

# Newspaper Clips

August 17, 2012

HT, Mumbai

## IIT-Bombay all set to host Prime Minister on Saturday

**Bhavya Dore**

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**MUMBAI:** A fresh coat of paint, a new building, a helipad in the midst of the campus football field: at the Indian Institute of Technology-Bombay (IIT-B) in Powai, there is frenzied activity. The institute will host Prime Minister (PM) Manmohan Singh for its 50th convocation ceremony on Saturday.

The old convocation hall has been dismantled and a new one with centralised air-conditioning constructed in its place. The seats have been redone and the interiors cleaned up.

A patch of ground has been prepared for the descent of the PM's helicopter. "We are prepared for anything, in case he

wishes to come by chopper," said Jaya Joshi, public relations officer, IIT-B.

The helipad will most likely be done away with after he leaves. Detailed security arrangements have been put in place, said Joshi.

Campus residents are viewing the changes with amusement and relief. "They are repairing the roads, planting trees, removing bus stops, making bathrooms," said a faculty member. "This is good. Otherwise no one looks at our complaints." Students have also welcomed the beautification drive.

On Saturday, there will be special traffic arrangements in place on campus. On Friday and Saturday, students will not be able to access facilities such as the football field and tennis courts.

### Official email on molestation case

Authorities at the IIT-B have broken their silence on the alleged molestation of a PhD student by a staff member at the institute earlier this week. They have finally addressed the student community about it. An email was circulated to students on Thursday from the office of the dean of student affairs. Authorities said they will send out a detailed statement soon.

**HTC, MUMBAI**

# आईआईटी संकाय संघ पीएम को देगा कुछ और सुझाव

नई दिल्ली (एसएनबी)। इंजीनियरिंग स्नातक के लिए सरकार द्वारा तैयार की गई संयुक्त प्रवेश परीक्षा के मुद्दे पर अखिल भारतीय आईआईटी संकाय संघ ने कुछ और सुझाव तैयार किए हैं। जिसे वह मुंबई आईआईटी के दीक्षांत समारोह के दौरान प्रधानमंत्री डा. मनमोहन सिंह बताएगा।

मुंबई में 18 अगस्त को प्रधानमंत्री डा. सिंह आईआईटी के दीक्षांत समारोह में मुख्य अतिथि बन कर जा रहे हैं। इस मौके का फायदा उठाने के लिए संकाय संघ के अध्यक्ष के नरसिंहम ने कुछ और सुझाव तैयार किए हैं और संकाय सदस्यों के साथ

## संयुक्त प्रवेश परीक्षा विवाद

डा. सिंह से बात करेगा। संयुक्त प्रवेश परीक्षा के नए प्रारूप को लेकर आईआईटी और मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री कपिल सिब्बल के बीच चल रहा विवाद अभी थमा नहीं है। हालांकि कुछ संस्थान सहमत हो गए हैं मगर संकाय सदस्यों में बहस जारी है। आईआईटी संकाय सदस्यों की पिछले माह आईआईटी संकाय संघ के सचिव एके मित्तल और प्रधानमंत्री के सलाहकार टीकेए नायर के साथ बैठक हो चुकी है। इस बैठक में उन्होंने नए प्रारूप से आईआईटी की गरिमा और स्वायत्तता पर खतरा बताया था। बैठक में संघ के सुझावों पर विचार करते हुए नए प्रारूप पर संशोधन करने का आश्वासन भी दिया गया था।

# From 2013, common entrance test for all 41 central varsities

ADITI TANDON  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 16

From the next academic session, admissions to all central universities like the University of Delhi, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Jamia Millia Islamia and the ones located in states will be held through a common entrance test.

After formalising a uniform assessment structure for entry to centrally funded technical institutes, the government has now asked central universities to finalise a single test format for admission to their system by the next academic session.

The decision was taken at the recently held conference

of Vice-Chancellors of central universities which HRD Minister Kapil Sibal chaired.

The two-day conference held in Chandigarh decided that all "central universities will have a common entrance test with respect to entry at the undergraduate (UG) level. In such a test, Class XII marks will have adequate weightage to account for the subject knowledge of the student."

The outcome document of the conference, finalised this week, flags the issue of common test for all 41 central universities (CU) as a key reform of the government for the coming year. It says, "All CUs will take the necessary steps to join the common entrance examination system



“Class XII marks will have adequate weightage to account for the subject knowledge of the student.”

— Outcome document of the conference of VCs of central varsities

from the next session.”

The minutes also highlight the necessity to engage with political parties on the urgency to reform the examination system “in the inter-

est of students.

The ministry and the VCs of CUs agreed that the common examination being planned would be held in English and Hindi. “Minority central universities will have the option to participate in the CET,” the outcome document states.

Top sources in the HRD Ministry said states where the central universities are located would be consulted for the proposal.

At present, seven central universities are conducting a common entrance test for admission to their UG system. The ministry has told the other universities to draw from the experience of these and “develop a system for holding a CET for all central

universities at undergraduate and postgraduate levels.”

The HRD Ministry has assigned Dr BP Sanjay, Vice-Chancellor of Tamil Nadu Central University, the task of finalising the common test proposal for all CUs.

Central Universities in India are located at Delhi (4), Uttar Pradesh (4), Andhra Pradesh (3); two each in Jammu and Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, Assam, Manipur and Tamil Nadu; one each in Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tripura, Uttarakhand, West Bengal and Puducherry.

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P-5

PROVIDING AUTONOMY

## Cabinet likely to approve IIT Bill today

Bill will allow central and state public sector units to be accepted as industry partners for establishment of IIITs

BY LIZ MATHEW,  
PRASHANT K. NANDA  
& AMAN MALIK  
NEW DELHI

The cabinet is expected to approve on Friday the Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) Bill that seeks to give IIITs administrative autonomy and uniformity and set up 20 more such schools on a public-private partnership (PPP) model.

Once enacted, the legislation will confer the status of institutes of national importance on the IIITs. It recognizes the need to create a large pool of skilled professionals for the information technology (IT) industry, said two government officials with knowledge of the development. Both of them declined to be named.

Despite the PPP scheme being on offer for more than one year, states have not shown much interest as finding a private industry partner is not always easy, said one of the two

officials cited above.

Taking note of this problem, the Bill also seeks to modify the scheme under which both central and state public sector undertakings will be accepted as industry partners for the establishment of IIITs.

The modification in the proposed legislation was made after the state education ministers conference in 5 June suggested the changes.

“It was agreed that the following modifications to the scheme could be considered: (i) To allow central and state public sector undertakings (PSUs) to be accepted as industry partners for establishment of IIITs; and (ii) giving states the flexibility to bring in one or more industry partners instead of limiting the number of partners to three,” said the summary record of the discussion held during the education ministers conference.

Setting up each IIIT will cost ₹128 crore. While 50% of the corpus will come from the central government, 35% will be the share of the concerned state government and the remaining 15% will come from the industry partner or partners.

In the northeastern states, industry will only contribute



Promoting skills: The legislation recognizes the need to create a large pool of skilled professionals for the information technology industry.

7.5% and the central government will pick up the slack. Besides this, the central government will provide ₹50 crore for faculty development programmes.

During the first four years of setting up each IIIT, the central government will provide assistance towards recurring expenditure to the extent of ₹10 crore, the year-wise requirement of which will vary depending on the growth of the institutes and how much money is needed.

Each IIIT will meet its entire operating expenditure on its own within five years of starting from student fees, research

and other internal accruals, according to the agenda note of the state education ministers' conference.

Apart from the capital cost, the partner company is expected to help with building research labs and projects, give internship to students and sponsor faculty chair positions.

The government has already set up four IIITs in Allahabad, Jabalpur, Gwalior and Kanchipuram.

The union cabinet is also expected to clear amendments to the Prevention of Bribery of Foreign Public Officials and Officials of Public International

tional business or other advantages.

The uniform punishment for offences under this act will be from three to seven years. However, the government hasn't accepted the panel's suggestion of fixing a time frame for the completion of investigation under the act.

The Central Bureau of Investigation and the Central Vigilance Commission have opposed the Bill saying that the existing anti-corruption law is enough to deal with bribery. The government has rejected the argument.

The cabinet meeting on Friday is also likely to take up a new pricing formula for the procurement of ethanol to be blended with petrol, said a senior official from the department of chemicals and petrochemicals. He did not want to be identified. This official said that the proposal being considered is in line with that proposed by a panel headed by Planning Commission member Saumitra Chaudhuri.

The Chaudhuri committee had recommended that the price of ethanol be linked to that of petrol in the preceding quarter, after factoring in the calorific value, with the possibility of revising the price every three months. This is to be subject to fixed floor and ceiling prices. The department of chemicals is opposed to these recommendations, the official said.

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# Ignored by pvt firms, IITs may come up with PSU aid

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**NEW DELHI:** The Union cabinet is planning to let public sector units (PSUs) partially fund the setting up of new Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIITs) across the country. This is a step towards salvaging the central government's first-ever move to introduce public-private partnerships in higher education – a plan that has received a largely cold response from the private sector until now.

In an Independence Day speech two years ago, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh had promised to set up 20 new IIITs—the country's apex IT schools—through public private partnerships (PPP). And now, two days after his latest address from the Red Fort, the cabinet on Friday will consider allowing PSUs to pump in money and expertise to fulfil a role origi-

**THE CABINET WILL ALSO CONSIDER REDUCING THE NUMBER OF FIRMS REQUIRED TO FUND EACH IIIT FROM 3 TO 1**

nally envisaged for top private firms, including global giants such as Google and Yahoo.

The Union cabinet will also consider reducing the number of companies required to fund each IIIT from three to one. The cabinet note points out that in several states, especially in the north-east, even medium-sized private industries are non-existent.

The IIIT Bill-2012 is set to be introduced during the ongoing monsoon session of Parliament, after the cabinet gives its nod.

India already has four IIITs fully funded by the Centre at Gwalior, Allahabad, Jabalpur and Kancheepuram – all deemed universities. The plan

was to establish one IIIT in every other state.

The new bill also aims to elevate all 24 IIITs to 'institutes of national importance'—a tag that exempts them from several government regulations and bestows independent statutory status.

It is learnt that the government had to rethink its plan after three states—Rajasthan, Bihar and Kerala—suggested that industry partners need not necessarily be private, and state or centrally-owned companies should be allowed to participate.

Both Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka managed to attract substantial private investment for launching IIITs in PPP mode. Though court orders subsequently forced these schools to rename themselves as International Institutes of Information Technology – dropping 'Indian' from their name – these institutions remain the best in the country with regard to IT education.

# A Case Study! New IIMs Clash with the Old

Young institutes claim established B-schools are not sharing resources

**KALA VIJAYRAGHAVAN & PARAG DAVE**

MUMBAI | AHMEDABAD

Simmering differences between the seven new IIMs and six older, more established ones are threatening to erupt into a full-blown conflict. New IIMs are peeved that their older counterparts are not treating them as equals in resource and faculty sharing, and in the Common Admission Test (CAT) process and revenues. And, at least two new IIMs are planning to write to the human resource development ministry demanding better collaboration and resource utilisation among all institutes.

IIM-Ranchi officials told ET they will approach the ministry with a suggestion to form an 'IIM co-ordination committee' to ensure collaboration between all institutes.

**IIM-Ranchi wants HRD ministry to set up a panel for better collaboration between all institutes**

help improve the productivity of all IIMs," says MJ Xavier, director of IIM-Ranchi. "IIM is an umbrella brand and students should not be seeing any difference in quality...the IIM brand will get wiped out if it doesn't get inclusive." He points to the 10% drop in MBA applications in the past two years to make his case.

Adds Prafulla Agnihotri, director of IIM-Trichy: "We should be collaborators, not competitors...we (new IIMs) have an equal right to be part of every initiative taken by the IIM brand."

New IIMs are demanding that all institutes operating under the IIM brand should pool resources, share faculty, have joint research programmes, share revenues and be involved in common initiatives such as the CAT preparation process. "We are younger siblings, but intellectually the same," says Agnihotri. Officials

## Why the Conflict

### What New IIMs Say

**Older IIMs non-inclusive and are forming a coterie to protect their elitist image**

**They are stonewalling efforts to promote joint research or sharing faculty**

**New IIMs not included in CAT 2012 preparation or revenue sharing**

**IIM brand to be hit if it does not get inclusive**



### What Old IIMs Say

**New IIMs have to focus on institution-building and strengthening faculty**

**New IIMs could not participate in CAT process because they do not have enough faculty members**

**All IIMs are facing shortage of faculty after the OBC quota kicked in**



**Each IIM has a separate individual identity**

at new IIMs say while the ministry is open to most suggestions, the older IIMs are stonewalling collaboration efforts.

For instance, newer IIMs allege that IIM-A is not too keen to share faculty, as such loss of exclusivity will make IIM-A lose its competitive edge, a senior IIM official says on condition of anonymity.

Refuting this, IIM-A Director Samir Barua argues that all IIMs are facing faculty shortage. "After the implementation of the OBC quota, it is difficult to share existing faculty with the new IIMs," he says.

It is the lack of faculty that stopped newer IIMs from participating in the CAT process, not any discrimination, Barua adds. "When their size becomes large enough to spare faculty for the process, they will be included and will also get revenue share."

Unlike the close-knit IITs, each IIM is autonomous and has independence over daily operations.

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# IIM Brand will be Hit

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However, the administration and overall strategy of all IIMs is overseen by the IIM Council, which is headed by the HRD ministry. Directors of the new institutes say IIM as a brand will be hit in the face of competition from foreign educational institutes if the older ones do not shed their elitist stance. Currently, there are 13 IIMs with a total faculty of 571. There is a shortage of over 200 teachers who are currently outsourced, according to IIM-Ranchi Director Xavier. Of the total faculty strength, 30% are good teachers while 30% are good researchers, he says.

Besides sharing of resources, new and old IIMs also differ over mentoring and the entire CAT process. When the new IIMs were set up in the past three years, the older ones were asked to mentor them. While IIM-A refused, IIM-Lucknow mentored Rohtak and Kashipur. It outsourced administration to a retired professor, officials said. IIM-Indore mentored Raipur and IIM-Bangalore hand-held Trichy to some extent. But older IIMs have been reluctant to mentor newer ones citing limited resources and faculty.

CAT is another contentious issue. The Common Admission Test is conducted by the IIMs as a pre-requisite for admission to various business management programmes. Prometric, a US-based testing company, conducts the computer-based CAT in India to test quantitative ability, data interpretation, verbal ability and logical reasoning. The test is conducted every year by one of the older IIMs based on a rotation policy. Each CAT application is charged around Rs 1,600 for the general category and Rs 800 for the SC/ST category. The surplus funds

after incurring all expenses are then shared among the older IIMs.

Moreover, older IIMs do not include newer counterparts in the CAT administration process. The new IIMs had put in a request to participate in CAT 2012 during a meeting with Human Resource Development Minister Kapil Sibal, which was not seriously considered, officials say.

Officials from the older IIMs, however, say the newer IIMs do not have the faculty strength required to be part of the CAT process. "The newer IIMs are just recruiting faculty and whenever they express interest to participate, they will be included," says Arnab Laha, chairman of IIM-A's admission committee.

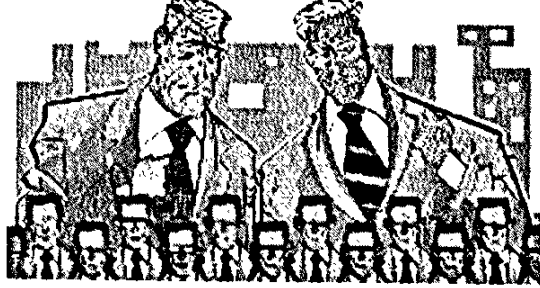
Refuting this, IIM-Trichy says their faculty strength would touch 20 by end of 2012. "CAT has nothing to do with faculty, it has been outsourced to Prometric. It makes good sense to include all IIMs," says the director of a new IIM on condition of anonymity.

Moreover, new IIMs were kept out of a July 2012 meeting at Kozhikode to discuss the future road map of CAT (encouraging the entry of non-engineering students at IIMs). Directors of all the older IIMs — Ahmedabad, Calcutta, Bangalore, Kozhikode, Lucknow and Indore — were invited. IIM-Ranchi's Xavier says he was unaware of the meeting and learnt about it through newspaper ads.

Debashis Chatterjee, director of IIM-K, dismisses talks of such a rift. "I think collaboration more than polarisation is the way forward for IIMs. I do not endorse the view that older IIMs are superior to the new IIMs," he says. He, however, defends the current CAT system arguing that revenues will be shared with the new IIMs when their faculty participates.

**केंद्र के पास जाएंगे नए संस्थान**

# नए-पुराने IIM में नहीं कोऑर्डिनेशन



**नए IIM का आरोप, रिसोर्स शेयरिंग और  
फैकल्टी में पुराने संस्थान कर रहे भेदभाव**

[ कला विजयराघवन | पराग दवे मुंबई | अहमदाबाद ]

नए और 6 पुराने आईआईएम के बीच जंग के आसार दिख रहे हैं। इसकी आहट काफी तेज हो गई है। नए आईआईएम का कहना है कि पुराने आईआईएम उनके साथ रिसोर्स शेयरिंग और फैकल्टी के मामले में बराबरी का सलूक नहीं कर रहे हैं। उन्होंने कॉमन एडमिशन टेस्ट (कैट) प्रोसेस और रेवेन्यू को लेकर भी ऐसे ही आरोप लगाए हैं। यह मामला जल्द ही सरकार के पास पहुंच सकता है। कम से कम दो नए आईआईएम इस बारे में एचआरडी मिनिस्ट्री को लेटर लिखने की योजना बना रहे हैं। वे इसमें सभी आईआईएम के बीच रिसोर्स यूटिलाइजेशन के लिए बेहतर तालमेल की मांग कर सकते हैं।

आईआईएम रांची के अधिकारियों ने इकनॉमिक टाइम्स को बताया कि वे मिनिस्ट्री से सभी इंस्टीट्यूट्स के बीच बेहतर तालमेल के लिए 'आईआईएम को-ऑर्डिनेशन कमेटी' बनाने की मांग करेंगे। आईआईएम रांची के डायरेक्टर प्रो. एम जे जेवियर का कहना है, 'अगर आईआईएम-अहमदाबाद जैसे इंस्टीट्यूट खुद को एलिट मानते हुए बेस्ट फैकल्टी शेयर नहीं करेंगे और सभी आईआईएम की प्रोडक्टिविटी सुधारने की पहल उनकी ओर से नहीं होगी, तो मामला बिगड़ सकता है।'

उन्होंने कहा, 'आईआईएम एक ब्रांड है। स्टूडेंट्स को इसमें अलग-अलग क्वालिटी नहीं देखनी चाहिए। अगर आईआईएम ब्रांड को इनक्लूसिव नहीं बनाया गया तो यह खत्म हो जाएगा।' उन्होंने इसकी दलील में पिछले दो साल में एडमिशन एप्लीकेशंस में आई 10 फीसदी कमी का हवाला दिया।

आईआईएम त्रिची के डायरेक्टर डॉ. प्रफुल्ल अग्निहोत्री ने बताया, 'हमें एक-दूसरे का प्रतिस्पर्द्धा नहीं, सहयोगी बनना चाहिए। आईआईएम ब्रांड की ओर से लिए जा रहे हर फैसले में हम (नए आईआईएम) बराबर के हिस्सेदार हैं।' सभी नए, आईआईएम की डिमांड है कि इस ब्रांड के तहत आने वाले सभी इंस्टीट्यूट को रिसोर्सिंग के इस्तेमाल, फैकल्टी शेयरिंग, ज्वाइंट रिसर्च प्रोग्राम, रेवेन्यू शेयर और कैट जैसे कॉमन इनिशिएटिव में शामिल किया जाए। अग्निहोत्री ने कहा, 'हम नए जरूर हैं, लेकिन इंटेलेक्चुअली पुराने आईआईएम के बराबर हैं।'

नए आईआईएम के अधिकारियों ने बताया कि मिनिस्ट्री उनके ज्यादातर सुझावों पर खुला नजरिया रखती है। हालांकि, पुराने आईआईएम तालमेल की कोशिशों को कामयाब नहीं होने दे रहे। मिसाल के लिए, नए आईआईएम का आरोप है कि आईआईएम-ए का फैकल्टी शेयरिंग को लेकर सहयोगी रुख नहीं है। उसे इससे एक्सक्लूसिविटी खत्म होने का डर है। इस पर आईआईएम-ए के डायरेक्टर प्रो. समीर बरुआ का कहना है कि सभी आईआईएम में फैकल्टी की कमी है। उन्होंने बताया, 'ओबीसी कोटा लागू होने के बाद से नए आईआईएम से मौजूदा फैकल्टी शेयर करना आसान नहीं रह गया है।' उन्होंने बताया कि फैकल्टी की कमी के चलते नए आईआईएम कैट प्रोसेस में शामिल नहीं हो पा रहे हैं। उन्होंने किसी भी भेदभाव से इनकार किया।

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अगर आईआईएम-अहमदाबाद जैसे इंस्टीट्यूट खुद को एलिट मानते हुए बेस्ट फैकल्टी शेयर नहीं करेंगे और सभी आईआईएम की प्रोडक्टिविटी सुधारने की पहल उनकी ओर से नहीं होगी, तो मामला बिगड़ सकता है

**प्रो. एम जे जेवियर**  
डायरेक्टर, आईआईएम रांची

# Jamia & DU all set for Meta revolution

**MAILTODAY  
EXCLUSIVE**

By **Neha Pushkarna** in New Delhi

JAMIA Millia Islamia and Delhi University have created an innovative course for math learners and those who aspire to teach mathematics in line with the concept of Meta University.

The two universities are ready to launch the first hybrid university in the country — offering a masters degree in mathematics education with mass communication. The course will be offered under Meta University.

The students, to be selected through a common entrance exam, will study both at Jamia and DU during the course. DU has developed the course material for mathematics

## Mass Communication & maths in one course

while Jamia is going to take care of the mass communication section of the curriculum.

"The curriculum is ready and we have to devise the selection criteria now. We will admit 20 students in the first batch. Both universities will select 10 students each," Najeeb Jung, vice-chancellor, Jamia Millia, said.

He said the course's unique composition will help generate interest in mathematics. Jamia's mass communication courses are much sought-after and DU vice-chancellor Professor Dinesh Singh, who is a mathematician, has contributed to the development of the math curriculum.



PICTURE FOR REPRESENTATION

Jamia Millia and Delhi University are ready to launch the first hybrid institute in the country. Courses will be offered under Meta University.

“The board meeting is scheduled on August 28 after which the matter will be placed in our academic council meeting on September 5. Once it is cleared, we can start the admission process.”



— NAJEEB JUNG, V-C Jamia Millia Islamia

"It will be a thrilling course. Students enrolled in the course will have studied their basics at the graduation level. Mass communication will make mathematics more attractive. The course is for the more intelligent," Jung added.

While DU's academic council approved the concept of Meta University in its meeting held on July 21, Jamia is now waiting for the board of its department of teachers' education to give a go-ahead to the curriculum.

"The board meeting is scheduled on August 28 after which the matter will be placed in our academic council meeting on September 5.

Once it is cleared, we can start the admission process. I have already written to the DU V-C in this regard," Jung said.

Students clearing the two-year course will receive a degree, which will likely to mention the names of both universities. However, it has not been decided which university's name will be featured first.

"Professor Singh is like my younger brother. He will agree to what I suggest," Jung said.

The plan for Meta University was first introduced by the Prime Minister in which he wanted students to have the option of studying different subjects at multiple universities while pursuing a course.

He had explained that with Meta University in place, a student of astrophysics at the Indian Institute of Science in Bangalore, for instance, would be able to pursue a course in literature at Jadavpur University. The creative composition of course will trigger innovation, he had said.

"Why do we assume that a mathematics student will not be interested in studying mass communication?" Jung asked. DU, meanwhile, has already started the admission process for its own Meta College, based on the same lines.

The plan was supposed to be launched by Delhi-based institutions. DU, Jamia Millia, Jawaharlal Nehru University and IIT-Delhi were to start the project together in July, this year.

"JNU and IIT-D need more time to carry out the process," Jung said adding that Jamia has already prepared the curriculum for another course in healthcare research which will be a 'full-blown' Meta University offering.

# Now, Your Doctor may be Made in China



Lured by cheaper fee structure, wannabe medics scale the Great Wall

**RICA BHATTACHARYYA**  
MUMBAI

From swanky cellphones to sleek Android tablets, China makes everything affordable. And now, even Indian doctors are 'Made in China', and that too for only 25-50% of the cost here.

For 20-year-old Anusree Ravi from Kerala, the dream of becoming a doctor was nearly dashed when she failed to qualify in entrance examinations for government medical colleges in India and the course fees for private colleges turned out to be beyond her parents' means. However, unwilling to give up hope, Anusree decided to apply to universities in China, which she had heard were a cheaper option.

"When I enquired about course fees at private medical colleges in

India, it was not affordable. But China was affordable for my parents," says Anusree, who has just completed the first year of MBBS at Wuhan University School of Medicine, situated in China's Hubei province.

"In my batch, there are about 70 south Indians and one north Indian,

**MBBS course in China costs ₹15-20 lakh, while it costs up to ₹75 lakh at a private college here**

though my senior batches have many from the north," says Anusree. She is part of a batch of international students numbering 90.

Like Anusree, Devu, Ameena Kamaruaheen and Vallatheril are in various colleges in China, chasing their destiny to be doctors. The first trickle started about a decade ago, but the pace has picked up over the past couple of

years. Now, medical colleges in China are attracting an increasing number of Indians who dream of becoming doctors, but fail to qualify in competitive examinations for state-run subsidised medical colleges, nor can afford the steep fee structure of local private colleges.

"The primary lure of government-run Chinese medical colleges is their cheaper cost structure. There is no capitation or donation, as is usually charged by private colleges in India," says Neyas Mohammad, head of consultancy firm Asian Educational Consultancy.

In 2011, Asian Educational Consultancy placed 100 aspiring doctors from India in medical colleges in China, compared with about 60 in 2009 and 80 in 2010.

**China Encouraging Foreigners** ▶▶ 17

## China Encouraging Foreign Students

▶▶ From Page 1

So far this year, Asian Educational Consultancy has got applications from more than 150 aspiring medical students.

"It started in 2008. Since then, many Indians have been coming to China to study medicine. The Chinese government is encouraging foreign students. Internationalisation of students and faculty is key for colleges (in China) to secure government funding," says an official from the Chinese Embassy in New Delhi, who did not want to be named.

An MBBS course from a government medical college in China will cost about Rs 15-20 lakh, including tuition fee, food and accommodation. In India, just the tuition fee and donation in private colleges will amount to Rs 45-75 lakh, ac-

ording to education consultants.

Medical colleges in China have separate batches for Chinese and international students, where the medium of teaching is English and majority of the class are Indians, mostly from the southern states of Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and some from north India. In addition to affordability, Chinese medical colleges have robust infrastructure, advanced technology and good living conditions, claim students and doctors.

"Studying MBBS in China is not only less expensive than India, but colleges there also provide better facilities and teaching atmosphere," says Somasekharan, who got his MBBS degree from Wuhan University, and currently works with the Government Medical College in Kerala.

Currently, there are about 50 universities in China offering medical courses in English, though students have to learn Chinese as a compulsory subject to interact with patients.

After the US, UK and Australia, China is the fourth most popular destination among Indians for a medical degree. "All other destinations are far more expensive than China. A five-year medical degree course will cost more than Rs 1 crore in the US," says Neyas, himself a radiologist.

About a couple of decades ago, a similar interest was seen among Indian students to study medicine in Russia, which gradually waned after the collapse of the Soviet Union and also due to racial issues.

"An MBBS in China is a kind of a backdoor entry to becoming a doctor. However, it can be a good step-

ping stone for people who want to become doctors, but do not have the means to do it in India or in other popular destinations such as the US or UK," says Shamin Karbhari, an eye surgeon in suburban Mumbai. Apart from China, other cheaper options for Indians to study medicine include Georgia, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan and the Philippines. But China far surpasses others in terms of number of Indian students.

However, to be eligible to practice in India, doctors graduating from these universities have to clear a screening examination conducted by the National Board of Examinations under the directive of Medical Council of India.

"The quality of education is poor even in many private colleges in India and most of them have zero hands-on experience. One can

make up for the practical part during year-long internships," says Karbhari. Most students use this opportunity to get the basic MBBS degree and later move to the US or UK to pursue post graduation. Some even opt for higher studies back home — like Saleel PA from CTGU University, who is pursuing post graduation at the Nellore Medical College, and Jaison James, also from CTGU, who is doing masters in family medicine from Kerala.

While state governments like Uttar Pradesh have recently started appointing Indian doctors graduated from China to work in remote areas due to a severe shortage, their acceptability may be an issue.

Do the doctors made in China face an acceptance issue? Says Karbhari: "When a patient goes to a doctor, it depends on his expertise.



## Failing the test

Delays in results and paper leaks cast a shadow on the Mumbai University



### HUMAN FACTOR

SHYAMAL MAJUMDAR

**S**am Pitroda would often say at least 90 per cent of Indian universities are providing below par education. Most Indians would agree with that comment, though

there is a high probability that they would leave Mumbai University out of the below par list. The reality, however, may be substantially different from that perception.

A student learnt it the hard way recently when his exam was delayed; results were even further delayed and the certificate he got after making endless trips to the university office misspelt his name and changed the subject in which he had done his Master's degree. The corrections were made after an inordinate delay and the student now says he feels short-changed by what was once known as a premier centre of higher learning and research. He is applying for further

studies, but predictably, Mumbai University doesn't figure in that list.

Thousands of his batchmates would share his feelings, since it has become almost a routine for results of some exams to be declared only after two and a half months. Moreover, revaluation results often have a waiting period of six months.

And then there are unmet cases of leaked exam papers. The last such case (Bachelor of Management Studies) was in April (it was the sixth such leak this year) after the university miscalculated the number of students appearing for the exam and sent the exam papers for printing three times. No wonder, the question papers were even found

on Facebook pages of many students hours before the exam.

There have been many such cases in recent times, the common reason being the unaccounted-for surplus papers that are printed by the university and left unattended, making it easy to nick papers once the bundles for various examination centres are packed. It's a telling evidence of their incompetence that the university authorities do not have a system of proper accounting of question papers.

To prevent such paper leaks, the university announced a grand plan of preparing question papers just a couple of hours before the exam and going for encrypted CDs. But the implementation of the plan was shoddy. In May, the third-year electronics and telecommunications engineering paper was delayed by almost one and a half hours because the question papers that the students got were meant for some other

exam. In another case, the exam started only after an hour owing to a delay in printing.

That was just one of the problems. Last March, on the day the B Com exam started, over 2,000 students had to leave their examination centres at the last minute since the university had printed incorrect examination numbers on their hall tickets.

University officials explain the goofs by saying the number of students has almost doubled in 10 years and the number of colleges affiliated to it went up from 380 to almost 700 in the same period. But what has remained unchanged is its 400-strong workforce.

That may well be true, but students blame the university for this since it distributed affiliations liberally. Several colleges were given a free hand to introduce courses without any quality checks. Apart from questions over the poor quality of these courses, this also increased

the sheer number of exams to be supervised by the university.

Such goofs, however, are not new for the Mumbai University. Old-timers recall several such cases: In 1983, it was found that the marks of the state chief minister's daughter were altered to ensure she passed. It's just that the frequency of these mistakes has increased in recent times.

If this is the state of affairs in an institute like the Mumbai University, is it a surprise that India's top educational and research institutes have started lagging even Chinese universities? A ranking by the Guardian Higher Education network, has no Indian universities in its list of the top 50 Asian universities. As many as nine Chinese institutions figure in that list.

Two ambitious Bills are pending in Parliament — the Universities for Research and Innovation Bill, 2012 and the Foreign Universities Bill.

The former allows for the setting-up of new universities by the government or private bodies — domestic or foreign — and for the classification of some of the existing universities as research and innovation universities. The second Bill seeks to make it easier for foreign institutions to set up shop in India.

More than these Bills, what is required is a comprehensive plan to review the functioning of existing universities. After all, if the reputed Mumbai University is going to seed, one shudders to think about the state of affairs in other institutes. One of Mumbai University's main problems has been increasing politicisation as is evident from the recent drama surrounding the Vice Chancellor's appointment. Something needs to be done fast to stop the famous Rajabhai Tower of the university from bending more towards the adjoining building of the state Mantralaya.

Mint ND 17/08/2012

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## Misplaced mission to Mars?

**C**uriosity, the space vehicle that landed on Mars has already started sending colour pictures of the Red Planet's surface and in the coming months is likely to begin transmitting evidence of the existence (or lack) of alien life on the Red Planet. Meanwhile, India's cabinet has approved the Indian Space Research Organisation's (Isro) mission to Mars with a launch slated next November. India's mission to Mars is estimat-

ed to cost ₹450 crore and this year's budget, an initial provision of ₹125 crore had been made to begin work on the mission.

According to Isro, the aim of India's mission to Mars will be to focus on life, climate, geology, origin, evolution and sustainability of life on the planet. The Orbiter will be placed in an orbit of 500 X 80,000km around Mars, and will carry nearly 25kg of scientific payloads onboard.

While it may be commendable

that a successful Indian mission may allow the country to be among a handful of countries that have made it to Mars' orbit, but it won't amount to much beyond that. For all practical purposes, Isro is tied down with many problems. For one, a proposed Mars mission has been on the anvil for at least three years. In the time that India is still deliberating a manned mission to the moon, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration

(Nasa)—in spite of severe budgetary cuts—had gone ahead with missions of the scale of Curiosity.

At the same time, controversies involving technology firm Devas and Antrix, Isro's commercial arm are yet to entirely settle down. The air of unease that it has created has retarded the pace at which decisions are made and executed, a system that has a direct bearing on ambitious programmes such as the moon and Mars missions.

While it is to Isro's credit that it has developed a lot of its technology indigenously, at a fraction of what agencies such as Nasa

spend and on the back of a history of technology denial, the other reality is that several other countries such as Israel and China have either surged ahead or are hot on India's heels. Tellingly, India is yet to become the preferred destination for the launch of "small" or sub-1,000kg satellites, a domain that the agency claims to be a specialist in. Unless it ramps up its pace, a trip to Mars may not amount to more than nationalist chest-thumping.

*Mars mission: a "prestige" project or meaningful science? Tell us at [views@livemint.com](mailto:views@livemint.com)*

Obstructive sleep apnea is a serious sleep disorder which can cause cardiovascular problems, diabetes, day-time fatigue and sleepiness. It is also a major risk but preventable cause of motor-vehicle accidents

# STEALING AWAY YOUR SLEEP

DR AMIT KUMAR MANDAL

**A**PNEA means cessation of breath (more than 10 seconds) and since it occurs during sleep, it is called sleep apnea. Several types of sleep apnea exist, but the most common type is obstructive sleep apnea (OSA), which occurs when throat muscles intermittently relax and block the pulmonary airway during sleep. Obstructive sleep apnea is potentially a serious sleep disorder in which breathing stops repeatedly during sleep. The most noticeable sign is snoring. Other signs and symptoms include excessive daytime sleepiness, abrupt and repeated awakenings during sleep, accompanied by shortness of breath, observed episodes of breathing cessation during sleep, morning headache and difficulty staying asleep (insomnia). Anyone can develop OSA, but certain factors can increase the risks like being overweight, individuals with thick or large necks. Persons suffering from high blood pressure (hypertension) and diabetes are at an increased risk of being afflicted with OSA. Alcohol abuse, smoking and the use of sedatives also increase the risks of OSA.

## Little patients, big danger

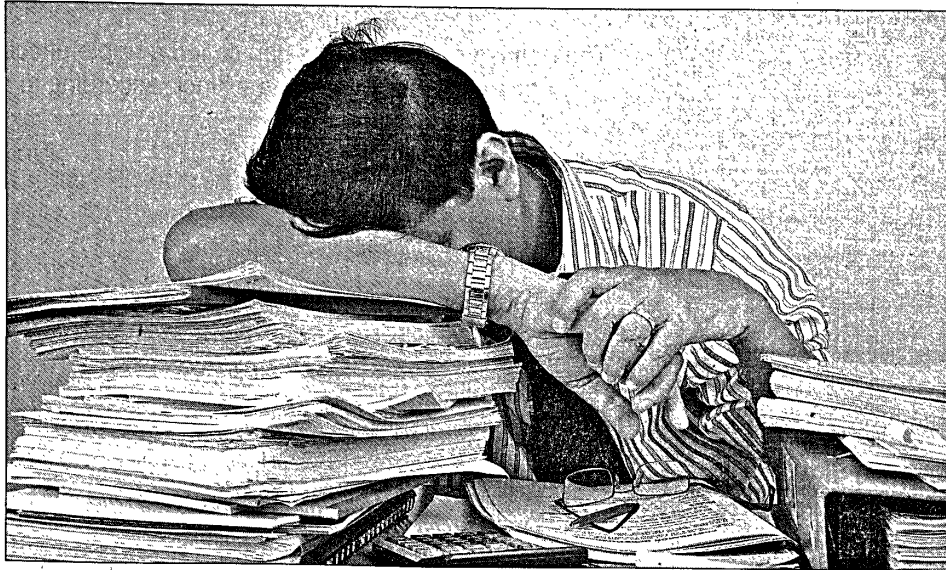
Children, too, could suffer from OSA. However, the problem may not be obvious, hence the danger increases manifold. Signs and symptoms in kids include bedwetting, poor school performance, sluggishness or sleepiness (often misinterpreted as laziness by teachers or by parents), snoring, choking or drooling, excessive sweating at night, restlessness in bed and teeth grinding. OSA in children is, sometimes, due to chronically enlarged tonsils and adenoids. Tonsillectomy and adenoidectomy surgeries may cure the problem. In serious apnea cases, the growth is retarded and abnormalities of the right heart may have developed. But even in extreme cases, surgery tends to cure not only apnea and upper airway obstruction, but subsequently allows normal growth and development. Such children need careful assessment jointly by paediatricians and sleep specialists.

## Studies & surveys

A study conducted by nursing students of Dayanand Medical College & Hospital (DMCH), Ludhiana, and published in a nursing journal in 2011, found a high prevalence of OSA of 8 per cent in the control group and 18 per cent in patients with congestive heart failure.

A population-based study conducted by AIIMS in New Delhi in 2006 reported the prevalence of OSA to be as high as 9.3 per cent.

Another study on sleep problems carried out in Africa and Asia by staff and students of Warwick Medical School has indicated that 5 per cent of Indians suffer from sleep disorders. Women in India at 6.5 per cent surpass men at 4.3 per cent when it comes to sleep disorders. Approximately 4 per cent of Indian men suffering from acute sleep disorders at



Thinkstockphotos/Getty Images

night were hit by extreme depression, while 3 per cent complained of severe anxiety. Among women, 3.79 per cent reported of extreme depression and 2.8 per cent reported of anxiety. Research consisted of studying the quality of sleep on 24,434 women and 19,501 men. All subjects were in the age bracket of 50 years and above. The survey was conducted in eight rural places across the globe. The locations were Africa, Bangladesh, Ghana, Kenya, India, Indonesia, South Africa and Vietnam. The study discovered that 16 per cent of the population in the countries under survey was insomniacs, which is not far behind the West's 20 per cent incidence.

## Complications of OSA

OSA is considered a serious medical condition and is associated with many complications:

**Cardiovascular problems:** Sudden drops in blood oxygen levels occur during obstructive sleep apnea episodes. These episodes bring an increase in the blood pressure and strain the cardiovascular system. Many people with OSA develop high-blood pressure, which raises the risk of heart failure and stroke. The more severe the OSA, greater the risk of high blood pressure. People with obstructive sleep apnea are also much more likely to develop abnormal heart rhythms (such as atrial fibrillation). If there is an underlying heart disease, repeated episodes of low blood oxygen (hypoxemia) could also lead to sudden death. **Daytime fatigue:** Normal sleep architecture is completely disturbed due to

repeated awakenings, resulting in severe daytime drowsiness, fatigue and irritability. Affected persons may have difficulty in concentrating and find themselves falling asleep at work, or while watching TV or even when driving (increased risk of accidents). Children and young people with obstructive sleep apnea may do poorly in school, have reduced mental development or have behavioural problems. Treatment of obstructive sleep apnea can improve these symptoms, restoring alertness and improving the quality of life.

**Diabetes:** A number of studies have shown that OSA is associated with insulin resistance, glucose intolerance and type 2 diabetes. A study conducted by AIIMS, New Delhi, in 2010 found that the persons suffering from OSA had a four-fold higher occurrence of metabolic syndrome (presence of risk factors — obesity, hypertension, dyslipidemia and insulin resistance) than patients without OSA. The study also revealed that patients with OSA and having metabolic syndrome were also more likely to have higher blood pressure, fasting sugar and waist circumference.

## Diagnosis

The diagnosis of sleep apnea is based on the evaluation of clinical symptoms, physical examination and sleep study (polysomnography). Sleep study measures various parameters like airflow, blood-oxygen levels, breathing patterns, electrical activity of the brain, eye and limb movements, heart rate and muscle activity and are conducted by trained sleep technologists in sleep laboratories.

This sleep study aims at establishing an 'objective' diagnosis indicator linked to the quantity of apneic events per hour of sleep (Apnea Hypopnea Index, or Respiratory Disturbance Index, associated to a formal threshold, above which a patient is considered as suffering from sleep apnea, and the severity of their sleep apnea can then be quantified.

## Devices

Patients are treated with mechanical devices like continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP). This machine uses a mask that fits over the mouth and nose of the patient or just over the nose attached to a machine that gently blows air into the throat. The pressure from the air helps keep the airway open while the person is asleep. There are many types of CPAP machines and masks.

Lifestyle modifications like losing weight, avoiding alcohol, sedatives and smoking, maintaining a good sleep hygiene and control of nasal symptoms with active treatment also help.

CPAP treatment may cause side-effects in some people. These include a dry or stuffy nose, irritated skin on face, dry mouth, and headaches. If the CPAP isn't adjusted properly, one may get stomach bloating and discomfort while wearing the mask. Treatment with CPAP improves both objective and subjective measures of sleep. After using CPAP regularly, many patients report the restoration of normal sleep patterns, greater alertness and less daytime sleepiness, less anxiety and depression and better mood,

improvements in work productivity and better concentration and memory.

Patients with obstructive sleep apnea can have enlarged and thickened hearts that pump less effectively, but the heart abnormalities improve with the use of a device that helps patients breathe better during sleep, according to a study published in the April 2006 issue of the Journal of the American College of Cardiology. A study published in European Heart Journal in 2004 found a reduction in need for hospitalisation in cases of heart failure, acute coronary syndrome or need for coronary revascularisation or cardiovascular death in patients of OSA with coronary artery disease (more than or equal to 70 per cent coronary artery stenosis) treated with CPAP over a period of four years, two months and 10 years.

## Surgical solutions

Some patient might benefit from surgery. It is generally performed after a trial of CPAP fails to improve the symptoms. The type of surgery and how well it works depend on the cause of the obstruction. Surgery is done to widen breathing passages. It usually involves shrinking, stiffening, or removing excess tissue in the mouth and throat or resetting the lower jaw.

## Risk factor for accidents

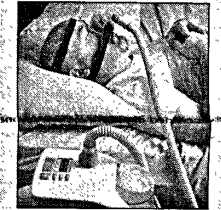
Sleep apnea is an important preventable cause of motor vehicle accidents. Various studies have found that treatment for OSA can lower the accident rate. A study in 2010 published in Journal of Occupational and

## A CASE STUDY

LAST YEAR in June, a male patient, who was 49-year-old, morbidly obese (119 kg) and hypertensive, developed blurring of vision. He was investigated extensively for possible blood cancer since his haemoglobin levels were high at 24.1 gm/dl (polycythemia).

Other tests suggested increased size of liver, spleen, abnormal lipid profile and raised uric acid levels. An echo-cardiography suggested moderate pulmonary arterial hypertension. In April 2012, a detailed history revealed that he had snoring, repeated awakenings at night, significantly increased daytime drowsiness with difficulty in breathing since the last four-five months. His blood gas analysis showed raised carbon dioxide with low oxygenation. He was managed with supportive medication with oxygenation. After stabilisation, he underwent a sleep study (complete overnight polysomnography with titration), which revealed severe disturbance of sleep architecture with episodes of severely low oxygenation. And these were significantly correlated with the use of CPAP device during the study period.

A diagnosis of obstructive sleep apnea with obesity hypoventilation syndrome was made and advised use of BiPAP (bi-level positive airway pressure) device to be applied with a mask over his nose while sleeping. Two months later, he had lost 16 kg, has regained his normal activity levels and has no symptoms of daytime drowsiness. A routine check on his blood investigations revealed that his haemoglobin levels were within normal levels and his lipid profile was much better controlled than before.



*Environmental Medicine*, reports that effective treatment lowers healthcare costs and disability rates for commercial motor vehicle drivers with OSA.

## Sleep experts

OSA is treated by pulmonologists, neurologists and ENT specialists. The facilities for conducting sleep studies exist in many leading government medical colleges and corporate hospitals of the region. Obesity and dietary habits compounded further by alcoholism and drug addiction predispose a significant section of the society to develop OSA. Screening should be considered for OSA in patients with obesity, diabetes, hypertension or coronary artery disease so that treatment can provide better quality of life and outcome.

The writer is Senior Consultant, Pulmonology, Sleep and Critical Care, Fortis Hospital, Mohali