Tamil Nadu have bagged awards. Other colleges say they are motivated to better their performance because the survey gave them an insight into where there were shortcomings.

A. Ramesh, Head, Mechanical Department, Sri Krishna College of Engineering and Technology, who filled the survey details, says that it is a comprehensive document that includes every aspect and parameter:

"Even when we filled the application / questionnaire, we were able to assess our strengths and limitations. Under certain categories there was much to fill, while under others, there was less. From this it is easy to infer the areas we have to improve upon," he adds.

The trend that is evident from the results of the survey is that colleges that had their own industries had high level of institute-industry interaction. College heads in Coimbatore say that having one’s own industry is a major advantage. There is no restriction on time and number of students using the industry facilities for hands-on experience.

Though the curriculum is industry-oriented, when it comes to practical experience, most of the external industries are not able to accommodate many students because of space and time constraints.

Also, another limitation pointed out by some staff members is that when colleges ink memoranda of understanding with industries, it has very limited functions, mostly related to having guest lectures from industry or aiding placements, etc. The MoUs should be revisited to include more industry-orientedness for the students, they say.

Another major area of lacuna is in the industry experience of faculty. Exposure of faculty to industry is very limited in the real sense and is restricted to attending workshops / seminars, etc.

The award-winning colleges agree that having their own industry is definitely an advantage.

Also, encouraging companies to establish centres of excellence on the campus is a win-win situation for the institute and industry. The centres train students and the faculty of the college use the facilities to conduct courses for the employees on a need basis. This ensures that the industry also gets to enjoy many benefits.

The AICTE and CII have made the survey available in a booklet form. This also includes the case studies of the award-winning colleges.

Keywords: AICTE-CII Survey, Industry-linked Engineering Institutions


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DU gives clean chit to professors named in radiation leak case

Staff Reporter

The Delhi University professors named in the Cobalt-60 radiation leak case that had resulted in one death and six injuries back in 2010, will now be eligible to hold administrative positions in the university, according to an Executive Council meeting on Saturday that revoked its earlier decision of not assigning such positions to them.

According to some EC members present at the meeting, the decision was influenced by the reasoning that the two committees set up to probe the matter had assigned collective responsibility for the incident on the entire Chemistry Department and not on any individual.

In 2010, the Department of Chemistry had disposed off radioactive material without following due procedure. Subsequently the material found its way to the Mayapuri scrap market where several people were exposed to high levels of radiation that claimed one life and left seven seriously injured.

Three EC members dissented on the decision to not fix responsibility on the individuals. The Chancellor’s nominee was among them.

"It is seen that the University is now declaring that no responsibility need be assigned or disciplinary action taken in a case that led to a radiation leak, injuries and death: first, by accepting the weakening of the responsibility of individuals concerned to a ‘collective’ responsibility and second, by now deciding that no action should be taken against those individuals. We are today being asked to further distribute this ‘collective failure’ to deliver justice to ourselves and to the entire University. This goes against every principle of assigning responsibility and is a sure recipe for future disasters," read a dissent note.

Other decisions taken at the Executive Council meeting included appointments to the post of Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Dean of Colleges. Professor Sudhish Pachauri who was the acting Pro-V-C since February — after Prof. Vivek Suneja who suddenly resigned following differences with the Vice-Chancellor — was given a permanent appointment. His earlier office of Dean of Colleges has been assigned to Prof. Malashiri Lal who was Dean Academics until now.

Keywords: Cobalt-60 radiation leak case, Delhi University


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Superbugs may erase medical advances

Even Routine Operations Could Become Deadly ‘In The Very Near Future’, Say Doctors

Charlie Cooper

Drug-resistant “superbugs” represent one of the greatest threats to patients in the history of medicine, according to experts seen.

Routine operations could become deadly “in the very near future” as bacteria evolve to resist the drugs we use to combat them. This process could erase a century of medical advances, say government doctors in a special editorial in The Lancet health journal.

Although the looming threat of antibiotics, or antimicrobial, resistance has been known about for years, the new warning reflects growing concern that the NIS and other national health systems, already under pressure from aging populations, will struggle to cope with the rising cost of caring for people in the “post-antibiotics” era.

In a stark reflection of the seriousness of the threat, England’s deputy chief medical officer, Professor John Stirratt, said, “I am concerned that in 20 years, if I go into hospital for a hip replacement, I could get an infection leading to major complications and possible death, simply because antibiotics no longer work as they do now.”

About 15 million antibiotics are prescribed by GPs in England every year. The more the drugs circulate, the more bacteria are able to evolve to resist them. In the past, drug development kept pace with evolving microbes, with a constant production line of new classes of antibiotics. But the drugs have ceased to be profitable and a new class has not been created since 1987.

Writing in The Lancet, experts, including England’s chief medical officer, Dame Sally Davies, warned that despite rates from bacterial infections “may return to those of the early 19th century”. They write, “Surely by now modern medicine faced such a grave threat. Without antibiotics, treatments from minor surgery to major transplant could become impossible, and healthcare costs are likely to spiral as we resort to newer, more expensive antibiotics and sustain longer hospital admissions.”

Strategies to combat the increasing resistance include cutting the amount of antibiotics prescribed, improving hospital hygiene and incentivizing the pharmaceutical industry to work on novel antibiotics and antibiotic alternatives. However, a leading GP told The Independent that the time had come for the public to take responsibility. "The changes need to come in patient expectation. We need public education; that not every illness needs a pill," said Dr Peter Stringfellow, chairman of the Family Doctor Association.

“We try hard not to prescribe, but it’s difficult in practice. The patient will be dissatisfied with your consultation and is likely to voice with their feet, register somewhere else or go to the walk-in centre and get antibiotics from a nurse. “But if we go into a post-antibiotics phase, we may find that people with pneumonia will not be replete with an antibiotic, and will die, whereas at the moment they wouldn’t."
UK-India partnership: £150 million committed to joint research in five years

Manash Pratim Gohain, TNN Nov 16, 2013, 05.48AM IST

NEW DELHI: Funded jointly by the UK's Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) and India's Department of Biotechnology (DBT), UK-India announced £150 million for joint research collaboration.

The announcement was made during the celebration of Research and Innovation week from November 11 to 15, where the UK Science and Innovation Network (SIN), Department for International Development (DFID) South Asia Research Hub and the UK-India Education and Research Initiative (UKIERI) in partnership with Research Councils UK (RCUK) India brought together senior academics, research funders, policy makers and key government officials from both the countries.

Speaking at the UK-India Research and Innovation Showcase, held in New Delhi, Sir Mark Walport, chief scientific adviser to the UK Government, said: "India and the UK make for excellent partners in research and innovation and the relationship has gone from strength to strength. The UK's research community punches significantly above its weight, producing 14% of the world's most highly cited research publications. In any field you look at, we truly value the enormous contributions that scientists of Indian origin bring to make British research and innovation great."

Jointly hosted by British High Commissioner to India, Sir James Bevan, KCMG, and Walport, the event to celebrate the RCUK India's fifth anniversary was also held at the British High Commission in New Delhi. Professor Paul Boyle, RCUK International Champion, said: "RCUK India has a clear goal - for the UK to become India's partner of choice in research. The joint research programme has gone from an almost zero base prior to 2008 to close to £150 million now, funding more than 80 high-quality, high-impact research projects involving over 90 industry partners - and this continues to grow."

The India-UK Collaborative Industrial R&D Programme was launched with an ultimate aim to develop innovative products and services to deliver economic and social benefits. New funding up to £5 million from the Technology Strategy Board which is the UK's innovation agency, with matched resources from India's
Department of Science Technology (DST) was announced for industrial R&D collaboration. It will support business-led projects between Indian and UK companies.

David Golding, head of strategy at the technology strategy board, UK said; "The technology strategy board is very pleased to be working with the Global Innovation and Technology Alliance and the Department of Science and Technology. This is a very important and exciting opportunity. Combining the best of Indian and UK expertise and capabilities has the potential to lead to some truly innovative developments, to the benefit of both countries." This is the first bilateral programme to be established between the Global Innovation and Technology Alliance, on behalf of the department of science and technology, government of India, and the technology strategy board, UK.