# Newspaper Clips

## August 18-19, 2013

### August 18

**Hindustan Times ND 18/08/2013** P-1

# India lures back 500 NRI scientists

**Vanita Srivastava**
vanita.shrivastava@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** Call it the Swades effect — only in this case it's not just the motherland's emotional pull but also the government's attractive programmes that are drawing bright Indian minds back home.

Over the last seven years, initiatives such as the Ramanujan and Ramalingaswamy fellowships and the £160-million India Alliance between the UK's Wellcome Trust and India's department of biotechnology have prompted over 500 scientists doing research overseas to shift to their homeland.

The first two 're-entry' fellowships — started in 2006 and 2007 respectively — are granted for five years and come with a monthly salary of ₹75,000 in addition to handsome research grants. A large number of their fellows are absorbed in the institutes where they do their research.

Illustration: ABHIMANYU SINHA

Take Vijay B Shenoy, for instance. He did both his MS and PhD from US universities before accepting the Ramanujan fellowship of the department of science and technology to do research at the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore. He is now working as an associate professor at the same institute.

CONTINUED ON P6

# India lures back 500 NRI scientists

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"The fellowship has been a boon for me. The biggest advantage of working in India is academic freedom," says Shenoy.

Prajakta Dandekar Jain, a Ramanujan fellow who was earlier doing research at Germany's Saarland University, says in a similar vein: "The freedom to choose the workplace and attractive salary packages are some factors that may help reverse India's brain drain."

The government is now trying to increase both the emoluments and research grants under the fellowship so it becomes more attractive, says department of science and technology secretary Dr T Ramasami.

Shahid Jameel, CEO of the India Alliance, says: "Since 2009 — when our scheme became operational — we have awarded 104 fellowships to outstanding biomedical researchers. A majority of them, I would say about 80%, moved to India."

Hindustan Times ND 18/08/2013 P-13

# CURIOUS CAPITALISTS

**ROLE REVERSAL** Young entrepreneurs, driven home by the global economic downturn and encouraged by increased funding for developing areas, are launching for-profit ventures in rural India, transforming towns and villages and changing lives

Humaira Ansari
humaira.ansari@hindustantimes.com

Last month, a group of 35 people — young brides, wrinkled silvers, homemakers and farmers — braved the searing heat of the Belgaum summer to make their way to a mango tree in the centre of Ashok Nagar, a village of 200 farmer families in north-west Karnataka.

Seeking refuge in the shade, they sat staring at a small grey-and-black stove.

"It consumes less wood and is less smoky," said Prakash Tirakappanaver, 34, a volunteer with Greenway Grameen Infra (GGI), an 18-month-old company that designs and sells biomass stoves across rural India.

As the demonstration continued, Madhavi Huloli, 35, a cleaner at a government hospital, was surprised to see rice cook in 15 minutes. "My mud stove takes half an hour," she said.

At the session's end, when she learnt that a local microfinance agency, part of Greenway Grameen's distribution network, was offering the ₹1,299 stove in exchange for 25 installments of ₹70 per week, she immediately signed up, as did 20 other women from the village.

Huloli has had her 'stove of happiness', as she calls it, for three weeks. "It has halved my cooking time," she says. "I'm never late for work anymore."

Launched in December 2011, after a year of testing and a pilot project that sought feedback from rural women, the GGI stove emits 70% less smoke and needs minimal adjustment of wood, cow dung or other biofuel.

As a result, Huloli finds cooking less time-consuming and less tiring and now even finds time to watch TV or chat with old friends. "Earlier, all I wanted to do after cooking was rest," she says. "My eyes would burn from the smoke. I couldn't stop coughing."

Huloli's husband Ram, a sugarcane farmer, is happy to shell out the weekly installments. "These days, I feel less guilty when I eat," he says.

Two 27-year-old engineers, Neha Juneja and Ankit Mathur, are the brains behind GGI. Fresh out of college, the duo set up a consultancy and worked with companies setting up rural electrification projects. They then set up Greenway Grameen Infra, eager to explore the business opportunities they had spotted in rural India — home to 83.3 crore Indians, nearly 75% of the country's population, according to the latest census figures.

Why stoves? "We realised that many aspects of rural life — mobile phone connectivity, TV, education — had progressed, but cooking remained unchanged and archaic," says Juneja, the company's CEO. "Clean cooking solutions do not require high-tech interventions but simple, consumer-centric engineering. We took that as a challenge and decided to cater to this growing market."

The GGI stove is their first product; more are in the pipeline.

This sort of 'conscious capitalism' — seeking venture capital to fund a for-profit company that seeks to fill a gap in the growing rural consumer market — is catching on among home-bred and home-from-abroad entrepreneurs eager to cater to India's 'under-served' rural markets.

Aiding them in this mission is the fact that capital, in the form of grants, microfinance and equity, is now more easily available for ventures that focus on developing areas.

Thus the reverse brain drain caused by the global economic downturn is boosting this growing sector, aided by the fact that international funding agencies such as Development Marketplace (DM, run by the World Bank) and International Finance Corporation are shifting focus from urban centres to underdeveloped, low-income states in India.

In May, for instance, DM awarded a total of $2 million (about ₹11 crore) to 20 entrepreneurs based in the low-income states of Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh.

"This new set of entrepreneurs is evolving their ideas from a 'business for good' paradigm and not a 'development of poor' paradigm," says Parvathi Menon, managing director of Innovation Alchemy, a Bangalore-based collaboration-consulting firm involved in the scaling up of high-impact business models, especially in rural India. "With greater exposure today, under-served and poor families are also seeking out water, electricity, education and health and are willing to pay for them rather than wait for the government. This marks the emergence of a new market."

## WHY NOW?

**AS THE ECONOMIC SLOWDOWN** hit the developed world in 2008, several Indian-born professionals, NRIs and white-collar employees returned home, with entrepreneurial aspirations.

**AROUND THIS TIME, PRESSED FOR FUNDS** and more closely scrutinised by donors, international funding agencies began to shift their focus from urban centres to underdeveloped, low-income states in India.

**THIS COMBINATION OF REVERSE BRAIN** drain and availability of capital, turned the under-served rural areas into prime markets.

**ACCORDINGLY, SINCE 2009,** many enterprising youngsters and social enterprises have been setting up for-profit enterprises in such areas.

## SUCCESS STORIES

### A localised white revolution

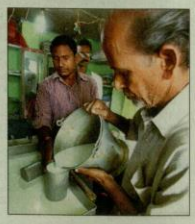
**MILK MANTRA**
PURI Orissa

**Sources milk from local farmers, processes it and sells it pasteurised or packaged as paneer**

**Founded by:** Srikumar Misra, 36, former London-based director of mergers and acquisitions for Tata Tea & Tetley Group

**Launched in:** October 2011

HT PHOTOS: VIDYA SUBRAMANIAN





A clutch of *lungi*-clad, barefoot farmers tread dusty, cracked roads in the harsh May sun. Dented aluminum buckets dangle from their sturdy arms, as they queue outside one of Milk Mantra's 160 collection points, this one attached to the only *kirana* store in Jamadharma, a village of 200 farmer families in Orissa's Puri district.

The 18-month-old dairy start-up sources milk from local farmers, processes it, and then sells it pasteurised or packaged as paneer, under the brand name Milky Moo.

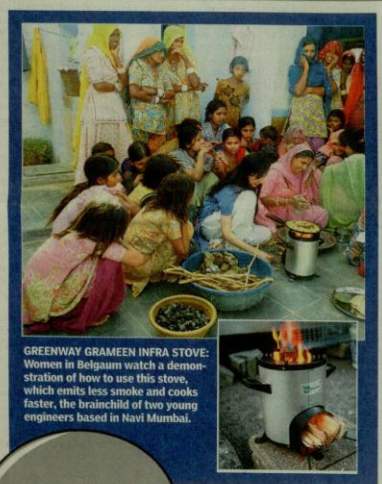
Thrice a month, Milk Mantra tallies the litres brought in by each farmer and pays them, at the rate of ₹18 or ₹20 per litre, depending on the quality of the milk. This is, on average, about ₹6 more per litre than the rate paid by local dairies and the state milk cooperative.

In all, Milk Mantra buys about 35,000 litres of milk a month from 10,000 farmers across 250 villages in Puri and Jagatsinghpur.

Sarbswar Senapati and his wife Biswajeet are regular suppliers, earning about ₹4,200 a month for 7 litres a day. "We are old, alone and tired from decades of physical labour," says Senapati, 68. "My land, which I am too old and ailing to till, one cow and this one-room mud house are all we have. The additional income from the milk is a huge relief to us in our old age."

**"I HAVE ALWAYS FELT THAT ORISSA IS under-marketed. So when the corporate ennui got to me, I decided to return home. I think today's India is offering the kind of entrepreneurial opportunities that America did 30 years ago."**
SRIKUMAR MISRA (RIGHT), CEO and MD of Milk Mantra

**"IN SOME WAYS, THE COLLECTIVE model of Milk Mantra seems like a small cousin of the Amul experiment."**
ABHAY PETHE, professor of economics at University of Mumbai



GREENWAY GRAMEEN INFRA STOVE: Women in Belgaum watch a demonstration of how to use this stove, which emits less smoke and cooks faster, the brainchild of two young engineers based in Navi Mumbai.

### A wave of change, one drop at a time

**WATER LIFE**
HYDERABAD Andhra Pradesh

**Sets up water purification systems and sells treated water across 10 states, at the rate of ₹5 per 20 litres**

**Founded by:** Sudesh Menon, 45, a management graduate and former country head for General Electric in Malaysia

**Launched in:** January 2009

For more than a decade, 35,000 villagers of Mandavgan Farata village in Pune district had no access to clean drinking water.

Their only source was the river Bhima, where the water was contaminated by industrial waste and residue from several sugarcane factories in the neighbourhood.

"The dirty water made even our food smell," says former sarpanch Seema Datta, 33.

Eighteen years ago, when Datta married and moved here, the situation wasn't so bad. Over the years, however, it worsened with residue from sugarcane factories and pollutants from a nearby industrial area.

Water sourced and supplied from a neighbouring village by the gram *panchayat* was only slightly better. So in April 2010, when Water Life proposed a community water purification plant, the villagers decided to give it a shot.

Two years on, the plant sees 300 villagers queue every day to buy clear, purified water. "The water is crystal clear, like mineral water," says villager and *kirana* store owner, Hemant Upadhyay.

The village's Primary Health Centre's medical officer, Manjusri Satpute, says two years ago she would treat 15 patients a month for water-borne diseases like hepatitis, cholera, diarrhoea and kidney stones. Of these, at least 10 were children. Today, she says, she sees only about three such cases every month.

**"WE ARE AT A GREAT INFLECTION POINT in India, with educated and enterprising youngsters seeking challenges to embrace.**
PARVATHI MENON, managing director of collaboration and consultancy firm Innovation Alchemy

**"OUR METROS ARE BURSTING AT THE SEAMS. We need to make India's villages self-sufficient in order to stem migration. That's how we can make an inclusive country."**
SUDESH MENON (RIGHT), 45, founder of Water Life

### Wings on wheels

**SMV WHEELS**
VARANASI Uttar Pradesh

**Sells cycle rickshaws to rickshaw pullers, allowing them to pay in installments of ₹300 per week**

**Founded by:** Naveen Krishna, 30, former regional centre executive at CAPART, a nodal agency catalysing partnerships between NGOs and the government for sustainable rural development

**Launched in:** April 2010

Pulling his rickshaw through Shivpur's serpentine lanes, Dharmendra Giri, 28, wears a smile and a sense of pride. Till a year ago, these were rare emotions in his day of drudgery. Giri's happiness stems from the ownership of his only source of income — a cycle rickshaw.

Inscribed on it are the initials SMV, stamped by the company that sold him the rickshaw at 52 installments of ₹300 per week. In May 2010, a month after the company's launch, Seth learned of it from a fellow rickshaw puller. Tired of paying a daily rent of ₹30, he applied. By May 2011, he had his own vehicle.

"Today, I am a proud owner, my own boss," he says, laughing.

A lot has changed for the Giris since then. Till last year, they lived in a rundown house with a leaking roof. Recently, thanks to an endorsement by SMV, the Giris got free accommodation in a state-sponsored housing complex, Kashiram Awas.

"Today, we eat wholesome meals and even occasionally treat our two daughters to desserts like *kheer* and *jalebi*," says Giri's wife Reeta.

**"TAPPING AND ENABLING rural populations as SMV Wheels is doing will really have a positive impact on their development.**
MADHUKAR SHUKLA, chairperson of the Fr Arrupe Centre for Ecology & Sustainability at the XLRI School of Business & Human Resources, Jamshedpur

**"RICKSHAW PULLERS ARE ONE OF India's most marginalised communities. I devised a payment model that aims to impact many, and this can only happen via a for-profit venture."**
NAVEEN KRISHNA (RIGHT), founder of SMV Wheels

## ELSEWHERE IN THE COUNTRY...

**A look at some of the for-profit initiatives among the 31 finalists for the Sankalp Awards 2013, handed out by the Sankalp Forum, a global social enterprise platform that recognises and supports innovative, sustainable, high-impact enterprises**

### Claro Energy

**Based in:** New Delhi, with operations in Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh

**Founded by:** Electrical engineers Karthik Wahl, 29, Soumitra Mishra, 38, and Gaurav Kumar, 29

**Launched in:** January 2011

**Manufactures and sells** solar-powered water pumps in power-deficient rural areas

### Sakhi Unique Rural Enterprise

**Based in:** Maharashtra

**Founded by:** NGO executives Prema Gopalan, 58, Upmanyu Patil, 46, and Narhari Rao, 60

**Launched in:** January 2009

**Sources and sells** clean-energy products such as biomass stoves, water purifiers and solar products

### ERC Eye Care Centre

**Based in:** Assam

**Founded by:** Eye surgeon Parveez Ubed, 34, and former public relations executive Daniela Gheorghe, 27

**Launched in:** June 2011

**Provides eye care** through vision centres and satellite clinics, as well as primary medical services, in semi-urban and rural areas

### Awaaz De Infosystems

**Based in:** Gujarat

**Founded by:** Neil Patel, 31, who has a PhD in computer science from Stanford University, and his PhD guide, Tapan Parikh, 39, assistant professor at UC Berkeley School of Information

**Launched in:** July 2012

**Provides voice-based** information services via mobile phone to illiterate farmers and labourers

### Barrix Agro Sciences

**Based in:** Karnataka, with operations across three states

**Founded by:** Former Ranbaxy executives D Mayil Vaganan, 40, and Lokesh Makam, 36

**Launched in:** Feb 2012

**Sells simple, affordable** fly traps that reduce the use of pesticides, increasing farm yields

## IN NUMBERS

**75%** of India's population — 83.3 crore of the 1.24 billion — lives in rural areas

**50%** is what the rural economy contributes to the country's GDP

**41%** of the country's middle class resides in rural India

**58%** of India's total disposable income is from rural areas

Illustration: SIDDHANT JUNDA

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# Techno-vision: solving humanity's grand challenges

**VIEW FROM SILICON VALLEY**

VIVEK WADHWA

Many people are fearful that the future will be one of shortages and scarcity and that because of a burgeoning population and dwindling resources, our future is grim.

This couldn't be further from reality. This is the most innovative period in human history. Technology is advancing so rapidly that soon we will be able to solve some of humanity's grand challenges. Imagine a world with unlimited food, water, and energy — in which we prevent disease rather than cure it and in which our lifespans increase along with our wisdom and knowledge. This is what is possible, not in future centuries, but in the next two decades.

This may seem like wishful thinking, but consider how far we've come. The majority of people in India now have electrical power, refrigeration, and television. Even the poor have mobile phones. Two hundred years ago, kings and queens didn't have these luxuries. Yes, there is still dire poverty, but there is also hope.

Take the water crisis. Waterborne viruses are responsible for the majority of disease in the developing world. There are predictions that India will run out of water and that wars will break out over supplies. This seems paradoxical considering that 71% of the earth's surface is water and converting seawater is as simple as boiling and condensing vapour.

Two products are already working and ready to scale.

The first is by legendary inventor Dean Kamen. This device, called Slingshot, is a vapour-compression water-purification machine that can produce 30 litres of distilled water per hour using one kilowatt of electricity. It can convert water from rivers, oceans, and even raw sewage. Slingshot was tested last year by Coca-Cola in five towns in Ghana and worked flawlessly. Coca-Cola is now testing this in dozens of locations worldwide. A device that costs a few thousand dollars will provide enough clean water to support a village of 300 people.

Another amazing — and much cheaper technology — is by Alfredo Zolezzi of Chile's Advanced Innovation Center (AIC). This sanitizes water by converting it into a plasma state through a high-intensity electrical field. The microbiological content is eliminated by electroporation, oxidation, ionization, UV and IR radiation and shockwaves. The system has been in operation for more than three years in a slum in Santiago. The inhabitants told me that not one person had fallen ill since they started using it — in stark contrast to how it used to be.

The leading US authority, the National Sanitation Foundation, tested this device to determine its conformance to EPA guidelines. They were astonished to find that not only did it exceed their highest standards, but killed 100% of bacteria and viruses. Village-sized units of the AIC technology should cost around $500 and home units will cost much less.

Tata Chemicals is evaluating this technology. Their CEO, R Mukundan, says that a solution to India's water problem is the "need of the hour".

Scientists are also making progress in developing new sources of energy and new forms of storage. Imagine fuel from algae and micro-scale graphene-based supercapacitors which recharge laptops in seconds and electric cars in minutes. These are possible.

Prices of solar panels (per watt) have already dropped 97.2% over the past 35 years and will continue this trend. In India, solar energy generation is now cheaper than diesel. Most of Europe will achieve grid parity (cost of solar = cost of grid power) sooner than the US. Next decade, solar will cost a fraction of what fossil fuel energy does, worldwide.

When we have unlimited clean water and unlimited renewable energy, we can produce unlimited amounts of food. Singapore is already growing food in vertical farms. Startups in Silicon Valley are producing egg substitutes made from plants and in-vitro meat using tissue-engineering and 3D printing techniques. We will soon be able to produce meat without slaughtering animals (yes, "vegetarian meat"). This means that we will need less — not more — land to feed the world's population.

Similar advances are also happening in medicine, 3D printing, artificial intelligence, robotics, and other fields. The best part: entrepreneurs are developing these technologies—not governments or big research labs. Innovation has globalized and has democratized. India's entrepreneurs are doing their share.

Not to say there aren't risks ahead or reasons to worry. Every new technology creates a new risk. Just as we can create cures for diseases, we can create doomsday viruses. Unlimited food means unlimited consumption and obesity. Technology is already creating security and privacy concerns. Automation means fewer jobs. Existing industries will need to rapidly transform or they will perish. The future will be much more different than we think. It is for us to understand the opportunities and risks — and shape this into a positive mould.



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# MCI moves SC against NEET ruling

**New Delhi:** The Medical Council of India (MCI), which formulated the single-window admission process through National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) on Saturday moved the Supreme Court seeking review of its July 18 verdict quashing the NEET.

The court had by a two to one majority ruled that the MCI did not have the jurisdiction to enforce a common entrance test (CET) on private medical colleges and that the move could also violate constitutional guarantee to minority communities to establish and manage their own educational institutions.

The MCI's plea hit hard at the logic put forth in the judgment authored by the then CJI Altamas Kabir and said it was wrong on many counts such as it ignored the principles laid down by constitution benches of the SC, wrong understanding of MCI's powers and wrong appreciation of facts relating to medical admissions. TNN

**August 19**

Hindustan Times ND 8/19/2013 P-3

# IIT'S TILTED DEMOGRAPHICS

**UNFAIR** The IIT-JEE 2013 clearly shows an unreasonable tilt towards CBSE board and four urban cities

Vanita Srivastava

**NEW DELHI:** The success rate of 2013 Joint Entrance Exam for admission to different Indian Institutes of Technology has been heavily tilted towards three boards, primarily CBSE and four urban cities, a just done analysis of the result pattern has revealed.

The CBSE, Andhra and Rajasthan boards jointly took nearly 80% of the share of those who qualified. While CBSE alone constituted 56% of those who qualified—the next in line were Andhra (17%) and Rajasthan(7%) boards. The high selection from CBSE is mainly because a maximum number of 58587 students registered from this board.

The worst performers in terms of qualifiers have been those from the North East boards—with Meghalaya(0%), Mizoram (0%), Nagaland(0%), Manipur(0.01%), and Tripura(0.02%). The Assam board was a little better at 0.26%.

Among the cities, Jaipur with a total number of 2188 qualifiers heads the list—probably because of Kota affect. Together with 1900 from Delhi, 1702 from Hyderabad and 1088 from Vijaywada , the four cities took nearly 33% of the share. A maximum number of 10019 had registered from Delhi, followed by 9262 from Jaipur and 7698 from Hyderabad. The high number from these cities shows that coaching has played a role in selection.

Number of qualifiers from North East is again poor — Gangtok(0), Shillong(2), Itanagar(2), Imphal(6), Silchar(4) , Siliguri(34), Jorhat(25).

Only 18.2% of those who appeared were females– a much smaller number than last year's 36%. This is primarily because lesser number of females could be filtered for the JEE(advanced) exam.

Another important revelation is that the two exams JEE(main) for selection to the NITs and JEE(advanced) for selection to IITs have no co-relation, which is reflected by the fact that the topper of JEE(advanced) does not figure anywhere in the top 100 list of JEE(main). According to an estimate there is no matching in nearly 95% performance of the two exams

Among the old IITs maximum percentage of 24% qualifiers was from Bombay zone followed by Madras(20%) and Delhi(18%). Number of females has been highest at IIT Madras(14.76%) followed by IIT Bombay(11.17%) and IIT Roorkee(11.06%).

## WHAT DOES AN ANALYSIS OF THE RESULT PATTERN REVEAL?

The success of the Joint Entrance Exam (JEE) 2013 shows an urban, board and gender divide

**TOP THREE BOARDS**

| Board | Percentage qualified |
|---|---|
| CBSE | 56.12% |
| Andhra Board | 16.98% |
| Rajasthan Board | 6.60% |

**BOTTOM THREE BOARDS**

| Board | Percentage qualified |
|---|---|
| Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland | 0% |
| Manipur | 0.01% |
| Tripura | -0.02% |

**TOP FOUR CITIES**

| Cities | Qualified students |
|---|---|
| Jaipur | 2188 |
| Delhi | 1900 |
| Hyderabad | 1702 |
| Vijaywada | 1088 |

■ IITs are considered India's premier institutions and many aspire to study there FILE

**BOTTOM FOUR CITES**

| Cities | Qualified students |
|---|---|
| Gangtok | 0 |
| Port Blair | 1 |
| Shillong, Itanagar | 2 |
| Silchar | 4 |

**The gender divide**

- Only 18.2% of the students who wrote the JEE 2013 were females
- Last year 36% of the total number of candidates were females
- This could be because lesser females were filtered for the JEE advanced exam

Hindustan Times ND 19-Aug-13 P-8

# IIT-JEE tilted towards CBSE, 4 cities

**Vanita Srivastava**
vanita.shrivastava@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** The success rate of the 2013 Joint Entrance Exam (JEE) for admission to different Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) has been heavily tilted towards three boards, primarily CBSE and four cities, a recent analysis of the result has revealed.

CBSE, Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan boards accounted for nearly 80% of those qualified. While CBSE constituted 56% of those qualified, the next was Andhra 17%, followed by Rajasthan 7%. A maximum number of 58,587 students registered from CBSE, followed by 17,360 from Andhra board and 8,738 from Rajasthan board.

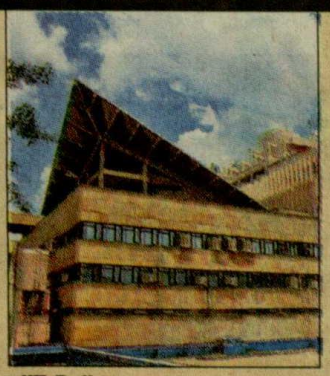
The worst performers in terms of qualifiers in JEE have been from the North East boards — with Meghalaya 0%, Mizoram 0%, Nagaland 0%, Manipur0.01% and Tripura 0.02%. The Assam board was a little better at 0.26%.

Among cities, Jaipur with a total number of 2,188 qualifiers heads the list. With 1,900 from Delhi, 1,702 from Hyderabad and 1,088 from Vijaywada, the four cities took nearly 33% of the share. The number of qualifiers from North East is again poor — Gangtok 0, Shillong 2, Itanagar 2, Imphal 6, Silchar 4, Siliguri 34, Jorhat 25. Ten students qualified from Dubai - the only centre outside India. While the selection is heavily tilted towards big cities, small cities like Sikar 317, Mathura 115, Bareilly 93, Gaya 46, Katihar 32 and Malda 15 have shown encouraging trends.

Only 18.2% of those who appeared were females — lower than last year's 36%. The income of parents of more than 30% of the students who qualified was over ₹5 lakh per annum.

Another important fact is that two exams - JEE (main) for selection to the NITs and JEE (advanced) for selection to IITs have no co-relation - as the topper of JEE (advanced) does not figure anywhere in the top 100 list of JEE(main).

## THE NUMBER GAME



IIT-Delhi. HT FILE

**Top three boards**
(on percentage qualified)

| | |
|---|---|
| CBSE | 56.12% |
| Andhra | 16.98% |
| Rajasthan | 6.60% |

**Bottom three boards**

| | |
|---|---|
| Meghalaya Mizoram Ngaland | 0.0% |
| Manipur | 0.1% |
| Tripura | 0.2% |

Deccan Herald ND 19 Aug. 2013 P-6

# IITs may get new technical cadre

**Prakash Kumar**

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) are contemplating creating a cadre of technical staff to free their faculties from responsibility of laboratories and workshops so that they may devote their time to teaching and research.

The standing committee of the IIT Council, the highest decision-making body of the 15 premier technical institutes, recently gave its nod to the proposal, in view of the problems being faced by the institutes due to shortage of technical staff.

It also recommended that the IITs start the recruitment process under the proposed technical cadre to meet the urgency as an interim measure, against "anticipated" attrition


of non-technical and non-faculty posts up to the faculty-staff ratio of 1:1.3, against the sanctioned ratio of 1:1.1.

An "acute shortage" of technical staff, especially in the older IITs, has emerged as a result of "growing engagement" of the faculties with research, said a member of the panel, adding that the institutes now have new equipment which require "different technical skills".

The clubbing together of the technical non-faculty and the non-technical non-faculty under the category of non-faculty at the institutes is another reason for the shortage of manpower at laboratories and workshops. "This needs to be re-looked, as, in many cases high number of non-faculty, due to legacy, has reduced the space for hiring trained technical staff," he said.

The aim of the proposal for creating a technical cadre is to free faculties from responsibility of looking after laboratories and workshop, and enable them to devote their time more to teaching and research, he added.

"In the absence of adequate support staff, faculty members get burdened with extra administrative work," said an IIT professor, supporting the move.

HINDUSTAN ND 19-Aug-13 P-10

## शिक्षकों की कमी से जूझ रहे आईआईटी ने निकाला नया फार्मूला

# पूर्व छात्रों को बनाएंगे प्रोफेसर

नई दिल्ली | मदन जैड़ा

किस व्यक्ति के लिए यह गौरव की बात हो सकती है कि जिस संस्थान में वह कभी छात्र रहा है, अब वहीं प्रोफेसर बने। इस हेतु बाकायदा उसे न्योता मिले। प्रोफेसरों की कमी से जूझ रहे आईआईटी ने यह भावनात्मक फार्मूला अपनाया है।

आईआईटी की देखादेखी एनआईटी और अन्य प्रौद्योगिकी शिक्षण संस्थानों ने भी इस फार्मूले को आजमाने का फैसला किया है।

देश के 16 आईआईटी संस्थानों में इस समय विभिन्न श्रेणियों में प्रोफेसरों के साढ़े चार हजार पद रिक्त हैं, जबकि करीब 7399 प्रोफेसर कार्यरत हैं। बार-बार विज्ञापन निकालने के बावजूद इन पदों पर भर्ती के लिए योग्य उम्मीदवार नहीं मिल पाते हैं।

योग्य उम्मीदवार की बात तो दूसर कई बार तो जितने पद होते हैं, उतने आवेदन भी नहीं मिल पाते हैं। इसलिए आईआईटी काउंसिल ने तय किया कि प्रोफेसरों की नियुक्ति के लिए लक्ष्य आधारित प्रयास करने होंगे। इसके तहत संभावित उम्मीदवारों की तलाश कर उन्हें आवेदन के लिए प्रेरित किया जाता है। इसी कड़ी में पूर्व छात्रों को भी आमंत्रित किया जा रहा है।

आईआईटी से पीएचडी करने वाले लोग बड़े पैमाने पर विदेशों में बसे हैं। उन पर आईआईटी की विशेष नजर है। संस्थान उनसे संपर्क करके उन्हें फैकल्टी के रूप में ज्वाइन करने के लिए कहते हैं। आईआईटी दिल्ली के निदेशक प्रो. आर.के. शिवगांवकर ने कहा, 'हम पूर्व छात्रों को प्रोफेसर बनने के लिए प्रेरित कर रहे हैं। इसमें सफलता भी मिल रही है। क्योंकि मुझे भी लगता है एक छात्र के लिए उसी संस्थान में प्रोफेसर बनना गर्व की बात हो सकती है, इसलिए वे आते हैं।'

प्रोफेसर शिवगांवकर के अनुसार, लेकिन ऐसी नियुक्तियों में भी हम अपने मानदंडों में कोई कमी नहीं करते। यह ठीक है कि पूर्व छात्रों को मौका देते हैं लेकिन वे प्रोफेसर नियुक्त होने के लिए हमारे मानकों पर खतरे उतरें।

मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय के सूत्रों के पूर्व छात्रों को आकर्षित करने के अच्छे नतीजे सामने आ रहे हैं और आईआईटी से मिले आरंभिक फीडबैक के अनुसार, बड़े पैमाने पर विदेशों में बसे आईआईटी के पूर्व छात्र नौकरी छोड़कर भारत आने को तैयार हैं तथा कुछ आ भी चुके हैं।

### आईआईटी के अन्य कदम

- साल भर आवेदन करने के विज्ञापन
- दूर-दराज या विदेश के उम्मीदवारों से वीडियो कांफ्रेंसिंग या स्काईप से इंटरव्यू
- अंतरराष्ट्रीय पत्र-पत्रिकाओं में विज्ञापन
- वैज्ञानिकों को फैकल्टी नियुक्ति में प्राथमिकता

### गौरव की बात

- विदेशों में बसे आईआईटी से पीएचडी करने वालों पर खास नजर
- देखादेखी एनआईटी और ट्रिपल आईटी ने भी इसी फार्मूले को अपनाया

### अन्य संस्थानों में शिक्षकों के रिक्त पद

| | |
|---|---|
| एनआईटी | : 2166 |
| ट्रिपल आईटी | : 81 |
| आईआईएससी | : 114 |
| आईआईएसईआर | : 78 |

### मौजूदा हालात

पद : 11,920 | वर्तमान में भरे हुए पद : 7399 | रिक्त पद : 4521

Pioneer ND 19-Aug-13 P-5

# Don rewarded!

An IIT Kharagpur don has been rewarded for 'breaching' the institute's code of conduct. Rajendra Singh, Secretary, IIT Teachers Association (IITTA) had led 'PPC for Director' movement supported by alumni and corporates to build pressure on HRD Ministry to appoint as director Prof PP Chakraborty, who was indicted by CBI and CVC. PPC has now promoted Singh as Dean, Undergraduate Studies of IIT-KGP. Singh is 'credited' to have issued various statements to media against the constitutional authorities, including CVC and HRD Ministry. This despite the fact that IIT-KGP Statutes mentions that "No employee shall, in any radio broadcast or in any document published anonymously or in his own name or in the name of any other person or in any communication to the Press or in any public utterance, make any statement of fact or opinion".

Times of India ND 19-Aug-13 P-6

# Noida hospital design gets IIT approval

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Noida:** IIT-Delhi has approved the design for the proposed district hospital building in Sector 39, Noida. The project report for the building had been sent to IIT after a private consultant prepared it for Noida Authority.

IIT's approval has cleared the decks for necessary documentation related to tendering process for the construction work. "All paperwork is expected to be completed by September end. After this, tenders will be floated for construction of the building," said an Authority official. Authority officials said it will take at least two years to complete construction.

The estimated cost to be incurred by the Authority has been pegged at Rs 425 crore. The hospital will have 200 beds and be equipped with a state-of-the-art trauma centre. The Noida Authority board had approved the plan to upgrade the district hospital in January.

The hospital will have a double basement for parking vehicles. Officials said the hospital premises will have housing quarters for the staff on emergency duty.

Earlier this year, Noida Authority had decided against shifting the now defunct Sector 39 district hospital to the Ambedkar hospital in Sector 30. It had, instead, announced that it will be upgraded it into a multi-speciality utility.

Pioneer ND 19-Aug-13 P-2

# Concepts first

## GATE, to be conducted from February-March 2014, will expand its online examination portfolio to all its 21 papers

By **Jitendra Sinha**

TEST DRIVE

Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering (GATE) is a test of time and technical skills. It tests a student's understanding of various undergraduate subjects in engineering and is conducted by the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) and the IITs. Based on the score acquired in the exam, students are eligible for admission to MTech programmes in engineering colleges and universities.

GATE 2014 will expand its online examination portfolio to all 21 papers. This is the first time when all the papers of the exam will be conducted in the online mode. GATE first went online in 2010, when it conducted online exams for just two papers — textile engineering and fiber science, and mining engineering. The exam is spread over three hours and comprises 65 questions. It assesses fundamental engineering concepts and its implementation. To fare well in the exam, students should concentrate on semester teaching, especially on understanding concepts and its application. Solving previous year's question papers can also help in improving scores. A good way to practice will be to map your section-wise performance because the exam assesses you on relative performance and not on an absolute marking system. The examination, an objective type test with four answer-options following each question, has a provision of one-third negative marking on every wrong answer.

*(Sinha is director, GATEFORUM)*

- As told to **Garima Upadhyay Rawat**

> For complete story, click on 'Test Drive' under 'Tests' on *www.educationtimes.com*

HT New Delhi

# 'With IIM-A director's post, life has come a full circle for me'

**Vanita Srivastava**
vanita.shrivastava@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** Prof Ashish Nanda, who is all set to take over as the new director of the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad on September 2, strongly feels that a very important determinant of learning in a discussion-based classroom comes from the diverse experiences of class participants.

Dr Nanda, a professor of Harvard Law School is the first academician from an overseas institute to head any of the IIMs.

Responding to the recent decision of IIM-A to change its selection criteria such that non engineers get a level chance for selection, Prof Nanda who is an alumni of IIT Delhi and IIM Ahmedabad told HT: "Ensuring a diverse mix of entering students, on multiple dimensions will enrich everyone's learning."

Prof Ashish Nanda, the new director of IIM-A HT FILE

Indian management education at prestigious institutions such as IIM-A is already of very high quality, he said adding: "It needs to maintain such quality while ensuring that the educational experience offered to its students equips them to be successful in the enterprises they join."

Asked on how he felt on heading an institute, from which he passed he said: " A lot of what I learned is thanks to my experiences here 30 years ago as a student. It feels like a life coming full circle to return to IIM-A."

HT Lucknow

# 14-year-old Satyam is youngest to bag a seat in Kanpur IIT

**Aabshar H Quazi**
aabshar.quazi@hindustantimes.com

**KOTA:** Satyam Kumar, who had qualified in the IIT-JEE last year at the age of 12, took the JEE Advance this year to improve his rank and has taken admission in the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kanpur. He has become one of the youngest students to get admission in an IIT.

Satyam, who is now 14 years old, had dreamt of studying computer science at IIT-Mumbai but did not get the desired rank. He is now doing Electrical Engineering at IIT-Kanpur. He told HT that he would make efforts to score good marks in the first year of BTech programme so that he could switch over to dual degree MTech programme and do computer science and electrical engineering simultaneously. He said he is interested in robotics.

Kumar said he likes the environment at IIT. "I have joined Robotics, Electronics, and Programming clubs at IIT-Kanpur and also take part in sports like skating," he said. The faculty and students are nice, he said.

Satyam Kumar

A native of Bokharpur region of Bhojpur district in Bihar and the son of a farmer, Kumar scored 679 all India rank in JEE-Advance, 2013 this year. He had scored 8,137 rank in IIT-JEE last year.

When he was 7-years-old, Kumar had arrived in Kota with his uncle (who was an ex-student of Resonance Coaching Institute here) and had not had any formal schooling till then. Later Resonance gave him free coaching and he also got formal schooling in Kota. He was born on July 20, 1999.

## Millennium Post ND 19 August 2013 P-3

# Relevance of PPP model will grow in education: Dilip Bandyopadhyay

*Millennium Post* spoke to GGSIPU vice-chancellor on the future of higher education, his plans for the university and much more

*A multifaceted scholar, academician and administrator, Prof. (Dr) Dilip K. Bandyopadhyay, vice-chancellor of Guru Govind Singh Indraprastha University, Delhi is a visionary leader in India's management education community in modern times.* Millennium Post *spoke to the veteran educationist on the future of higher education in India, his plans for the university and much more. Excerpts:*

**What are the new trends in the Indian education sector?**

This is an interesting phase of Indian education. Some of the new trends in Indian education are public-private partnership (PPP), focus on quality education and impetus being given to research and development. According to me, the relevance of PPP model would grow in times to come. India is targeting to take its GER (gross enrollment ratio) to 30 per cent of students in 18 to 25 years of age, who go for higher education. So more universities and institutes need to be constructed, nurtured and promoted.

A higher enrollment ratio resulting in the enhancement of human capital corresponds to an increase in the national wealth. Education demands quality orientation. Good academic institutions are built up by good faculty. This throws up an additional challenge of attracting the best brains, to academics.

**What are the challenges faced by our higher education?**

There is a serious crunch of quality faculty members. We need teachers who are credible and capable to transform students from one level to the next level of excellence. That's the actual meaning of education. The teachers are agents of making that transformational change. Raising quality faculty is a serious challenge. Presently, there is no accountability on part of teachers. Only a handful of teachers and professors are dedicated and passionate about teaching. There is little focus on research activities. For a high quality teaching, we need best brains to join the profession. Unless and until we take care of this challenge, there will be no progress. Even if we give degrees to students; the value of these degrees will be questioned. This is because if students are not transformed and equipped then their employability will be a major problem. Unfortunately, this is the current situation.

**There is a serious crunch of quality faculty members. We need teachers who are credible and capable to transform students from one level to the next level of excellence. That's the actual meaning of education. The teachers are agents of making that transformational change. Raising quality faculty is a serious challenge.**

**DILIP K. BANDYOPADHYAY**, vice-chancellor, GGSIPU

**How can technology play an integral role?**

Technology will no doubt play a major role in times to come. The government is also of the view that information and communication technology (ICT) can be used to mitigate the crunch of quality faculty members. Under the National Mission of Education through ICT, the government is going to pump over Rs 20,000 crore in 12th Five Year Plan and is going to develop the course wares in the form of video-clips, animations, probable questions and then self-evaluation by students.

ICT will deliver the course content, best curriculum, and quality inputs in an effective way. It is one of the best interventions for enhancing quality of teaching. ICT has also popularised the distance mode of education. Through video-conferencing students can interact with the professors, virtually making it as real as a traditional classroom. Distance education, enabled with ICT, can reach out to a lot of people even in remote and inaccessible areas of the country. ICT-enabled learning will emerge as the largest mode of education in the future.

If we make these programmes popular among students, then the roles of teachers will drastically change. Their role will not be of information providers, but that of facilitators and mentors.

The way the classes will be conducted will see a thorough change.

**What are your future plans for GGSIPU?**

Our vision is to turn GGSIPU into a world-class university where there would be a conglomeration of students and faculty members from various places to generate new knowledge and at the same time creating an environment where confluence of ideas would take place. Our university has made a mark for itself. We want to take this institution to the next level by bringing in more quality, newer innovations, focus on industry-oriented professional education and enhancing our research activities.

I am happy to share new developments like establishing Centre of Excellence in Pharmaceutical Technology, initiating new research activities in basic and applied sciences, bio sciences and IT and taking the number of Ph.D seats to 75 to 80 from next academic session. Our East campus at Surajmal Vihar is under construction where we plan to launch design courses in streams like architecture, manufacturing, instrumental science, textile etc. My immediate focus is to bring quality faculty members of national and international repute to our university.

## Times of India ND 19-Aug-13 P-8

# Space commissions toothless, project suffers

## Scams Made Them Give Up Financial Power

**Mahendra Singh** | TNN

**New Delhi:** The recent spate of scams is slowing down the UPA government with two commissions, the Atomic Energy Commission and the Space Commission, voluntarily giving up their financial powers.

The commissions enjoyed financial autonomy to sanction projects up to Rs 300 crore but after the recent scandals, they decided to take the route followed by government departments and voluntarily constituted advisory committees to suggest them on financial matters.

This will lead to significant delay in decision-making. An official said all financial decisions made by the Atomic Energy Commission and Space Commission would be subject to the approval of the advisory committee which comprises member from the Expenditure Finance Committee.

The move has come as a stumbling block for the proposed Electronics Commission. A proposal to set up an Electronics Commission on the lines of the Space Commission and Atomic Energy Commission was put on the backburner after the Planning Commission and the finance ministry opposed it. According to senior officials, the commission was intended to fast-track growth of the electronics sector and was to be on the lines of the Space Commission and Atomic Energy Commission.

Taking cue from existing commissions shedding their financial powers, the plan panel, the Prime Minister's Office and the finance ministry were not keen to grant the proposed Electronics Commission financial autonomy of up to Rs 300 crore. The view that the proposed Electronics Commission would not serve purpose if financial autonomy was not granted was countered by saying if the commissions were opting for financial approvals, there was no need to set up a commission with financial freedom prone to misuse.

READY TO EXPLORE

## Testing times: Desi engine to power GSLV-D5 today

Indian space science is waiting at the threshold of a new phase of mega satellite launches and exploration as the countdown for the GSLV-D5 rocket launch began at 11.50am on Sunday. Twenty-nine hours later, at 4.50pm on Monday, the rocket carrying telecommunication satellite GSAT-14 will lift off from Sriharikota, 100km north of Chennai. GSAT-14, which weighs 1,982kg, will be used for telecast and telecommunication. What makes the launch crucial for the nation is the use of an indigenous cryogenic engine as the upper stage. The first attempt to use an indigenous cryogenic engine on April 15, 2010 to power GSLV-D3 was a failure. With only one more Russian cryogenic engine left in the Isro arsenal, success of the indigenous technology using oxygen and hydrogen in extreme low temperatures as the fuel will propel several big ticket future missions, including a manned project to space. Isro senior scientists led by chairman K Radhakrishnan are monitoring GSLV-D5, whose strap-boosters started getting fuelled soon after the countdown. Liquid propellants are being filled into the second stage. Liquid hydrogen and liquid oxygen, which fuel the cryogenic engine will be filled around 9am on Monday. TNN

Financial Express ND 19-Aug-13 P-9

**INTERVIEW: SHAILENDER KUMAR**

VICE-PRESIDENT, FUSION MIDDLEWARE, ORACLE INDIA

# Government will be a heavy adopter of cloud

*GOVERNMENT in India has been one of the earliest adopters of cloud computing for various e-governance projects. Many public sector organisations have undertaken pilot projects, or even operate some aspects of their operations in the cloud, says* **Shailender Kumar**, *vice-president, Fusion Middleware, Oracle India. Oracle Fusion Middleware is a leading business platform for the enterprise and the cloud. It enables enterprises to create and run agile applications while maximising IT efficiency through full utilisation of modern hardware and software architectures. In this role, Shailender is responsible for growing Oracle revenues in the middleware market across India. He tells* **Sudhir Chowdhary** *that the biggest advantage that the cloud allows users is to use a world-class infrastructure without committing a huge amount of money or resources. Excerpts:*

**How far has the industry progressed in removing the barriers to cloud adoption?**

We are seeing a steady growth in cloud adoption among organisations, led by businesses in telecom, BFSI, retail, education and healthcare sectors. The government too is emerging as a big adopter of cloud. Clearly, the IT industry has succeeded to a large extent in addressing some of the big barriers to cloud—particularly the concerns around security and privacy of data. The evolution of private cloud model has encouraged many organisations to adopt private or hybrid clouds. Vendors such as Oracle today promise an open architecture and well-defined service level agreements to address some of the other concerns around quality of service, vendor lock-in and the ability to integrate on-cloud applications with on-premise ones.

**Is the government sector in India using cloud in a big way?**

Government in India has been one of the earliest adopters of cloud computing for various e-governance projects. A major fillip was the announcement of a cloud infrastructure at the NIC data centre as well as a centre of excellence on cloud computing by IT minister Kapil Sibal last year. Many public sector organisations have undertaken pilot projects, or even operate some aspects of their operations in the cloud. Other state governments including Orissa, West Bengal and Madhya Pradesh have embraced cloud.

For the governments, a private cloud means access to all benefits of cloud computing but with none of the attendant data security concerns. On their part, IT vendors including Oracle have enabled cloud adoption by offering the next generation of cloud-based government services delivery. The goal is to help governments develop flexible systems that integrate multiple functions and departments. Within the government, smaller departments with budgetary constraints can use the pay-as-you-go model to deliver high-quality citizen services. In fact, governments of developing nations are likely to be early and heavy adopters of cloud.

**Why is cloud integration such a big challenge for enterprises?**

The challenge for enterprises is to maximise the business value of a mixed IT environment where cloud coexists with legacy systems. A recent Oracle study found that 78% of Indian respondents representing companies that use cloud applications say their ability to innovate using their cloud apps has been hindered. The main hindrance cited is the inability to integrate the cloud app with other software. Companies have abandoned roughly one cloud app a year due to integration problems. Industry experts today cite cloud integration as one of the last remaining barriers to adoption of cloud services, especially for apps that need to exchange information.

**What strategies can businesses use to achieve cloud integration with their existing functions or processes?**

Achieving cloud integration requires building a framework for seamless exchange of information among systems. Ideally, business users should be able to work across multiple applications without having to worry about the complexity of managing apps from various cloud vendors. Defining a cohesive vision for unifying SaaS applications with on-premise information systems is highly recommended in order to achieve the promised benefits of cloud computing, such as greater flexibility and lower costs. CIOs must ensure that all aspects of cloud integration align with their strategic vision for IT.

**How does Oracle aim to help organisations achieve cloud integrations?**

Oracle's cloud portfolio has been built precisely to address cloud integration issues as it offers integrated technologies which can integrate on-premise applications with cloud application. As Oracle integration technologies are based on open standards they can integrate both Oracle and non-Oracle applications on premise and on cloud.

Oracle's data and cloud integration products are part of Oracle Fusion Middleware, which is a unified platform that accommodates all types of information systems, deployment models, SaaS vendors, and platform as a service (PaaS) infrastructure, anchored by a cohesive set of tools for development, management, security, and governance. For a business, it means a cohesive and flexible integration platform that is superior to any alternate strategy

**What is the Oracle strategy and innovation around cloud computing?**

Oracle is the most comprehensive cloud provider on the planet. Our cloud strategy hinges on delivering a fully-enterprise grade portfolio of cloud services and solutions, built to provide high performance, reliability, scalability, availability, security and standards-based interoperability. We support both public and private clouds to give customer choice; as we recognise that organisations are adopting different deployment models for cloud computing for different applications at different rates of speed. We are also delivering complete PaaS and IaaS product offerings, as well as offering a very broad portfolio of horizontal and industry applications that are deployed in either a private shared services environment or in a public SaaS model.

Dainik Bhaskar ND 19 August 2013 P-13

# कैसे बनती है योग्यता

सत्येंद्र रंजन

लेखक वरिष्ठ राजनीतिक टिप्पणीकार हैं।

भारतीय समाज में अवसरों को सीमित करने वाले जो पहलू हैं, उनमें जाति प्रमुख है। इसके कारण करोड़ों लोग शिक्षा एवं रोजगार में समान अवसर पाने से वंचित रह जाते हैं। आरक्षण की अवधारणा इसी सामाजिक हकीकत को ध्यान में रखते हुए विकसित हुई। यह समझना कठिन है कि आखिर न्यायपालिका इसे नजरअंदाज क्यों कर देती है।

जस्टिस अल्तमस कबीर भारत के प्रधान न्यायाधीश पद से रिटायर होने के पहले दो ऐसे न्यायिक फैसलों में सहभागी बने, जिनको अगर साथ लेकर न्यायपालिका के सामाजिक दर्शन पर विचार किया जाए, तो न्याय एवं अवसर की समानता का कोई समर्थक बेचैन हो सकता है। जस्टिस कबीर की अध्यक्षता वाली पांच जजों की संविधान पीठ ने अखिल भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान संस्थान में अति-विशेषज्ञता (सुपर-स्पेशियलिटी) स्तर पर आरक्षण को खारिज कर दिया। इसके लिए इस बेंच ने मंडल मामले में दिए गए सुप्रीम कोर्ट के निर्णय को आधार बनाया, जिसमें कहा गया था कि कुछ मामलों में सिर्फ योग्यता (मेरिट) को ही महत्व दिया जाना चाहिए। जस्टिस कबीर की अध्यक्षता वाली बेंच ने टिप्पणी की- 'आरक्षण की अवधारणा में ही मध्यम प्रतिभा को महत्व मिलना अंतर्निहित है।'

उधर न्यायमूर्ति कबीर, जस्टिस विक्रमजीत सेन और जस्टिस अनिल आर. दवे की खंडपीठ ने 2-1 के बहुमत से देश भर के मेडिकल कॉलेजों में दाखिले के लिए साझा प्रवेश परीक्षा आयोजित करने की हुई शुरुआत को अवैध ठहरा दिया। इस फैसले से असहमत न्यायमूर्ति दवे ने कहा कि अगर साझा परीक्षा के आधार पर दाखिला मिले तो शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में सक्रिय अनैतिक लोगों और धन को सर्वोपरि मानने वाले व्यापारियों के भ्रष्ट आचरणों पर रोक लग सकती है। मगर वे अल्पमत में थे। आलोचकों ने ध्यान दिलाया है कि सुप्रीम कोर्ट के इस फैसले से छात्रों और मरीजों के अलावा बाकी सबको लाभ होगा। साझा परीक्षा होने पर छात्र अलग-अलग कॉलेजों के लिए अलग प्रवेश परीक्षा देने से बच जाते, देश भर में दाखिले का समान मानदंड लागू होता और कैपिटेशन फीस पर रोक लगती, जो अब कई जगहों पर करोड़ रुपयों में वसूली जा रही है। यह जानकर आप चिंतित हो सकते हैं कि प्राइवेट मेडिकल कॉलेजों से पास हुए डॉक्टरों में तकरीबन 20 फीसदी ऐसे होते हैं, जिनका वहां दाखिला योग्यता के आधार पर नहीं हुआ होता है। ये लोग धन के जोर से मैनेजमेंट कोटा की सीटें खरीद कर डॉक्टर बन जाते हैं। आश्चर्य है कि आरक्षण के कारण कथित रूप से मध्यम प्रतिभाओं के आगे बढ़ने से चिंतित सुप्रीम कोर्ट को धन के जोर से आगे बढ़ने वाली अयोग्यता से कोई परेशानी नहीं हुई। बहरहाल, इन दोनों मामलों ने मौजूदा समाज में अंतर्निहित विषमता और विशेष अवसर के सिद्धांत के संदर्भ में योग्यता बनाम अयोग्यता की बहस को फिर से प्रासंगिक कर दिया है।

मुद्दा यह है कि क्या उच्च शिक्षा संस्थानों तक पहुंच एवं वहां सफलता सिर्फ योग्यता से तय होती रही है? क्या योग्यता सामाजिक-आर्थिक परिस्थितियों से निरपेक्ष कोई चीज है? अगर इंजीनियरिंग संस्थानों के एक हालिया आंतरिक विश्लेषण पर गौर करें तो हमें इन सवालों के जवाब ढूंढने में मदद मिल सकती है। 2012 में इंजीनियरिंग कॉलेजों के लिए संयुक्त प्रवेश परीक्षा (जेईई) में भाग लेने वाले छात्रों की सामाजिक-आर्थिक स्थिति के इस अध्ययन में सामने आया कि इंजीनियरिंग कॉलेजों में दाखिले के लिए संपन्न पृष्ठभूमि और बड़े शहरों में निवास- ये दो सबसे प्रमुख तत्व हैं। कोचिंग की सुविधा और अनुकूल पारिवारिक पृष्ठभूमि हो तो काम और आसान


हो जाता है। यानी अगर परिवार में पहले से कोई डॉक्टर या इंजीनियर या अन्य उच्च प्रोफेशनल हो, तो उसका लाभ अगली पीढ़ी को मिलता है। सहज अनुमान लगाया जा सकता है कि जो बात इंजीनियरिंग कॉलेजों के लिए सच है, वह अधिकांश उच्च तकनीकी शिक्षा- बल्कि तमाम शैक्षिक क्षेत्रों पर भी लागू होती है। इस अध्ययन के मुताबिक 2012 में 5,06,484 छात्रों ने जेईई में हिस्सा लिया, जिनमें से 24,112 सफल रहे। सफल छात्रों में लगभग आधे सिर्फ 11 शहरों के थे। जहां महानगरों में रहने वाले 5.8 प्रतिशत छात्र सफल हुए, वहीं छोटे शहरों के 4.2 और देहाती इलाकों के सिर्फ 2.7 फीसदी छात्र ही पास हो सके। आमदनी के लिहाज से जिन परिवारों की वार्षिक आय 4.5 लाख रुपए से ज्यादा है, उनके 10.3 फीसदी छात्र पास हुए, जबकि 1 से 4.5 लाख की बीच की आय वाले परिवारों के 4.8 प्रतिशत और एक लाख रुपए से कम सालाना आमदनी वाले परिवारों के मात्र 2.6 फीसदी छात्र ही उतीर्ण हो सके। फिर जहां प्रवेश परीक्षा में शामिल छात्रों में 20 प्रतिशत को कोचिंग की सुविधा मिली थी, वहीं जो पास हुए उनमें ऐसे छात्रों का हिस्सा लगभग 50 फीसदी था। इन आंकड़ों के आधार पर क्या यह कहना गलत होगा कि योग्यता असल में सामाजिक-आर्थिक अवसरों से तय होती है और बहुत से साधन संपन्न छात्र सिर्फ इसलिए सफल हो जाते हैं, क्योंकि उनके प्रतिद्वंद्वी छात्रों को उनकी तरह सुविधाएं और अवसर नहीं मिल पाते हैं?

भारतीय समाज में अवसरों को सीमित करने वाले जो पहलू हैं, उनमें जाति प्रमुख है। इसके कारण करोड़ों लोग शिक्षा एवं रोजगार में समान अवसर पाने से वंचित रह जाते हैं। आरक्षण की अवधारणा इसी सामाजिक हकीकत को ध्यान में रखते हुए विकसित हुई। यह समझना कठिन है कि आखिर न्यायपालिका इसे नजरअंदाज क्यों कर देती है। विडंबना ही है कि जिस सिद्धांत को जाति-व्यवस्था को कमजोर करने के लिए संविधान में शामिल किया गया, उसे समाज का प्रभु-वर्ग जातिवाद बढ़ाने का कारण मानता है। जबकि भारतीय समाज में आज भी जातिवाद की परंपरागत जकड़न कितनी गहरी है, यह किसी भी सामाजिक व्यवहार में देखा जा सकता है। वैवाहिक विज्ञापनों का अध्ययन कर कैलिफोर्निया विश्वविद्यालय के तीन अनुसंधानकर्ता हाल में इस निष्कर्ष पर पहुंचे कि जो लोग वैवाहिक विज्ञापनों में 'जाति की सीमा नहीं' लिखने का खुलापन दिखाते हैं उनमें भी अधिकांश की प्राथमिकता पहले अपनी जाति में ही जीवनसाथी चुनने की होती है। इस क्रम में एक मैट्रीमोनियल वेबसाइट द्वारा दी गई यह जानकारी महत्वपूर्ण है कि जो अपने विज्ञापन में 'जाति की सीमा नहीं' लिखते हैं, उनमें 90 फीसदी लोग इश्तहार में अपनी जाति का उल्लेख जरूर कर देते हैं। पिछले राष्ट्रीय पारिवारिक स्वास्थ्य सर्वेक्षण से सामने आया था कि भारत में अंतर-जातीय विवाहों की संख्या में बढ़ोतरी नहीं हो रही है। यह संख्या कुल विवाहों के 10 प्रतिशत पर सीमित है। इन 10 फीसदी में अधिकांश विवाह वो हैं, जिन्हें प्रेम विवाह की श्रेणी में रखा जाता है।

प्रश्न यह है कि आखिर जज इस सामाजिक यथार्थ से अनजान क्यों बने हुए हैं? यह तो स्वागतयोग्य है कि सरकार ने उपरोक्त दोनों फैसलों पर पुनर्विचार याचिका देने का निर्णय किया है और यह घोषणा की है कि अगर फैसला अनुकूल नहीं रहा तो वह संविधान संशोधन का रास्ता अपनाएगी। इससे मुमकिन है कि सुप्रीम कोर्ट के फैसलों से पैदा हुई तात्कालिक समस्या हल हो जाए। लेकिन इससे योग्यता की समाज-निरपेक्ष और अमूर्त अवधारणा को तोड़ने में बहुत मदद नहीं मिलेगी। इसके लिए सायास और सक्रिय प्रयासों की जरूरत होगी। इस निराधार धारणा को चुनौती देना एक बड़ा काम है। ऊंचे पदों पर बैठे लोगों को यह जरूर बताया जाना चाहिए कि मुमकिन है कि वे अपनी योग्यता से नहीं, बल्कि अपने परिवार की सामाजिक-आर्थिक हैसियत के कारण मिली विशेष सुविधाओं और अवसरों के जरिए वहां पहुंचे हों। जो समूह इन सुविधाओं और अवसरों से वंचित हैं, उनके विकास एवं प्रगति की राह में अब विषम सामाजिक व्यवस्था के कारण लाभ पा रहे लोग योग्यता की अयथार्थ एवं मनोगत दीवार खड़ी नहीं कर सकते।

satyendra.ranjan@gmail.com

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# Twinning gains currency as foreign edu costs soar

Hemali Chhapia | TNN

Mumbai: A foreign education never really pinched the wealthy. But since the 1990s, a prospering Indian economy also propelled middle-class students's dreams of earning a degree abroad.

However, the weakening rupee has suddenly made that desire seem beyond reach for many. So a third option is rapidly gaining popularity — twinning programmes, which promise an international degree while cutting the dollar bill.

▶Surge in enrolment, P 8

## Home fin cos bet big on edu loans

Housing finance companies are now reaching out to students. What's driving them is the 22% annual growth in professional courses. Indians spent around Rs 80,000 crore on higher education last year. There are over 1.5 crore students in colleges and institutes in India and over 2.5 lakh abroad. P 10

Manipal University's International Centre For Applied Sciences (ICAS) already has 175 candidates who have sought admission this year. They will pursue two years of engineering education in Mangalore for Rs 8 lakh and then fly out to any of the 70 partner universities —US, Australian, British, German, Canadian or French (where they pay approximately US $40,000/year) — and graduate from there.

Jalandhar-based Lovely Professional University has had a similar experience.

Two years ago, 48 students joined its twinning programmes; this year there are 80 of them.