

# Newspaper Clips

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## **New IIT-Bhubaneswar director may be hired after poll results**

*Ashok Pradhan, TNN | Apr 26, 2014, 08:25 AM IST*

BHUBANESWAR: An acting director is likely to be appointed for IIT Bhubaneswar (IITBBS) as a stop-gap arrangement after incumbent Madhusudan Chakraborty completes his five-year tenure on May 18, government sources said.

An officer in the Union ministry of human resources development (MHRD) said that since the model code of conduct is in force, the government would not go for appointment of another director at this juncture and in all probability wait for the new government to decide on the matter. "It is most likely that an acting director would be appointed. Either that, or Chakraborty will get an extension for a month or so," he said.

Even if the government publishes an advertisement now, aspirants will have 45 days to apply, far more time than the less than one month that Chakraborty has as director.

Sources said a five-member team comprising IITBBS former chairman and vice-chairman of Tata Steel B Muthuraman, IITBBS chairman and MD Vedanta Aluminum S S Roongta, chairman of the IIT council standing committee M M Sharma, MHRD additional secretary Amita Sharma and IIT Bombay former director Ashok Mishra had recently reviewed the performance of IITBBS and submitted a report to the ministry. They had not given a favourable report, the sources said.

Though the government is considering an extension for IIT Hyderabad director U B Desai, IIT Ropar director M K Surappa and IIT Gandhinagar director S K Jain, it is averse to giving a second term to IIT Patna director Anil Bhoumick (who is facing a vigilance case) and Chakraborty, the sources added.

The Union government is not considering another term to Chakraborty because it is not happy with the slow pace of work for the permanent campus of the institute at Aragul village on the outskirts of the city, sources said.

The campus is coming up on a 950-acre plot and had original an commissioning deadline of 2013. During his foundation day lecture on February 12, the IITBBS director had said that the institute would move to its new campus by July this year. While civil works for the hostels are complete, work for water, power supply and peripheral development are yet to be done.

Dainik Jagran ND 27/04/2014 P-1

रसोई के गंदे पानी को साफ करने वाला वाटर ट्रीटमेंट प्लांट बनाया

# ...ताकि बूंद-बूंद पानी आए काम



**आशुतोष झा, नई दिल्ली**

दिल्ली में पानी की किल्लत को देखते हुए आइआइटी के केमिकल इंजीनियरिंग के छात्र शुभम ग्रोवर व उसके कुछ दोस्तों ने एक वाटर ट्रीटमेंट प्लांट तैयार किया है, जो घरों में इस्तेमाल हो चुके पानी को दोबारा इस्तेमाल करने लायक बना सकता है। यह किफायती है और जगह भी कम लेता है।

मूल रूप से सोनीपत के गोहाना निवासी शुभम ग्रोवर

बताते हैं, इस तरह के वाटर प्लांट का नाम जेहन आते ही भारी भरकम खर्च की बात दिमाग में आती है। तो हम लोगों की कोशिश थी कि ऐसा वाटर ट्रीटमेंट प्लांट बनाया जाए जो कम से कम पैसे व जगह में तैयार हो जाए। बस साथी सुनील रावत, कुमार शानू, प्रशांत, रमा संग इसे तैयार करने में जुट गए।



तारकोल, फिटकरी, कॉटन के कपड़े, पत्थर के छोटे-छोटे टुकड़े, टब या ड्रम के इस्तेमाल से तैयार प्लांट

का नाम रखा 'किचन वेस्ट वाटर ट्रीटमेंट प्लांट'। इसमें कुल महज हजार रुपये का खर्च आया। इसके जरिये रसोई में खाना पकाने और बर्तन साफ करने के बाद जो गंदा पानी बचता है उसे साफ कर फिर घरेलू कामों में इस्तेमाल किया जा सकता है। इसे एक छोटे से घर में भी आसानी से लगाया जा सकता है और खर्च के नाम पर 20 से 25 दिन बाद 10-15 रुपये का चारकोल खरीद प्लांट के एक हिस्से में रखना होता है बस। इसके अलावा कोई खर्चा नहीं है। गर्मी शुरू होते ही पानी को लेकर लोगों की नींद हराम हो जाती है। छात्रों को यह समस्या गंभीर लगी। इस बारे में अपने प्रोफेसर से चर्चा की। आइआइटी के केमिकल इंजीनियरिंग विभाग के प्रोफेसर सनत मोहंती बताते हैं, प्लांट में एक छोटा सा पंप है। इसमें केमिकल की मदद से पानी फिल्टर किया जाता है।

**April 28**

**Hindu ND 28/04/2014 P-3**

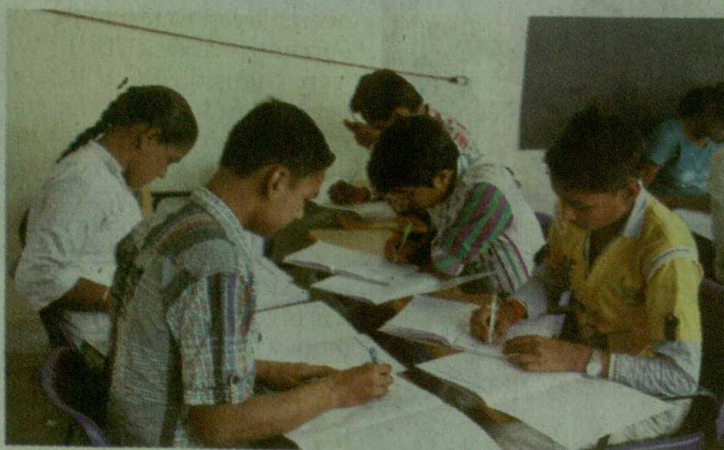
# BPL students learn to crack IIT entrance exam the Harvard way

Rana Siddiqui Zaman

**NEW DELHI:** Based on the module of Harvard University, hundreds of students across the country who belong to Below Poverty Line families are being trained to crack entrance exams to the coveted Indian Institutes of Technology. Avanti, a non-government organisation, provides free coaching to these students.

It works mainly with municipal schools across the country: Chennai Corporation Schools, Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya Schools, Puducherry and Mangalore. They also give guidance to Tibetan refugees students for whom they have established four special IIT coaching centres — two in Missouri, one in Selakui at Uttarakhand and one in Mundgod in Karnataka.

In Delhi, Avanti is training around 500 students in Shahadra, Yamuna Vihar, Subhash Nagar and Shahpur Jat. Akshay Saxena, the co-founder of the NGO, said: "Last year, 22 students were selected, out of which Delhi had five students, all from government schools. We saw 40 per cent selection in the IIT Advanced (top 1 per cent) from our first class in Puducherry and 95 per cent selection in IIT JEE Mains (top 10 per cent). In Navodaya, Puducherry, among 40 per cent students, 17 per cent made it to IIT and are now working in top companies across the country."



*Students in one of the coaching classes organised by Avanti. PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT*

The coaching method is unconventional. It does not have a teacher-student set up but 'student-teaching-student' method in a group of five to six. Instead of a teacher, an adult social worker works as a 'caring guide'. "This has given us a better outcome than engaging paid teachers," said 31-year-old Mr. Saxena, himself an IITian and an alumnus of Harvard Business School.

The content is built by the core team of Avanti comprising 50 IIT and IIM volunteers. They create a special curriculum called "Learning Coaches".

The coaching is done through video-conferencing in all the centres initially, followed by the student-teaching-student method. Last year, Avanti sent 10 students from IIT to mentor the aspirants, but from this year it claims it will send 400 IIT

mentors across the country. These mentors come from top engineering schools in India, including IIT Delhi, NSIT, DTU and Maulana Azad Medical College.

Recently, the NGO collaborated with the Haryana Government to provide IIT coaching to poor children in the State. Notably, as many late starters often do not make it to IIT, the NGO also facilitates their admission in colleges.

In Chennai, for instance, 95 per cent of Avanti centre students go to college and 65 per cent enrol in professional and technical education degrees. Also, in collaboration with the Directorate of Education, it sends IIT students to visit colleges and guide students, select some and send them to Vidya Mandir classes in its four Delhi centres, added Mr. Saxena.

# India's big university challenge

Fixing India's dysfunctional system of education should be top priority for the next government, but the task won't be easy



JEAN-PIERRE LEHMANN  
& CARLOS BRAGA

With the established western global powers facing irreversible relative decline, India has several important attributes that should enable it to become a global leader in the 21st century. But the country also has a major Achilles' heel: its dysfunctional system of education. Fixing this should be a top priority for India's next government, but the task will be huge.

Four big things should work in India's favour during this century.

One is its distinct demographic advantage over not only the western powers but also India's BRIC peers. Russia and China are ageing fast and, by 2040, will have populations with average ages of 46 and 44, respectively. India, with an average age of 35 in 2040, will retain a youth dividend of a decade. Thus, in the race between China and India, as Indians are fond of saying, "the Chinese may win the sprint, we will win the marathon". Furthermore, whereas Brazil's population will peak at 231 million in 2050 and thereafter decline, India's population is projected to continue growing till 2070.

Second, India is a democracy. And while many lament that its rambunctious nature hinders growth and development—compared to China, where top-down decision-making appears effective—history suggests that, in the long run, democratic regimes are more sustainable. One can quite confidently predict that, in



ILLUSTRATION: SHYAM

2050, India will still be a democracy, whereas what kind of regime China will have by then is an open question.

The third advantage is, taking the title of Amartya Sen's masterpiece, the culture of the "argumentative Indian", complemented by a very high degree of heterogeneity. India is a hotbed of creativity and ideas—though implementing them remains a challenge.

Finally, English is likely to remain the global *lingua franca* for decades—if only because there are so many millions of English language teachers on the planet. The fact that English is an Indian "native" language gives the Indian elites a significant advantage. Japan's global ascent, for example, was in part constrained by its linguistic limitations.

However, this vision of India as a global leader will be little more than hallucination without greater investment in human capital and a much more robust educational system.

**THE NEW GOVT'S PRIORITY FOR EDUCATIONAL REFORM SHOULD BE TO DISMANTLE REGULATORY BARRIERS TO ENTRY IN THE SECTOR (REFORM INSTITUTIONAL GATEKEEPERS SUCH AS THE UGC) AND TO LIBERALISE TUITION FEES, A NECESSARY STEP FOR INDIAN UNIVERSITIES TO COMPETE IN ATTRACTING GOOD TEACHERS**

These were key to the admirable accomplishments of the East Asian "miracle economies"—Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Singapore and more recent-

ly China. Illiteracy in these countries was, by and large, eliminated at an early stage of development. And their educational pyramid is solid, with inclusive and high quality primary and secondary education and a tertiary sector that caters to the needs of industry and the broader economy.

The Indian educational system stands out in quite shocking contrast. Public primary and secondary education systems are poor, and illiteracy rates, although declining, are still appallingly high. With an adult literacy rate of roughly 63%, India is an under-performer even compared to other lower middle-income economies. The base of the educational pyramid is weak and, as a consequence, the intake at tertiary level is mixed in terms of quality.

At the tertiary level there is a bit of everything: the outstanding, the good, the bad and the ugly. The best of the best schools produce some of the world's brightest brains, but given the lamentable

state of the rest of the education system, the chasm between the intellectual elites and the semi-literate or illiterate masses remains wide. In short, the first major challenge for the next government has to do with the overall quality of the Indian educational system.

In terms of sheer numbers, Indian universities churn out millions and millions of graduates, but gross enrolment ratios remain quite low (16%) and too many graduates are deemed unemployable. Moreover, no Indian university is classified among the top 200 in the world.

Since robust and competitive industries will be essential to ensure India's sustained growth and development, its universities need to provide graduates who meet these needs. As the numbers of college candidates swell in tandem with the Indian youth dividend, the challenge will become even bigger. Accordingly, the new government's other priorities for educational reform should be to dismantle regulatory barriers to entry in the sector (for example, by reforming institutional gatekeepers such as the University Grants Commission) and to liberalise tuition fees, a necessary step for Indian universities to compete in attracting good teachers.

The challenges in implementing such reforms are immense, but an Indian "miracle" would do wonders not only for alleviating poverty on a global scale, but also for unleashing new sources of ideas and innovation.

Jean-Pierre Lehmann is emeritus professor of International Political Economy at IMD, founder of The Evian Group@IMD, and visiting professor at the University of Hong Kong and NIIT University in India. Carlos A Primo Braga is professor of International Political Economy at IMD and director of The Evian Group@IMD

HT Indore

## India successfully test-fires interceptor missile

BHUBANESWAR: The Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO) on Sunday successfully carried out the maiden PDV mission that provides a multi-layered shield against ballistic missile attacks from Wheeler Islands off Odisha coast. The supersonic PDV interceptor missile can engage incoming ballistic missiles of up to 2000 km range and intercept them at an altitude of more than 120 km. PDV missile has replaced the PAD missile that can intercept target at an altitude between 50 km and 80 km. The achievement comes after the successful trial launch of surface-to-air Akash missile on Saturday.

HT Mumbai

### WONDERS OF REUSING

**Team Vikas** is part of the IIT-B's National Service Scheme (NSS) wing and undertakes eco-friendly activities

**Around 50 team** members have been reusing paper trash to make hand-bound notebooks

**They distribute** these notebooks among under-privileged children

**The team collects** papers printed on one side from around the campus – photocopy centres, and academic offices and department offices

**Last year,** more than 400 notebooks of 200 pages each were distributed for free among under-privileged children

**The team has** placed boxes around the campus for students to drop partially used printouts for reusing. They also collect exam-sheets from various departments, and print-outs from hostels and photocopy centres

**The group has** also joined hands with another group at the institute, Abhyasika, which teaches children living in the slum areas of Phule Nagar in Powai

# Financial Express ND 28/04/2014

## P-12

### Technology allows taking varsity exams from home

The University of Petroleum and Energy Studies (UPES), Dehradun, has signed up with Mettl, an online assessment company, to conduct online exams with remote proctoring technology.

Enabled for the first time by a university in India, students can take entrance tests and semester exams from any location. All that she needs is a computer, a webcam and an internet connection. Mettl says its proctoring technology ensures any attempt to cheat is captured and addressed real-time, including the candidate moving away from the screen, opening multiple windows during the test, speaking on mobile or getting a proxy to take the test. Ketan Kapoor, CEO & co-founder, Mettl, said, "The engagement with UPES opens a new chapter for Mettl as its technology-enabled platform will play a key role in how online exams are going to be conducted in the future."

## Scientists Reconstruct Earth's Ancient Ocean to Find Origins of Life

<http://www.scienceworldreport.com/articles/14249/20140427/scientists-reconstruct-earths-ancient-ocean-find-origins-life.htm>



Our ancient Earth played home to oceans that were far different than the ones of today. Now, scientists have taken a closer look at these waters and have found details about how the first organisms on our planet could have become metabolically active.

Almost 4 billion years ago, life on Earth began in the iron-rich oceans that dominated the surface of our planet. Yet scientists have long wondered when and how cellular metabolism, the network of chemical reactions needed to produce the building blocks of life, appeared.



In order to learn more about the early history of Earth, the researchers decided to reconstruct our planet's earliest ocean. They based their reconstruction on the composition of various early sediments described in scientific literature.

They found that there was a spontaneous occurrence of the chemical reactions used by modern cells to synthesize many of the crucial organic molecules of metabolism. Previously, scientists assumed that these reactions were carried out in modern cells by metabolic enzymes, highly complex molecular machines.

"Our results demonstrate that the conditions and molecules found in the Earth's ancient oceans assisted and acceleration the interconversion of metabolites that in modern organisms make up glycolysis and the pentose-phosphate pathways, two of the essentially and most centrally placed reaction cascades of metabolism," said Markus Ralser, one of the researchers, [in a news release](#). "In our reconstructed version of the ancient Archean ocean, these metabolic reactions were particularly sensitive to the presence of ferrous iron that helped catalyze many of the chemical reactions that we observed."

The findings reveal a little bit more about how life might have started in our ancient seas. This could also be applicable for discovering life on other planets.

The findings were published in the journal *Molecular Systems Biology*.

Publication: The Times Of India Delhi; Date: Apr 28, 2014; Section: Times Nation; Page: 9;   
**IISc student ends life, decomposed body found after 2 days** 

**Bangalore:** The decomposed body of a postgraduate student was found in his hostel room at the Indian Institute of Science here on Sunday. Police said the body of Prabhakaran JK (26) was found at least two days after he had

committed suicide.

Police didn't find any suicide note but quoted some of his friends as saying that a broken relationship with his girlfriend might have driven him to take the extreme step.

Prabhakaran, from Chen-

nai, was pursuing his masters degree in aeronautical and astronautical engineering. The suicide came to light on Sunday when a foul smell started emanating from room 28 of the PG hostel for men.

Prabhakaran was to com-

plete his course in June and had been offered a job by a big company through campus.

DCP (East) Ravikante Gowda said the student's body has been kept in cold storage till his parents arrive in the city. **TNN**



Statesman ND 28/04/2014 P-3

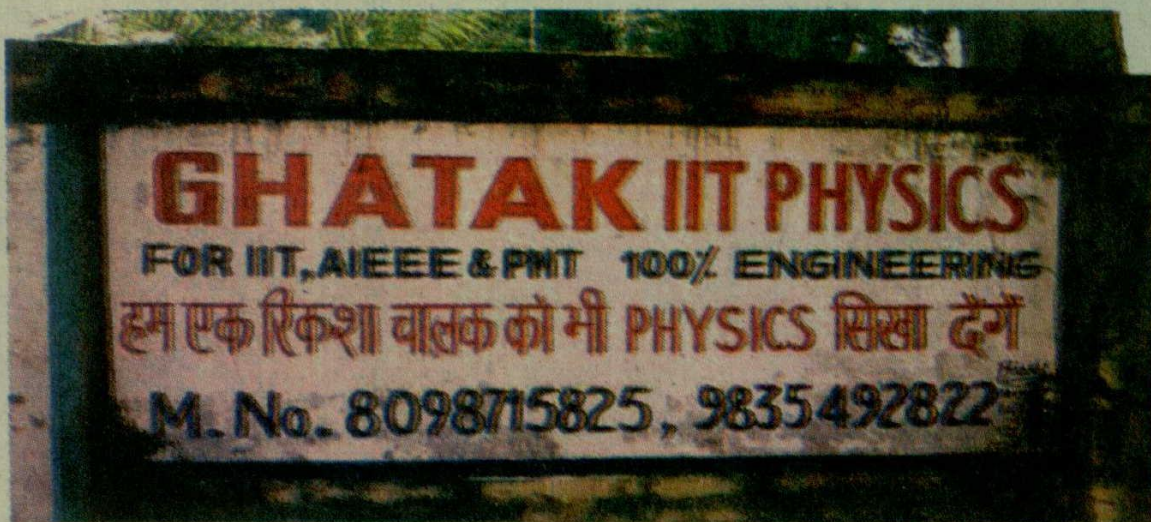
## COACHING BLUES

**I**T and medical coaching centres are looked at with great respect and reverence in our society, thanks to the benchmark set by the various engineering and

medical colleges of the country. A colleague, who recently knocked at the doors of many reputed coaching centres in the Capital for the admission of his cousin, learnt some bitter truths about them.

First, the moment one steps into any of the coaching hubs of the city like Punjabi Bagh, Lakshmi Nagar or Mukherjee Nagar, a number of agents will approach you, offering convenient ways of getting admission, some even offering admissions in the institute of one's choice without any entrance test. If one falls prey to their flattery, one should be prepared to loosen one's purse strings.

Next, when one is exploring the various coaching centres, confused as to where to get admission, one institute will seem as good as the other as each of them will claim to produce the best results year after year, which will further increase one's confusion. The next surprise that awaits is their fee-structure, which will be almost similar for all the institutes. However, the tuition fee will be much higher than



what one may have expected or heard about. Worse still, one can almost bargain for the rates like one does in a vegetable market until a satisfactory amount is

agreed upon. Sometimes, the final fee is as low as half of what is stated in their prospectus.

Our colleague's cousin, after several days of running around, finally got admitted to one of the coaching centres, where she will not only be prepared for the IIT-JEE but also the CBSE examination, as she is expected to remain so occupied with the preparations that she will hardly be able to attend regular school. The case is the same with almost all the coaching centres ~ most of them offer a combined CBSE and IIT-JEE/medical preparations without having to attend regular school.

One wonders if this is playing havoc with the education structure of our country. After all, there is a lot more that one learns in schools than mere course material. Discipline, team spirit, participation in extra-curricular activities like debates and quizzes, sports and responsibility are some of them, which the coaching institutes will fail to impart to those students who do not regularly attend schools.

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## IIT Gandhinagar bags prize for construction workers' welfare programme

*Runa Mukherjee Parikh, TNN | Apr 25, 2014, 07:54 PM IST*

AHMEDABAD: IIT Gandhinagar's construction workers welfare programme has been recognized with the national HUDCO Award for 'Best Practices to Improve the Living Environment 2013-14'. The award was handed out at the annual day of Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) in New Delhi.

IIT-Gn was cited for the housing, safety and welfare practices it has implemented for construction workers and for the contributions of its community volunteer group, Nyasa, which runs educational programmes for the children of construction workers. Sudhir Jain, director, IIT-Gn, said, "Social engagement is a high priority for us. We strive to sensitize our students to their social responsibilities. We can only be effective in doing that if we demonstrate that same commitment in our own practice as an institution. We are therefore constantly looking for ways to engage with and contribute to the local community, of which we are a part."

The varsity ensures dignified and sanitary housing conditions for construction workers by including special conditions in all its contracts that obligate contractors to construct clean, hygienic and well ventilated workers' housing with adequate water supply, electrical and sanitation facilities.

To ensure worker safety, contractors are required to implement safety measures and two days of mandatory safety training for all workers. A comprehensive group insurance cover of Rs 50,000 to Rs 1,00,000 is also required for all workers and their supervisory staff. In addition, regular health camps are organized. It has created a Contract Worker Benevolent Fund to cover unforeseen medical emergencies and a Children's Education Fund, which provides financial assistance of up to Rs 10,000 per family per year for the educational expenses of their children. It has also established a Palaj Village Outreach Fund for outreach activities in the village.

In September 2013, the IIT Council commended the institute and recommended the adoption of its exemplary labor welfare practices by all IITs.

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## IIT Gandhinagar's welfare programme bags HUDCO award

*Chitra Umnithan, TNN | Apr 26, 2014, 03:37 PM IST*

AHMEDABAD: IIT Gandhinagar's Construction Workers Welfare Programme has been recognized with the national HUDCO Award for 'Best Practices to Improve the Living Environment 2013-14'.

The award, which included a Rs 1 lakh cash prize was handed out at the annual day of Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) in Delhi by Anita Agnihotri, secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation (HUPA) on April 25, 2014.

IIT Gandhinagar was cited for the housing, safety and welfare practices it has implemented for construction workers and for the contributions of its community volunteer group, Nyasa, which runs educational programmes for the children of construction workers.

"Social engagement is a high priority for IIT Gandhinagar. We strive to sensitize our students to their social responsibilities. We can only be effective in doing that if we demonstrate that same commitment in our own practice as an Institution. We are therefore constantly looking for ways to engage with and contribute to the local community, of which we are a part," said Sudhir Jain, director of IIT Gandhinagar.

As part of the programme, IIT Gandhinagar ensures dignified and sanitary housing conditions for construction workers by including special conditions in all its contracts that obligate contractors to construct clean, hygienic and well ventilated workers' housing with adequate water supply, electrical and sanitation facilities.

Nyasa, which started in 2011, operates two schools at the permanent campus site in Palaj and one at its temporary campus in Chandkheda. Between them the three schools service nearly 200 children of 2,000 construction workers. The students receive free nutritious meals and are aided in enrolling in regular government schools. The IITGN community also offers financial help to students interested in pursuing formal education.