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After IITs, more cheer to follow

9 Mar 2005, 1409 hrs IST, PERCY FERNANDEZ, INDIATIMES NEWS NETWORK

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"Any new scheme that promotes and encourages research in science, engineering and technology is welcome. A country can't grow without high-caliber pure sciences students. We have to build our own knowledge, develop new technology and contribute to research so that our industry benefits from it", says Prof A Misra, Director,

IIT Mumbai.

He adds, "What is important apart from instituting foundations on research is innovation and technology incubation that should translate into systems for commercialisation."

There will be considerable academic and functional flexibility within this foundation.

Though the foundation primarily relies on government funding, corporate sectors are allowed to contribute. The existing project funding by individual scientific departments would continue.

According to the SAC, the government has also agreed to establish two new science research and education institutes in Kolkata and Pune at a cost of Rs 500 crore.

If science and technology were thought of as highfalutin and nothing to do with everyday life, the members of the SAC team have put that misconception to rest by taking up a new challenge of providing drinking water to every Indian within five years.

The mission will be headed by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).

All this comes after the Finance Minister, in a move to transform Indian institutions the Harvard and Stanford way, announced 100 crore to the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore to inject new vigor to research in science, engineering and technology.

But that is peanuts compared to Rs 10,705 crore spent on Harvard and Rs 10,120 crore spent on Stanford.

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IISc Bangalore spends Rs 6.6 crore on research, as compared to Rs 2,355 crore and Rs 3,744 crore spent in Harvard and Stanford respectively.

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