



Introduction to NKC

Members

Mr. Sam Pitroda (Chairman)

Mr. Pitroda has spent four decades in the world of telecommunications, having pioneered its use as a means to expedite the process of development and nation building, and in bridging the global communications divide. His professional career has been divided between the three continents of North America, Asia and Europe, and he has received international acclaim for using telecommunications as a tool for national development.

As Adviser to Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, Mr. Pitroda helped to build India's telecommunications and information technology infrastructure. He was the founding Chairman of the Telecom Commission in India and headed the National Technology Missions on Drinking Water, Literacy, Immunization, Oilseeds and Dairy. In these roles, he made a notable contribution to India's developmental planning and policy approaches.

Mr. Pitroda has owned and run several companies in the United States and Europe; as an inventor he owns more than 75 patents worldwide.

Dr. Ashok Ganguly

Dr. Ganguly is the Chairman of Firstsource Ltd. and ABP Pvt. Ltd., and a Director on the Central Board of the Reserve Bank of India, since November 2000. He heads his own consulting company, Technology Network India Pvt. Ltd. He also currently serves as a non-executive director of Mahindra & Mahindra, Wipro Ltd., Tata AIG Life Insurance Co Ltd. and ICICI Knowledge Park.

He is a member of the Prime Minister's Council on Trade and Industry as well as the Investment Commission. Dr. Ganguly's professional career spanned 35 years with Unilever Plc/N.V. He was the Chairman of Hindustan Lever Ltd. from 1980 to 1990 and a member of the Unilever Board from 1990 to 1997, with responsibility for worldwide research and technology.

He was member of the Science Advisory Council to the Prime Minister of India (1985-89) and the UK

Advisory Board of Research Councils (1991-94). A recipient of the Padma Bhushan and an Honorary Professor at the Chinese Academy of Science, Dr. Ganguly has authored three books – *Industry and Liberalization*, *Strategic Manufacturing for Competitive Advantage* and *Business Driven R&D - Managing Knowledge to Create Wealth*.

Professor P. Balaram

Professor P. Balaram is a Professor of Molecular Biophysics and currently the Director of the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore. Prior to this, he was Lecturer (1973-77), Assistant Professor (1977-82), Associate Professor (1982-85), Chairman, Molecular Biophysics Unit (1995-2000) and Chairman, Division of Biological Sciences (2002-05) at the Institute. His main research interests are in bio-organic chemistry and molecular biophysics. He is the author of over 370 research papers. He received his M.Sc. from IIT Kanpur (1969) and Ph.D. in Chemistry from Carnegie-Mellon, Pittsburgh, USA (1972).

Professor Balaram is a Fellow of the Indian Academy of Sciences, Indian National Science Academy and the Third World Academy of Sciences, Trieste, Italy. Professor Balaram has received many awards and honours in recognition of his work, including the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize, CSIR (1986), Alumni Award for Excellence in Research, IISc (1991), TWAS Award in Chemistry (1994), G.D. Birla Award for Scientific Research (1994) and the Padma Shri awarded by the Government of India (2002).

Professor Balaram has delivered a number of lectures and served on the Editorial Boards of journals, both national and international. He currently serves on many committees of the Government of India, and is a Member of the Science Advisory Committee to the Union Cabinet, Board of Research in Nuclear Science of DAE, Advisory Board of CSIR and Scientific Advisory Council to the Prime Minister. He has been the Editor of "*Current Science*" for over ten years.

Dr. Jayati Ghosh

Dr. Ghosh is a Professor of Economics and Chairperson of the Centre for Economic Studies and Planning,



School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University, and is an alumna of Delhi University, Jawaharlal Nehru University and the University of Cambridge. Her research interests include globalization, international trade and finance, employment patterns in developing countries, macroeconomic policy, and issues related to gender and development.

Her published works include *Crisis as a Conquest: Learning from East Asia*, *The Market that Failed: A Decade of Neoliberal Economic Reforms in India* and *Work and Well-being in the Age of Finance* (co-authored with Prof. C.P. Chandrashekhar). She was the principal author of the West Bengal Human Development Report 2004 which received the UNDP Award for excellence in analysis, and numerous academic papers. She is a regular columnist for leading journals and periodicals.

Dr. Ghosh is involved in managing several public information websites, a founder of the Economic Research Foundation, and is the Executive Secretary of International Development Economics Associates (IDEAS), an international network of heterodox development economists. She chaired the Andhra Pradesh Commission on Farmers' Welfare in 2004, and continues to be closely involved in working with progressive organizations and social movements.

Dr. Deepak Nayyar

Dr. Nayyar is a Professor of Economics at Jawaharlal Nehru University, and has taught at the universities of Oxford and Sussex, and the Indian Institute of Management, Kolkata. He was Vice Chancellor of the University of Delhi from 2000 to 2005. He served as Economic Adviser in the Ministry of Commerce, Chief Economic Adviser to the Government of India and Secretary in the Ministry of Finance.

A graduate of St. Stephen's College, University of Delhi, he became a Rhodes Scholar and obtained a D.Phil in Economics from Balliol College, Oxford. He has received the VKRV Rao Award for his contribution to research in Economics. His books include *India's Exports and Export Policies*, *The Intelligent Person's Guide to Liberalization*, *Governing Globalization: Issues and Institutions* and *Migration, Remittances and Capital Flows: The Indian Experience*.

Dr. Nayyar is an Honorary Fellow of Balliol College and Chairman of the Advisory Council for the Department of International Development, Queen Elizabeth House, University of Oxford. He is the Vice President of the International Association of Universities, Paris and Chairman of the Board of Governors of the World Institute for Development Economics Research, Helsinki. He served as a Member of the World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization.

Mr. Nandan Nilekani

One of the founders of Infosys Technologies Ltd., Mr. Nilekani is the Co-Chairman of the Board of Directors. He has formerly held the post of Managing Director, President and Chief Operating Officer at Infosys.

Mr. Nilekani co-founded India's National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM). He is Vice-Chairman of The Conference Board, Inc. – an international research and business membership organization and Member of the London Business School's Asia-Pacific Regional Advisory Board. He has served as Chairman of the Government of India's IT Task Force for the power sector. He was a member of the insider trading subcommittee of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), and of the Reserve Bank of India's Advisory Group on corporate governance. He is also a member of the review committee of the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission and serves on the Board of Reuters as a non-executive member.

His many honours include Fortune magazine's 'Asia's Businessmen of the Year 2003' award (along with Infosys Chairman Mr. N.R. Narayana Murthy), the Corporate Citizen of the Year Award at the Asia Business Leader Awards (2004) and Padma Bhushan (2006). In 2002 and 2003, he was named among the 'World's Most Respected Business Leaders', according to a global survey by Financial Times and PricewaterhouseCoopers. Mr. Nilekani became one of the youngest entrepreneurs to join 20 global leaders on the prestigious World Economic Forum (WEF) Foundation Board in January 2006.



Dr. Sujatha Ramdorai

Sujatha Ramdorai is a Professor at the School of Mathematics, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR). She has held visiting positions in several universities and research institutions around the world. Currently she is a visiting Professor at Chennai Mathematical Institute.

Dr. Ramdorai is a recipient of the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Award and the ICTP Srinivasa Ramanujan Medal awarded

by the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters. Her research interest focuses on algebraic number theory. She has also been involved with issues related to education and research, especially in the pure Sciences in India.

She has authored several research papers in internationally reputed journals and has collaborated widely in her research work. She is the co-author (with Prof. J. Coates) of *Cyclotomic Fields and Zeta Values*.

Methodology

- Identification of key focus areas
- Identification of diverse stakeholders and understanding major issues in the area
- Constitution of Working Groups and organizing of workshops/seminars, extensive formal and informal consultations with concerned experts and stakeholders
- Consultation with administrative Ministries & the Planning Commission
- Discussion in NKC to finalize recommendations in the form of letter to the PM from the Chairman
- Letter to PM containing key recommendations, first steps, financial implications etc. supported by the relevant explanatory documents by NKC
- Dissemination of recommendations to state govts., civil society and other stakeholders
- Initiating the implementation of the recommendations under the aegis of the Prime Minister's Office
- Coordinating and following up implementation of proposals

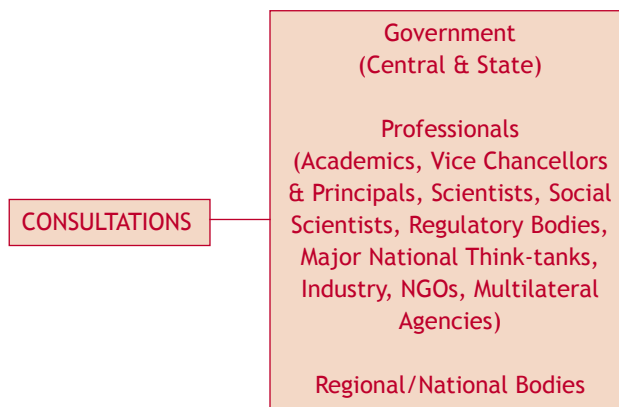
Working Groups: Libraries, Language, Agriculture, Health Information Network, Undergraduate Education, Medical Education, Legal Education, Management Education, Engineering Education, Traditional Health Systems, More Students in Maths and Science, Open and Distance Education.

Workshops/Seminars: Literacy, Translation, Networks, School Education, Muslim Education, Vocational Education, Open and Distance Education, Intellectual Property Rights, Science and Technology, Agriculture, Open Education Resources.

Surveys: Innovation, Health Information Network, Traditional Health Systems, Entrepreneurship.

The methodology followed by the National Knowledge Commission involves identification of focus areas in the first instance. This selection arises from wide consultation, within and outside the government. Thereafter, diverse stakeholders in these focus areas are identified and the major issues highlighted. Given the fact that the Government is already undertaking initiatives in some of NKC's focus areas, selection of areas also takes into account an analysis of unique value addition by the NKC. This could be either through proposing innovative solutions for conventional problems or bringing together disparate groups working on an area.

After the identification of focus areas, Working Groups of specialists and practitioners are constituted. Working Groups typically consist of five to ten experts, and meet periodically over three to four months in order to prepare a report. Working Group reports are one of the inputs used by the NKC during deliberations to frame its recommendations. In addition, workshops and seminars are held periodically along with informal consultations with concerned experts and stakeholders to get as broad-based a point of view as possible. For issues requiring an understanding of a very broad spectrum of experiences, a survey may also be undertaken. NKC has adopted different approaches for different focus areas, with the aim of setting in place a process that is as inclusive and participatory as possible. Through this process, NKC serves as a forum to bring together diverse opinions in order to understand the issues in depth. At this



stage of discussion, representatives from the relevant ministries are actively involved.

Following this, NKC Members discuss the issues raised during Consultations and in the Working Group Reports to finalize recommendations. After several rounds of deliberations, a letter is sent to the Prime Minister containing key recommendations, first steps, financial implications etc., supported by relevant explanatory documents.

Widespread dissemination of NKC recommendations to state governments, civil society and other stakeholders takes place after the recommendations have been received by the Prime Minister and the relevant ministries. The implementation of the recommendations under the aegis of the Prime Minister's Office is then initiated, along with coordination and follow up with various implementing agencies.



NKC Snapshot

Recommendations Submitted in 2006

- Libraries
- Translation
- English Language Teaching
- National Knowledge Network
- Right to Education
- Vocational Education & Training
- Higher Education
- National Science and Social Science Foundation
- E-governance

Recommendations Submitted in 2007

- Health Information Network
- Portals
- Open Educational Courseware
- Legal Education
- Medical Education
- Management Education
- Open and Distance Education
- Intellectual Property Rights
- Innovation
- Traditional Health Systems
- Legal Framework for Public Funded Research

Work in Process

- Portals (Biodiversity & Teacher Training)
- School Education, Muslim Education and Literacy
- Engineering Education
- More Students in Science and Maths
- More Ph.Ds
- Entrepreneurship
- Agriculture

Potential Future Areas

(Under Discussion)

- Knowledge Needs of Small & Medium Enterprises
- Government Process Re-engineering