



## Information and Announcements

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### Restructuring Post-School Science Teaching Programmes

The present dismal state of higher education in the country is a matter of serious concern since this has severely limited the potential of its enormous and otherwise capable youth power. With a view to rectify and improve this state of degeneration, the three Science Academies of the country, Indian Academy of Science (Bangalore), Indian National Science Academy (New Delhi) and National Academy of Sciences India (Allahabd), have been jointly coordinating and supporting several programmes relating to science education since April 2007. These are under the overall supervision of the combined Science Education Panel which has members from all the Academies.

The joint Education Panel has also taken up general issues relating to science education at under-graduate, post-graduate and doctoral levels in our colleges and universities. It held discussions with groups of teachers at the meetings of the Indian Academy of Sciences in July 2007, November 2007 and July 2008 on ways to improve the existing structures of curricula at various levels as well as to think of possible new initiatives. As a follow up, the three Academies jointly sponsored a one day meeting at Bangalore on 24th May 2008 to discuss the possibility of introducing a 4 year BS Programme. Several heads of institutions, concerned individuals and many Fellows of the Academies participated in this meeting.

Based on these various inputs, a Position Paper was initially drafted. This draft was discussed by Councils of the three Academies, and based on the feed-backs a final document entitled “Restructuring post-school science teaching programmes” has been jointly released by the three Academies. The three Presidents of the Academies have presented this document on behalf of the three Science Academies with the “hope that the suggestions will be seriously considered by the concerned agencies for their effective implementation”.

The main text of this document is presented here on behalf of the joint Science Education Panel of the three Academies so that readers of *Resonance* can further discuss the issues and the suggestions at a much wider level and thus help fulfill aspirations of the country’s increasing youth power. The Appendices mentioned in the text can be seen at the websites of the three Academies <http://www.ias.ac.in>; <http://www.insa.ac.in>; <http://www.nasi.nic>.

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