



PRESS RELEASE

“The best is yet to come” says Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, praising the National Council of Applied Economic Research for its contributions to the nation.

New Delhi, Saturday, 27 July 2013: Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh laid the foundation stone for the new NCAER Centre at the National Council of Applied Economic Research in New Delhi on Saturday morning, accompanied by NCAER’s Director General Dr. Shekhar Shah and many other dignitaries and noted economists, including members of NCAER’s Governing Body led by its President, Shri Nandan Nilekani.

Urging NCAER to maintain its high standards of applied economic research, the **Prime Minister Singh** said, “The best is yet to come.”

Speaking about NCAER, **Dr. Singh** said “This institute is a great asset to us, and it is obligatory on all those who work, or are associated with this magnificent institute, to never lose sight of the vision of the founding fathers of NCAER.”

NCAER is the country’s largest and oldest independent, economic policy think-tank. Singh was a member of NCAER’s Governing Body during 1976-1982, and a frequent visitor to NCAER during his earlier teaching and economic research days.

Dr. Singh stood today on the very ground where some 54 years ago Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru had stood to lay the foundation stone for NCAER’s current building in 1959, and where President Rajendra Prasad had stood to inaugurate the building in 1961. NCAER’s building is an architectural landmark designed by the Harvard-trained architect A P Kanvinde.

Said NCAER’s Director General **Dr. Shekhar Shah**, “Not only has the PM laid the foundation stone for the new NCAER Centre, but with his words today he has also laid a strong foundation for the future of NCAER.”

“The need for an institution like NCAER that provides sound economic policy guidance and solid empirical data has never been greater as our economy charts its way through ever more complex domestic and global policy challenges,” added **Shah**.

Dr. Singh inaugurated a special exhibit called “*The Promise of NCAER*,” tracing the history of the institution and its contributions since it was established in 1956 at Nehru’s behest. Dr. Singh was escorted through the architectural plans for the new NCAER Centre by **Shekhar Shah** and the architects, Pankaj Vir Gupta and Christine Mueller before his remarks. He then interacted with eminent economists of the country at NCAER after the ceremony.

As he was departing, in an impromptu gesture of solidarity Dr. Singh walked across the lawns of NCAER and was welcomed by thunderous applause as he individually greeted

NCAER economists and staff who had gathered to witness the laying of the foundation stone of the new NCAER Centre.

When completed in 2015, the new NCAER Centre will provide NCAER staff and collaborators with an ultra-modern, sustainable, four-star rated 'green' office complex, and a world-class, high-quality, work environment. The Centre will also include a state-of-the-art auditorium to host NCAER and other events. Construction will commence shortly.

About NCAER: NCAER, the **National Council of Applied Economic Research**, is India's oldest and largest independent economic think-tank, set up in 1956 at the behest of Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru to inform policy choices for both the public and private sectors. Over nearly six decades, NCAER has served the nation well with its rich offering of applied policy research, unique data sets, evaluations, and policy inputs to central and state governments, corporate India, the media, and informed citizens. It is one of a few independent think-tanks world-wide that combine rigorous economic analysis and policy outreach with deep data collection capabilities, particularly for large-scale household surveys. NCAER is currently led by its Director-General, Dr Shekhar Shah, and governed by an independent Governing Body chaired by Mr Nandan Nilekani, Chairman of the Unique Identification Authority of India.

Media contacts:

Samant V. Kakkar Shilpi Tripathi Vishnu Padmanabhan

Email: svkakk@ncaer.org stripa@ncaer.org vpadmanabhan@ncaer.org

Mobile: +91-981-040-8118 +91-995-377-9905 +91-965-416-6389

Please contact NCAER Media contacts for photographs of the event or of the new NCAER Centre.

NCAER | National Council of Applied Economic Research
11 Indraprastha Estate, New Delhi 110002

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