

WODEYAR'S SCIENTIFIC VISION

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Abstract:

This paper delves into the founding motives of the Indian Institute of Science and highlights the forward-thinking aspirations of Maharaja Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wodeyar in shaping Bangalore into a center of learning. His reign is noted for a multitude of progressive initiatives, with the establishment of IISc being a remarkable testament to his enlightened leadership. The Maharaja envisioned transforming the Mysore kingdom into a beacon of scholarly excellence. His role was pivotal in nurturing a scientific ecosystem in Bangalore that rivaled global standards. Since its inception in 1911, the Indian Institute of Science has played a crucial role in advancing impactful scientific research. It emerged as a cornerstone in the diffusion of scientific knowledge and continues to symbolize Bangalore's evolution into a premier educational destination.

Keywords: *Maharaja of Mysore, IISc, scholastic contributions, knowledge hub, visionary ruler*

Introduction- *Princely state of Mysore witnessed huge development activities under Maharaja Rajashri Nalwadi Krishna Raja Wodeyar whose long rule extending for a span of three decades has been considered as a milestone in the history of Princely state of Mysore. The Indian Institute of Science was established in Bangalore and today it has become world's leading academic institution meant for scientific studies . This scholastic achievement by the maharaja is considered as the groundwork for the pursuit of research excellence and the promotion of scientific innovation. The Indian Institute of Science was set up to offer world class education and to train future youth in science and technology.*

The Indian Institute of Science was supposed to play a vital part in applying science and technology breakthroughs for India's wealth creation and social welfare in future. Maharaja of Mysore is remembered today for his visions towards promotion of scientific environment in Mysore even before India could achieve independence. He laid the groundwork for creation of huge scholastic activities in engineering research field which was in its infancy in India during that period. The initiatives of the maharaja is applauded as took the immediate decision to donate huge lands for the construction of the Institute in prime place in Bangalore. He was determined to make this institute reach out to its objectives and hence he provided the much needed support for the establishment and running of this institute.

The donation of land by the Maharaja:

A committee comprising of Jamshedji Tata ,Surya prakash ,Subramanian Swamy Iyer , and Nalwadi Krishna raja Wodeyar discussed about starting an Institute meant for scientific studies. Maharaja was interested with the proposal and immediately decided to support the committees' recommendations. This committee presented a draft proposal to Governor General Lord Curzon on 31st December 1898 about the establishment. Sir William Ramsay

who was a Nobel Prize award winner suggested Bangalore as a suitable place for the establishment of Indian Institute of Science. Mir Osman Ali Khan made financial contributions. The land was donated by the Maharaja Rajashri Nalwadi Krishna Raja Wodeyar. 70 acres of land was given to this institution by the Princely Government of Mysore under Rajashri Nalwadi Krishna Raja Wodeyar. Jamshedji Tata, the business entrepreneur, joined hands in this greatest academic endeavour with the Maharaja of Mysore.

The beginning-

The constitution of this scientific institute was approved by the Viceroy Lord Minto and it was signed on the auspicious day of 27th May 1909. The foundation stone of the Indian Institute of Science building was laid by the Maharaja in 1911 and first batch of students were admitted from July 24th 1911.

Objectives behind the establishment of Indian institute of science at Bangalore – Maharaja Rajashri Nalwadi Krishna Raja Wodeyar was involved in the establishment of this great academic institution as he donated the much needed land for this institution. The Indian Institute of Science was established to become world's foremost academic institution. It is considered as the groundwork for the pursuit of research excellence and the promotion of scientific innovation. Indian Institute of Science was set up to offer world class education and to train future youth in science and technology. The Indian Institute of Science was supposed to play a vital part in applying science and technology breakthroughs for India's wealth creation and social welfare in future.

The first professors- Norman Rudolf and Alfred Hay who were the first teaching faculty who were instrumental in creating an environment of scientific study in this campus. Both of them were scholars in their respective fields and were credited with huge publications in engineering sciences.

The first departments- The first department started by Indian Institute of Science was Applied Chemistry. Later the department of Organic Chemistry was opened. Electro technology was also added later.

The initial directors- Morris Travers who had worked as a co-worker in the discovery of noble gases was selected as the first director of Indian Institute of Science. Later Noble laureate C.V. Raman was the first Indian director to act as the Director of this prestigious Institution.

The first director- Morris Travers -Morris Travers was an English chemist he worked along with Sir Ramsay in the finding of neon, xenon and krypton. He was a great scientist of calibre and had many publications to his credit. His works were concerned about gases and he is commonly called as rare gas Travers in scientific circles. He was the founding director of IISc.

The initial courses offered Indian Institute of Science are as follows

1. Masters programs in Engineering both in applied and integrated
2. Integrated doctoral programs in biological, chemical, physical and mathematical Engineering sciences
3. Multi disciplinary research programs

The first of its kind architecture of the IISc building- The building of the Indian Institute of Science was designed by C. F. Stevens and Company which was centred in Bombay. Indian Institute of Science was designed during 1911- 1912. Another German architect Otto Konigsberg has also designed department wise architecture of Indian Institute of Science. The memory of Jamshedji Tata is uniquely remembered in the campus of the Indian Institute

of Science building. The workmanship of Gilbert Bayes who has erected a memory stone for this business entrepreneur is not only reflects his classic work but also unfolds the artistic superiority. At its feet is an inscription that serves to remind future generations of the generosity of Jamshedji Tata and the charity and persistence with which he worked for the welfare of Indians. Even today a big memorial library stand in his name serving 1000s of scholars.

Ranking- National institutional ranking Framework ranked this premier institution at the top place.

Alumnus- -Notable alumni include Subramanian , Narasimha murthy, Venkata Krishnan, Narayana Rao . Ankith chaterjee, Bala subramnaima, etc

Benefits of the IISc to society –

1. This premier institution is imparting world class higher education in fundamental and applied science and engineering
2. Indian Institute of Science is supporting research in science and engineering generating new knowledge,
3. Indian Institute of Science is disseminating this knowledge by publications in top journals and conferences
4. This Indian Institute of Science is applying faculty expertise towards the success of national science and technology initiatives
5. This Indian Institute of Science is applying deep knowledge in various areas to create knowhow
6. Indian Institute of Science is developing expertise for utilization by industry and society

Conclusion- Thus Maharaja Rajashri Nalwadi Krishna Raja Wodeyar was instrumental in the creation of Indian Institute of Science and he is remembered for his vision about bringing academic progress of the Princely state. He was involved in the creation of a world class scientific environment in Bangalore as his visions helped in dissemination of scientific knowledge through this premier institution. Thus Indian Institute of Science marks a great leap forward in the academic journey of Bangalore, Now Bangalore has gained an everlasting position in world educational map and all credit goes to Maharaja Rajashri Nalwadi Krishna Raja Wodeyar.

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