

OP JINDAL UNIVERSITY'S 2nd INDUSTRY-ACADEMIA CONCLAVE ON “UNDERSTANDING THE TALENT NEEDS FOR INDUSTRY” ENDS ON A POSITIVE NOTE

**Leading Industry-Academia professionals discussed how Industry-Academia
collaboration can steer Talent & Shape the Workforce**

**Raigarh
October 27, 2018.**

OP Jindal University, Raigarh successfully organized its 2nd Industry-Academia Conclave (IAC-2018) on ***“Understanding the Talent needs for Industry”*** at JSPL, Raigarh and the University Campus during October 25-26, 2018, in association with Jindal Steel and Power Limited, Raigarh. The objectives of the Conclave were bridging the gap between the industry needs and the academic community; and provide a common platform for the exchange of ideas and setup a system to increase collaboration between the two. A large number of top professionals of industry, academicians, scholars, engineering and management students from different parts of the country took part in the conclave. About 40 key speakers from different leading industries and academia delivered their talks on various topics related to the main theme - “Understanding the Talent needs for Industry” and interacted with the faculty, delegates and participants.

During inaugural function on 25th October at OP Jindal School auditorium, Dr Prabhu Aggarwal, Vice Chancellor, OP Jindal University and Chairman of the Conclave accorded warm welcome to the key speakers, guests and participants and said, “The Conclave’s objective is not only to bridge the gap between the industry needs and the academic community but also to provide a unique and distinct platform for students and industry professionals to indulge in a healthy interaction among themselves which will be a valuable experience for one and all. Considering the versatile requirements of the Industry, the Conclave focuses on helping the academia stay abreast with the latest industrial developments, learn about the appropriate talent needs and keep upgrading the curriculum of the University with the changing demands of the Industry.” He also talked about the efforts made by Mr Naveen Jindal, Chairman, JSPL towards providing world class higher education to the youth of India.

Mrs. Atrayee S Sanyal, (Chief of Group HR and Chief Diversity Officer, Tata Steel, Jamshedpur), and Mr. Akilur Rehman (Chief Technological Officer, ABB India, New Delhi), appreciated the Initiative taken by OP Jindal University and underlined what Industry seeks in the fresh engineering and management graduates and the challenges they face. Mrs. Sanyal spoke of adopting “next practices” rather than studying “best practices”.

Mr. R. V. Sridhar (Executive Director & CEO, Essar Steel, Pune), spoke about the importance of Industry-Academia Conclave, and how it can help the Industry to present the areas where they would seek research assistance from the Academia. Mr Kapil Maheshwari (CEO, Hinduja Renewables Energy Pvt Ltd, Mumbai) encouraged the students to cultivate a more pragmatic outlook regarding the Industries and their expectations. Mr Pravin Purang (Chancellor, OP Jindal University, Raigarh) stated that the intention of the Conclave to bring closer Corporate world and academic institutions is a great initiative and it would help in understanding the talent needs for industry. He showed his optimism in the success of the Conclave in exploring issues relating to reforms and employability of students, upgrading the course structure, to bring excellence in meeting requirements of industry and society.

During plenary sessions, Mr. Nishant Jairath (Managing Director, Metalman Auto Private Limited, New Delhi), Mr. Raj Chopra (CEO & Managing Director Raj IT Solution, Jaipur), Mr Vaibhav Satpute (CEO, Tuls & Corps, Mumbai), Mr. Subhash Bhat (Sr. Director, Capgemini India, Mumbai), Mr. Waqar Naqvi (CEO, Taurus Mutual Fund, Mumbai), Mr. Ashish Agrawal (Director & Chief of Business Unit, Jindal Stainless Steelway Ltd, New Delhi), Mr. T. A. Ramesh (Joint Managing Director, D&H Scheron, Mumbai), Mr Vishwa Bandhu (Sr Deputy Director, National Institute of Secondary Steel Technology, Nagpur), and the other speakers delivered their talks on “Understanding the Talent needs for Industry” and shared their views on how to produce industry-ready workforce. They underlined that industry wants graduates who have strong fundamentals, who can learn whatever is needed, and who have good communication and inter-personal skills. They also mentioned that Industry itself imparts specific skills during induction training and project-specific training.

After plenary sessions, three parallel Keynote Sessions were organised and Mr. R. K. Singh (Head-HR, TRL Krosaki Refractories Limited, Belpahar), Dr. Benudhar Sahoo (Regional Director, DRDO, Odisha), Dr S. Ray (Steel Chair Professor, IIT Madras), Mr. Narra Rajesh (CEO Metal Skirt Exim Pvt Ltd, Bengaluru), Mr. Niranjana Pawgi (Head Operations, Thermax Ltd Mumbai), Dr. Ratikanta Dash (GM & Head-HR, L&T Rourkela), Mr Dilip Mohanty (Head HR, Jayswals Neco), Mr. Shaji Thomas (DGM, HR Jayswal Neco, Raipur), Mr Sabyasachi Biswas (Director, IBM, Kolkata), Mr. Ashish Apte (Segmental Head, Fronius India Pvt Ltd, Pune) and other speakers made presentations and shared their views with the participants. Dr P. S. Bokare, Dean, School of Engineering, OPJU thanked all the speakers for their valuable thoughts and suggestions.

A brain storming session on the theme of Conclave, Understanding the Talent needs for Industry, was conducted in which Dr Prabhu Aggarwal, Vice Chancellor, OPJU, showcased the strengths and future plan of OP Jindal University. He informed the delegates that there are schools of mines and other specialized institutes in India, but there is no such institution which

is especially dedicated to steel. He said, “We are dedicatedly working to make OP Jindal University, a specialized global institution working in the steel sector. So that, in future it could be recognized as 'Indian School of Steel' or 'Steel University of India'. Dr Aggarwal set the tone for the discussion to partner the industry, to understand the problems being faced by Industry, Academia and Society at large and bring out their possible solutions. At the session, all the delegates from industry and academia participants opined, 'Universities, while designing their curriculum and program, should take care to bridge the gap between the student's ability to learn and deliver on the ground; and the academia should delve into problems faced by the industry and provide solutions through innovation and research. There is an urgent need for the University to align education and research to meet the emerging needs of industry and priorities of the nation.

After the brain storming session, the delegates and participants witnessed a celebrity night programme “JUnoon”, which featured young fame, talented and YOUTUBE sensation SHIRLEY SETIA with her melodious voice.

On 26th October, 2018, two plenary sessions were conducted at OPJU campus Punjipathra. Mr. Dhananjay Kumar (Managing Director, Thor Power-USA), Mr. Anupam Awasthi (Vice President, Amplus Energy Solutions Pvt. Ltd, New Delhi), Dr. Dheeraj Sanghi (Professor, Computer Science Engineering , IIT Kanpur), Mr Vivekaqnand Mishra (GM& Head-HR, Hindalco, Jharsuguda) and other speakers delivered their talk and discussed about Industry-Academia collaborations. They said that the exchange of perspectives between the industry personnel and the academia can provide an impetus for various research and development opportunities; it could later lead to efficient and holistic industrial processes. One major highlight of the Conclave was the Technical Models and Posters presentation by the students of OP Jindal University. In the night, India's most famous DJ, Nikhil Sahni popularly known as “DJ NYK” showcased EDM skills with his limitless beats.

A large number of delegates from various industries and academic institutions were part of the two-day conclave, and more than 800 students participated in the Conclave. After discussions on various topics, it was concluded that the students should be made industry ready by emphasizing more on a practical part, encouraging them to visit industries and providing them appropriate semester internship.

Dr R.D. Patidar, Convener-IAC and Registrar, OPJU proposed vote of thanks to all the speakers, University's management, JSPL authorities, delegates, participants, sponsors and all the faculty and student co-ordinators for their efforts and co-operation in making the Conclave a grand success.