Newspaper Clips
April 5-6, 2015

April 5

Harshvardhan likely to replace Smriti Irani as HRD minister in Cabinet reshuffle: Sources

New Delhi :-

http://www.newsnation.in/article/74633-harshvardhan-replace-smriti-irani-hrd-minister-cabinet-reshuffle.html

A source revealed that Dr Harshvardhan is likely to replace Smriti Irani as HRD minister in upcoming Cabinet reshuffle.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to expand his ministry next week by promoting at least three Ministers of State as Cabinet ministers and dropping Minority Affairs Minister Najma Heptullah, who is likely to be made the governor of a state.

Mehbooba Mufti's name is also buzzing who could join Modi's cabinet in the second shuffle since party took over.

Among the ministers likely to be promoted are MoS for Minority and Parliamentary Affairs Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, MoS for Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (Independent Charge) Rajiv Pratap Rudy and MoS for Railways, Manoj Sinha. MoS for Finance Jayanth Sinha may be given additional charge of the corporate affairs.

Is Smriti Irani on her way out of Union Cabinet?

http://www.dnaindia.com/india/report-is-smriti-irani-on-her-way-out-2074749

Is Smriti Irani on her way out of the Union cabinet? If the buzz in the corridors of Shastri Bhawan, from where the Human Resource Development (HRD) ministry operates, is to be believed, then the cabinet reshuffle due later this week will see a new person at the helm of the crucial portfolio.

Pitched by the BJP as one of the most promising face of the Modi cabinet, the HRD minister has not only failed to deliver, but has also made both the academicians and bureaucracy unhappy by her style of functioning.

Despite being the youngest cabinet minister, Irani was given charge of the HRD ministry, one of the most important portfolios for any government. However, ten months into the system, most of the stakeholders are disappointed by her style of working.

"A minister has to give time to the officers to settle down and function smoothly. Unfortunately in HRD Ministry it does not work like that. Assigning charges and then stripping them off is on the whims and fancies of the minister," complained a senior officer who has moved out of the ministry.

HRD ministry had very recently given charges of technical education to additional secretary Amarjeet Sinha. But soon after the controversy created around IIT chairman Anil Kakodkar's resignation, Sinha was removed from technical department and was given charge of Statistics, a relatively insignificant role.

A section in the ministry believes that Singh was unable to brief the minister properly on Kakodkar's issue. However, the past ten months saw five joint secretary-level officers moving out of the HRD ministry, with Radha Chauhan handling secondary education the recent one in the block. In the meeting with the secretaries of various departments, the PM had got complaints against Irani and her style of working.

Not just the bureaucracy, even academicians face a discomfort working with the minister. While the love-hate relationship between Irani and Delhi University Vice- Chancellor Dinesh Singh is no hidden secret, Irani's mannerism towards the academicians has not been liked by many.

Irani had called for a meeting with the VCs of Central University in March. DU VC Dinesh Singh, who was then on a tour abroad, could not attend the meeting and the university's registrar attended the same.

The registrar of DU had to take the brunt from the minister for Singh failing to adhere to her diktat. It was at this meeting that several VCs opposed Irani's manner of addressing a VC. "HRD minister cannot tell a registrar that your VC tries to act over-smart and that I will see him," said a VC present in the meeting.

Sources said that Banaras Hindu University VC GC Tripathi had also raised objections to it. But Tripathi could not be reached for a comment.

IIT Jodhpur students urge Prez, HRD Ministry to sack Director

http://www.indiatvnews.com/news/india/iit-jodhpur-students-urge-prez-hrd-ministry-to-sack-director-49298.html

Jodhpur: Agitating students of the IIT Jodhpur have appealed to President Pranab Mukherjee and the HRD Ministry to remove Director CVR Murti for his "dictatorial attitude".

The students have been agitating against a recently passed Code of Conduct for the students, which prevents them from speaking to media about the institute and "on controversial topics".

"We have been left with no other option than to come out of the institute's walls. We are not being heard either by the government or the institute's administration," an agitating student said.

The students have sent a signed petition the HRD Ministry and the Board of Governors, demanding the resignation of Murti, annulling of the recent termination of faculty member Ganesh Bagler and a transparent probe into the terminations of faculty of the institute.

"The atmosphere has been non-academic since Murti took charge in September 2013 and all the progress or development has been held up," the students alleged in the petition.

"At a time when IIT Jodhpur is facing an alarming faculty crunch, Murti has been consistently and ruthlessly terminating the faculties in the name of unsatisfactory review," they said.

MHRD tightens norm for selection of V-Cs

http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/allahabad/MHRD-tightens-norm-for-selection-of-V-Cs/articleshow/46808652.cms

The Union ministry of human resource development (MHRD) has decided to tighten the procedure for appointment of vice-chancellors (V-Cs) in Central universities. As per new norms, those who are among the members of the search-cum-selection committee for appointment of VC in a particular university, cannot be a candidate for the top post there.

The decision bears significance for the Allahabad University also as many of the members of the Executive Council (E-C), or for that matter any other Central university of the country, are among the probable candidates vying for the top post. All the VCs of Central universities have been informed about the decision a missive sent by MHRD deputy secretary Surat Singh.

For AU, two members of the search committee for appointment of the V-C, were chosen by EC members and the same procedure is followed in other Central universities too. However, now as per the new rule, those who participated in the meeting would be deemed "disqualified" for being appointed as vice-chancellor of the university concerned.

The MHRD missive makes it plain that the vice-chancellor of a Central University, being the ex-officio chairman of the EC, presides over its meetings. "As per the present practice, the vice chancellor and other member(s) of EC, who participate in the meetings of EC wherein the nominees of EC are decided for the search committee for appointment of vice-chancellor, also apply, at times, for the post of vice-chancellor of the same Central University. This is not a healthy and ethical practice and it cannot be denied that it involves conflict of interest," the letter reads.

The order coveys that in order to avoid this "conflict of interest", it has been decided that the vice-chancellor who is an aspirant to be the vice-chancellor for the second term or any other member(s) of EC who intends to be a candidate for the post of vice-chancellor, as may be the case, will recuse themselves and will not participate in the meeting of the EC during the discussion of the agenda item wherein the nominees of EC are to be selected for the search committee for appointment of the vice-chancellor.

Business Standard ND 05/04/2015
P-1

IIM Bill makes other B-schools see red

KALPANA PATHAK
Mumbai, 4 April

The Indian Institutes of Management (IIM) Bill is giving sleepless nights to other business schools (B-schools) in the country that offer a postgraduate diploma in management (PGDM), the same certificate offered by IIMs. The Bill, placed before the Cabinet and proposed to be introduced this month during the Budget session by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, will allow the IIMs to offer degrees.

But about 50 B-schools in the country say with the IIMs being empowered to award master of business administration (MBA) degrees instead of diplomas in management, it might jeopardise the creditability of their PGDM programmes. As such, they are demanding better legal status for their programmes, too.

"We are planning to approach the human resource development ministry and seek recommendation for our programmes. If IIMs begin granting degrees, our programmes might suffer," said H Chaturvedi, alternative president, Education Promotion Society for India, and director, Birla Institute of Management Technology.

"The relevance of PGDM programmes was only because of the IIMs. They started it, and others followed. With the IIMs being granted university status, B-schools offering PGDM should also be allowed to go the university way," said Pritam Singh, ex-director, MDI Gurgaon, IIM Lucknow and ex-director general, IMI Delhi.

Institutes offering PGDM said they would meet the human resource development minister this month and seek equivalent recognition for their diplomas, akin to those offered by IIMs. "Some of us are 25-30 years old, older than some new IIMs. If IIMs begin granting degrees, it will impact the demand for our programmes," said the director of a Delhi-based B-school.

Institutes that offer PGDM include XLRI, SP Jain Institute of Management and Research, TA Pai Management Institute and Goa Institute of Management.

In India, management education has two career-oriented qualifications — PGDM (diploma) and MBA (degree). MBA degrees are offered by universities or colleges affiliated to universities, while a PGDM is offered by All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE)-approved institutions. While the curriculum for MBA is designed by universities, for PGDM courses, it is determined by the institution concerned.

IIM directors said the idea behind an IIM Bill was to turn these institutes into statutory bodies to offer master's degrees and doctorates, instead of diplomas and fellowships. Currently, IIMs cannot award degrees, as they have been set up as societies, under the Societies Registration Act.

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MBA PROGRAMMES & PGDM COURSES APPROVED BY AICTE

According to AICTE data, there are about 3,900 management programmes in India at present. In 2013, the number of MBA institutes was 3,561, while PGDM institutes stood at 283

Region	PGDM institutes	MBA depts at varsities
Central	30	367
Eastern	31	155
Northwest	40	513
Northern	90	539
Southwest	22	272

Source: Indian Management Education Vision 2025

IIM Bill makes other B-schools see red

Degrees can only be awarded by universities and institutes such as the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), set up by Parliament or legislatures, and those declared deemed-to-be-universities under the University Grants Commission Act. Currently, the 13 IIMs issue certificates stating their PGDM programme is equivalent to an MBA degree.

IIM Ahmedabad had opposed the IIM Bill, saying it would threaten its autonomy. "The IIM council draft Bill's high points are the degree-granting status, as well as autonomy to IIMs," said an IIM director who was part of the committee drafting the Bill.

Four years ago, the ministry of human resource development had granted greater autonomy to IIMs. These institutes, however, are under the Right to Information Act and have to get their accounts audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General. The IITs have a council, the governing body for all IITs. The minister-in-charge of technical education is the council's chairman. Other members include three members of Parliament, the chairmen and directors of all the IITs, the chairman of the University Grants Commission, the director-general of the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR), the chairman and the director of Indian Institute of Science, the joint secretary in the human resource development ministry, and three appointees each of the Union government and the AICTE.

Nai Duniya ND 05.04.15 P-6

आईआईटी निदेशक के खिलाफ सोशल मीडिया आंदोलन

जयपुर (ब्यूरो)। आईआईटी जोधपुर के एक सहायक प्रोफेसर की सेवा समाप्त करने के विरोध में यहां के छात्र आंदोलन कर रहे हैं और संस्थान के निदेशक को हटाने की मांग के लिए सोशल मीडिया का सहारा ले रहे हैं। हालांकि संस्थान के प्रबंधन ने यहां की सोशल मीडिया साइट्स ब्लॉक कर दीं।

आईआईटी जोधपुर में कुछ समय पहले एक सहायक प्रोफेसर की सेवाएं समाप्त कर दी गई थीं। यहां के छात्रों का आरोप है कि संस्थान के निदेशक सीवीआर मूर्ति का व्यवहार अच्छा नहीं है और इसके चलते यहां का माहौल बिगड़ रहा है। छात्र उन्हें हटाने की मांग को लेकर सोशल मीडिया के जरिए अपने आंदोलन को देश की अन्य आईआईटी के छात्रों तक पहुंचाने में जुटे हैं, लेकिन प्रबंधन संस्थान ने सोशल मीडिया साइट्स ही ब्लॉक कर दी है। इसके बावजूद छात्र अपनी मांगों को लेकर डटे हुए हैं। छात्र शनिवार को भी अपनी कक्षाओं में नहीं गए और निदेशक कार्यालय के बाहर विरोध स्वरूप काली शर्ट पहन शांतिपूर्वक हाथों में तख्तियां लिए बैठे रहे।

छात्रों की मांग ट्वीटर के ट्रेंड्स में शामिल

निदेशक के इस्तीफे की मांग को लेकर शुरू हुआ आंदोलन ट्वीटर पर प्रमुख ट्रेंड में शामिल हो गया। गुरुवार रात 11 बजे से चले इस अभियान में शनिवार सुबह 11 बजे तक 1,14, 344 ट्वीट्स हो चुके हैं। वहीं इस अभियान में पूर्व छात्रों ने भी भाग लिया है।

Statesman ND 05/04/2015 P-6

UGC'S UTILITY

Redefine regulatory role

THE committee appointed by Smriti Irani's HRD ministry has few bouquets to offer to the University Grants Commission, the regulatory authority that was formed in 1956 to oversee higher education. Paradoxically enough, the panel headed by a former UGC chairman, Hari Gautam, has recommended that UGC be disbanded. While the points raised in relation to its non-functioning character are well-taken, it is doubtful if a National Higher Education Authority can bring about a dramatic change unless the scope of its functioning is spelt out explicitly, and to the benefit of the universities. Education can offer no scope for semantic quibbling or a change in nomenclature. From the United Progressive Alliance government to the BJP dispensation, the HRD ministry has contended with a turmoil of ideas and with little or nothing to show in tangible terms. As often as not it has played footsie with the UGC. The ministry's directive to Delhi University ~ via the UGC ~ to introduce a four-year under-graduate course is a case in point. The short point is that the UGC has on occasion been used/misused by the government. It is intrinsically an academic entity and ought not to be reduced to a plaything of the political class. Whether the regulatory authority is named the UGC or NHEA is not the point at issue; of uppermost importance is the damning indictment that has been advanced by the committee ~ "The UGC has sidestepped its function of being a sentinel of excellence in education and embraced the relatively easier function of funding education." Over time, it has reduced itself to an academic accountant. The panel has suggested that the HRD ministry can redefine the commission's functioning by amending the UGC Act. This doesn't quite inspire optimism as the amendment will be executed on the terms of the ruling political establishment. Having commissioned a feedback, the HRD ministry ought to address what the committee calls a "man-made crisis which is the cause of unhealthy ambience and poor performance of the UGC". As critical as the need to periodically evaluate the performance of the chairman is the distressing trend of induction ~ "business men, hotel owners, and even Readers in colleges have been made members". President Pranab Mukherjee, regretfully, overlooks the structural deficiencies when he laments that Indian universities have "in recent times" failed to produce Nobel laureates. Which is merely an embroidery in a rusted system of higher learning... with centres of excellence amidst below-average institutions.

Hindustan Times ND 05/04/2015 P-1

Coaching for IIT entrance test now begins in Class 6

Shradha Chettri
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NEW DELHI: While his friends play football and cricket, 11-year-old Ayush Jha from Delhi is running the great Indian rat race for a coveted place in one of the elite IITs. The class 6 student spends two evenings a week at a coaching institute preparing for the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) that he might attempt six years from now.

Engineering remains a preferred career of choice for parents figuring out what they'd like their children to do, while the Indian Institutes of Technology, or IITs, are regarded as the premier schools of technical education in the country.

But now, families are sowing the seeds of this hallowed dream in younger minds.

"We started my elder son Yash's coaching when he was in class 7, after which he began doing well in subjects like mathematics. So, for my younger son Ayush, we started from class VI and since then he has been performing much better academically," said Ayush's father Ajoy Jha, a mechanical engineer.

Delhi brothers Yash (L) and Ayush Jha, students of Class 7 and 6 respectively, have enrolled for IIT-JEE coaching. BURHAAN KINU / HT

Cram school FIITJEE, where the brothers study, says enrolment at the junior level has been shooting up 10-15% every year. The fee comes to about ₹35,000 a year, but parents are only too happy to pay.

"When children are young they are more receptive and develop analytical reasoning. Early in life they are taught about time management and this helps in holistic development," said RL Trikha, director of the institute.

The trend is not limited to Delhi. Nikhil Ohri, a class IX student from Mumbai's St Lawrence School says he joined a foundation course for the JEE two years ago.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

Coaching for IIT

"It is fine to reduce time for outdoor sports and focus on studies. Though I will appear for the board exams next year, I will continue with the IIT-JEE preparations simultaneously," he said.

Critics say coaching institutes often build up unrealistic hope for students and parents by promising results even though the candidate may not have an aptitude for engineering, while psychologists warn against the adult stress these children face at a very early age.

More than a million aspirants sat for the first phase of the JEE on Saturday, fighting for less than 10,000 seats.

"Children, who are confined to books early, develop problems later in life in having conversations with people, differentiating between acquaintances and friends, and are not able to handle rejection and failure," said Geetanjali Kumar, a professional counsellor in Delhi.

Experts point out that moulding students from a young age to achieve their academic goals is a double-edged sword.

"On the one hand, it means that students are well-prepared and focused on their academic future right from the start. But it also leaves them with little room to make a choice," said Shivam Purohit, a Mumbai-based career counsellor.

Hindustan Times ND 05/04/2015 P-10

On PM's foreign itinerary, an exchange with Indian students

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NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi plans to reach-out to Indian students abroad during his foreign trips. This new element, whenever possible, is akin to Modi's outreach to the Indian diaspora when he travels abroad.

The plan will kick in when Prime Minister addresses Indian students in Hanover, Germany during his forthcoming three-nation trip to Europe and Canada from April 9 to 16. This is seen as Modi's way of reaching out to young Indians abroad who would contribute to the development of their homeland in some way or other.

There were 9,619 Indian students enrolled in German institutions of higher education in 2013-14, which went up by 2,000 students compared to the figure the previous year.

The USA, UK, Germany, Australia and Canada are some of the more popular countries where Indian students go for studies. Other countries are now beeline for getting Indian students abroad. Modi had reached out to youth during the Global Citizen Festival concert in Central Park in New York during his US trip last year.

"For the youth, because you are the future, what you do today will decide our tomorrow. Sometimes I need to say that if we sacrifice our today, our tomorrow will be more beautiful," Modi had then said.

According to sources both Modi and German chancellor Angela Merkel will inaugurate both the Hannover Messe, the trade fair, as well as the Indian pavilion at the fair, in which India is a partner country. In Berlin Modi will also be visiting a railway station there.

Modi at Madison Square in New York in 2014. FILE

Hindustan Times ND 05/04/2015 P-10

Modi to launch GIAN academic scheme soon

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NEW DELHI: The BJP-led NDA government's pet project Global Initiative of Academic Networks (GIAN) will be launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Canada's capital Ottawa on April 16. The programme seeks to invite distinguished academicians, entrepreneurs, scientists, experts from premier institutions from across the world, to teach in the higher educational institutions in India.

While India has already signed an MoU with US under which 1,000 visiting US academics will take up short-term teaching and research programmes in Indian universities, the Canada launch, sources said, will help other countries to collaborate on GIAN.

Before the launch the HRD ministry has called a meeting of the programmes' action committee next week to finalise some of the proposals from Canadian universities.

The Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute, a bi-national organisation that promotes understanding between India and Canada through academic activities and exchanges, is coordinating the launch.

Under GIAN foreign academics will be paid Rs 6-8lakh for a 20 day teaching session in Indian institutes.

The ministry has zeroed in on Manjul Bhargava, the R Brandon Fradd Professor of Mathematics at Princeton University, and a winner of the Fields Medal to spearhead the programme.

Bhargava will be entrusted with the task of roping in top academics and scientists for the programme.

The government believes the initiative will help students across streams to get exposure to the best of faculties from abroad.

The foreign academics will teach in centrally-funded educational bodies like IITs and central universities and also institutes which are in A grade.

Times Of India ND 05/04/2015 P-14

It's unlikely that any robot will have the smarts of a human

Vijay Kumar is one of the world's leading roboticists and his lab in the University of Pennsylvania's School of Engineering and Applied Science researches a number of cutting-edge ideas, including robot swarms and autonomous drones that can participate in search and rescue missions. In July, Kumar takes over as dean of the school at the age of 53. The IIT Kanpur alumnus speaks to ***Narayanan Krishnaswami*** *about the man vs robot debate & Modi's Make in India push*

FOR THE RECORD

Tell us something about your background.

I was born in Patna. My father was employed by SAIL. His meteoric career took him from an engineer at Bhilai steel plant, to Durgapur, back to Bhilai, then to Bokaro, and to Delhi. He held the position of executive director of steel plants and then a director of SAIL. As a result, I moved around quite a bit during my school years.

Admission to IIT and joining IIT Kanpur were milestone events. I barely knew what I was signing up for when I took the IIT entrance exam on a whim just to get my mother off my back! And when I got in, I picked Kanpur only because it was the city that was farthest away from my parents, aunts, uncles, grandparents, who lived in Delhi, Bombay, Madras and Calcutta. Little did I know how such a random decision, based on so little information, would change my life forever.

Einstein said: "Education is what remains after one has forgotten everything he learned in school." I am not sure I agree. Certainly, I have forgotten most of what I learned in the classroom. I don't think what remains after all of that is just education. I still remember my IIT friends, who taught me so much that teachers could not; the inspiring teachers and outstanding mentors I had, and the esprit de corps and the network that comes with living in an exclusive camp of intellectuals.

I also remember my first-year classes, being intimidated by all the smart people in the classroom, wondering how I managed to get into the same room as everyone else.

When did you get interested in robotics?

I got introduced to robotics as a scientific discipline when I started looking for opportunities in graduate school. It was a combination of looking for something off the beaten path and the fantasy of being able to create something that had never been imagined. All this crystallized when I met my would-be graduate adviser, Ken Waldron, who was trying to create six-legged machines that could walk. It was a chance meeting, and although I did not know it then, that meeting was a fork in the road that eventually led me to a career in robotics.

Is alarmism about the advances in technology — especially in robotics — justified?

Technology has played an important role in shaping societies, going back to the invention of the wheel and the industrial revolution. And robotics is no exception. There is no question that machines will be capable of superhuman performance. In fact, they already are superhuman — they can calculate faster than any human, move their arms faster than any human, position with greater accuracy and repeatability than any human. Yes, they can even detect signals, read patterns and take simple actions faster than any human. It takes a human anywhere from 80 to 200msecs to hit the brakes when she sees a car or a passenger in front. On the other hand, a self-driving car can do the same task at least 10 times faster. But that does not mean that robots will replace humans. Yes, with the advent of robots, we will need to retrain ourselves to be users of robots and be able to perform skilled tasks at a higher level than we used to. We will also need to invest more in education and workforce training. But we are so far away from understanding how the human brain learns, reasons and acts, that it is very unlikely that we will have human-like robots with the same mental agility, dexterity and smarts that we see in humans.

How strong are your links to India?

I have a lot of friends in India. I try to visit once or twice a year. I visited IIT Kanpur just last year. I still follow Indian cricket. I was crushed by the semi-finals loss to Australia.

In your experience as a teacher and researcher, what strengths and weaknesses have you noticed in Indian students?

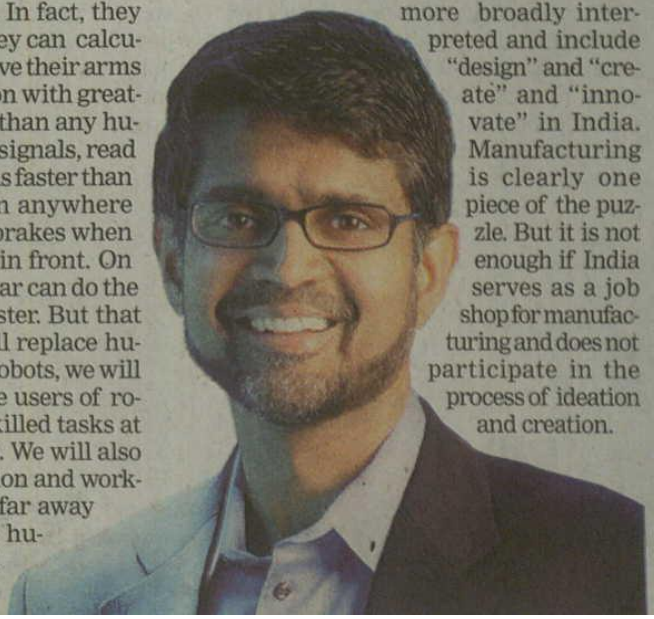
I think Indian students are smart, talented and resourceful. The biggest challenge arises from societal pressures and incentives that lure them away from the tech sector. I personally think the brain drain from the tech sector to non-technical sectors is a threat, not only to India but also to many other countries. And our institutions are not creating the exciting opportunities that lure the smartest students to careers in science and engineering.

What needs to be done to improve the quality of engineering education in India?

I am not sure that the quality of engineering education needs to be substantially improved. It is however important to empower students and create the infrastructure for them to design, create, build, and test, and to be constantly innovating.

What are your views on the 'Make in India' slogan and the corresponding push to get more companies to manufacture in India?

I think the "Make in India" slogan should be more broadly interpreted and include "design" and "create" and "innovate" in India. Manufacturing is clearly one piece of the puzzle. But it is not enough if India serves as a job shop for manufacturing and does not participate in the process of ideation and creation.



JEE (Main)-2015: Physics questions tricky, say students

http://www.hindustantimes.com/mumbai/jee-main-2015-physics-questions-tricky-say-students/article1-1333974.aspx

The Joint Entrance Examination (Main)-2015 conducted by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) kicked off with an offline test at various centres across the country on Saturday.

JEE (Main)-2015, an all-India engineering entrance exam, is held for admission to Centrally-funded institutions such as National Institute of Technology (NIT) and others. It is also the first screening test for the IITs. The online exams will be held on April 10 and 11. The second leg of the exam - JEE Advanced - will be held on May 24.

The students said while the physics paper was tough and the maths paper had some errors.

“The mathematics paper was lengthy with couple of errors. Some questions in the physics paper were deceptive. But it has been a balanced exam compared to last year,” said Nitin Sethi, an aspirant.

Yash Karnik, another aspirant, said, “It was an easy exam compared to last year. Though there were few problems in physics paper, I expect to score well.”

Experts said though there were problems with the physics paper, the cut-off will still be on the higher side. Kawal Gupta, manager, IIT-ians Pace, said, “For physics, the level of information given in some questions was insufficient. The difficulty of the questions was more due to the ambiguity.”

RL Trikha, director, FITJEE said cut-offs are expected to be higher this year. “Compared to last year, few questions in physics were tricky. However, for a student who has been preparing well for the exams, the paper must have been easy. So the cut-off is likely to be higher,” he said.

Last month Vinod Tawde, state higher education minister, has said Maharashtra will not take part in the national level joint entrance exam (JEE) for engineering admissions from 2016, and instead use the Maharashtra Common Entrance Test (MH-CET), as it did till 2013.

Beeline for offline test:
13.35 lakh: No of students who registered for JEE (Main)-2015

13.56 lakh: No of students who registered last year

1.72 lakh: No of students who registered online exam last year

11.85 lakh: No of students who registered offline exam last year

1.5 lakh: No of candidates who will be shortlisted for JEE Advanced

Microsoft turns 40: Bill Gates's letter to employees

http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/tech/tech-news/Microsoft-turns-40-Bill-Gatess-letter-to-employees/articleshow/46803744.cms

NEW DELHI: April 4 2015 marks the 40th anniversary of the inception of Microsoft, the biggest software maker in the world. Currently helmed by India-born Satya Nadella, the company is engaged in almost all forms of consumer and enterprise computing and remains among the biggest corporations in the world by market value.

A day before the 40th anniversary of Microsoft, co-founder and world's richest man Bill Gates sent a letter to the employees, talking about the company's vision for the future. Below is the full text of the letter:
"Tomorrow is a special day: Microsoft's 40th anniversary.
Early on, Paul Allen and I set the goal of a computer on every desk and in every home. It was a bold idea and a lot of people thought we were out of our minds to imagine it was possible. It is amazing to think about how far computing has come since then, and we can all be proud of the role Microsoft played in that revolution.

Today, though, I am thinking much more about Microsoft's future than its past. I believe computing will evolve faster in the next 10 years than it ever has before. We already live in a multi-platform world, and computing will become even more pervasive. We are nearing the point where computers and robots will be able to see, move, and interact naturally, unlocking many new applications and empowering people even more.

Under Satya's leadership, Microsoft is better positioned than ever to lead these advances. We have the resources to drive and solve tough problems. We are engaged in every facet of modern computing and have the deepest commitment to research in the industry. In my role as technical advisor to Satya, I get to join product reviews and am impressed by the vision and talent I see. The result is evident in products like Cortana, Skype Translator, and HoloLens -- and those are just a few of the many innovations that are on the way.

In the coming years, Microsoft has the opportunity to reach even more people and organizations around the world. Technology is still out of reach for many people, because it is complex or expensive, or they simply do not have access. So I hope you will think about what you can do to make the power of technology accessible to everyone, to connect people to each other, and make personal computing available everywhere even as the very notion of what a PC delivers makes its way into all devices.

We have accomplished a lot together during our first 40 years and empowered countless businesses and people to realize their full potential. But what matters most now is what we do next. Thank you for helping make Microsoft a fantastic company now and for decades to come."

April 6

Times Of India ND 06/04/2015 P-7

JEE (main) candidates not given copies of answer sheets

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Over 10 lakh students who appeared for JEE (main) on Saturday across 150 cities were not given carbon copies of their answer sheets in the pen-and-paper based examination held by CBSE.

Similarly, no record of the answer keys will be given to students who have opted to take JEE (main) through online examination to be held on April 10 and 11. On the other hand, IITs give out carbon copies of the candidates' answer sheets at the end of JEE (advanced).

Students have been asked to deposit Rs 1,000 per question in case they have any objection to questions or answer keys

Moreover, students have again been asked to deposit Rs 1,000 per question in case they have any objection to questions or answer keys. Last year, after a **TOI** report, the then CBSE chairperson had waived the steep amount.

CBSE has said answer keys to JEE (main) will be made public on April 18 and scores of all candidates will be released on April 27. However, coaching institutes have already made the answer keys public. Students will have to file their objection within nine days.

Every year, there have been cases of wrong questions or answer keys. A professor of IIT-Delhi said, "Why should students pay such an exorbitant fee for mistakes made by CBSE. Answer keys should be released within 24-72 hours as students will still remember their own answers." JEE (main) is the gateway for admission to IITs.

HT.COM ND 06.04.2015
P-3

One held for cheating in IIT-JEE

KANPUR: A youth has been arrested for cheating in the IIT-JEE entrance exam with the help of a camera and a mobile device hidden in his shirt, police said on Sunday. The examinee, Vikas Gupta, was caught cheating on Saturday at a Barra-located exam centre by the principal of the school where the exam was being conducted, they said. Gupta told police he had a deal with Monu, an Allahabad resident, that he would help him clear the entrance exam. PTI

Times Of India ND 06/04/2015 P-10

Only 0.6% of disabled students in higher edu

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: About 0.56% seats in higher education go to disabled candidates though there's reservation to the extent of 3% in public institutions. Of this 74.08% are male and 22.70% female.

This came out in the third survey on the Status of Disability in Higher Education conducted by the National Centre for Promotion of Employment of Disabled People.

It includes responses from over 150 institutions of higher education across the country including 16 Indian Institutes of Technology and 13 Indian Institutes of Management, architecture, law, medicine, hotel management and other engineering and business schools.

The participation rate varies across disabilities. Of the total number of disabled candidates, 46.67% have orthopaedic disabilities, 32.13% are visually impaired, 5.16% are speech/hearing impaired and 16.05% have other types.

STUDENTS IN DIFFERENT STREAMS

Stream-wise break-up of disabled students in high education

Streams	Total Students	Disabled Students	% of Disabled Students
Arts	60,754	671	1.10
Science	59,894	637	1.06
Commerce	60,318	619	1.03
Law	11,986	159	1.33
Engineering	77,849	1,067	1.37
Medicine	14,484	126	0.87
Business Management	29,520	294	1.00
Design	5,573	52	0.93
Journalism	23,416	175	0.75
Architecture	3,113	24	0.77
Social Work	3,088	54	1.75
Hotel Management	4,435	37	0.83
Universities	10,95,294	3,403	0.31
IITs	64,209	944	1.47
IIMs	7,505	187	2.49
Total	**15,21,438**	**8,449**	**0.56**

The percentage of students varies across streams as well – the IIMs, surprisingly, come closest to completing the 3% quota with 2.49% disabled students of the total enrolled. Social work schools have an enrollment of 1.75% and IITs, 1.47%. The general universities are at the bottom with a 0.31% fill-rate. The total number of the students considered is 15,21,438.

Bipin Tiwari of Delhi University's Equal Opportunity Cell explains why it's difficult for universities – even proactive ones – to fill the quota. "There is a clear disconnect between schools and colleges. I don't know how many disabled children graduate from school every year. We try to spread awareness and enrollment is increasing. There are about 1,300 disabled students enrolled in DU right now," Tiwari said.

Of the 1,500-odd seats, about 700 are filled. The gender ratio is far healthier than the national average the survey furnishes – about 60-40.

The largest category in DU is not that of the orthopaedically-disabled but of the visually-impaired and the percentage of the hearing/speech-impaired is far lower.

He explains that most students in this group come from special schools and prefer computer-based courses. "They are often advised at the special schools to take up vocational courses."

Particular categories of the disabled tend to go for specific streams. For instance, 99% of the disabled in medicine are orthopaedicallly disabled; 57% of the disabled students in general science are blind and 62% in hotel management are in the other disability category (including learning/mental disability).

The survey also found that over a 100 of the respondent institutions have a "disability unit" on campus and over 130 have a "disability policy."

Times Of India ND 06/04/2015 P-13

Big Bang collider starts after 2-yr refit

CERN To Start Smashing Particles With Double The Force In Hunt For Dark Matter

Zurich/Geneva: Scientists at Europe's particle physics research centre CERN on Sunday restarted their 'Big Bang' Large Hadron Collider (LHC), embarking on a new bid to resolve some mysteries of the universe and look for "dark matter".

The machine had been shut for two years for a refit. Hopes for the second run lie in breaking out of what is known as the Standard Model of how the universe works at the level of elementary particles, and into 'New Physics'. That includes searching for the dark matter that makes up about 96% of the stuff of the universe but can only be detected by its influence on visible matter like galaxies and planets.

ON COLLISION COURSE, AGAIN

Scientists are preparing for particle-smashing collisions expected to start in June, though any new discoveries made are unlikely to emerge until mid-2016.

The overhaul included new magnets, much higher energy beams and voltages and a complete check of all wiring around the underground 27-km (17-mile) LHC tunnel and its four major detectors and multiple magnets.

"It's fantastic to see it going so well after two years and such a major overhaul," CERN director general Rolf Heuer said on the research organization's live blog for the restart.

CERN wrote on its website that "the startup is complete!"

During the last run, from 2010 to 2013, physicists tracked down the legendary Higgs Boson particle after years of searching in the recorded debris from particle collisions at CERN and in other smaller colliders.

Actual collisions will not begin at least till the next month, but within two months, CERN will start smashing particles into each other in the LHC with nearly twice the energy compared with that first run from 2010-2013, and as before at close to the speed of light.

Dark matter — and its cousin, dark energy — make up most of the universe, but scientists haven't been able to see them yet, so researchers are looking for them in high-energy crashes, in orbit in a special experiment on the international space station, and in a deep underground mine.

CERN spent about $150 million on the upgrade, opening the massive machine every 20 meters (66 ft), checking magnets and improving connections. AGENCIES

Times Of India ND 06/04/2015 P-13

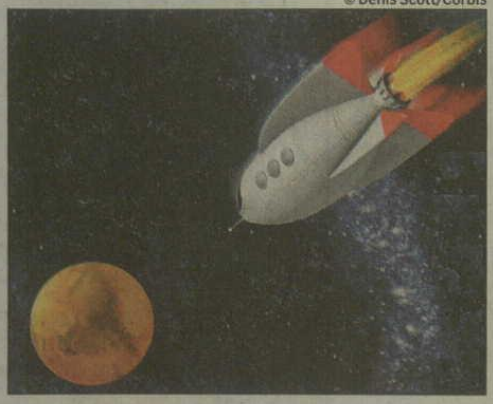
New engine may make Mars a 39-day dash

Washington: Nasa has awarded a grant of $10 million to a Texas-based company to develop a revolutionary engine that could send humans to Mars in just 39 days.

The Ad Astra Rocket company from Webster will develop the Vasimr engine which uses plasma, which is an electrically charged gas, as a propellant.

"This is like no other rocket that you may have seen in the past. It is a plasma rocket. The Vasimr rocket is not used for launching things. It is used for things already there, which we call 'in space propulsion'," said the company's CEO, Franklin Chang-Diaz, who is a former astronaut and flew on seven space shuttle missions.

The Vasimr engine works by heating plasma to extreme temperatures using radio waves. Strong magnetic fields then funnel this plasma out of the back of the engine.



© Denis Scott/Corbis

NO ROCKET SCIENCE

This, in turn, creates thrust, helping to propel the engine at extreme speeds.

Over a three-year period, the United States' National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa) will give the company funds in the region of $10 million to enable the engine to fly in space, 'rt.com' reported. Nasa liked what it saw in this technology and offered a grant to the Ad Astra Rocket Company as part of its 12 Next Space Technologies for Exploration Partnerships (NextStep) programme.

This will be achieved with a demonstration of their new prototype, the VX-200-SS, which will be able to fire continuously for more than 100 hours. Nasa will then consider employing the propulsion system on future excursions to Mars.

The company is also thinking about other projects for its Vasimr engine, such as asteroid retrieval, which would bring the space rocks closer to Earth, allowing them to be mined. AGENCIES

Indian Express ND 06/04/2015 P-9

From demolition, dust city won't manage and debris it can't

DUST TO DUST

CORPORATION	C&D WASTE
NORTH DELHI	2000-2500
SOUTH DELHI	1500-2000
EAST DELHI	1500-2000

Figures in tonnes

ELSEWHERE

80%
C& D WASTE IS RECYCLED IN DENMARK

30-50%
RECYCLED IN GERMANY, NETHERLANDS, FINLAND, IRELAND AND ITALY

GUIDELINES

LONDON: Demolition works must use water as dust suppressant

NEW ZEALAND: Demolition contractor must identify which materials can be recycled and how these will be removed safely; workers must use respirator to filter out dusts

US: Promotes reuse or recycling of C&D materials

PRITHA CHATTERJEE
NEW DELHI, APRIL 5

APART FROM new construction, demolition of the old too is poisoning Delhi. The capital generates over 5,000 tonnes waste daily from demolition, according to figures with Delhi's three municipal corporations. This, experts say, generates more dust than construction dust. Much of it is more toxic due to use of fibres such as asbestos in old structures, and with no measures taken to cap the dust.

According to a statement from Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services (IL & FS), which manages the country's only construction waste recycling plant with the three municipal corporations of Delhi, "Combined with burning of waste and road dust, C&D waste contributes to an estimated over 20% of air pollution in Delhi."

According to Dr Shashank Bishnoi, assistant professor (civil) at IIT Delhi, "Demolition waste and dust is an area that does not get much attention. Even in the past five years when scientists have looked at dust as a source of particulates, the contribution of demolition has been ignored. Old construction sites used asbestos in greater quantities. The concrete was different with much more silica dust and cement."

While new constructions exceeding 2 lakh sq ft need environmental clearance, demolition does not. The Delhi Pollution Control Committee has been recommending wetting of soil. "Is it practical to wet all the soil and debris after demolition? Where will we get that kind of water? How will you monitor every small demolition in every nook and cranny of Delhi?" Dr Bishnoi said.

"Asbestos is a fibre that appears like dust and it's still being used in India despite its ban in many countries, due to the strong lobby (India) has," said Dr T K Joshi, director of Centre for Occupational and Environmental Medicine at Maulana Azad Medical College. "The sheets are dumped near sites without even covering them, despite asbestos being a known carcinogen."

It's unsafe for workers too. "They are lucky if they get helmets to prevent head injuries. In cities like London, after demolition, workers have to take a shower and change before going home, but here that is a laughable idea. They wear the same clothes enveloped by this dust, go home and pass it on to members of their family," Dr Joshi said.

Site of a demolished market in Delhi in 2011. FILE

In 2009, the unified MCDs set up the country's first construction waste recycling plant at Burari in north Delhi, over 10 acres, following a directive to states from the Urban Development Ministry. It isn't enough, experts say.

Its capacity, originally 500 tonnes daily, has since been extended to 1,200 tonnes and now 2,000. "There is no doubt that the plant is struggling to keep up with the demands; we need more such plants," said Dr Shubhendu Mudgal, occupational and environmental health specialist and part of an environment auditing committee on the plant.

Run by the corporations with IL&FS, the plant gets waste from around 30 points. Various materials are segregated with a crushing facility into recyclable and non-recyclable parts. The plant has facilities to control fugitive dust. "The only material they produce after recycling is tiles; even for that they are struggling to find buyers. There is not enough awareness," Dr Mudgal said.

Even the municipal corporations don't buy those tiles, sources said. Dr Bishnoi said, "There is a total lack of policy on management of the waste. I as a private builder or individual don't have a number to dial if there is a structure I have got demolished, to take away my waste, even if I pay for it."

According to a statement from IL&FS, "The market while at a nascent stage will pick up as the standards for recycled aggregates are notified by the Bureau of Indian Standards. Also it is hoped that agencies will mandate a minimum usage of 10 per cent recycled products to be used. DDA along with Centre for Road Research for instance is pioneering the use of recycled products from Burari in a 5-kilometre express test road in north Delhi"

A spokesperson for North MCD said, "C&D waste management is an emerging area and we are trying to promote collection and recycling, and periodically expanding the plant's capacity, while also spreading awareness among particularly government agencies to buy the recycled products."

Indian Express ND 06/04/2015 P-9

The road that larger particles travel

HOW HEAVY, HOW LONG

PM10

55%

Or 131 gigagrams (1.31 lakh tonnes) per year out of 236 gigagrams (2.36 lakh tonnes) per year. This is the contribution of windblown dust, primarily from roads, to the total PM10 generation in Delhi, according to SAFAR's 2010 study

52%

Roads' contribution as per SAFAR's 2014 study

ROAD DENSITY

2,103 km/ 100 sq km

Road density in Delhi

59.30 km/ 100 sq km

Haryana comes a distant second, followed by UP and Rajasthan with 51each

2.76 km/ 100 sq km

NH density in NCR, compared to 1.99 nationally

10.17 km/ 100 sq km

State highway density in NCR, compared with national average of 4.19

PAVING

99%

State highways surfaced until 2011, comprising nearly 98% blacktopped or concreted roads, and 1% water bound macadam roads.

87%

PWD roads surfaced, comprising 77% blacktopped or concreted, and 10% surfaced with water bound macadam

PRITHA CHATTERJEE
NEW DELHI, APRIL 5

AMID THE rapid road construction that has accompanied the capital's growth, these roads have contributed hugely to the dust accumulation. According to source apportionment studies of pollutants conducted since the Commonwealth Games, this dust has constituted the majority of particulate matter up to size 10 microns.

Most of the roads in Delhi, which has the country's highest road density at 2,103 km per 100 sq km, are surfaced, but the unpaved shoulders of paved roads too contribute hugely to dust.

A study by the research organisation SAFAR under the Ministry of Earth Sciences during the 2010 Games, published in the journal *Atmospheric Environment*, made the following "surprising" conclusion: "The unattended source of windblown dust from paved and unpaved roads is surprisingly found to be the major contributor in PM10 emission."

Windblown dust, with roads a major contributor, accounted for 131 gigagrams PM10 per year, more than half the total PM10 generation of 236 gigagrams per year. One gigagram is 1,000 tonnes. A 2014 study by SAFAR placed road dust's contribution at 52 per cent of PM10.

"In our first study in 2010, we found the majority of PM10 came from road dust. This was in contradiction to previous published studies which blamed vehicular pollution as the major source," said Dr Gufran Beig, project director of SAFAR.

The study notes that the contribution of windblown dust was more than the total estimation from all other sources — vehicles, industries and cooking fuel — and more than fourfold in comparison to transport emission, which was the second highest contributing source. This was despite 2010 having seen the wettest monsoon in Delhi since 1978.

Experts say road dust throws up heavier PM10 particles rather than the finer PM2.5. "Even though the PM10 particles are larger than PM2.5 and should settle down in a few minutes, in rush traffic hours they cannot settle, and layer after layer of dust is constantly added," Dr Beig said.

According to statistics with the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways in 2011, 20,903 km of Delhi's total road length of 29,648 km was surfaced. Of this, 480 km maintained by PWD was surfaced with the highest quality material, either black tops (BT) held together with bitumen, or cement concrete consolidated to a certain thickness.

According to Dr Shashank Bishnoi, assistant professor in civil engineering with IIT Delhi, "The idea is that roads surfaced with these materials throw up the least amount of loose soil and dust compared to unpaved roads and lanes, where soil and dust that is produced is constantly scattered."

But Dr Beig said, "In Delhi, the side of the paved road next to footpaths is unpaved. These areas, known as shoulders of the road, are where traffic jams happen."

In the 2010 survey, SAFAR estimated that 10 per cent of the roads in in NCR and Delhi are unpaved. SAFAR recommended that the unpaved roads be paved immediately.

According to Dr B Sengupta, chairman of the core committee that had created a construction manual for the Ministry of Environment and Forest in 2010, "We had said then that paving is the most permanent solution to dust control, suitable for longer duration projects, but its high costs were seen as the prohibitive factors. The other solution was to ensure reducing the speed of a vehicle to 20 kph to give dust time to settle down. For this, speed bumps are commonly used."

Financial Express ND 06/04/2015 P-12

Future-proofing our universities

RAJ MRUTHYUNJAYAPPA

Technology is the most prevalent topic relating to learning and education today. Earlier technology in education was a debatable subject; with a large mix of opinions, everyone had personal views on reforming education using technology. The fact is that technology and education are a great amalgamation, if used together rightly.

Investing in technology is crucial for universities. With increasing regulatory pressures, institutions must comply with evolving requirements and demonstrate the achievements of their students. The Indian education sector has been recognised as a 'sunrise sector' for investment. The sector offers a huge untapped market in both regulated and non-regulated segments due to low literacy rate, high concentration in urban areas and growing per capita income. The government has been playing the role of a facilitator in this sector. According to a 2014 report, the gross enrolment ratio (GER) in higher education in India, calculated for age group 18-23, is 21.1. GER for male population is 22.3 and for females it is 19.8. Total enrolment in higher education is estimated to be 29.6 million, with 16.3 million boys and 13.3 million girls.

Technological innovation can change the way universities want to teach and students want to learn. The potential is great for institutions preparing graduates to compete in today's knowledge economy. Distance education, sophisticated learning-management systems and the opportunity to collaborate with research partners from around the world are some of the transformational benefits that universities are embracing. Having said that, significant challenges are also emerging. Technology remains a disruptive innovation, and an expensive one. Faculty members used to teaching in one way may be opposed to invest the time to learn new methods, and may lack the budget for the support needed. However, the good news is one can transform these challenges into a competitive advantage by offering greater flexibility and more personalised services across the student lifecycle.

Today's students seek education delivery models that far more flexible and accessible than they have even been. If universities are to effectively educate this generation, they must be willing to invest in learning environments. Integration of technology with learning as a tool provides you with the scope to explore what you can do with knowledge, what you can make of it, and what you will allow your students to make of it. Remember that technology also allows the possibility of everyone learning at their own pace. The question today is no longer if technology enhances learning, but how do we improve the usage of technology to enhance learning?

The author is managing director, APAC and EMEA, Talisma

Thiruvananthapuram to have an IIM-K centre soon

http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/kozhikode/thiruvananthapuram-to-have-an-iimk-centre-soon/article7070065.ece

A new campus of the Indian Institute of Management, Kozhikode, (IIM-K) will be opened in Thiruvananthapuram.

Announcing this at the 17th annual convocation of the IIM-K here on Saturday, IIM-K chairman A.C. Muthiah said the State government would provide 1.73 hectares of land for the purpose.

Recognising the IIM-K for its academic and professional achievements, he said the institute had been assigned the task of mentoring a new IIM being set up in Punjab. A temporary campus is coming at Amritsar. He said the IIM-K had achieved many academic milestones in its 19 years, and last year, it came out with 40 research papers and 80 conference papers.

In his address, Prof. Kulbhushan Balooni, director-in-charge, spoke about the achievements of the institute including the publications by the faculty, hosting of international conferences, and the start of a distinguished public lecture series.

Mr. Balooni also said the campus expansion project complied with the ambitious Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment norms (GRIHA) and the successful social development project called Promoting Regional Schools to International Standards through Multiple Interventions (PRISM). The projects were now adopted by the State government (popularly called Mission 100).

As many as 510 students graduated from the IIM-K this year. Of the total of 348 students graduating for the Post Graduate Programme (PGP), 55 per cent were women students. Also graduating were 161 Executive Master of Business Administration (MBA) students and one participant from the Fellow Programme in Management.

N. Ram, Chairman, Kasturi and Sons Ltd., and former Editor-in-chief and Publisher of The Hindu group of publications presented gold medals to the rank holders and to the all-round performer.

They were Ankit Goyal (first rank), Anupama Prakash (second rank), and Nishta Jayantadan (third rank).

Prakriti Sharma bagged the award for the best all-round performance in the PGP section and Deepash Biswas, the first rank in the Executive MBA category. The Class of 2015 had students from across the country. Of the total number of students, 27 per cent are from south India, 26 per cent from western India, 19 per cent from north India, 12 per cent from eastern India, 11 per cent from Union Territories, and five per cent from central India.

Solve India's inter-connected challenges: Nooyi to IIM-C students

http://www.theshillongtimes.com/2015/04/05/solve-indias-inter-connected-challenges-nooyi-to-iim-c-students/

Kolkata: Pepsico boss Indra Nooyi on Saturday urged the outgoing batch of the Indian Institute of Management-Calcutta (IIM-C) to use their skills and insights to tackle India's "inter-connected" and "global" challenges.
Nooyi, herself an IIM-C alumnus, gave a few pointers to graduating students at the 50th annual convocation at the institute's campus in Joka, on the outskirts of Kolkata.
Nooyi stressed the "complex challenges" that India faces were inter-connected and global, and require solutions, leadership and expansive thinking.
"We still face complex challenges like inequality, climate change, and resource scarcity that demand solutions and leadership. Making these challenges even more complex is the fact that they are all interconnected. You cannot dive into one issue without touching another," she said in her address.
"At the same time, no issue can be contained within a particular country. Most issues you will deal with are global. You will have to learn how to take off your blinders, think expansively, and realise that you are part of a global ecosystem," she said.
She highlighted the "critical" role of students as "problem-solvers". (IANS)

IITs, IIMs need only half the stipulated land, says HRD panel

http://www.dnaindia.com/india/report-maharashtra-iits-iims-need-only-half-the-stipulated-land-says-hrd-panel-2074946

How much of land do IITs, IIM's and central universities require? Answer is just in.

A five-member committee, entrusted to look into the issue, says they need only half of what norms prescribe. For example, IIT's and NIT's (National Institutes of Technology) require only 260 acres and 150 acres, respectively, though norms stipulate 500 acres and 300 acres. For IIM's, 5-10 acres of land is just fine. There's no need for 200 acres as rules say, the committee made it clear.

The logic is that if a campus is well-designed and compact, universities don't require that much of land. Set up by the ministry of human resources development (MHRD) in December last year, the panel's job brief was to evaluate the land norms of these centres of learning, given the acute shortage of urban land.

The Draft report was prepared after consulting ace architect Hafeez Contractor. The committee held its second meeting in February 17 under the chairmanship of the Union higher education secretary Satyanarayan Mohanty. Its minutes were uploaded on the MHRD web site last week. Based on the report, the Narendra Modi government may now dilute land norms while setting up new institutions.

If the government does so, it will fast-track the setting up of the proposed IIT's and IIM's, which are finding it difficult to acquire the mandated land. These institutes were proposed in the previous budget. "The stipulated norms are way too much. Our assessment says that easing them out is the need of the hour as states can't find the mandated land," an official said.

In order to give its opinion on land norms, the committee studied the campus size and student strength in universities in the US, Hong Kong and Singapore. It then concluded that Indian institutes are occupying land way beyond their requirement.

The committee had earlier said that air connectivity should be a priority and institutes should not be more than 30-40 minutes drive away from the nearest airport. The BJP government, in its interim budget, had proposed five IITs- in Jammu, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala.

Five IIM's - in Himachal Pradesh, Bihar, Punjab, Maharashtra and Odisha – were also proposed. A Centre of Excellence in Madhya Pradesh, named after Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Narayan, and four more All India Institutes of Medical Sciences in Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Vidarbha (Maharashtra) and Purvanchal (Uttar Pradesh) were the other proposals.

IIT Delhi- Expected Cutoffs 2015

Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi (IITD)

http://www.pagalguy.com/articles/iit-delhi-expected-cutoffs-2015-33000575

Since the JEE Main 2015 offline exam has been conducted and the online exam is coming up soon; here is a look at the expected cutoffs of highly reputed IITs. Candidates securing a rank among the top one and a half lakh aspirants who appear for the JEE Main 2015 are eligible to appear for the JEE Advanced examination 2015. The final stage in the selection process for the IITs/ISM Dhanbad is the JEE Advanced. Candidates will finally be selected to the IITs/ISM Dhanbad purely on the basis of their performance in the JEE Advanced 2015.This article will help you judge as to which colleges you are likely to get through and what branches you may get. In this article, we look at the cutoffs for **Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi (IITD).**

The College of Engineering & Technology was established in 1961 and was declared an Institution of National Importance then renamed The Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi. Its foundation stone was laid by H.R.H. Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh in 1959. Located in the Hauz Khas area of New Delhi, visitors can tour the nearby Qutub Minar and Lotus temple.

The campus is in itself a mini self-sufficient city with its own water supply system, gardens, residential complexes and shopping centres.

At the undergraduate level (B. E. / B. Tech.), this institute offers 851 seats in 12 different branches. Selections to these seats is done on the basis of a student's All India Rank in the JEE Advanced 2015. The list given below mentions the opening and closing ranks of students across different categories that were selected to the various courses at this IIT in 2014. This list will help you understand the likely ranks which will help you secure admission to this institute.

The list of expected opening and closing ranks is as mentioned below:

Open Category	**Opening Rank**	**Closing Rank**
Biochemical Engineering and Biotechnology	2313	4447
Chemical Engineering	772	2127
Civil Engineering	884	2055
Computer Science and Engineering	7	175
Electrical Engineering	47	279
Electrical Engineering (Power and Automation)	315	851
Engineering Physics	947	2367
Mathematics & Computing	283	494

Mathematics and Computing	510	614
Mechanical Engineering	381	754
Production and Industrial Engineering	811	2079
Textile Technology	2630	4669

OBC Category	**Opening Rank**	**Closing Rank**
Biochemical Engineering and Biotechnology	1321	2401
Chemical Engineering	600	1258
Civil Engineering	474.1	716
Computer Science and Engineering	9.1	143
Electrical Engineering	24.1	170
Electrical Engineering (Power and Automation)	213	428
Engineering Physics	1105	1400
Mathematics & Computing	152	358
Mathematics and Computing	368	441
Mechanical Engineering	74	304
Production and Industrial Engineering	556	1265
Textile Technology	1488	2376

SC Category	**Opening Rank**	**Closing Rank**
Biochemical Engineering and Biotechnology	914	1286
Chemical Engineering	410	809
Civil Engineering	60	382
Computer Science and Engineering	10	111
Electrical Engineering	22	99
Electrical Engineering (Power and Automation)	121	276
Engineering Physics	647	922
Mathematics & Computing	173	499
Mathematics and Computing	513	598
Mechanical Engineering	17	142
Production and Industrial Engineering	394	852
Textile Technology	870	1375

ST Category	**Opening Rank**	**Closing Rank**
Biochemical Engineering and Biotechnology	319	707
Chemical Engineering	139	449
Civil Engineering	16	73
Computer Science and Engineering	14	72
Electrical Engineering	12	32
Electrical Engineering (Power and Automation)	37	80

Engineering Physics	95	494
Mathematics & Computing	296	347.1
Mathematics and Computing	277	348
Mechanical Engineering	8	83
Production and Industrial Engineering	301	417
Textile Technology	553	710