Newspaper Clips
April 26-27, 2015

April 26

Amar Ujala ND 26/04/2015 p-7

आईआईटी-एम्स फैकल्टी डिजाइन करेगी उपकरण

रश्मि शर्मा

झज्जर के आईआईटी एक्सटेंशन सेंटर में मेडिकल उपकरण तैयार होंगे

झज्जर में आईआईटी का कैंपस एम्स के नए कैंपस के साथ है

नई दिल्ली। अब आईआईटी दिल्ली और एम्स की फैकल्टी मिलकर हरियाणा के झज्जर में खुलने वाले आईआईटी के एक्सटेंशन सेंटर में मेडिकल उपकरण तैयार करेंगे। आईआईटी दिल्ली के सेंटर फॉर बायोमेडिकल इंजीनियरिंग में एम्स और आईआईटी फैकल्टी मिलकर प्रोडक्ट डिजाइन करते हैं। झज्जर में पहले से ही एम्स खुला हुआ है। ऐसे में अब उसके पास ही आईआईटी का सेंटर खुलना है तो दोनों संस्थान की फैकल्टी मिलकर काम करेंगी।

आईआईटी दिल्ली के डीन रिसर्च प्रो सुनीत तुली ने बताया कि हरियाणा के झज्जर और सोनीपत में सरकार की ओर से उन्हें 50-50 एकड़ की जमीन उपलब्ध कराई गई है। यहां होने वाले रिसर्च के लिए विस्तृत योजना तैयार की गई है। लिहाजा यहां होने वाली रिसर्च काफी कारगर भी होगी। झज्जर में केमिकल और बायोलॉजी के क्षेत्र में रिसर्च पर काम किया जाएगा।

झज्जर में आईआईटी का कैंपस एम्स के नए कैंपस के साथ है, लिहाजा रिसर्च में वहां के विशेषज्ञों का सहयोग भी आसानी से मिल जाएगा। फिलहाल दोनों ही संस्थानों की फैकल्टी दिल्ली कैंपस में बायो डिजाइन पर काम करती हैं। दरअसल, मेडिकल से जुड़े कई प्रोडक्ट अक्सर बाहर ही डिजाइन होकर आते हैं। लिहाजा सोच है कि झज्जर में भी साथ मिलकर इन्हें तैयार किया जाए तो वहां के लोगों को संस्थानों की तकनीक का भी लाभ मिलेगा।

इन रिसर्च कार्यों के लिए फिलहाल जमीन ही मिली है। इसको तैयार होने में लगभग चार से पांच साल का समय लग सकता है। इस तरह से मिलकर काम करने से छात्रों में इनोवेशन और एन्टरप्रन्योरशिप को भी बढ़ावा मिलेगा।

Tribune ND 26/04/2015 p-7

Court to consider complaint against Smriti Irani on April 30

'FALSE' INFO IN AFFIDAVIT

NEW DELHI, APRIL 25

A Delhi court today fixed April 30 for considering a complaint filed against Union HRD Minister Smriti Irani for allegedly giving "false" information about her educational qualification in her affidavits filed with the Election Commission of India.

The matter came up before Metropolitan Magistrate Akash Jain where the counsel for complainant Ahmer Khan, a freelance writer, told the ing lawyers strike, the main lawyer who would argue on the plea could not appear.

The counsel, appearing for Khan, also requested the court that a short date should be given as the strike would continue till April 28. "Put up again for consideration on April 30," the court said.

The complaint alleged that in an April, 2004 affidavit filed by Irani for the Lok Sabha elections, it was stated that she has completed her BA in 1996 from Delhi University (school of

What the complaint says

- The complaint alleged that in an April, 2004 affidavit filed by Irani for the Lok Sabha elections, it was stated that she has completed her BA in 1996 from Delhi University (school of correspondence)
- It claimed that in another affidavit of July 11, 2011 by Irani for election on Rajya Sabha seat from Gujarat, it was stated that her highest educational qualification was B.Com part I from the School of Correspondence, DU

Smriti Irani

It claimed that in another affidavit of July 11, 2011 by Irani for election on Rajya Sabha seat from Gujarat, it was stated that her highest educational part I from the School of Correspondence, DU.

The complainant alleged that in another affidavit of April 16, 2014 filed by her for the Lok Sabha polls, it Bachelor of Commerce Part-I from the School of Open Learning, DU.

"It is evident from the contents of the affidavits filed by Smriti Z Irani that at best, only one of the depositions by her on oath in respect of her educational qualifications is correct," the plea claimed.

It alleged that she had given "false information" about her educational qualifications in the affidavits.

It further said "the aforesaid affidavits of Smriti Z Irani, apart from the ostensibly false and respect of her educational qualifications, also appear to contain false/ discrepant statements in respect of immovable properties owned by her and other details set out by her."— PTI

Tribune ND 26/04/2015 p-5

HRD approves Dhaula Kuan site for IIM

PRATIBHA CHAUHAN
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, APRIL 25

The first academic session of the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) in Sirmaur is likely to begin this July as the Union Human Resource Development (HRD) Ministry has approved a 1,010 bigha site near Dhaula Kuan.

A letter in this regard was received by the Technical Education Department here today. It was on March 12 that a Central team had inspected various sites in and around Paonta Sahib for the IIM. The letter, written by Shailendra Kumar, Director, Management, HRD, has also given permission for renting the vacant premises of a private engineering college in Paonta Sahib for starting classes this year.

Since the 1,010 bigha land belongs to the state Agriculture Department, there will be no hitches and the process for transferring the land in the name of the IIM would be completed within a short period, said officials.

Construction work is likely to begin soon as no forest clearance is required.

Times Of India ND 26/04/2015 p-6

More 'errors' in answer key to JEE mains

Shreya.Roychowdhury@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: More complaints are pouring in about the answer key to the Joint Entrance Examination (Mains) conducted in early April. The last date for challenging the Central Board of Secondary Education's answers for the questions is up but more and more 'errors' are being pointed out. There is also protest against the methods of redress.

Parents and students having compared the answer key results with those of a variety of coaching institutes have arrived at different numbers of mistakes—nine in one case. "The set ... 'C' had [an] error in Chemistry (question 74) where all alternatives were wrong. There is no way to challenge that," says a candidate in her letter to TOI. The parent of a candidate from Mumbai—himself a scientist—says he's spotted an error in answer to a chemistry question (number 34) in set-A. "I have lodged a complaint with CBSE by paying Rs 1,000/- as per proforma," he says.

Several parents argue that a fee of Rs 1,000 (plus service tax) per challenge is prohibitive. A candidate who took the online test writes, "The April 10 paper has as many as four mistakes in the published answer key. No option is matching in any of these questions. I myself have made dozens of calls to [the] CBSE and JEE helplines but [got] no response. Do they expect us to pay Rs 4,000 with no assurance of refund for careless mistakes done by them?"

BONUS MARKS 'UNJUSTIFIED'

The most obvious form of redress is such situations—mark both correct in case of two correct answers or a blanket four marks for a wrong question—is simply not feasible in the context of such high-stakes competitive exams employing negative marking. Parents point out every grace mark is simultaneously an injustice. Students waste time on such question. "For questions which had more than one correct answer, CBSE says that it will give marks to anyone who has marked any of the correct answers. That is absurd....If a student sees two correct answers, she will most likely skip the question fearing negative marking. CBSE should give full marks to all students for such questions," writes a parent.

But such indiscriminate awarding of marks too is a problem. A Bangalore parent points out that bonus marks to all paper examinees—roughly 11 lakh—has the potential to adversely impact ranks of approximately 1.8 lakh online ones. This will not only affect the candidate's chances of making the cut for JEE (Advanced)—which regulates admissions into the Indian Institutes of Technology—but also over-all ranking for admissions into other colleges.

Hindustan Times ND 26/04/2015 p-2

Capital at high seismic risk

EXPERTS SPEAK Unplanned growth, flouting of building norm means damage will be greater in Delhi

Moushumi Das Gupta
moushumi.gupta@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: About half of Delhi would have flattened out had the epicentre of Saturday's morning earthquake been in or near the national capital.

DK Paul, professor emeritus at IIT Roorkee's earthquake engineering department and part of the team that carried out a microzonation study of the capital in 2007, told HT that devastation in Delhi would be many times more not only on account of its high seismicity (it falls in seismic zone IV) but also because of the unplanned growth that flouts structural safety norms in buildings.

The microzonation study had revealed that private buildings in the Capital, especially those in Trans Yamuna and Walled City areas, would suffer the maximum damage if an earthquake of 7 or higher magnitude strikes the Capital.

"An earthquake of 7 and above magnitude with its epicentre in and around Delhi would cause havoc in the Capital mainly because buildings here lack seismic resistant measures. Not only is Delhi densely populated but there is complete lack of enforcement by authorities concerned to ensure that building codes and structural safety norms are followed," said professor Paul.

People stand outside their offices after tremors were felt in Delhi on Saturday. MOHD ZAKIR/HT PHOTO

As per norms, municipalities are supposed to give the go-ahead for construction only if buildings comply with the Indian Design Code, which was revised in 2002 and lays down criteria for earthquake resistant design. "But the problem is we do not have a regulatory framework to ensure compliance of building code resulting in people getting clearance even if their building does not have retrofitting or other seismic resistant measures," Paul added.

The intensity of Saturday's quake in Delhi was about 5 on the Richter scale, which was not very potentially damaging. "It is not earthquakes that kill, it is the buildings. It depends on how resilient a building is... on structural design. If a building is structurally sound, nothing would happen," said Indian Meteorological department director general Laxman Singh Rathore.

Experts say devastation in will would be many times more as the city faces different kind of risks as compared to other cities that have high seismicity.

"The devastation will differ in different locations. For instance, east Delhi areas along the Yamuna that is in the liquefaction zone would suffer the maximum damage on account of the dense, unplanned growth. Rampant unauthorised construction has meant that building bylaws have not been adhered too, even basic soil testing was not carried out before starting construction," said professor Santosh Kumar, director, SAARC Disaster Management Centre.

Indian Express ND 26/04/2015 p-1

This one was big but The Big One is yet to come, say experts

AMITABH SINHA
NEW DELHI | APRIL 25

THE devastating earthquake that originated in Nepal on Saturday may have been the strongest to hit the central Himalayan region in the last 80 years, but scientists say this was not the big one that they had been fearing would strike the area.

At 7.9 on the Richter scale, releasing energy "equivalent to about 100mn tonnes of TNT", Saturday's earthquake was second only to the 8.3-magnitude earthquake that had struck the Bihar-Nepal region on January 15, 1934. The eastern end of the Himalayan region, on the Arunachal Pradesh-China border, had been hit by a 8.5-magnitude earthquake on August 15, 1950.

After that, the region has seen much smaller earthquakes, the biggest being the one in Chamoli, Uttarakhand in 1999 that had caused widespread damage. In 2011, the Sikkim-Nepal border also was hit by a 6.8-magnitude earthquake.

The Himalayan region is the meeting point of the Indian and the Eurasian tectonic plates, and their interaction leads to frequent

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

ON PAGE
7 SOCIAL MEDIA RUMOURS ADD TO PANIC
5 WHY LESSONS FROM GUJARAT ARE RELEVANT
13 FRAMES FROM GROUND ZERO
20 KATHMANDU: MAPPING THE RED ZONE

'This one was big but The Big One is yet to come'

earthquakes. The Indian plate is known to be pushing north and northwestwards, getting below the Eurasian plate, which is the reason for most earthquakes in the area.

"We know there is a huge amount of accumulated strain in this area. It is due for a major earthquake, perhaps a series of earthquakes, bigger than 8 on the Richter scale. That is the kind of energy that is estimated to be accumulated there. This was certainly not one of those earthquakes that is probably imminent. In terms of energy release, I would say this would not have released even four or five per cent of the energy that is estimated to be stored there," said Harsh K Gupta, former director of the Hyderabad-based National Geophysical Research Institute and a former member of the National Disaster Management Authority.

Prof Sankar Kumar Nath of IIT Kharagpur, who has studied seismic activity in the Himalayan region, said the energy released from Saturday's earthquake "was equivalent to the explosion of about 100mn tonnes of TNT, comparable to the energy in detonation of small nuclear bombs".

"This earthquake would only be classified as medium in terms of energy released. That area, the 2500-km stretch from the Hindukush region to the end of Arunachal Pradesh, is capable of generating much bigger earthquakes, even nine on the Richter scale," he said.

"If you look at it differently, we are actually lucky that only a 7.9-magnitude earthquake has come. I would be very happy to have a few 7.9-magnitude earthquakes than a 9-magnitude earthquake which would be absolute disaster. The trouble is that in terms of energy release, which is what causes the damage, it would take 40 to 50 earthquakes of magnitude 7.9 to avoid an earthquake of magnitude 9," he said.

A magnitude 9 earthquake is ten times bigger but approximately 32 times stronger than a magnitude 8 earthquake — magnitude is a reflection of the height of seismic waves measured on a seismograph.

While India has escaped relatively unhurt in Saturday's earthquake, the danger of aftershocks still persists. Already, more than 15 aftershocks of varying magnitudes were observed in Nepal. The biggest of them was 6.6 on the Richter scale and all of them emanated from the same area, near the epicentre of the main earthquake.

Gupta said more aftershocks can be expected and the possibility of an Indian town or city getting impacted might not be totally ruled out. Aftershocks of such a big earthquake can even be felt after two months, he said.

Since they cannot be predicted or prevented, an expert said, the key to avoiding largescale devastation from earthquakes is, therefore, precaution and planning.

Ajay Paul of the Dehradun-based Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology said it was all about incorporating earthquake-resistant methods in urban planning.

"The lesson, once again from this earthquake, is that we need to adapt and plan and prepare ourselves for these earthquakes. More than 90 per cent of the destruction that is caused by the earthquakes is avoidable if we plan for it. An earthquake of magnitude 7.5 is routine in Japan but no one dies there, no property is damaged. We can also do it. There is no knowledge gap. We know exactly how to do it. The buildings have to be constructed in a certain fashion, habitations have be settled in a particular manner. All this is very well known," he said.

April 27

HT.COM ND 27.04.15 P-12

Lots of innovative tech at IIT Delhi's Open House

WHAT AN IDEA!

IIT Delhi students showcase innovative projects that have practical solutions and implications

Gauri Kohli

An electronic travel aid for the visually challenged, an intervertebral disc tissue using silk biotechnology and an e-health kit for rural paramedics. As many as 400 innovative projects – the result of hard work and bright ideas – were showcased by IIT Delhi students at the annual IIT Delhi Open House last week.

An innovative device developed by students of the computer science and engineering department, is called SmartCane. "It is an electronic travel aid which fits on the top fold of a smart cane stock used by visually-challenged persons. It overcomes its limitations by detecting obstacles. For safe mobility, it is important that such obstacles are detected early. The cane has other uses. It doubles as a spatial awareness device and can detect presence/absence of objects in the surroundings. It can detect objects in the range of three metres. It vibrates at different intensities and informs the user about the presence of objects in its path. These vibrations convey the distance information and thus enable the user to negotiate the obstacles from a safe distance. With simple orientation and training, any visually-challenged person can benefit from this," says Kunal Kwatra, one of the students working on this project.

Vijay Rao, a PhD student at the department of electrical engineering, IIT Delhi, with the e-health kit for rural paramedics. SUSHIL KUMAR

Another revolutionary project is an e-health kit which has been developed as a simple easy-to-use medical diagnostic backpack for paramedics-on-cycles to carry into villages and allow them to collect medical data, then use available communication networks (2G/3G/WiFi) to flow into a cloud database called WiSeKAr. This data can then be used for medical profiling.

"We integrate a pulse oximeter, electronic blood pressure monitor, air flow sensor for pulmonary capacity/chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (detection, blood sugar level monitor for diabetes screening, ECG, a portable ultrasound system and a smartphone-based urine analysis kit into one convenient solar-powered package with an intuitive user interface. The data collected in our database (WiSeKAr) is available for big data analysis. With the use of the e-health kit, medical profiling becomes possible. Trends such as diet-induced deficiencies and diseases can be picked up in communities and the spread of diseases can be detected," says Professor Subrat Kar who is part of the project.

> WITH THE E-HEALTH KIT YOU CAN REGISTER MEDICAL DATA LIKE SPREAD OF DISEASES AND THE OCCURRENCE OF DIET LINKED OR HEREDITARY DEFICIENCIES
>
> SUBRAT KAR, Professor IIT Delhi

Panjab Kesari ND 27/04/2015 P-2

महिलाओं की सुरक्षा के लिए आभूषण यंत्र

नई दिल्ली, (भाषा): महिलाओं के खिलाफ अपराध की बढ़ती घटनाओं से चिंतित इंजीनियरिंग के पांच छात्रों के एक समूह ने एक आभूषण यंत्र 'सेफर' विकसित किया है जिसका इस्तेमाल आपात स्थिति में अलार्म बजाने या पहले से चिन्हित फोन नंबरों और पुलिस को संकेत भेजने में किया जा सकता है। 'सेफर' फैशनेबल पत्थर से बने लाकेट के रूप में उपलब्ध है जिसके नीचे एक सुरक्षा यंत्र लगा है। यह लाकेट विभिन्न रंगों के पत्थर में उपलब्ध है। इस यंत्र को उपयोगकर्ता के मोबाइल में एक एप्लीकेशन के माध्यम से जोड़ा जाएगा। आपात स्थिति में दो बार दबाने से यह उपकरण उपयोगकर्ता के संरक्षकों या मित्रों के पंजीकृत नंबरों, निकटवर्ती पीसीआर और इसी एप्लीकेशन का इस्तेमाल कर रहे आस पास के लोगों को सतर्क कर देगा। इस आभूषण यंत्र को दिल्ली टेक्नोलॉजिकल यूनीवर्सिटी के चार छात्रों

नई खोज

इंजीनियरिंग छात्रों का शोध रंग लाया

अविनाश बंसल, चिराग कपिल, आयुष बांका, माणिक मेहता और आईआईटी दिल्ली के एक छात्र पारस बत्रा ने विकसित किया है। यह यंत्र इस माह के अंत तक बिक्री के लिए उपलब्ध होगा जिसकी कीमत 3500 रुपए होगी। यह यंत्र विकसित करने के कारण छात्रों के इस समूह को राष्ट्रीय, अंतर्राष्ट्रीय एवं तकनीक आधारित प्रतियोगिताओं में कई पुरस्कार मिल चुके हैं।

पारस बत्रा ने कहा कि हम इस यंत्र को स्टाइलिश बनाना चाहते थे ताकि महिलाएं विभिन्न परिधानों के साथ इसे पहन सकें। अभी यह सिर्फ लाकेट के रूप में उपलब्ध होगा लेकिन भविष्य में हमारी योजना इसे कंगन और अंगूठियों के रूप में भी विकसित करने की है।

Amar Ujala ND 27/04/2015
P-11

आईआईटी, आईआईएम में पढ़ाएंगे नोबेल विजेता

सरकार द्वारा संचालित ग्लोबल इनिशिएटिव ऑफ एकेडमिक नेटवर्क (जीआईएएन) प्रोग्राम के तहत देश के प्रतिष्ठित इंडियन इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ मैनेजमेंट और इंडियन इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ टेक्नोलॉजी, नेशनल इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ टेक्नोलॉजी, सेंट्रल यूनिवर्सिटीज और ए ग्रेड प्राप्त संस्थानों में फैकल्टी के तौर पर नियुक्ति पाने वालों में 20 नोबेल पुरस्कार विजेता और 800 विदेशी शिक्षकों से प्रस्ताव प्राप्त हो चुके हैं। जीआईएएन प्रोग्राम का उद्देश्य देश के उच्च शिक्षण संस्थानों में दुनिया भर के सर्वश्रेष्ठ संस्थानों से शिक्षकों, वैज्ञानिकों, विशेषज्ञों और आंत्रप्रेन्योर्स को आमंत्रित किया जाता है। इस प्रोग्राम के तहत 20 दिनों के सेशन में शिक्षा प्रदान करने वाले अंतरराष्ट्रीय फैकल्टी मेम्बर्स को 7,55,000 रुपए और 15 दिनों के सेशन के लिए 5,03,300 रुपए का भुगतान किया जाएगा।

IISc researcher predicted Nepal earthquake in 2012

http://www.deccanchronicle.com/150427/nation-current-affairs/article/iisc-researcher-predicted-nepal-earthquake-2012

BENGALURU: Geo-physicists working in Himalayas and researchers from the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in Bengaluru had in various reports warned that critical seismic zone around the Himalayan region could trigger earthquakes. A report published in 2012 on earthquake probabilities, by the researchers from the Civil Engineering Department of IISc, had revealed that the major movement of earth's plates could lead to earthquake in the region. Dr K Sreevalsa from IISc has stated that Nepal and other regions of Himalayas, including North Eastern states of India, would be prone to mega earthquake in the coming years.

Dr Sreevalsa had even written to the Central Government and the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) officials suggesting various measures to cope with any eventuality. "I had suggested the NDMA and the government to be prepared with medical shelters, as there was possible energy accumulation due to seismic gap and could possibly lead to a mega earthquake," Dr Sreevlasa said.

"This is due to collision of earth plates in the Himalayan region, which is known as the youngest and still growing mountain range of the earth. The collision of Indian Plate (covering Himalayan region) and Eurasian Plate (covering China and Kazakhstan) is the main reason for the Saturday's earthquake. The fact of mega earthquake was established on the speed (40-50 mm per year) of these plates, ranging 200 km wide and deep. If you look at the seismic map India the Himalayan and North Eastern region has been placed in Zone V - the highest vulnerability area when it comes to earthquake," Professor T.G. Sitharam, under whose guidance the seismic report was prepared.

He explained that it is not the earthquakes which creates disaster, but the buildings which fall under its impact that often leads to high death tolls. "We cannot predict the earthquakes well in advance, but in some parts of the world we have been able to recognise the P-waves (Primary Waves), but these waves can be felt just 20-30 seconds before the earthquake, which is too less of a time to alert the masses. But once the P-waves are registered, we can ensure that nuclear power plants are shut and the dam gates opened, in case they are holding full water capacity. Hence in most the earthquakes we must depend on the mitigation measures," Professor Sitharam explained.

A.K. Shukla, former deputy director general and head of Earth Quake Risk Evaluation Centre, IMD, New Delhi, strongly recommended that the need of the hour was constructing earthquake resistant buildings and safeguarding the mountain slopes by maintaining green cover and not disturb them by damming and drilling. "The Earth constitutes of 10 major plates and two of them are very active in Himalayan region. Besides IISc several global models had predicted major earthquake in this region. Starting from Srinagar in Jammu and Kashmir to Guwahati in Assam, the Himalayan region falls under most vulnerable seismic zones of India and the local authorities must ensure the building codes are followed in these regions," he suggested.

New research facility to boost ocean technology

Hindustan Times (Delhi)

NEW DELHI: In an effort to boost ocean research and technology, the government on Saturday laid the foundation stone for the ocean research facility of Earth System Sciences Organisation - National Institute of Ocean Technology (ESSO- NIOT) near ocean front at Thupilipallam village near Nellore in Andhra Pradesh.

Minister of Earth Sciences Dr Harsh Vardhan told HT: "This will go a long way in boosting ocean research. This facility at Nellore is expected to be the future hub of ocean technology in India.

The research facility, to be established at a cost of over ` 250 crore will allow testing of various equipment and operations to be undertaken in actual sea conditions and would enable demonstration of its various technologies.

The training facility near the Chittedu village is for software development for ocean data analysis and to provide training to the students in the ocean related R&D areas. A data centre is also proposed for analysis, data computation and interpretation of ocean data.

The research facility itself would have several laboratories for carrying out prototype tests in a test pond to qualify the method and procedures of deep sea mining concept. Minerals like copper, cobalt, nickel and manganese can be extracted from such deep sea mining.

Have Indian Companies stopped hiring from IIT-IIMs?

http://jobs.siliconindia.com/career-news/-Have-Indian-Companies-stopped-hiring-from-IITIIMs-nid-181913.html

BANGALORE: IIT's and IIM's are seen as the premier institutes for higher education in India, and most multinational companies recruit talent from these colleges.

Majority of these companies are successful, and using its hiring strategy for notoriety, this trend however, has created an invisible caste system in these companies.

Today, it is no longer the case as companies ranging from FMCGs, telecom companies, consumer, financial services and technology companies, and start-ups too recruit heavily from other colleges.

Also, the multinationals have lost their first right of refusal over IIT and IIM candidates, as Indian companies and startups are seen as just as, if not more, attractive as a long-term career destinations.

While these institutes have contributed significantly to the Indian economy, the IIT-IIM glamour peaked in the mid-2000s and now their influence is waning. This is due to India's explosive growth in the 1990's and the supply of talent from these institutes just could not keep up with the demand.

Other management and engineering schools also started making an impact around this time, causing companies to widen the net and look for talent in non-tier 1 colleges.

The other criticism regarding IITs and IIMs is that these institutes produced people of the same mould. This worked well in the past as businesses were predictable, but in the age of disruptive business practices, creative minds with different perspectives are needed.

‘IITs facing staff shortage’

http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/iits-facing-staff-shortage/article7145054.ece?ref=tpnews

Though there are ample job opportunities in the field of teaching in our country, there is dearth of qualified and suitable candidates, Bapuji Institute of Engineering and Technology director Vrushabhendrappa has said.

Speaking at the inaugural ceremony of a two-day symposium titled ‘Mech-I-Prix 2015’ here on Sunday, he said that over 70 per cent of teaching posts in all the IIT’s country were vacant due to non-availability of qualified candidates and many eminent scientists from our country had moved abroad in search of better opportunities.

When the situation of IITs was so crucial, the government has sanctioned 10 more IITs and the authorities were looking for suitable sites to establish them. He insisted that the budding engineers should take up research in different engineering disciplines and get the Ph.D.’s, so that the IITs get qualified lecturers, he added.

Hindustan Times ND 27/04/2015 P-11

Climate fictions to warm up undergraduate class in IIT-Kanpur

HT Correspondent
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Having a cli-fi genre of climate themed fictions for a course has been known in US and UK and India will soon join this club.

Prof T Ravichandran's course titled 'cli-fi and cli-flicks' in IIT Kanpur which is likely to begin on July 27 will include units on climate scepticism, concepts of eco-horror, dystopia, eco-fiction and eco-fabulism, and representations of climate change issues in feature films and documentaries.

The pre-dominating global concern is climate change. Climate fictions and climate flicks provide an interdisciplinary study of a looming phenomenon. A study of such novels and films in the course can help identify and understand the driving forces causing the ecosystem degradation.

"How long should I continue to teach Shakespeare and Shelley and make them aesthetically love the beauty of daffodils or skylarks when in reality they would soon become endangered if climate change goes unchecked?," the professor who is in Duke University at present as a Fulbright scholar said.

The basic objective, he said of the course was to cultivate an awareness of the global concern for climate change by studying fictional and film representations and to develop critical skill needed for studying a genre.

Millennium Post ND 27/04/2015 P-7

UGC moots varsity police stations

NEW DELHI: If UGC has its way, universities will soon have their own police stations for quick handling of crisis and preventing untoward incidents on campus.

In a set of guidelines framed for enhancing students' safety and security on campuses, University Grants Commission (UGC) has said university police station can go a long way in "instilling" a sense of security amongst students and scare amongst "nuisance makers and petty criminals". The guidelines suggest adoption of some of the best practices implemented by campuses worldwide like the 'Warn Me' model developed by University of California, Berkley, helping in sending of emergency messages through Internet and mobiles. It also pitch for providing short-distance escort services to students attending varsity organised evening concerts and other events. The "Guidelines on Safety of Students on and off Campuses of Higher Educational Institutions" have been shared with all varsities by UGC, asking them to amend their ordinances and other relevant statutory provisions to ensure the directions are implemented in the best interests of students. AGENCIES

Financial Express ND 27/04/2015 P-12

An appropriate strategy for skill development needed

A plan of action that will help produce a large number of skilled workers for local needs as well for the international job market is what is required

NEELA DABIR

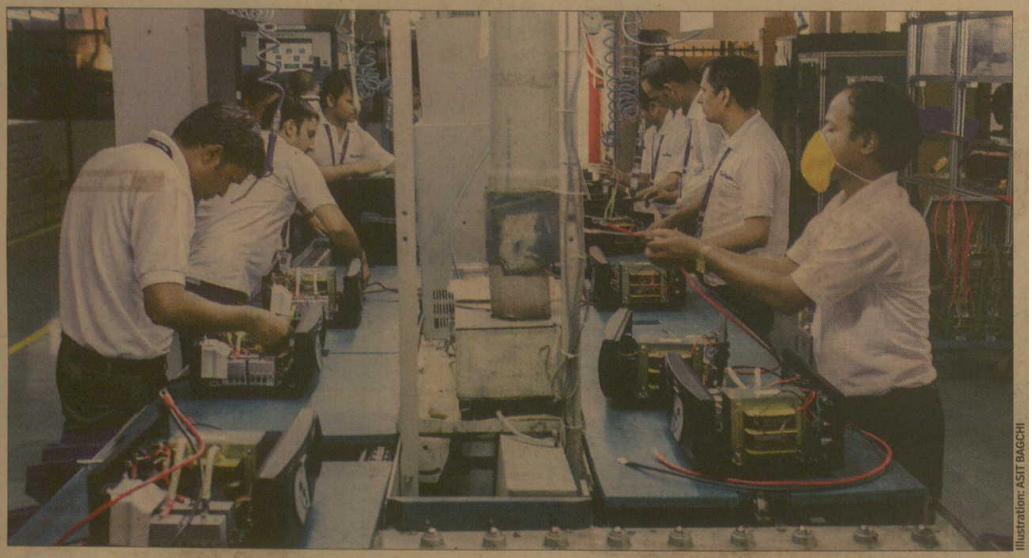


Illustration: ASIT BAGCHI

An important step in inclusive growth of the country, the Skill India campaign, has become a national agenda in both politics and the media. All of us are aware of the huge skills gap that currently exists in our country. It ranges from the day-to-day needs of the common population to get a skilled plumber or an electrician, to the needs of the industries and the service sectors to get skilled workforce for production/service delivery.

In the light of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for making in India, there is a great momentum to scale up the efforts towards skilling. The seriousness on the part of the government is evident from the fact that recently a separate ministry for skill development and entrepreneurship has been set up. It is expected to converge different initiatives for skilling and develop a comprehensive programme to achieve the aim of skill development at the national level. Along with the new initiatives, many of the earlier schemes and programmes are being revamped. Built upon the experiences of various initiatives so far, the government is now keen to set up national vocational universities in different states.

Several studies have indicated that there is a major mismatch between the skill-sets of the youth trained in the existing skill/technical training institutions and the skill requirement of the jobs available in industries in most of the sectors. In India, only about 5% of the workforce has marketable skills, as compared to 50% to 60% in many other emerging economies. The magnitude of the challenge is further evident from the fact that about 12 million people are expected to join the workforce every year.

There are some successful models on vocational education in other countries that can be potentially replicated to increase the prevalence skilled studies in India. Germany's dual model of vocational training is quoted as one of the most successful models anywhere in the world. The German model has a long history and strong socio-economic (and even cultural) roots—thus it is not easy to transfer. Developing a full-blown dual vocational training system at the national scale is difficult and will take its due course of time. Yet it is important to understand the core elements of this model, listed by IZA Newsroom (newsroom.iza.org), which are:

There are some successful models on vocational education in other countries that can be potentially replicated to increase the prevalence skilled studies in India. Germany's dual model of vocational training is quoted as one of the most successful models anywhere in the world

- A combination of structured learning while working in companies with vocationally-oriented schooling;
- A standardised, binding national training curricula that are updated regularly and examinations with chambers of crafts and commerce to certify occupational skills;
- Fixed-term apprenticeship contracts with specific and collectively-agreed wages;
- Co-regulation by social partners and government regarding curricula and exams; and
- Shared funding by employers (labour costs) and the government (schools).

In the Indian context, the need of the hour is to adopt an appropriate strategy for skill development that will help in producing a large number of skilled workers for the national needs as well for the international job market. The model for skill development has to be scalable, sustainable and cost-effective. It should also assure quality that can match the international standards. In fact, the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) has tried to develop a model which can be suitable for universities in India.

The TISS entered into the field of skill development in December 2011 by establishing the School of Vocational Education (SVE) with a seed grant from the ministry of HRD through AICTE. It is an effort to demonstrate how universities and higher education institutes can impart vocational education. The TISS-SVE, in fact, has tried to develop a robust model that involves partnership with training institutes and industries from different sectors for imparting quality vocational training to a large number of young people pan India. It is a work-integrated training model with appropriate modifications of the German model of vocational education.

We have, so far, identified 20 different sectors to offer vocational education courses. For any sector there are three types of partners—vertical anchor, hubs and skill knowledge providers. All these partners are carefully selected for ensuring the quality of education. With help of these partners, the TISS has the role of offering job-oriented vocational courses by setting up processes for standardisation of course delivery, examination and certification.

While this particular model is still evolving, there are a few basic strengths of this model. For example, the emphasis is more on hands-on practical training at a related industry and appropriate theoretical knowledge. The courses are vetted by a committee of experts drawn from related industry, academicians and are aligned with the National Skills Qualification Framework and National Occupational Standards. The model is not based on supply-creation but is demand-driven—the courses are started only in those locations where there is a possibility of work integration.

It is too early to judge the effectiveness or impact of this model, introduced by the TISS, but we are confident to make considerable progress over the next few years. Since the need for training is so huge, it is necessary to use as many training resources as possible to impart vocational education.

The author is deputy director, Tata Institute of Social Sciences

Mint ND 27/04/2015 P-10

Not by bricks alone

VIEW FROM IIMA

ASHISH NANDA

Respond to this column at feedback@livemint.com

The government is investing in building several new Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) and All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS). These institutes will increase the availability of high-quality professional education in India, a vast nation with a young population and a growing economy. States and cities where these new institutes are being established are agog with excitement.

Academic institutions generate positive spillovers to their local communities. They attract education-oriented, socially-engaged and broad-horizon students, faculty and staff who enrich the community's social and cultural life. Related enterprises flourish around academic institutions. Real estate prices rise.

Not surprisingly, there has been political jostling over where the new institutes will be located and each announcement of an institute's location has been welcomed by their local community as a signal achievement.

Yet, as new institutes of excellence are dispersed around the nation and welcomed wholeheartedly by the local populace, I worry about possible unintended consequences of focusing solely on building new institutes. To be productive, scarce resources—public finances, policymakers' time, and implementation bodies' attention—must be employed to achieve joint objectives of building hardware and software, and extending reach while ensuring excellence.

The hardware of physical infrastructure—land, buildings, etc.—is important for creating an academic institution, but is the easiest to establish. Academic excellence depends crucially on the software as well: a culture of excellence in the institution and high-quality faculty.

Whatever the grandeur of the physical infrastructure, quality of learning crucially depends on what goes on in the institution. An institution's activities are influenced significantly by its culture. A culture of excellence develops in an academic institutionally after years of committed effort.

Through the dedication of cohorts of students, generations of faculty and lineage of leaders, an institution develops a sense of what it stands for, what values it upholds and how it conducts itself in routine and difficult times. The lore of how the institution responded to critical challenges shapes its culture. You cannot prefabricate it; culture develops over time.

At IIM Ahmedabad (IIMA), our culture has been shaped by stories passed on from one generation to the next of the enterprise of our founders, the simplicity and dedication of our early directors and faculty, our institute not brooking any external influence on selection despite considerable inducement, the extraordinary extent to which the entire IIMA community gathered together to defend the institute's autonomy in the face of a threat to its independence, and several other such defining moments.

No one of these events by itself defines what IIMA is today, but woven together, they provide the institute a fabric uniquely its own, an identity and a character that nurtures our commitment to academic excellence and meritocracy.

As in IIMA, all institutions of excellence have strong cultures that draw upon their experiences over the years. Strong cultures are likely to develop if the physical infrastructure hosts communities of dedicated individuals who are committed to the ideals of education and excellence.

Locating new institutions in dispersed, even remote locations, disconnected from sections of the local populace, committed to the ideals of education and distant from family amenities, such as good schools and local economies, that can support dual careers exacerbates the challenge of building animated communities of such dedicated individuals.

Strong academic cultures are built on the backbone of high-quality and committed faculty. In fact, modern technological innovations, such as distance learning, have only magnified the importance of having teachers who encourage enquiry, deliberation and learning. From where will the new institutions get their faculty?

COLUMN

I am more familiar with the management education space, so my observations derive primarily from that arena, although I suspect they would not be very different in engineering or medicine. The new IIMs, wanting to establish academic rigour, will recruit faculty with doctorates in management and related disciplines. The new faculty will be mostly from India, given our academic pay scales. However, we don't have enough doctorates coming from top Indian management schools to meet the increased demand for quality educators and researchers.

New doctorates provide the lifeblood of entrants to the academic profession. Even as physical capacity is being created, doctoral programmes in the IIMs are not expanding. To expand their heavily subsidized doctoral programmes is a daunting prospect for the IIMs, particularly since the investment doesn't directly benefit the institutes. The government should step in to support the strengthening of this important software.

The new IIMs will also try and recruit faculty from other institutes. Lateral movement would be welcome if there were a surfeit of faculty at existing IIMs, since it would make the academic labour market more fluid. In fact, most existing IIMs suffer from faculty shortage. Pulling faculty from established IIMs will be difficult for new IIMs. Even if they are partially successful, such movement will not improve academic productivity; quite the opposite.

To be stimulating and lively, academic departments must have a minimum size. Having a minimum scale ensures you can bounce your ideas off others, attend seminars that will spark your research interests, and seek collaborations with colleagues that have complementary skills. By increasing the number of institutes while quality faculty continues to be scarce, we risk developing subscale institutes where academics, however brilliant as individuals, will thirst for lively academic discourse.

Even as new institutes are created, the nation can benefit from significant expansion of existing institutes that have a history of excellence and high-quality, committed faculty. Several of the existing IITs and IIMs, and AIIMS would fit in that category. High quality though these are, many of these institutes are subscale, compared with some of the top global institutions.

My institute, IIMA, has approximately 1,000 full-time graduate and doctoral students and 100 full-time faculty. In comparison, both Harvard Business School and Wharton have approximately 2,000 full-time graduate and doctoral students and 230 full-time faculty. Chicago's Booth School of Business, which has large executive and part-time MBA programmes, has 3,000 MBA and PhD students and 205 faculty.

Entering students and recruited faculty would have considerable confidence about the quality of the institutes they are joining, if established institutes such as IIMA were to expand significantly. Public resources would yield better returns if some of those were invested in expanding such established institutes rather than solely in building new campuses.

If the nation supports some of these established institutes to become world-class, they will join the flow of cutting-edge global thinking, become magnets to attract the best students and faculty from near and far, and become role models for other academic institutions.

Has this model of seeking reach and excellence jointly worked anywhere? One could argue that the approach of the Chinese government to higher education has been just that. They have developed many new universities, but they have also identified and supported a few to become globally recognized, with remarkable success.

As in most walks of life, pursuit of a singular objective risks yielding suboptimal results. For the nation's investment in institutes of academic excellence to be impactful, balanced attention must be paid to multiple objectives: building hardware and software, extending reach while ensuring excellence.

Ashish Nanda is director of Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad (IIMA). Prior to this, Nanda was Robert Braucher professor of practice at Harvard Law School and before that he was on the faculty of Harvard Business School. Nanda has a Ph.D from Harvard University and a B.Tech from IIT Delhi. He is also an alumnus of IIMA, from where he received his PGDM.

This article presents the author's personal views and should not be construed to represent the institute's position on the subject.

Times Of India ND 27/04/2015 P-2

Staff bodies of 30 DU colleges unite to oppose credit system

Shreya.Roychowdhury
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: The staff association of Kirori Mal College has a valid point to make against the introduction of the choice-based credit system to Delhi University this year.

"There is a theoretical possibility," says its resolution on CBCS, "of three different systems in three years—CBCS in first year, semester in second and erstwhile FYUP (four-year undergraduate programme) in third year. Such an unstable system is a nightmare, both academically and administratively."

The staff associations of over 30 DU colleges have resolved against CBCS for a range of reasons. The DU Teachers' Association has forwarded their resolutions to the University Grants Commission that had posted the proposed structure and draft syllabi of 18 subjects on its website inviting comments. They aren't taking the "top-down" approach to reform too well.

CBCS promises course and college-hopping opportunities. Jesus and Mary College has been there, done that and knows it doesn't work. JMC's B El Ed (education) students had been allowed to study biology at Maitreyi College.

"The experiment lasted roughly two years from 1996-98 but ultimately failed since JMC's students were not easily incorporated into the teaching schedule and workload calculations of Maitreyi College's biology department. Complications also arose with respect to... access to the biology labs and... other facilities."

Lady Shri Ram College teachers declares the "cafeteria approach" in which students can serve themselves whatever courses they want to study is "unworkable". "The promise of unlimited choice... is a deceptive one. With limited infrastructure and faculty strength, it would remain mere eyewash. Most institutions like ours will have to put a cap on the choice of courses actually offered, just as had to be done in FYUP with DCII (discipline II) courses," they write.

Apart from leading to massive fluctuations of work-load in colleges and ad-hoc teacher recruitment, this can also result in less 'marketable' courses—regional languages, some of the social sciences and humanities—going off the table altogether. Mobility across the country will bring other challenges including ones of accommodation.

'A NIGHTMARE'

Most colleges have told UGC the semester system isn't working. "Our experience with the semester system has not been entirely positive," says the Maharaja Agrasen College Teaching Staff.

There's criticism of the attempt to "homogenize" the syllabus; Kamala Nehru College finds it the "most worrying aspect" of the proposal. "Regional locations, weather, histories, languages and cultures as well as interests define the contours of institutions. Diversity is to be celebrated and respected... Enforced uniformity seems to nip creativity and diversity [at the bud], rather than encourage it." The staff association of Indraprastha College points out that "universities in the US which allow credit transfer do not presuppose existence of a common syllabus". "Standardization," it further writes, "will undermine the advantages and skills different institutions have developed over time."

HT.COM ND 27.04.15 P-6

Young entrepreneurs are kick starting e-education

INTERNET PENETRATION Low cost internet enabled smartphones have made e-learning a booming business. Ken Resreach estimated that the Indian e-learning market is around USD $3 billion

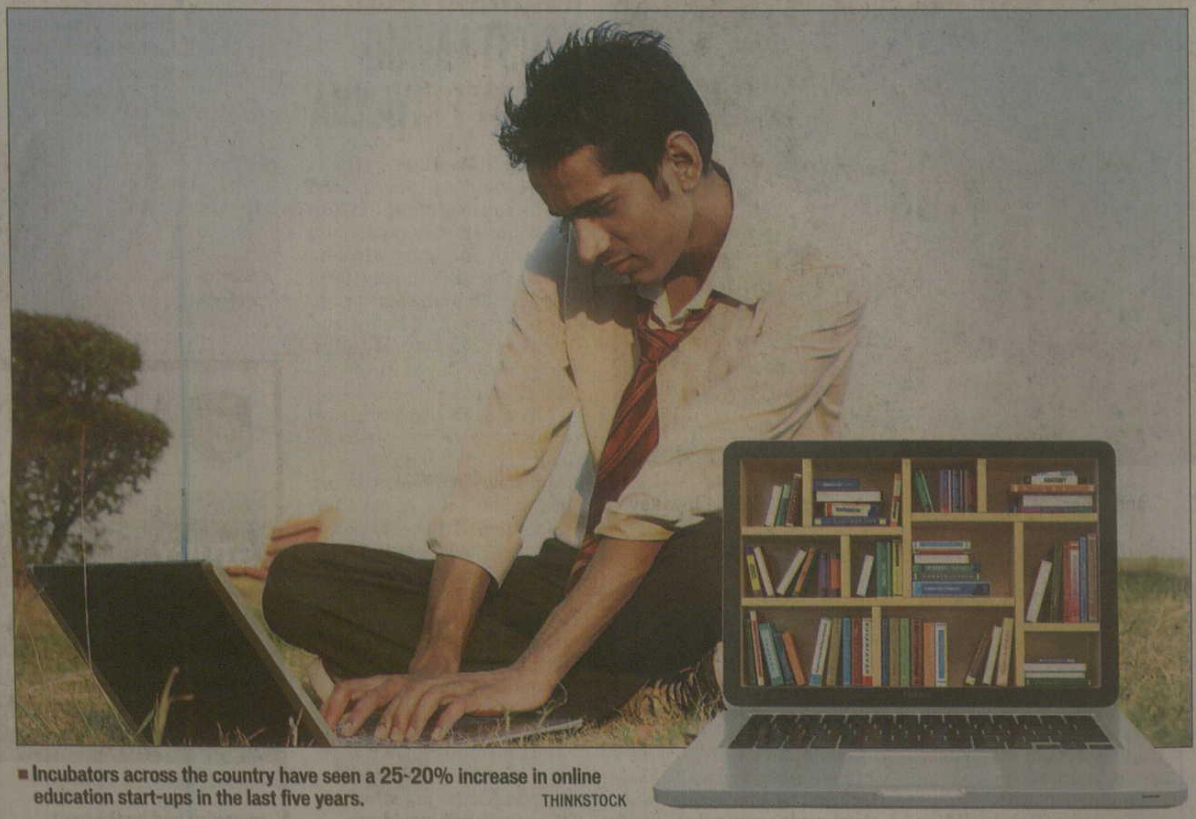
Apoorva Puranik

In the past two years, the flourishing e-learning sector in India has caught the fancy of young entrepreneurs willing to invest in education start-ups. The sector has grown considerably with a sharp rise in smartphone penetration and high-speed internet facilities. According to Ken Research, an information services company, the e-learning market in India is estimated to be around USD $3 billion.

Only last month, Bangalore-based Aurus Network Private Ltd, the company behind SuperProfs.com, an online platform that connects students preparing for various competitive exams with professors via live and recorded lectures, has secured Rs18 crore as funds from investors, to expand operations in India.

Experts said such success stories have become a common phenomenon, which has led to a significant number of young entrepreneurs trying their luck in the e-learning sector.

"Although there is large number of education-focused start-ups, there are not many working in the field of education management and administration. We were incubated at an early stage and that helped us do our research better. But when it comes to funding, your product is all that matters nothing else," said Jaideep Poonia, who created an app that lets parents and school teachers message each other for school activities.



■ Incubators across the country have seen a 25-20% increase in online education start-ups in the last five years. THINKSTOCK

With many such new ventures doing well, incubators across the country are also noticing a rise in the number of education-focused start-ups wanting to be funded.

"Education is one of our most popular sectors, both in terms of applicants for our incubation program as well as social entrepreneurs who we end up selecting to be our investees. There has been a rmaked increase especially in the last five years. Now 25%-30% applications every year are from the education sector. And about 30%-40% of our active investees at any given point in time are from the same sector," said Paroma Bhattacharaya, associate, incubation support at UnltdIndia, one of the leading private incubators in India.

Student jailed for hacking University of Birmingham computers to improve his grades

http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/student-jailed-for-hacking-university-of-birmingham-computers-to-improve-his-grades-10203823.html

A student who hacked into his university's computer systems to improve his grades has been jailed for four months.

Imran Uddin, 25, hid four key logging devices into computers at the University of Birmingham to steal staff logins, West Midlands Police said.

He then used the information to access the grading system and change his marks.

Uddin had been on course for a 2:2 in his biochemistry degree but fiddled his grades to reach what would have been a first. Imran Uddin was jailed for four months

But his trick was discovered when a lecturer discovered one of the black, rectangular boxes inside a computer, secretly recording everything punched into the keyboard.

An internal investigation was launched and uncovered three more - including one attached to a machine in a secure area of the campus meant to be only accessible to staff.

Police were called and detectives from the Regional Cyber Crime Unit deciphered the data to realise that Uddin had been logging in using staff details to better his grades.

Appearing at Birmingham Crown Court on Thursday, Uddin, of Chesterton Road in Balsall Heath, pleaded guilty to six offences under the Computer Misuse Act. Uddin admitted offences under the Computer Misuse Act at Birmingham Crown Court

They related to unauthorised access to computer material, intent to commit further offences and impairing the operation of a computer.

Detective Constable Mark Bird, from the Regional Cyber Crime Unit, said: "The audacity of Uddin to install not just one but four of these devices showed how determined he was to cheat his way to a better degree.

"His false qualification could have seen him go on to research medical treatments.

"The seriousness of his crimes were reflected in the four-month prison sentence he was handed at court."