



'The idea of PhD will be more rigorous'

► Continued from page 1

Policy envisages overhaul of the school system too.

You start at the age of three. The years between three and five are foundational, the next three years are preparatory and three years after that is the middle part of education. The last four years are the secondary part of education. We've recommended experiential learning from the early stage.

THE INTERVIEW

There will be higher emphasis on play-based education and discovery-based learning in the foundational period. This will continue in the pre-operational stage with additional learning. In the middle stage, we create pedagogical and curricular kind of learn-

There will be more focus on integrating curricular, cocurricular and extracurricular education, says former Isro chairman K Kasturirangan

ing and gradually implement textbooks. We needed to bring in most modern requirements — greater depth of understanding, greater attention to live aspirations and greater flexibility. There will be increased focus on integrating curricular, cocurricular and extracurricular education.

You've recommended a rigorous higher education system that's more research oriented.

The idea of PhD will be more rigorous in terms of the type of problems one wants to analyse.

The kind of research, approach and methodology will require more rigour. One will have to do languages and technology to have a comprehensive approach. Today, most PhD students can't communicate. We want them to be good communicators too. For this, we have made research mandatory at the UG level.

Will undergraduate level be four years?

We've made a radical departure from segmented, silo-based courses — BA, BSc — in the undergraduate system. We've proposed a four-year liberal education, dealing with sciences, mathematics, social sciences, humanities, philosophy and many other subjects. It provides knowledge as an integrated content, and not in silos.

Education in the 21st century

demands knowledge of many dimensions of human endeavour. You don't become a good physicist by learning only physics. You need to have social background, mathematics too. For example, students can pick different subjects — physics as major and philosophy as minor.

India has had a long history of holistic and multidisciplinary learning in universities like Nalanda and Takshashila. Over the years, we unfortunately changed the system to that of silos. We want to ensure we prepare a student from a very young age to be able to do research and solve problems. It starts with school, improves through UG and, finally, PhD and more. It is designed in such a way that a student entering the UG level can quit after any year and she will have a certificate that will help gain employment.

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