

Concept Note on National Science and Mathematics Mission

I. The Background - It is well established that:

- Science and Mathematics teaching and research has deteriorated in India.
- Fewer students are attracted to a career in Science or Mathematics, compared to other professional subjects.
- Availability of good teachers and absence of modern pedagogy are key limiting factors in the ability of schools and Universities to make Science and Mathematics exciting.
- The new investments in institutes of higher learning in Science and Engineering are a partial response to the problems India faces in Science and Mathematics education.
- Other efforts, some of them excellent, are fragmented and restricted to few institutions.
- India's growing backwardness in Science and Mathematics will eventually retard its ability to be globally competitive and affect its economic growth and social well-being.
- Only a massive, well coordinated and well-funded national initiative, sponsored at the highest level, can begin to bring about a mindset and attitudinal change in India, towards Science and Mathematics, teaching, and research.

II. Vision - To promote the attractiveness of Science and Mathematics as subjects and professions, essential for modern and forward looking societies, to School, University and post-graduate students; by launching an **NKC Mission** under the direction of the Prime Minister.

III. Modus Operandi

- Set up a Science and Mathematics Mission made up of a core team of 40-50 brightest of the bright Indian scientists and mathematicians under the age of 45.
- Such an assembly of talent may be foregathered by a world-wide search of rising Indian stars and enlisting them to become the heart and soul of the mission. Each of them may undertake this role full-time or by devoting significant time alongside their current occupation.
- The choice of the Mission Leader is hypercritical for success. He/she should ideally be below 50 years of age and have the passion and zeal to undertake an education mission of most unique kind in recent memory.
- This Mission will only succeed if it is launched nationally and is accessible to every school, college, university and institution throughout the country.
- The Mission Chief and the task force will draw up a 5 and 10 year master plan for Science and Mathematics training and research for India.
- NKC could provide anchor support and coordination in the launch of the Mission.