

## **IISER Kolkata to Host Unique National Leadership Program for Academicians**

Excellence in research, innovation and higher education are hallmarks of highly successful economies which lead the world in overall development indices. India is now one of the top 4 large economies of the world, a status which it achieved within 70 years of independence, mainly due to the importance given to scientific research and development activities in our society. However, we are yet to attain world-class excellence and our higher academic institutions do not feature among the very best in the world. A transformational change is necessary to propel some of the Indian higher educational organizations to the top, a change that is likely to be catalyzed via visionary leadership. Recognizing this, the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India has initiated a Leadership for Academicians Program (LEAP) which seeks to create visionary leaders for the national higher education system.

The Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) Kolkata is organizing one of the 15 programs under the LEAP scheme. About 30 senior academicians from various parts of the country will be participating in this prestigious program to be held at the Hotel Hindusthan International, Kolkata, from 11<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2019. Each Indian institution is partnering with a reputed foreign institution for a week-long component of the program. IISER Kolkata is partnering with the Harvard Graduate School of Education. Participants will visit Harvard, one of the best Universities of the world located in Cambridge, Massachusetts, United States of America where they will get a global view of academic leadership. This unique leadership program will be launched at 10.00 AM on 11 February, 2019 at Hotel Hindusthan International. Consul General Patti Hoffman of the United States Consulate Kolkata, Diya Dutt, Deputy Director, United States-India Education Foundation will grace the occasion in the presence of Partha P. Chakrabarti, Director, IIT Kharagpur, K.N. Ganesh, Director, IISER Tirupati, Sankar Ghosh, VC, Kalyani University and Sourav Pal, Director, IISER Kolkata.

IISER Kolkata has planned a very engaging program for the participants of LEAP, involving eminent academicians, policy makers and public outreach and education experts who would train the participants of the program. The two-week long program includes a series of talks on diverse topics themed around creative leadership, inclusiveness and gender equity, entrepreneurship and dynamism. There are several panel discussions on diverse themes, including science outreach, diversity issues, creative administration, etc. Two public lectures by Shekhar Mande, Director General, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research and K Vijayraghavan, Principal Scientific Advisor to the Prime Minister have been arranged in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Chemical Biology, Kolkata on the afternoon of 16<sup>th</sup> February. Rohini Godbole of the Indian Institute of Science, who has recently been honoured with the Padma Shri award, will speak on gender issues in Indian academia on 15<sup>th</sup> February and Shubha Tole, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research will conduct an interactive session on the challenges and opportunities for women in academia on 12<sup>th</sup> February. Anuradha Lohia, VC, Presidency University, Partha Pratim Majumder, President, Indian Academy of Sciences will also speak at the training program.

Participants will not only have the opportunity to engage in dialogues with each other and the resource persons, but they would also be able to interact with members of IISER Kolkata, the top ranked institutions among all IISERs, and ranked 25<sup>th</sup> overall in the nation. The participants are scheduled for a day-long visit to IISER Kolkata's beautiful green campus situated in Mohanpur and learn how a new academic organization has sustained a high

growth curve towards excellence. The organizers have also planned to showcase the intersection of heritage, culture, beauty and creative spaces on offer in the city of Kolkata, which produces a large number of accomplished academicians. IISER Kolkata is proud to host this leadership program, and use this opportunity to transform the landscape of Indian higher academia.

**For Further Information**

<https://www.iiserkol.ac.in/leapindia/>