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Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan launches books on science and technology written by IIT Madras faculty, alumnus



Two books written by distinguished faculty members of IIT Madras and alumnus have been launched by Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on July 30. The books published by the Indian Academy of Sciences and is part of the IIT Madras Alumni Association's (IITMAA) thought leadership activities were released at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi.

New Delhi, 08 Aug 2023 - Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan launched books authored by IIT Madras faculty and alumnus on July 30 at the newly inaugurated Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi.

Titled 'Empowering India - Ideas for Action by Scientists and Engineers,' one of the books has been written by Prof. T. Pradeep, a Padma Shri Awardee and Institute Professor, Department of Chemistry, IIT Madras, and Mr. Krishnan Narayanan, President, IITMAA and itihaasa Research and Digital and explores ideas about what the leading research and educational institutions should do for India@100.

In the book, the authors identified seven focus areas and outlined 30 recommendations and hundreds of case studies in science, technology, and innovation for empowering India and achieving sustainable development. The book also contains ten illustrations, each of which takes a concept that symbolizes India, rural and urban, and visualizes it in a new context infused with various elements of S&T. And produced by an AI engine and a human artist!

The book has been published by the Indian Academy of Sciences and is part of the IIT Madras Alumni Association's (IITMAA) thought leadership activities and as inputs from over 100 scientists, including about 40 alumni of IIT Madras. The proceeds from the book sales would be contributed towards the cause of science (through the Academy), IIT Madras said in an official statement.

In addition, another book on 'Mann ki Baat - Inspiring transformational capacity of a nation and its people,' authored by Prof. V. Kamakoti, Director, IIT Madras, Mr. Venkatraghavan K.S., Mr. Krishnan Narayanan and Prof. V.R. Muraleedharan, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Madras, has also been released.

"We leveraged policy advocacy and complex living systems frameworks to analyse Mann Ki Baat and show how it has inspired the nation and created transformational capacity in the S&T ecosystem in the country, especially in the areas of research, innovation and entrepreneurship. As part of our research, we also developed a large-language-model based MKB chatbot," Prof. V. Kamakoti, Director, IIT Madras, said about the book on Mann Ki Baat.

On the book, 'Empowering India - Ideas for Action by Scientists and Engineers', Prof. T. Pradeep, Institute Professor, Department of Chemistry, IIT Madras, said, "We believe that the book will be of great value in building NEW India. It has 30 solid recommendations spread across 7 specific areas. If these are incorporated in our planning and policies, we are sure that India will be at its rightful place in 2047."

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