



PRESS RELEASE

SAM PITRODA URGES YOUNG LEADERS, ENTREPRENEURS AND STUDENTS TO BUILD A NEW INNOVATION CULTURE IN THE COUNTRY



Mr. Sam Pitroda, Adviser to the Prime Minister of India on Public Information Infrastructure and Innovations today urged young leaders, entrepreneurs and students to work towards building innovation as the latest culture in the country. He said that it will only be innovation that will take the country to dizzying heights. He was speaking at a session “Leadership and Innovation: Ideas for India” organized by Aspen Institute India and Group of Technology Companies at Travancore Hall, Technopark today.

“We are living in very exciting times. Evolution of Internet has brought one of the biggest revolutions in the world. Today Internet is bringing the entire global community together and this offers very different ways of looking at challenges ahead of us. The solutions for these challenges need to be thought out innovatively. Innovation offers unique opportunity to change the paradigm of conventional development. The government is also trying to bring innovation in the way it conducts a nation and the seed for the same has already been sown in various areas of e-governance, banking, health, education, etc.”

He called for bringing out new innovations, dismantle and kill old systems of working. He said that people with great ideas will definitely have the opportunity to implement their ideas with the right funding. But he felt that the country had a dearth of domain expertise and that was a major challenge for the economy’s growth. “We are growing at over 8% and have over 550 million youngsters below the age of 25 and lot of interesting technologies that offer unique ways to address situations and concerns. The country has got the right ingredients ready and all we need to use it in the right measure to turn into a reckoning power and make India a leader globally.

Mr. Shaffi Mather, Fellow, Aspen India Leadership Initiative and Advocate, Supreme Court of India, Public Policy Analyst, Entrepreneur and Mr. V. K. Mathews, President, Group of Technology Companies also participated in the discussion.

Aspen Institute India is an independent and not-for-profit organisation, registered under Indian Trust Act. It facilitates and promotes open dialogue, and cross-sector outreach by engaging business, governments, non-profits, and other stakeholders on issues related to India’s development. Aspen Institute India’s mission is twofold: to foster values-based leadership, encouraging individuals to reflect on the ideals and ideas that define a good society, and to provide a neutral and balanced venue for discussing and acting on critical issues. Aspen Institute India activities include (1) Public Programs to promote a deeper understanding of India’s development & challenges. Ideas India is a flagship event which brings together diverse sections of society to discuss issues of crucial importance to India; (2) Policy Seminars that bring together small groups of stake holders to improve public and

private-sector policy making; (3) Leadership Seminars that bring together small groups to explore fundamental truths through the Socratic method; and (4) International Dialogues to help bring India closer to other parts of the world. The Institute is based in Gurgaon and Kolkata and has an international network of partners.

January 25, 2012

Thiruvananthapuram