

Use IT to expand education: Pitroda

PUNE: The decades-old chalk-duster-blackboard concept of teaching in India needs to be replaced by a more robust Information & Communication Technology (ICT) based teaching model to enlarge the reach of education and its quality, said National Knowledge Commission (NKC) Chairman Satyanarayan Ganagaram Pitroda better known as Sam Pitroda.

Addressing members of the scientific community on cellphone from Chicago, US on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of Education To Home (ETH) Research Lab here on Friday, he said, "The country needs to get rid of the old model of teaching and should exploit IT tools to expand education in a qualitative manner."

Pitroda said that India has the largest pool of IT experts and knowledge centres, but unfortunately these resources have succeeded in solving global problems, but could not help solve domestic issues like education etc.

Global Research Alliance (GRA) president Dr R A Mashelkar reminded the gathering to recall what was India in the 70's, 80's and 90's and what India is today, a knowledge power and IT hub.

He defined IT as 'Indian Transformation' and hailed 21st century as the Century of Knowledge created by India through its vast IT competence.

Later, Mashelkar, in the presence of Vanrai president Mohan Dharia and ETH Research Lab Chairman Dr Vijay Bhatkar gave away ETH Lifetime Achievement Award to Dr F C Kohli - Founder TCS, K P P Nambiar - Founder Keltron, Dr N Seshagiri - Former Director General NIC, P P Chhabria - Founder Finolex and C Sivasankaran- Founder ETH Ltd.

ETH Education Awards were presented to Vivek Sawant - Managing Director MKCL, Prof Pandit Vidyasagar - Director BCUD UoP, A Jayakumar - Secretary Vijnana Bharati, Jayashankar Pillar - Director Network and Aruna Katara - Executive Chairman I2IT.