Newspaper Clips

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Hindustan Times, ND 19/04/2012
P-7

A taste of future with students of IIT-Delhi

OPEN After working for a year, college presents 8th innovation fest

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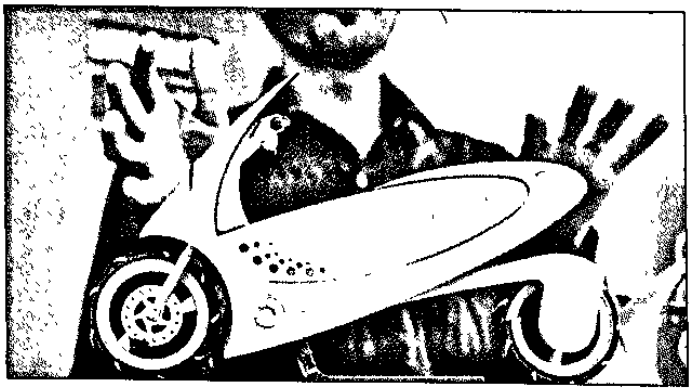
NEW DELHI: A project on the preservation of architectural heritage, a green transit system, a three-wheeler that runs on hydrogen and many more.

The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi, is back with its innovation festival, which showcases projects made by professors and students.

The fest, which is being held for the eighth consecutive year, will be thrown open to the public on Saturday.

Projects on display, include:



■ **A Green Urban Transit System (above) and a medical device on display.** ARIJIT SEN/ HT PHOTO

ROSHINI: INDOOR NAVIGATION SYSTEM

Wall mounted sensors, a smart phone and an infra red receiver can make it much easier for the visually impaired to navigate a building.

Students at IIT Delhi have created a navigation system based on the Global Positioning System that can work well if floor plans of building are available.

"The buildings will have infrared-enabled wall-mounted units at a distance of every seven metres. The visually impaired person will wear an infrared receiver on his/her waist and can obtain directions by pressing keys on their smart phone," said Dhruv Jain, co-creator of the equipment.

NEEDLE-FREE DELIVERY OF MEDICINE

Those afraid of needles and injections, may soon be able to do without it.

Professors and students have come up with a device to send drugs into the body without syringes or capsules. Using modulating current, a watch-like device will send drugs into the body simply by placing the medicated solution on skin.

"This device is especially useful for diabetes and arthritis patients who have to inject themselves with insulin and painkillers everyday," said Sneh Anand, professor, Centre of Biomedical Engineering.

DIGITAL HERITAGE PRESERVATION

In partnership with various other organisations of the country, a team at IIT, Delhi, is in the process of helping people walk through the temples of Hampi while sitting in Delhi.

"The project has significant uses in the future. If an earthquake or some other calamity causes significant damage to a heritage structure, this 3D mapping project will come in use to restore it to what it used to be," said Neeraj Kulkarni, one of the students working on the project.

Hindu ND 19/04/2012 P-3

Innovations at their best at IIT-Delhi

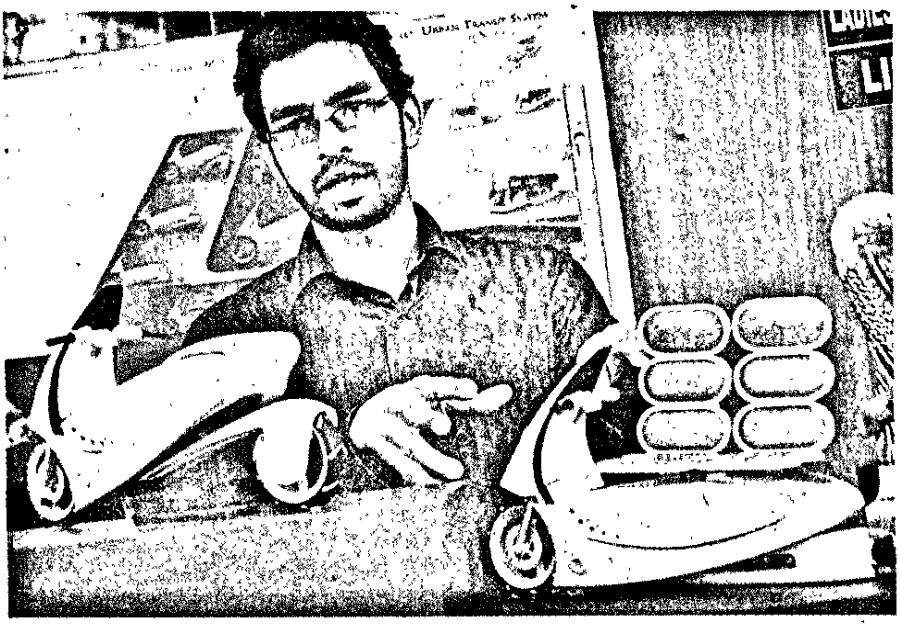
Vijetha S. N

NEW DELHI: "Feel this fabric, is it not soft? Now feel this fabric...is it as soft as or softer than the first one? Difficult, no? Well, not any more. Our Fabric Feel Tester will tell you exactly how soft the fabric is by feeling it, so that no matter where you are, in Britain or in some village you are sure that the fabric you are buying is real," said Professor Apurba Das on Wednesday at the preview of "I² Tech 2012 Open House" an annual event by IIT-Delhi that showcases research projects by faculty and students.

"This event is part of our accountability to society as on this day anyone can walk into the campus to see what we have to offer," said Deputy Director Prof. M. Balakrishnan introducing the show.

Fourteen of the best projects were displayed from around 300 entries which will be on view on Saturday.

Imagine a soldier in the thick of battle, what if he had a machine that could completely camouflage his dress and arms? "Thermocromic colorants for the development of camouflage articles are well known. What we have done is to develop a electrically conducive fabric, so that with the press of a button the temperature changes thereby automatically making the fabric change colour to match the background, this devise is called the Responsive Camouflage Textiles," said Muksit Ahamed Chowdhury, an M.Tech student who has built this along with faculty members Dr. B. S. Butola and Prof. Mangala Joshi.



FAR-REACHING CONCEPTS: *A student of IIT-Delhi displaying Green Urban Transit System Project during the preview of "I² Tech 2012 Open House" in the Capital on Wednesday.* - PHOTO: SANDEEP SAXENA

Another fun innovation is the "Interactive visual display" There is a picture inside a glass box suspended in the air. "It is the latest blend of display technology, virtual multi-dimensional imagery and multi-touch interaction on visual display," said Sachitanand Swamy, part of a team of research students, "INVOXEL", who along with their Professor M. Hammandlu has developed a table that looks like an i-pad and promises to be a computer, video game or TV that can be jointly used by two or more.

"Imagine this in a coffee shop. Two people can sit and watch videos or work on the same table that has their coffees without ever carrying a laptop," added another team member, Chirag Gupta.

A contraption that promises to be a painless substitute for needles, "electrically enhanced needle-free (non-invasive) transdermal delivery of drugs", has been developed by Prof. Sneh Anand and her team of students.

"It is best for cancer patients. Some of the drugs can be delivered through this method without the use of a needle," she said, showing a contraption that like a wrist-watch.

Other innovations include "development of inventive technologies to restrict large-scale damage caused by earthquakes", hydrogen-powered three-wheelers and an indoor navigation system for the visually impaired among others.

Indian Express ND 19/04/2012 p-3

OPEN HOUSE INNOVATIONS, COMMERCIALLY VIABLE PROJECTS WILL BE OPEN TO PUBLIC VIEW FROM SATURDAY

IIT showcases camouflage tech, multiple-user screens

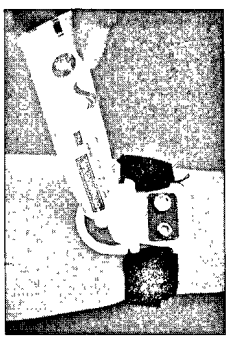
NAVEED IQBAL
NEW DELHI, APRIL 18

IN THE 8th edition of the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi's upcoming event "Open House" students and faculty members presented their innovative and commercially viable research projects. This Saturday, IIT-Delhi will open its gates to schools, colleges and the public to have a look at these projects.

RESPONSIVE CAMOUFLAGE TECHNIQUE

Developed by Muksit Ahamed Chaudhury, BS Butola and Mangala Joshi at the Department of Textile Technology, the project deals with the development of responsive camouflage using thermochromic colorants. Plain woven cotton fabrics that are electrically conductive are used for the purpose. "Although thermochromic colorants have been used for camouflage techniques before, under normal conditions, the colour depends upon surrounding temperature," said Muksit, an MSc student at IIT-Delhi.

The novelty of this project is that it allows the user to control the colour camouflage, irrespective of his surroundings, in less than 30 seconds. When an electric current passes through the fabric, heat is generated and the temperature of the fabric rises, irrespective of the surrounding temperature, adjusting its colour.



One of the innovations that will be on display

TISSUE ENGINEERED INTER-VERTEBRAL DISC

A biometric artificial disc has been made using silk fibres and cells from the patient's body since both contain amino acids in their composition. The project has been developed by Maumita Bhattacharjee and Dr Sourabh Ghosh at the Department of Textile Technology. "Precise fiber alignment guides the cells to follow the same orientation and eventually ensure that the overall biochemical functions of the tissue," Dr Sourabh said.

INDOOR NAVAGATION SYSTEM FOR VISUALLY CHALLENGED

Roshni is an affordable cellphone based indoor navigation system for the visually challenged. Developed by Dhruv Jain and Prabhav Agrawal, the system helps visually challenged persons navigate independently in a building. "The idea was to challenge the constraints of independent mobility and navigation in an unfamiliar indoor environment," Dhruv said. The device, according to the developers, is easy to use, costs little and can be attached to the user's waist or walking cane.

INTERACTIVE VISUAL DISPLAY

The project takes touch-screen technology a step further with their multiple user interface. The display provides multi-dimensional imagery and multi-touch interaction visual display. "Unlike the iPad and other touch-enabled devices, this one can be used by multiple users at the same time," said Manisha Bhardwaj from the Electrical Engineering Department. The device provides a 180/270/360 degree viewing without wearing any glasses.

Hindustan ND p-5
19/04/2012

आईआईटी ने की पेटेंट में तरक्की

नई दिल्ली। आईआईटी संस्थानों की ओपन हाउस समिति के अध्यक्ष ए के घोष ने कहा है हम कह सकते हैं कि अब हम पहले से ज्यादा बुद्धिमान हो गये हैं क्योंकि हमने अपनी तकनीकी खोजों की रक्षा करने के लिए उचित रूप से पेटेंट दाखिल करना शुरू कर दिया है। आईआईटी संस्थान पहले ही देश भर में 260 पेटेंट दाखिल कर चुके हैं जिनमें से 60 को पहले ही पेटेंट का दर्जा मिल चुका है। पेटेंट के मामले में आईआईटी पहले भी अपना डंका बजवा चुका है।

आईआईटी संस्थानों में विकसित वैसी तकनीक जिन्हें पेटेंट का दर्जा मिल चुका है उनकी उद्योगों में उत्पादन के लिहाज से बहुत मांग है। आईआईटी संस्थानों में विकसित तकनीकी खोजों की ओपन हाउस में प्रदर्शनी भी लगायी गयी है। इन तकनीकों में आईआईटी द्वारा विकसित नवीनतम तकनीक बेस आइसोलेशन भी शामिल है। बेस आइसोलेशन भूकंप के कारण होने वाले नुकसानों से बचाव करने की सरल तकनीक है।

Amar Ujala ND 19/04/2012 p-1

आईआईटी दिल्ली ने तैयार किया ढांचा, घर भी ऐसा होगा कि कहीं भी बनाओ और जब चाहे, जहां चाहे, उठाकर ले जाओ

कम कीमत में बांस से बनेगा सपनों का घर

रश्मि शर्मा

- बांस के घर का प्रयोगात्मक डिजाइन तैयार किया गया
- छत का प्रयोग ग्रीन हाउस के रूप में किया जा सकेगा

नई दिल्ली। अब आप लाखों रुपये खर्च करके कंक्रीट के मकानों के मुकाबले में कम कीमत पर अपने सपनों का घर बना सकेंगे। घर भी ऐसा कि कहीं भी बनाओ और जब चाहे, जहां चाहे, उठाकर ले जाओ। आईआईटी दिल्ली के सिविल, मेकेनिकल और केमिकल विभाग ने मिलकर बांस से बने मकान का ढांचा तैयार किया है। इस प्रोजेक्ट में सेंटर फॉर रूरल डेवलेपमेंट एंड टेक्नोलॉजी ने भी सहयोग किया है।

स्टील के उत्पादन पर प्रेशर कम हो और ऐसा इंजीनियरिंग ढांचा तैयार हो जो हर तरीके का भार वहन कर सके। इसको ध्यान में रखते हुए इस प्रोजेक्ट पर काम शुरू किया गया है। इस पर काम कर रहे केमिकल विभाग के प्रो. सनत मोहंती ने बताया कि बांस के घर का प्रयोगात्मक डिजाइन तैयार किया गया है। कुछ जगहों पर नट बोल्ट और कुछ जगहों को जोड़ने के लिए बांस का प्रयोग किया गया है। इसकी छत का प्रयोग पैंटा हाउस या ग्रीन हाउस के रुप में किया जा सकता है। आईआईटी का प्रयास है कि इस प्रोजेक्ट को पापुलर किया जा सके। उन्होंने कहा कि इसका ख्याल रखा जाएगा कि यह टिकाऊ बने और इसे शहरों में सामाजिक स्वीकारता प्राप्त हो सके। पर्यटकों को ध्यान में रखते हुए बांस का पोर्टेबल ढांचा भी तैयार किया गया है। पर्यटकों की टेंट की मांग को इस पोर्टेबल घर के बल पर पूरा किया जा सकता है।

18 माह से दौड़ रहा बांस का रिक्शा

मोहंती ने बताया कि बांस का प्रयोग करते हुए रिक्शा और ट्राली भी तैयार की गई है। रिक्शे में कैरिज को बांस से तैयार किया गया है। ऐसा रिक्शा 18 माह से आईआईटी कैंपस में चलाया जा रहा है। अब यह कोशिश है कि पूरा रिक्शा ही बांस का तैयार किया जाए।

Deccan Herald, ND 19/04/2012

P-2

IIT needs more funds to create world-class research facilities

NEW DELHI: Stressing on the need to create more spaces and manpower for research work at Indian Institute of Technology, the chairman of open house committee at IIT Delhi says that a steep increase in funds for research work is required to bring IIT research projects at a global platform.

Increase in funds

"We get reasonable amount of funds for research. In the two to three years, the funds have increased by 30-35 per cent as compared to 2007-2008.

"However, the kind of research work being done in the US, Europe and China and the world class research facilities they have, IIT certainly lacks that. Even when IIT is counted in the top institutes of the world, its research work is still on backburner," said Anup K Ghosh, professor and chairman of the open house committee.

The committee looks into research work undertaken by the students and faculty.

Other requirements

The challenge of limited funding has its pros and cons.

"A fund increase will not escalate research work. Increase in spaces and manpower are also required. It is a slow process. Everything goes by policy. A holistic integrated approach from all levels is required to give that initial jump in creating facilities through increased funds," said Ghosh.

During 2011-2012, the institute was given a total fund of Rs 127 crore for research work.

The institute has 60 per cent postgraduate students with over 1,500 research scholars.

For 2011-2012 academic year, 300 research cost-effective and commercially-viable projects were registered by students and faculty.

One of the projects which was even put up in the recent Auto Expo was hydrogen-fuelled three-wheeler, 15 such vehicles will come in the market soon.

DH News Service

Construction of IIT to start soon

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INDORE: The first phase of construction work of IIT, Indore costing around Rs 388 crore will start soon informed IIT registrar Colonel (retired) Rajshekhar. The entire cost of developing the IIT is estimated to be around Rs 2000 crores and it will take around three years to complete.

Col (retd) Rajshekhar made the announcement during the visit of the divisional commissioner Prabhat Parashar at the IIT campus site near Talai Naka, Simrol village, Mhow on Wednesday.

He said that the government of India had sanctioned Rs 760 crores in the first phase. Of that amount Rs 388 crores is for infrastructure development, Rs 141 crores for setting up a modern laboratory and the remaining Rs 141 crores for other expenses. The boundary wall will be constructed first to secure the area followed by the academic complex, hostels, residential houses, sports complex, laboratory building etc.

Commissioner Parashar told officials to ensure that the process of formally handing over 501.6 acres allotted to IIT is expedited. The IIT already has physical possession of the land and all necessary government permission has already been received. Of the allotted land 198 acres belong to the forest department and 303.6 belongs to the revenue department. The forest department has already been compensated for the land by the government.

The commissioner directed the officials that the work of demarcating the IIT land should be done at the earliest and all encroachments should be removed from the land so that the work of the boundary wall is started.

HC disposes PIL on marriage gardens

INDORE: Indore bench of MP High Court has disposed of the Public Interest Litigation (PIL) on Tuesday, related to 11 marriage gardens in scheme number 71 (C), constructed on residential lease.

The PIL was filed in 2003. The marriage gardens were running in the residential area without the consent of IDA. "All the plot owners of the marriage gardens have given undertaking before the IDA not to use the plot for the commercial purpose," said the counsel of petition. Earlier, the court had directed the owners to use the premises as per the terms and conditions of IDA and lease. **HTC**

Times of India ND 19/04/2012 P-18

IIT Madras introduces restrictions on movement for security of female students

Don't infantilise students

■TIMES VIEW■

Female students are discouraged to step out of their hostels after 11 pm, never mind if they want to get food or go to the library to prepare for an exam. If they absolutely must do so, they should first request the services of male student volunteers to act as escorts. And they should stay away from certain parts of the campus that have been designated no-go zones. These are the new measures. One of the country's premier educational institutions, supposedly an enclave of enlightened minds, has come up with rules that are, in effect, a form of purdah. And if one doesn't agree with them, one runs the risk of being dubbed a "liberal moron" as a professor there called those protesting against these measures.

This is not the way to engage with the issue of safety of women. The university administration seems to believe that making female students give up a part of their independence is a worthwhile trade-off for increased security. That is flawed reasoning. All they are doing through these rules is attacking the symptom, not the cause. Beefing up on-campus security – as they are also, thankfully, doing – having 24x7 helplines, swift punitive action against any male student harassing women on campus; these are where the focus should be.

The aim must be to create an environment where women feel safe, not simply confine them to their hostels. Unfortunately, the administration's attitude is all too clear from statements such as the one by IIT-M director Bhaskar Ramamurthi – who talks about restricting the use of internet in hostels, reasoning that otherwise "students tend to remain awake all night and wake up late. We cannot copy western models." The aim of a university is to broaden students' horizons. Western or non-western, they cannot be treated like children.

Innovative boost to security

■COUNTERVIEW■

Jay Kumar

It is unfortunate in the extreme that the IIT-M establishment is being criticised for adopting measures to enhance the safety and security of students on campus. Agreed, some of these proposals – including avoiding late-night movement without male escorts may appear restrictive in nature. Yet it can't be denied that they will reduce the vulnerability of women. The administration will be held to account if their safety is threatened. It stands to reason, therefore, that the administration be allowed to devise pragmatic measures to ensure their safety.

For starters, let's accept that most university campuses in India remain unsafe for women students at odd hours. While no one disputes the need to beef up on-campus security through CCTVs, 24x7 dedicated helplines and the like, there is a limit to how much security can be enhanced with the help of technology. Rather it must be combined with preventive measures to augment their impact and produce desired results. By following the administration's advisory on security matters, women students will only help themselves. It is a small yet worthwhile trade-off for increased security. Moreover, the administration is not imposing a curfew on women students' movements in the night. They can always depend on the institute's escort service for such movement.

It is, in fact, an innovative idea to pay other students to ensure the safety of their women colleagues. It gives new wings to the concept of shared security within the student community. Another advantage is that it will generate increased awareness and gender sensitisation among male students. It will create a positive environment where women will feel safe in the true sense.

Jansatta ND 19/04/2012 P-9

छत्तीसगढ़ में खुलेगा आईआईटी खड़गपुर का विस्तार केंद्र

रायपुर, 18 अप्रैल (भाषा)। छत्तीसगढ़ सरकार ने राज्य में आईआईटी खड़गपुर के विस्तार केंद्र की स्थापना के लिए समझौता ज्ञापन पर हस्ताक्षर किए। छत्तीसगढ़ की राजधानी रायपुर में भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (आईआईटी) खड़गपुर का विस्तार केंद्र खोला जाएगा। मुख्यमंत्री रमन सिंह की अध्यक्षता में मंगलवार शाम यहां मंत्रालय में आयोजित कार्यक्रम में इसके लिए राज्य सरकार और आईआईटी खड़गपुर के बीच समझौता ज्ञापन (एमओयू) पर हस्ताक्षर किए गए।

राज्य शासन की ओर से तकनीकी शिक्षा विभाग की सचिव निधि छिब्बर और आईआईटी खड़गपुर की ओर से वहां के निदेशक प्रो. दामोदर आचार्य ने हस्ताक्षर किए। मुख्यमंत्री रमन सिंह ने बताया कि एमओयू में हस्ताक्षर से पहले मंत्रालय में मुख्यमंत्री की अध्यक्षता में आयोजित कैबिनेट की बैठक में इस एमओयू के प्रस्ताव का अनुमोदन किया गया। सिंह ने इस अवसर पर कहा कि अब छत्तीसगढ़ के युवाओं को अपने ही राज्य में आईआईटी खड़गपुर जैसे राष्ट्रीय और अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर की ख्याति प्राप्त शिक्षा केंद्रों के विशेषज्ञों से तकनीकी शिक्षा प्राप्त करने का अवसर मिलेगा। इससे हमारे यहां मानव संसाधन क्षमता बढ़ेगी। इसके अलावा हमारे यहां के इंजीनियरिंग कालेजों और पॉलीटेक्निक संस्थाओं के शिक्षकों को भी अपनी अध्यापन क्षमता बढ़ाने के लिए आईआईटी के विस्तार केंद्र में अल्प अवधि के प्रशिक्षण पाठ्यक्रमों में शामिल होने का मौका मिलेगा।

उन्होंने बताया कि राज्य में संचालित इंजीनियरिंग कालेज और पालिटेक्निक अब आईआईटी से जुड़ सकेंगें। इतना ही नहीं राज्य सरकार के विभिन्न निर्माण विभागों में कार्यरत इंजीनियरों को भी इस केंद्र में अपने कौशल विकास के लिए प्रशिक्षण का अवसर मिलेगा।

मुख्यमंत्री ने बताया कि यह छत्तीसगढ़ की वर्षों पुरानी मांग थी। राज्य सरकार ने इसके लिए पहल करते हुए केंद्र से भी आग्रह किया था। राज्य के मुख्य सचिव सुनील कमार ने बताया कि समझौता ज्ञापन के अनुसार राजधानी रायपुर या इसके नजदीक एक मानव संसाधन विकास केंद्र खोला जाएगा । इसके प्रबंधन और संचालन में भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान, खड़गपुर सहयोग करेगा।

समझौता ज्ञापन के क्रियान्वयन के लिए राज्य शासन और भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान, खड़गपुर दोनों नोडल अधिकारी नामांकित करेंगें। यह केंद्र भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान, खड़गपुर के विस्तार केंद्र के रूप में कार्य करेगा। राज्य में उच्चतर और तकनीकी शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में कार्यरत विश्वविद्यालयों और महाविद्यालयों के शिक्षकों को गुणवत्ता सुधार और उनके ज्ञान के उन्नयन के लिए प्रशिक्षण देगा।

आईआईटी खड़गपुर के शैक्षणिक मानदंडों एवं विनियमों के तहत विश्वविद्यालयों, महाविद्यालयों और पॉलीटेक्निक संस्थाओं में कार्यरत शिक्षकों, अभियंताओं, वैज्ञानिकों, राज्य शासन सहित अभिकरणों तथा सार्वजनिक प्राधिकरणों में कार्यरत पेशेवरों और ऐसे पेशेवरों जो सार्वजनिक नियोजन से बाहर हैं पर छत्तीसगढ़ राज्य में निवासरत हैं, के लिए स्नातकोत्तर एवं उच्चतर तथा समकक्ष स्तर पर योग्यता बढ़ाने के लिए अंशकालीन कार्यक्रम आयोजित करेगा।

Hitavada Raipur 18.04.2012 P-5

MoU inked between State Government, IIT(Kharagpur)

■ Staff Reporter
RAIPUR, Apr 17

MEMORANDUM of Understanding was signed between Department of Technical Education, Government of Chhattisgarh and Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur on Tuesday for establishment of Extension Centre of IIT-Kharagpur in Raipur. The Memorandum of Understanding was signed by Professor Damodar Acharya, Director, Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur and Niddhi Chibber, Secretary, Department of Technical Education, Government of Chhattisgarh in the august presence of Chief Minister Dr Raman Singh, Higher Education Minister Ramvichar Netam, Revenue Minister Dayaldas Baghel, Forest Minister Vikram Usendi, Chief Secretary Sunil Kumar. Minutes before signing of the MoU, the same was approved by the Chhattisgarh Cabinet.

(Contd on page 5)

Technical Education Secretary Niddhi Chibbar exchanging MoU document with Prof Damodar Acharya, Director IIT-K in the presence of Chief Minister Dr Raman Singh, Chief Secretary Sunil Kumar and other senior officials.

MoU inked between State...

Chief Minister Dr Raman Singh while congratulating both IIT Kharagpur and Technical Education department said that this significant development would go a long way in the development of human resources as well as enhancement and capacity building of engineering, poly-technique institutes as well as the faculty in these institutes in the state. He said now the youths in Chhattisgarh would get the opportunity to learn technical education from IIT Kharagpur (IIT-K), an institution of international repute. Not only this, engineers working in various departments of the state can also have training for their skill development and capacity building. He said with the signing of this MoU, the years old demand has been fulfilled. State government while taking an initiative in this direction had urged the Union Human Resources and Development department in this regard.

Chief Secretary Sunil Kumar while addressing the function stated that IIT Kharagpur is the first IIT institute in the country and has established a niche for itself not only in the country but at international levels. Adding that the day would be remembered as a golden day in the history of technical education in the state, the Chief Secretary said as per the MoU, soon a Human Resource Development Centre would be opened in Raipur or in its close vicinity and IIT-K would assist in its management and operation. For the implementation of MoU, soon nodal officers on behalf of state government and IIT-K would be appointed. This institute would work as the Extension Centre of IIT-K, Kumar while giving details of the objective of the extension centre, said that this centre would provide M Tech programmes for teachers, engineers, scientists associated with the engineering institutes in the state, engineers working under state government, various Authorities and Boards, PSUs, etc, as well as professionals residing in Chhattisgarh for their capacity building and skill development. It would also provide consultancy to the state government, its various departments, industries both private and public sector. Apart from all these, the centre would also organize training programmes for the development of entrepreneurship. It would also work towards providing support in technology development, rural employment enhancement, providing new opportunities of livelihood particularly in rural areas, etc. As per the MoU, the state government in consultation with the IIT-K would fix the fees and other charges for the programmes.

Also present on the occasion were Principal Secretary (Agriculture) M K Raut, Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister N Baijendra Kumar, Energy Secretary Aman Singh, Chhattisgarh Power Distribution Company MD Subodh Kumar Singh, Prof Somnath Sengupta Dean Continuing Education IIT-K and other senior officials.

Asian Age ND 19/04/2012 p-3

Scientist dismisses China observatory site

RASHME SEHGAL
NEW DELHI, APRIL 18

Dean of the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA), Bengaluru, Prof. T. Prabhu, who played a key role in setting up Hanle's Indian Astronomical Observatory in Ladakh, dismissed rumours that the Chinese are planning to set up an astronomical observatory in the disputed territory of Aksai Chin.

Prof. Prabhu, who is playing a key role in the setting up of the world's largest solar telescope fitted with a two-metre reflector also in Ladakh, believes the "first best site" that the Chinese have identified for a joint observatory with scientists from Japan and South Korea is near the Shiquanhe town in Ngari prefecture, south of Mt. Kailash, bordering Nepal and India.

"The second best site is north of Gilgit," Prof. Prabhu maintains.

Building observatories has become an expensive business with costs running into millions of dollars. "It is, therefore, natural for countries to turn this into a collaborative exercise where joint site surveying can be undertaken and costs can also be shared," he said.

India and China partners in effort to build big telescope in Hawaii

A Chinese scientist with the National Astronomical Observatory of the Chinese Academy of Sciences has also said that a possible location for the new observatory will be in the mountains of Tibet's Ngari prefecture. This high mountainous terrain has been preferred because of limited clouds and high transparency.

A 30-metre next-generation telescope is being built at a cost of over $1 billion on Mt. Mauna Kea in Hawaii. "A consortium of countries is helping put this up and both India and China are partners in this effort," said Prof. Prabhu.

"At present, India and China are observers but they sit together in all meetings," the scientist added. India's observatory at Hanle is located at an altitude of 4,500 metres and is currently the second highest optical telescope in the world.

Once installed, India's solar telescope will be able to study particles spread across 50 km of the Sun. Plans are on to build a second smaller observatory at Pangong lake also in Ladakh.

Hindu ND 19/04/2012 P-10

Our past is being moth-eaten

Dinyar Patel

India's archives and libraries are in a state of ruin. We would lose our history and heritage if the government does not act to save them.

How do you destroy Indian history? In Delhi, letters written by Mahatma Gandhi, Dadabhai Naoroji, and Babasaheb Ambedkar are left to rot away in rooms lacking proper temperature control. In Lucknow, secretariat holdings are dumped and burned. And in Chennai, archival records are literally washed away by the monsoons.

Among both foreign and Indian scholars, it is an open secret that most Indian archives and libraries are in a deplorable state. Over the past 15 months, I have visited many institutions across the country in connection with my dissertation research on Naoroji. What I have seen has disturbed me. Archival experiences recounted by my academic colleagues have horrified me. Unless the government takes quick and decisive action, India is at risk of letting much of its heritage literally crumble into dust. Sources of Indian history are at grave risk of being lost forever.

Poor preservation

India is a country that is justifiably proud of its illustrious past. But this pride does not always translate into proper custodianship and preservation. Most Indians would cringe at how sources of Indian history are treated in government institutions. In spite of the plethora of capable administrators and skilled archivists in this country, many institutions do not follow clear, up-to-date, and verifiable standards for document preservation.

State-level facilities, where the majority of public archives are housed, are in the greatest need of help. Many institutions are housed in old buildings that may actually facilitate rapid damage to collections. The Maharashtra State Archives in Mumbai, for example, is located in an open-air structure built in 1888. As a result, pigeons regularly fly into the premises and leave their droppings on centuries-old colonial factory records and priceless newspaper collections. Occasionally, as an American colleague recently recalled, a pigeon will collide into a fan, plummet to the floor, and writhe around in a pool of blood until a peon is charged with cleaning up the mess.

The situation is also quite grim in New Delhi. At the National Archives of India, I consult Naoroji's papers in the Private Archives room, which has broken windows and no proper climate control. It is no surprise, therefore, that thousands of Naoroji's letters have been destroyed over the past few decades and that thousands more are now too damaged to be read: while Naoroji bequeathed over 60,000 items upon his death in 1917, less than 30,000 survive today. The papers of Naoroji's colleagues, such as Romesh Chunder Dutt, are in a similarly shameful state. How would the Grand Old Man react to this disappearance of so much nationalist heritage?

Poor upkeep has also damaged more recent records. Some of Dr. Ambedkar's correspondence has decayed into piles of scraps. This should not happen in a country where his legacy and memory are subjects of such great contestation and debate.

Within the international academic community, Indian archival experiences are traded like war stories. In the 1990s, an eminent British political scientist found documents and files from the Uttar Pradesh Secretariat's library dumped and burned outside. The Secretariat, the political scientist noted, contained valuable revenue settlement and provincial police reports that are probably not available anywhere else. In the fall of 2005, an M.Phil. candidate from Delhi University saw staff at the Tamil Nadu State Archives in Chennai hanging a clothesline on the archives' verandah. Why? It was being used to dry out historical papers soaked during a monsoonal deluge. And in 2008, staff at the West Bengal State Archives in Kolkata chose to go on a month-long strike after an Ivy League professor made a routine request for a document.

These three instances hint at glaring problems in the ways that Indian archives and libraries are managed. In order for there to be any hope for the long-term survival of India's sources of history, the Union and State governments need to urgently bring about real and lasting changes.

The most necessary change is also the simplest. These institutions need to be housed in proper facilities. In 21st century India, it is absolutely absurd that records and collections continue to be housed in Raj-era structures that have hardly been modernised since they were built. This is tantamount to condemning documents to 19th century preservation methods. In order for old documents to be preserved, they need to be kept in sealed, temperature-controlled environments where the elements, humidity, insects, and animals are kept at bay. The new director of the Maharashtra State Archives is pushing the State government to build such a structure for her institution. She needs support.

At the same time, new buildings must conform to the highest standards. The National Archives' annexe was inaugurated in 1991 but its construction is of such substandard quality that its roof is leaking, its window panes have fallen off, and its storage facilities are a veritable magnet for dirt and dust. Our history deserves better than this.

Secondly, these institutions need highly qualified directors and staff. There are now some encouraging developments. The National Archives, which was left rudderless for several years, now finally has a director general. He has brought about visible and commendable change in his two years on the job, helping modernise the facility and improve standards of preservation and recordkeeping. The Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, the leading storehouse of non-official documents, is busy reviewing existing practices and upgrading skills and techniques. Here too, a new director is working with other experts to effect changes.

Dearth of staff

But qualified directors, alone, cannot institute real change. There is a glaring dearth of trained archivists and librarians in institutions across the country. In spite of the real talent that India yearly produces in these fields, most archives, museums, and libraries have a shockingly high number of empty posts. The reasons are not difficult to discern. It can take anywhere from two to three years for the Union Public Service Commission to clear an applicant's file for a vacancy. During that period of time, most candidates will have found another job; any remaining candidates will be deterred by low pay scales and the promise of a poor work environment. As one archival official told me, the Indian government looks upon its archivists and librarians as "dignified clerks." It is a miracle that, in spite of everything, many central and state institutions retain a core of dedicated, professional staff.

The critical shortage of trained staff has had one very destructive consequence. Methods and technologies of preservation have greatly lagged behind what is practised elsewhere in the world. I have been dismayed to see archivists across India use technologies that were abandoned in the West decades ago. For example, the preservation technique of lamination — whereby brittle documents are pasted in between thin sheets of paper — is still widely and indiscriminately used. This technique, as archivists in the British Library inform me, is no longer commonly practised there due to adverse long-term consequences.

I have seen these consequences first hand: Gandhi's earliest surviving letter to Naoroji is no longer legible due to lamination. Without more qualified preservationists, institutions in India are unable to keep up with international best practices or even review their own preservation policies, assimilating tried-and-tested techniques with new methods.

Autonomy

In order to facilitate the hiring and retention of India's best talent, and in order to put an end to decades of neglect and destruction, certain institutions, such as the National Archives, should be granted a degree of autonomy. The National Archives desperately needs more qualified staff in order to assist in projects for preservation, catalouging, and upkeep. At present, the director has limited powers even to repair those broken windows that daily let in dust, mosquitoes, and hornets into the room where I work: all repairs must go though the Central Public Works Department, adding a completely unnecessary layer of bureaucracy.

The Ministry of Culture, which oversees so many of India's cultural treasures, must provide the right conditions for allowing India's best historians, librarians, and archivists to give Indian heritage the dedication and care it deserves. The Nehru Library, which has a degree of autonomy, provides an interesting model of an institution that has fared better than most.

Indian libraries and archives have enormous potential. They are home to some of the world's greatest and most important collections of historical documents. With qualified directors, better staff, and proper facilities, these institutions can take their rightful places as internationally-recognised centres of scholarship. They can help restore India's pride of place as a global hub of learning and culture. Will the government help give India's history the future it deserves?

(Dinyar Patel is Ph.D. candidate, Department of History, Harvard University. dinyar.patel@gmail.com)

Times of India ND 19/04/2012 P-19

Attend top US colleges at no charge

Stanford, Princeton & 3 Other Elite Varsities To Offer Free Online Classes

Five prestigious US universities will create free online courses for students worldwide through a new, interactive education platform dubbed Coursera, the founders announced on Wednesday.

The two founders, both professors of computer science at Stanford University, also announced that they had received $16 million in financing from two Silicon Valley venture capital firms.

Coursera will offer more than three dozen college courses in the coming year through its website at coursera.org, on subjects ranging from Greek mythology to neurology, from calculus to contemporary American poetry.

The classes are designed and taught by professors at Stanford, Princeton, the University of California at Berkeley, the University of Pennsylvania and the University of Michigan.

Coursera joins a raft of ambitious online projects aimed at making higher education more accessible and affordable. Many of these ventures, however, simply post entire lectures on the web, with no interactive component. Others strive to create brand-new universities from scratch.

AFFORDABLE EDUCATION

Founders Daphne Koller and Andrew Ng say Coursera will be different because professors from top schools will teach under their university's name and will adapt their most popular courses for the web, embedding assignments and exams into video lectures, answering questions from students on online forums — even, perhaps, hosting office hours via videoconference.

Multiple-choice and short-answer tests will be computer scored. Coursera will soon unveil a system of peer grading to assess more complex work, such as essays or algorithms.

Students will not get college credit. But Coursera may offer "certificates of completion" or transcripts for a fee.

The company may also seek to turn a profit by connecting employers with students who have shown aptitude in a particular field, a spokeswoman said. Participating universities expect to benefit by boosting their reputation, connecting with far-flung alumni and bringing in donations from grateful online students. REUTERS

Business Standard ND 19/04/2012 P-14

Studying abroad: A mixed bag

Top destinations script changes in student visa rules

NAYANIMA BASU
New Delhi, 18 April

Studying abroad has become both easier and tougher, depending on the country you are looking at. Some of the world's top study destinations for Indian students, like the UK, USA and Australia, have announced a slew of changes to their student visa regime. But these have not adversely impacted the number of students determined to get foreign degrees.

Keen on attracting serious students and the best talent, as opposed to those who come to the country looking for easy paying jobs, the UK government wants students to show evidence of a greater amount of funds to support themselves during the tenure of the course applied for. Under the Tier-IV application (general category), students will have to show that they have funds for the full course in the first academic year. To study in inner London, they must show funds of £800-£1,000 a month for a minimum period of nine months. For outer London, the limit has been raised from £600 to £800 a month. In addition, students will have to show a limit of £1,000 to be paid as deposit for accommodation and maintenance.

This is not all. From April, the 'Post Study Work' option will not be available to new applicants. This scheme allowed students to work in the UK for two years after they finished their studies. The British High Commission has informed that the UK government has replaced this scheme with a new programme, wherein only "talented" international students graduating from a UK university will get the opportunity to stay on and work. For this, they will have to obtain a skilled job offer from a accredited employer, with a salary of at least £20,000 per annum.

"No doubt, the hike in visa fees by UK is very high, but if you are an international student, then you factor all this in," says Natasha Chopra of The Chopras, a New Delhi-based foreign education consultancy. "The rationale behind these changes is to stop the abuse of student visas. Students are not deterred by these changes because those who have the marks and the means will surely look abroad for higher studies," she said.

Chopra says every year the number of students who enroll to her institute for various programmes to study abroad grows 20 per cent. Students, she adds, consider various factors, such as the quality of education and infrastructure, before they select a particular destination.

"It is vital that we continue to attract the brightest and the best international students, but we have to be more selective about who can come here and for how long they can stay," says UK immigration minister Damian Green. "In the past, too many students have come to the UK to work rather than study. This abuse must end."

Starting April 13, the US government has also raised the visa fee for students from $140 to $160 under both the 'Academic' and 'Vocational' categories. "While there are year-on-year changes, upwards or downwards, depending on several local factors, the long-term trend of Indian students going to the US for higher education has been growing," says Diya Dutt, deputy director, United States-India Educational Foundation. "In 2000, there were about 54,000 students from India in the US. In 2011, there were nearly 104,897. On the whole, I notice that students still do want to go on to US for higher studies," Dutt adds. The number is only expected to increase in the coming years.

Australia, meanwhile, has eased its visa regime. From January this year, the visa fee has been decreased by five per cent. Now, the visa fee for student under the 'Skilled (Recognised Graduate)' and "Skilled Graduate" categories is $315, while fo all other students it is $535.

Starting March 24, the Australian government has made several other changes to improve the quality, integrity and competitiveness of its international education sector and student visa programme. Australia, which had around 73,000 Indian students in 2011, also plans to introduce the Post Study Work visa from 2013, says an Australian high commission spokesperson.

"Australian higher education institutions are increasingly engaging with India through joint research, joint degrees, twinning arrangements and credit recognition. Australian institutions are interested in developments concerning India's Foreign Education Providers Bill," the spokesperson says.

Another sought-after destination for Indian students is Canada for which the visa fee has remained the same. A study permit for Canada costs ₹6,125, or CAD 125. Canada has, in fact, emerged as one of the leading destinations for higher education among Indian students. Students here are allowed to apply for an off-campus work permit after six months of full-time study at a participating educational facility. Over 12,000 study permits were issued to Indian students in 2011, which is more than thrice the number in 2008.

"Around 200,000 international students choose Canada every year. More and more Indian students are seeing Canada as a destination for a world-class, globally-recognised education, at an affordable cost, in an open, tolerant, safe and multicultural environment," says Simon Cridland, head, advocacy, High Commission of Canada.

VISA RULEBOOK

UK

- No new visa for post study work
- Can work post-studies only after job offer from accredited employer
- Tier-II and Tier-V need to show funds of £800 to £1,000
- Inner London: Fund requirement up from £800 to £1,000 a month
- Outer London: Fund requirement up from £600 to £800 a month
- Inner London: Fund requirement for dependants of students up from £533 to £600 a month
- Outer London: Fund requirement for dependants of students up from £400 to £450 per month

USA

- Visa fee for 'Academic', 'Vocational' courses up from $140 to $160
- F-1 visas must for full-time bachelors, masters or doctoral programmes
- M-1 visa must for non-academic or vocational studies

AUSTRALIA

- Visa fee down by 5 %
- Visa fee for some courses up by 5% to 15%
- Visa fee for Skilled (Recognised Graduate) and Skilled Graduate Visa: $315
- Visa fee for other students: $535

CANADA

- No change in visa fee
- Study permit cost ₹6,125 or CAD 125
- Indian students have to pay in cash and must go through VFS

Financial Chronicle ND 19/04/2012 p-10

Online education venture secures $16m from 5 varsities

JOHN MARKOFF
International Herald Tribune

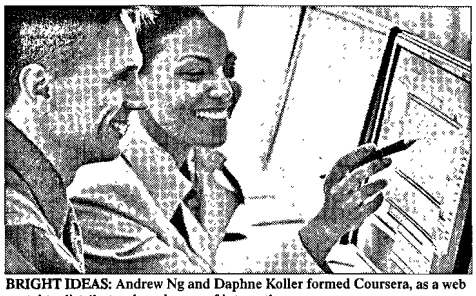
AN INTERACTIVE online learning system created by two Stanford computer scientists plans to announce Wednesday it has secured $16 million in venture capital and partnerships with five major universities.

The scientists, Andrew Ng and Daphne Koller, taught free web-based courses through Stanford last year that reached more than 100,000 students. Now they have formed a company, Coursera, as a web portal to distribute a broad array of interactive courses in the humanities, social sciences, physical sciences and engineering.

Besides Stanford and the University of California, Berkeley, where the venture has already been offering courses, the university partners include the University of Michigan, the University of Pennsylvania and Princeton.

Although computer-assisted learning was pioneered at Stanford during the 1960s, and for-profit online schools like the University of Phoenix have been around for several decades, a new wave of interest in online education is taking shape. "When we offer a professor the opportunity to reach 100,000 students, they find it remarkably appealing," Koller said.

Last fall a course in artificial intelligence taught by Sebastian Thrun, then at Stanford, and Google's director of research, Peter Norvig, attracted more than 160,000 students from 190 countries. The free course touched off an intense debate behind the scenes at Stanford, where annual tuition is $40,050. Ultimately, the 22,000 students who finished the course received "certificates of completion" rather than Stanford credit. And Thrun, who also directs Google's X research lab, left his tenured position at Stanford and founded a private online school, Udacity.



BRIGHT IDEAS: Andrew Ng and Daphne Koller formed Coursera, as a web portal to distribute a broad array of interactive courses

Coursera (pronounced COR-sayr-uh), based in Mountain View, California, intends to announce it has received financial backing from two of Silicon Valley's premier venture capital firms, Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers and New Enterprise Associates. The founders said they were not ready to announce a strategy for profitability, but noted the investment gave them time to develop new ways to generate revenue.

One of their main backers, the venture capitalist John Doerr, a Kleiner investment partner, said via e-mail that he saw a clear business model: "Yes. Even with free courses. From a community of millions of learners some should 'opt in' for valuable, premium services. Those revenues should fund investment in tools, technology and royalties to faculty and universities." Both founders said they were motivated by the potential of internet technologies to reach hundreds of thousands of students rather than hundreds.

"We decided the best way to change education was to use the technology we have developed during the past three years," said Ng, who is an expert in machine learning. Previously he said he had been involved with Stanford's effort to put academic lectures online for viewing. But he noted there was evidence that the newer interactive systems provided much more effective learning experiences.

He and Koller dismissed the idea that companies would "disintermediate" universities by spotting the brightest talents among students and hiring them directly.

Indian Express ND 19/04/2012 p-9

Students growing, but where's teacher?

Lakhs of vacancies at all levels, not enough seats at teacher institutes as the gap keeps widening

MILES TO GO

5.23 lakh
vacancies at primary school

5.1 lakh
additional primary teachers needed to meet RTE specification

7.74 lakh
of the existing teachers are not qualified enough

1.79 lakh
secondary teachers needed for English, mathematics and science under Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan

40,000
is the required intake at institutes for elementary and secondary teacher courses

29,000
(a little less) is actual capacity

35%
vacancies at 24 older Central universities

50%
or more vacancies in 19 of 77 state univs

1 lakh
faculty deficit in tech institutes

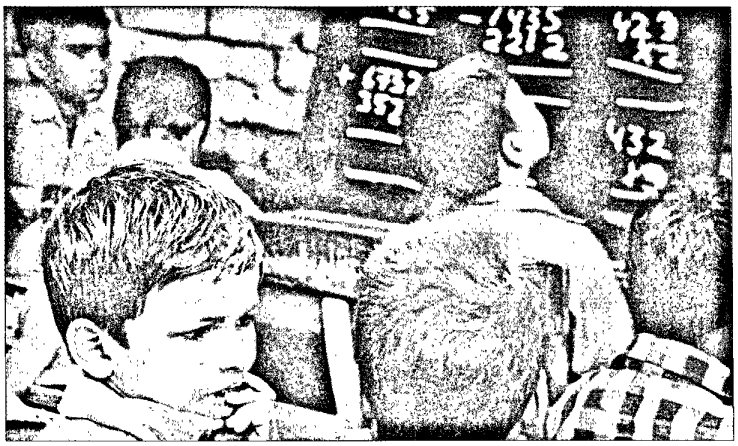
ANUBHUTI VISHNOI
NEW DELHI, APRIL 18

AS INDIA expands access to education and notches up over 90 per cent enrolment in elementary schools with the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and mid-day meal schemes, the need for qualified teachers has grown correspondingly and the manpower crunch is being felt like never before.

So acute is the problem that the Human Resource Development Ministry has devised a first-of-its-kind national mission solely dedicated to teachers and teaching. It seeks to attract teachers in all possible ways: on contract or as adjunct faculty, part-time teachers, visiting faculty, or assistant teachers.

At primary level, recent government studies have revealed that, in addition to the 5.23 lakh vacancies, another 5.1 lakh teachers are needed to meet the pupil-teacher ratio specified under the Right to Education Act. Of the teachers already on the job, 7.74 lakh are largely untrained or without the needed qualifications.

At secondary level, the Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan requires that 1.79 lakh new teachers be appointed with special focus on teachers for English, mathematics and science.



And there aren't enough seats at teacher training institutes or teacher educators to meet the shortfall. At current levels, the total intake requirement at such institutes is 40,000 for elementary and secondary teachers' courses, but the actual capacity is 28,957. In 2010, when Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and the Northeast together needed 9.8 lakh teachers, their 171 institutes could take in no more than 4,615.

Institutes of higher education too are short of teachers. In the 24 older Central universities, 35 per cent faculty positions are lying vacant. Of the 77 state universities, 19 have 50 per cent or more vacant posts while 14 others are at least 40 per cent short. In technical education institutes, it is estimated that the faculty deficit is over a lakh. University Grants Commission data shows that over 65 per cent positions at the Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya, Chhattisgarh, and 58 per cent at the University of Allahabad are lying vacant.

The student-teacher ratio as per UGC norms should be around 13.5, but it is actually around 20.9. Government estimates show the number of teachers at higher education level needs to rise 54 per cent, by close to 3.83 lakh. And student enrolment is only growing, at an average 6 per cent per year.

The National Mission on Teachers & Teaching proposes to address issues from quality of teaching to recruitment policies, continuous training, teacher absenteeism, technology-enabled teaching, and vertical and lateral linkages from schools to universities.

The mission aims to correct the skewed pupil-teacher ratio through policy measures, including allowing scope for faculty mobility with incentives, and setting up schools of education that will coordinate between varsities, schools and teacher education institutes.

The states are being urged to develop institutional capacity to offer M Ed programmes in state universities, open schools of education in select universities, hold summer and winter schools to enable a faculty recharge and coordinate with the national mission to help develop e-content.

Hari Bhumi ND p-4
19/04/2012

गंगा पर चिंता नहीं काम किए जाने की जरूरत

प्रधानमंत्री डा. मनमोहन सिंह ने एकबार फिर गंगा को प्रदूषित किए जाने पर चिंता जताई है। राष्ट्रीय गंगा नदी बेसिन प्राधिकरण की बैठक में उनकी बातों की सच्चाइयों को स्वीकार तो किया जा सकता है लेकिन अकर्मण्यता भी साफ झलकती है। धार्मिक, सांस्कृतिक, आर्थिक और जैविक रूप से देश के लिए अति महत्वपूर्ण गंगा में रोजाना 2.9 अरब लीटर गंदा पानी मिल रहा है। कितना दुखद है कि इस सरकारी आंकड़े को स्वीकार करने वाले सत्ता शीर्ष पर बैठे लोग कुछ कर नहीं पा रहे। कानून व्यवस्था कायम रखने के नाम पर निहत्थे लोगों पर लाठियां और गोलियां बरसाने वाले लोग खुद ही गंगोत्री से लेकर कोलकाता तक नियमों का खुलेआम ही उल्लंघन कर और करा रहे हैं। नदी किनारे बसे महानगरों और उद्योगों का सारा अपशिष्ट गंगा और उसकी सहायक नदियों में बेरोक-टोक बहाया जा रहा है। सिर्फ कानपुर का ही उदाहरण ले लें तो केंद्र और राज्य सरकारों की कथनी और करनी का फर्क स्पष्ट हो जाता है। सुप्रीम कोर्ट के सख्त आदेश के बावजूद चमड़ा उद्योगों का गंदा रसायन युक्त पानी धड़ल्ले से गंगा में बहाया जा रहा है। यही वजह है कि इलाहाबाद के संगम पर डुबकी लगाने पहुंचने वाले करोड़ों लोगों को पापों से मुक्ति भले ही नहीं मिल रही हो, चर्म रोग जरूर जीवन का हिस्सा बन रहे हैं। जिस गंगा का निर्मल और अविरल धारा सदियों से औषधीय गुणवत्ता के कारण रोगों का निवारक बनी हुई थी। अब वही रोग कारक बन चुकी है। ऐसे में प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्डों को केंद्र सरकार की तरफ से चेतावनी जैसे शब्दों का कोई मायने नहीं रह जाता। प्रदूषण की गंभीर होती समस्या के कारण ही तत्कालीन प्रधानमंत्री राजीव गांधी की अध्यक्षता में 1985 में गंगा नदी बेसिन प्राधिकरण का गठन किया गया था। अबतक 27 वर्ष गुजर चुके हैं। काम और आवश्यकता का आकलन करने पर साफ हो जाता है कि दावों के सिवा कुछ नहीं हुआ। जमीनी सच्चाई तो यही है कि अरबों रुपये खर्च कर हरिद्वार, इलाहाबाद, वाराणसी जैसे तीर्थ स्थलों में स्थापित स्थानीय निकाय ट्रीटमेंट प्लांट होने के बाद भी सीवर की गंदगी गंगा में डाल रहे हैं। भारतीय प्रोद्योगिकी संस्थान (आईआईटी) के पूर्व प्रोफेसर व पर्यावरणविद जीडी अग्रवाल (स्वामी सानंद) के आंदोलन और अनशन की वजह से बुलाई गई बैठक में चिंता जताने की औपचारिकताएं तो पूरी हो गई, ईमानदार प्रयास के प्रति नेताओं की प्रतिबद्धता नहीं दिखती। आरोप लग रहे हैं सरकार ने तबीयत खराब होने का बहाना बनाकर स्वामी सानंद को बैठक में शामिल नहीं होने दिया। उत्तराखंड, उत्तर प्रदेश, बिहार और पश्चिम बंगाल के लिए प्राधिकरण ने भले ही 2600 करोड़ रुपये की योजनाएं मंजूर की हों, सत्ता की कार्यपद्धति सिर्फ बंदरबांट की आशंका ही पैदा करती है। जन भावना से जुड़े इस मुद्दे में देश हित को ध्यान में रखते हुए केंद्र व प्रदेश के नेताओं और नौकरशाहों से ईमानदार प्रयास की उम्मीद की जाती है।