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Presidents Secretariat

**PRESIDENT INAUGURATES THE INDO-US UNIVERSITIES EDUSAT NETWORK****20:18 IST**

The President, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, inaugurated the Indo-US Universities EDUSAT Network through video-conferencing from Rashtrapati Bhavan, today.

Speaking on the occasion to a combined gathering of the members from the Indian Space Research Organisation, Department of Science and Technology, Amrita Vishva Vidyapeetham, five universities of USA, Microsoft Corporation, QUALCOMM Inc. and Cadence Design Systems Inc., the President said, this occasion was an important day in the annals of Indo-US academic cooperation. Indian and American Universities have decided to work together using EDUSAT connectivity and create a new wave of synergy amongst our educational institutions. It is indeed a renewal programme of long standing scientific cooperation between our two countries. It has to be a win-win situation for both our nations. This cooperation indeed should result in the virtual university system. The whole purpose of education in a country like India is to develop and enhance the potential of our human resource and progressively transform it into a knowledge society. The real capital of this knowledge society will be its knowledge workers. Our education system should re-align itself at the earliest to meet the needs of the present day challenges and be fully geared to participate in the societal transformation. The networking of universities and institutions through EDUSAT is the first step towards creating the universities that could meet the demands of the knowledge era – an era that was born out of convergence of technologies. The knowledge connectivity is essential for networking and providing a seamless access between the knowledge creator that is the Universities and institutions, the R & D institutions that convert knowledge into products and the knowledge consumer that is the industry and people.

Dr. Kalam also highlighted some possible R&D Areas for the Universities to work on towards national Development. These are:- the Energy Sector, the Second Green Revolution, Infrastructure Development, ICT, Nano Science and Technology, Computer Aided Design and Engineering, Virtual Reality, Computational Fluid Dynamics, Computer Aided Manufacturing (CAM) and Earth Quake Forecasting.

Concluding his address the President said that for realizing excellence in education, what is need is quality faculty, infrastructural facility, national and international high bandwidth connectivity, and availability of knowledge sources. In addition a good learning environment, collaborative environment, exposure to the international best practices and constant promotion of innovation and creativity is also needed. The higher the research intensity in a University environment better will be the teaching quality, he emphasised. The Indo-US University collaboration he hoped would provide these features to all the constituents' colleges in different regions.

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