

Newspaper Clips

August 24-25, 2014

August 24

Statesman ND 24/08/2014P-6

LEAVE IITS ALONE

UGC meddling is unacceptable

CLOSE on the heels of the imbroglio over the graduate course at Delhi University, the University Grants Commission has managed to trigger yet another controversy in its dealings with the Indian Institutes of Technology — the holy of holies in the academic circuit. At the core of the latest stand-off is the autonomy of the IITs, embedded in the Institutes of Technology Act, one that the UGC, as regulatory authority, appears to have grudgingly accepted... but apparently up to a point. Well might the commission claim that it is guided by the UGC Act of 1956. But close to 50 years after that legislation in Nehruvian India, there is no call for the commission to insist on a say in the matter of IIT degrees. The UGC is not merely overbearing; its approach flies in the face of the certitudes of institutional autonomy. In a sense, it questions the degrees and their duration as offered by the IITs when it underlines its advice that the “degrees should be generally recognised, globally acknowledged and widely accepted”. Does it harbour any doubts on this fundamental matrix? Small wonder that the IIT circuit is astonished at the wording of the UGC’s gazette notification. Just as the commission functions on the basis of a parliamentary Act, so too are the IITs governed by the Institutes of Technology Act, 1961. Several decades later, the Acts leave no scope for punctured egos, of a kind that impeded the functioning of Delhi University at the threshold of this year’s admission season.

Is the UGC under instructions of the new dispensation headed by Smriti Irani to curtail the autonomy of IITs and IIMs as the NDA had attempted more than a decade ago when Murli Manohar Joshi was HRD minister? If the parameters then were the composition of faculties and the fee structure, this time around the UGC is meddling in a critical segment — the coursework — and verily the bedrock of the worldwide renown that has traditionally been the proud boast of the IITs. The Prime Minister would do well to rein Mrs Irani in, favourite though she may be of the establishment. The nub of the matter must be that the IITs are traditionally entitled to frame the curricula without the need to seek approval of the UGC. As much is the gist of the communication from the Director of IIT, Kharagpur, to the HRD ministry. The interest of students is at stake, and this must transcend the bruised ego of the UGC and the collective grandstanding, as witnessed at Rashtrapati Bhavan on Friday. The President cannot be unaware of the interference in the functioning of the IITs and the courses on offer... clothed in the language of a gazette notification. This is quite unacceptable.

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IIT-Kharagpur fetes 'conman', later files FIR

biswabrata goswami

MIDNAPORE, 23 AUG: In a queer case, IIT Kharagpur felicitated a person, who claimed to be an alumnus and Director, Corporate Finance at Deutsche Bank, but soon came to know from various sources that he was a conman. He was felicitated during the IIT's 63rd foundation day celebrations on 18 August.

The man - Vijay Kumar, who also claimed to be an ex-Vice President of Microsoft, an alumnus of IIT Kharagpur (2003 batch) from E&ECE Department and IIM, Ahmedabad (2005 batch) even proposed to donate Rs 1.56 crore towards some Institute initiatives which were announced by the Institute at the foundation day function.

Later, the IIT authorities received information from various sources alleging that the credentials of this person appear to be questionable and false. Accordingly, IIT Kharagpur filed an FIR with local police authorities urging them to investigate the identity and credentials of this person.

The incident comes at a time when the IIT, KGP authorities are planning to set up a sophisticated digitalised 'Hall of Fame' to document the evolution of the IIT system and record contributions of everyone associated with it. To make the people and IITians aware of the fraudster, the institute's registrar Mr T K Ghosal put up the fact in the notice board urging "all concerned not to be influenced by any projected details or any presentation on the association of this individual with IIT Kharagpur". When asked Mr

Ghosal said, "The man first approached us claiming to be an alumnus. As we always give special treatment to our alumni, we announced his name in the function where he proposed to donate a huge sum of money towards some Institute initiatives. Later, we were alerted about his credentials from our sources and then we filed a complaint against him with the local police authorities".

Ms Bharati Ghosh, SP, West Midnapore said, "We have received a complaint from IIT authorities and have started a probe into the matter. We are trying to establish his real identity and locate his whereabouts. But, it is also surprising how did the IIT authorities felicitate a man without checking his credentials and identity?"

As soon as news spread in the IIT faculties, numerous mails were circulated among the IITians who later found that the man pulled off a similar scam some years ago. According to reports, the accused man, who allegedly posed as Microsoft Vice President and cheated several students by promising them admissions in IITs, was arrested in New Delhi in 2010.

He was apprehended from Najafgarh following investigations into a complaint filed by a victim Rajiv Ranjan Kumar from Bihar that he was cheated of Rs Rs. 3.11 lakh by the accused who promised admission to his son in IIT-Kharagpur.

During interrogation, it was revealed, Vijay Kumar used to target IIT aspirants and influence them by showing fake degrees and projecting him as an engineer and an IIT-Kg topper.

Many techies have given up jobs to serve others

Students of technical colleges do different things in their spare time. Many are glued to their laptops to chat with their friends and family members through social networking sites while many others engage themselves in sporting activities. Some prefer to head for a theatre or a shopping mall.

But, Abhay Mohanta and a few of his friends are different. They have formed a group called "We Care 4 You" to do social service. Their passion for social work continued even after they passed out from their colleges as they turned the small group into a full fledged non-governmental organisation (NGO) called "We 4 You".

The Bhubaneswar-based NGO, which works in different fields, is unique as most of its 500-odd members are former students or those studying in different colleges in and around the Odisha capital. Many NGO members have given up their lucrative jobs to work full-time with the organisation. "A well paid job will give you happiness for a day—the day you get your monthly pay slip. But social service gives us happiness and satisfaction everyday," said 26-year-old Mohanta, the "We 4 You" secretary and a former student of a Bhubaneswar-based

engineering college.

According to Mohanta, they had formed the small social service group in the college as they were interested in it right from their childhood. However, the idea to have a full functioning NGO came in 2010 when they were holding a blood donation camp in a Bhubaneswar engineering college.

The programme was a great success as out of a total number of 600 students in the college, 514 turned up to participate in the camp. "It was very encouraging and we felt very happy. We decided to form a full functioning NGO and We 4 You was born," said Mohanta.

The NGO was registered in 2010. And Mohanta and his colleagues have not looked back since. Besides holding blood donation camps and organising other social service activities, We 4 You is running a successful initiative called the "Red Express". Under the programme, the NGO has prepared a data base of 5,000 people, mostly students and ex-students of different colleges in the state who are always ready to donate their blood in emergencies. "The programme runs 24x7 basis and these volunteers donate blood at regular intervals. Those who receive the blood include

small children suffering from Thalassaemia," said Chandra Mohan Baral (24), another member of the NGO. In this context, he said that 80 per cent of the people who donate blood in a city like Bhubaneswar are students.

We 4 You is having another successful

programme under which it produces "audio books" in CD format for visually impaired students. "The visually challenged students mainly depend on classroom teaching (what the teachers speak in the class) as specialised books for them are not easily available. Therefore, our

members lend their voice to make the audio CD of their text books which we distribute among the visually impaired students", informed Bhawani Shankar Parida (26), another member of the NGO which has already distributed more than 2,000 audio books benefiting about 10,000 students. We 4 You, in fact, has begun an effort to set up a specialised studio in Bhubaneswar to produce audio books for the visually challenged students.

The NGO also runs awareness campaign on regular basis for eye donation which has also become a big success. "People usually think that if one declares to donate his or her eye then after his or her death the entire eye will be removed. Very few people know that only eye ball or clear transparent tissue is removed. Hence, there is a need for creating awareness on this," said Bibhuti Das (22), an interior who has also joined the NGO.

Other initiatives run by We 4 You include computer and spoken English programmes for under privileged students, particularly in orphanages and slum areas.

The activities and works of the NGO have already been appreciated by national and international agencies like the

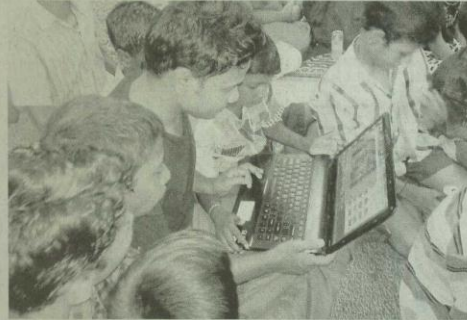
Indian Red Cross Society and UNDP. The NGO has also been felicitated by State Social Welfare Board, a government of Odisha agency.

However, despite receiving appreciation from the Odisha government, the members of the NGO group said they were not keen to take any kind of financial assistance from any government agency. "There is a lot of procedural delay in government offices. They will simply dampen our spirit. Hence we are not keen to take any help from the government", said Mohanta.

The NGO struggled for funds initially. But, the situation has now improved considerably, thanks to donations from corporate and business houses based in the state. The NGO also organises fund raising events from time to time.

More importantly, many, who were involved with the NGO during their college days and now working in different companies, contribute regularly to the We 4 You coffers. In fact, the Bhubaneswar based NGO is now planning to expand its activities beyond the boundary of Odisha with the help of these professionals based in metropolises like Mumbai, Pune, Bangalore and Hyderabad.

ST Beuria in Bhubaneswar



An NGO activist gives computer training to slum children in Bhubaneswar.

Hindustan ND 24/08/2014 P-1

कैंपस में कक्षाएं लगाकर 11वीं और 12वीं के छात्रों को पढ़ा रहे हैं विज्ञान, गणित और अंग्रेजी

गरीब बच्चों को पढ़ा रहे आईआईटी के छात्र

कुछ
अलग

नई दिल्ली | सुशील राघव

देश के सर्वोच्च संस्थानों में शुमार आईआईटी दिल्ली के टेक्नोक्रेट छात्र अपनी पढ़ाई के साथ-साथ गरीब स्कूली छात्रों का भविष्य गढ़ने में भी जुटे हुए हैं।

आईआईटी कैंपस के अंदर छात्र सरकारी स्कूलों में पढ़ने वाले 11वीं और 12वीं के गरीब बच्चों को मुफ्त में विज्ञान, गणित और अंग्रेजी पढ़ा रहे हैं। ताकि ये बच्चे भविष्य में होने वाली प्रतियोगी परीक्षाओं में निजी स्कूलों के बच्चों का मुकाबला कर सकें। नेशनल सर्विस स्कीम के तहत 'आरोहण' नाम से कक्षाएं आयोजित की जा रही हैं। वर्तमान में 11वीं के



हम उन बच्चों की मदद करना चाहते थे जो पढ़ने में तो अच्छे हैं, लेकिन आर्थिक स्थिति खराब होने के कारण कोचिंग नहीं ले सकते हैं। -अमर श्रीवास्तव, छात्र केमिकल इंजीनियरिंग



हमने जरूरतमंद छात्रों के चयन के लिए आईआईटी के आसपास के सभी सरकारी स्कूलों को लक्ष्य बनाया, लेकिन अधिकतर स्कूलों ने हमारी मदद नहीं की। -ईशा गोयल, छात्रा, आईआईटी

24 विद्यार्थी, जिनमें 7 छात्राएं हैं और 12वीं के 12 विद्यार्थी नियमित रूप से कक्षाओं में आ रहे हैं।

पिछले साल 12वीं के 6 छात्र थे और सभी के 75 फीसदी से अधिक अंक आए थे। यह प्रोजेक्ट तीन सालों से चल रहा है।

परीक्षा के जरिए होता है छात्रों का चयन : बच्चों को चुनने के लिए जुलाई में एक टेस्ट का आयोजन किया था, जिसमें करीब 100 बच्चों ने भाग लिया। इनमें से 60 बच्चों और उनके परिवार के लोगों को इंटरव्यू के लिए बुलाया गया। परिवार के लोगों

को बुलाना का मकसद यह पक्का करना था कि बच्चे सचमुच गरीब परिवार से ही हैं। सभी कक्षाएं शाम 3 से 6 बजे के बीच लगती हैं। सोमवार, बुधवार और शुक्रवार को नियमित कक्षाएं होती हैं जबकि मंगलवार और गुरुवार को विषयों में आने वाली दिक्कतों का समाधान किया जाता है।

बदल रही है जिंदगी : 12वीं के छात्र राजीव काले कहते हैं कि 'आरोहण' की वजह से ही पिछले साल 11वीं में मेरे 88 फीसदी अंक आए थे। वहीं 11वीं में पढ़ने वाली संजना कहती हैं कि यहां पढ़ाई का माहौल बेहद अच्छा है। मेरा सपना है कि आगे चलकर मैं आईआईटी में पढ़ाई करूं।

MAIDEN MISSION

33 days to Mars: Nine months after lift-off, Mangalyaan ready for final lap

Vanita Srivastava

■ letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: When a month from now India's Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM), better known as Mangalyaan, enters the red planet's atmosphere, it will mark a giant leap for the country's planetary research with a feat achieved by only three other space exploration agencies.

"33 days to Mars. MOM is just 9 million km away from Mars and 189 million km away from earth," said the Facebook page of Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) on Saturday.

On November 5 last year, Isro put Mangalyaan on an 11-month journey to find evidence of life on the red planet

ROCKET SCIENCE

- This is Isro's first interplanetary mission
- If successful, Isro will be the 4th space agency to reach Mars
- Five scientific instruments on-board

Sept 24

Spacecraft will enter Mars orbit

1,337kg

Weight of the Mars Orbiter Satellite

₹450cr Approximate mission cost, less than budget of Hollywood film Gravity



and position itself as a budget player in the global space race.

The spacecraft is slated to enter the Mars orbit on September 24 at 7.30 am.

"This is a very critical phase of the mission. Our mission controllers are going through ground simulations and rehearsals to respond to contingencies," Isro chairman

Dr K Radhakrishnan told HT.

Probes to Mars have a high failure rate. Of the 51 missions so far, only 21 have been successful. A similar mission by China, which beat India to the moon, failed in 2011. Only the US, Europe, and Russia have sent probes that have orbited or landed on the planet.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

33 days to Mars

According to sources in the organisation, the spacecraft is now darting at 21-22 km/

sec. The time taken for radio signals from earth to reach MOM and return is around 20 minutes.

A decision on whether another course correction is needed for the spacecraft will be taken around September 14.

The next big challenge is to reduce the velocity of the spacecraft to 1.6 km/sec by firing the Liquid Engine – that uses propellants in liquid form. The engine has been lying idle for the past 300 days and restarting it will be a test.

"The firing has to be done very precisely. When we reduce the spacecraft's velocity, it should be close enough to Mars for it to be captured by the planet's gravity," an official spokesperson for Isro said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had said at the June 30 launch of PSLV C-23, "The story of our Mars Mission costing less than the Hollywood movie Gravity had gone viral on social media recently. Our scientists have shown the world a new paradigm of frugal engineering, and the power of imagination."

Mangalyaan's Rs 450-crore price tag is a sixth of the amount earmarked for a Mars probe that the US National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa) launched 13 days later.

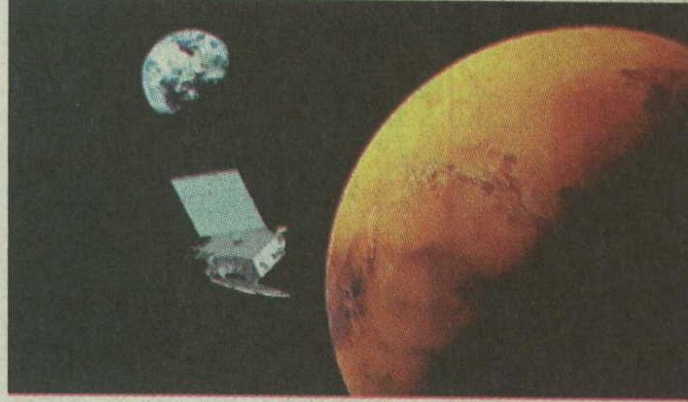
Rashtrya Sahara ND 24/08/2014P-18

33 दिन में अपने गंतव्य पर पहुंच जाएगा मंगलयान

नई दिल्ली। सदियों से इंसान के लिए कौतूहल का विषय रहे मंगल ग्रह के रहस्यों पर से पर्दा उठाने के लिए भेजा गया भारत का महत्वाकांक्षी मिशन 'मंगलयान' अपने लक्ष्य से मात्र 90 लाख किलोमीटर दूर है और अगले 33 दिन में वह अपने गंतव्य पर पहुंच जाएगा।

भारतीय अंतरिक्ष अनुसंधान संगठन 'इसरो' ने सोशल टिवटर पर यह जानकारी साझा करते हुए कहा, 'मार्स आर्बिटरमिशन' मंगल से 90 लाख किमी दूर रह गया है और पृथ्वी से 18.9 करोड़ किमी दूर पहुंच गया है। मंगल तक पहुंचने में इसे अभी 33 दिन और लगेंगे। यानि सब कुछ ठीकठाक रहा तो मंगलयान पूर्व निर्धारित कार्यक्रम के मुताबिक 24 सितम्बर को अपने गंतव्य तक पहुंच जाएगा। 450 करोड़ रुपए की लागत से तैयार मंगलयान को पिछले साल पांच नवम्बर को आंध्र प्रदेश के श्री हरिकोटा प्रक्षेपण स्थल से ध्रुवीय उपग्रह प्रक्षेपण यान 'पीएसएलवी' सी-25 के जरिए प्रक्षेपित किया गया था।

उसके बाद पांच बार इसे ऊंची कक्षाओं में स्थापित किया गया था। मंगलयान चार दिसम्बर को पृथ्वी के गुरुत्वाकर्षण क्षेत्र से



- तय कार्यक्रम के मुताबिक 24 सितम्बर को अपने गंतव्य तक पहुंच जाएगा
- 450 करोड़ रुपए की लागत से तैयार मंगलयान को पिछले साल पांच नवम्बर को आंध्र प्रदेश के श्री हरिकोटा प्रक्षेपण स्थल से प्रक्षेपित किया गया था
- मंगलयान चार दिसम्बर को पृथ्वी के गुरुत्वाकर्षण क्षेत्र से बाहर निकला था
- इसके बाद दो बार इसकी दिशा सही की गई

बाहर निकल गया था। इसके बाद दो बार इसकी दिशा सही की गई। तीसरी बार अगस्त

में ऐसा किया जाना था लेकिन मंगलयान के सही रास्ते पर होने के कारण ऐसा नहीं किया



गया। इस यान के साथ पांच प्रयोगात्मक उपकरण भेजे गए हैं जो मंगल के वातावरण के बारे में जानकारी जुटाएंगे जो इस लाल ग्रह के रहस्यों पर से पर्दा उठाने में वैज्ञानिकों के लिए मददगार साबित हो सकते हैं। (वार्ता)

National Duniya ND 24/08/2014 P-3

दूसरी दुनिया

मंगल की सतह पर कुछ ऐसा दिखा है, जिसे 'एलियन की जांच की हड्डी' बताया जा रहा है

एलियन की खोज के करीब एक कदम और बड़े वैज्ञानिक

नई दिल्ली (नेटु)। काफी लोगों ने रितिक रोशन की फिल्म 'कोई मिल गया' देखी होगी और जिन लोगों ने उसमें मौजूद एलियन को देखा होगा, उनके दिमाग में ये बात जरूर आई होगी कि क्या दूसरे ग्रहों पर धरती के मानवों की तरह जीवन है। क्या सचमुच में एलियन जैसी कोई चीज है? वैज्ञानिक तो इन रहस्यों का पता लगाने में सालों से जुटे हुए हैं।

कुछ उदाहरण ऐसे मिले हैं, जिससे पता चलता है कि वैज्ञानिकों की खोज एलियन की कुछ और करीब पहुंच गई है। नासा के क्यूरियोसिटी रोवर को मंगल की सतह पर अकेले चक्कर काटते हुए दो साल से ज्यादा का वक्त बीत चुका है। हाल ही में इस रोवर द्वारा खोजी गई एक तस्वीर से एलियन्स के वजूद में यकीन रखने वाले बेहद



उत्साहित हैं। उन्हें मंगल की सतह पर कुछ ऐसा दिखा है, जिसे वे इस बात का सबूत बता रहे हैं कि हमारे अलावा इस ब्रह्मांड में कोई और भी

है। मंगल की सतह पर कुछ ऐसा दिखा है, जिसे 'एलियन की जांच की हड्डी' बताया जा रहा है। एलियन की तलाश और उनकी

तस्वीर

- रोबर ने खींची है हड्डी जैसी दिखती तस्वीर
- तस्वीर से एलियन्स में यकीन रखने वाले खुश

मौजूदगी को साबित करने की कोशिश में नई-नई थीसिस पेश करने वाले लोग नासा के क्यूरियोसिटी रोवर की खींची इस तस्वीर के आधार पर दावा कर रहे हैं कि मंगल ग्रह पर भी किसी वक्त जीवन रहा होगा। उनका दावा है कि रोवर के मैस्टकैम से 14 अगस्त को ली गई इस तस्वीर से साफ होता है कि किसी वक्त मंगल की सतह पर बड़े जानवर और शायद डायनॉसॉर तक घूमा करते थे।

'नॉर्वन वॉइसेज ऑनलाइन' नाम के पोर्टल पर एक अज्ञात शख्स ने लिखा है, 'इस तस्वीर में दिख रही हड्डी से साफ होता है कि मंगल पर किसी वक्त कुछ तो रहता था।' पॉप्युलर साइट 'यूएफओ ब्लॉगर' ने तो इस तस्वीर की तुलना धरती पर पाए गए सरीसृप प्रजाति के फॉसिल्स की तस्वीरों से भी की है। वे दिखाना चाहते हैं कि तस्वीर में दिख रही चीज किसी जानवर की हड्डियों के अवशेष हैं।

हालांकि कुछ वैज्ञानिकों का मानना है कि यह हड्डी नहीं, बल्कि पत्थर का कोई ऐसा टुकड़ा है जो हड्डी की तरह दिख रहा है। बावजूद इसके बहुत से लोग इस तस्वीर को मंगल पर जीवन होने का सबूत मानते हुए तरह-तरह की कल्पनाएं करने में जुटे हुए हैं।

August 25

Wrong for UGC to interfere, says author of IIT reforms roadmap

Written by [Ruhi Tewari](#) | New Delhi | August 25, 2014 4:14 am

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-others/wrong-for-ugc-to-interfere-says-author-of-iit-reforms-roadmap/>

Following the University Grants Commission's communique to the Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT) asking them to "align their courses and degrees with the ones recognised by the UGC", members of the Anil Kakodkar committee that was set up to recommend autonomy measures for IITs have hit out at the UGC, demanding that the premier institutes be "left alone".

"IITs are governed by an Act of Parliament. The intention was to give maximum autonomy to them. The IITs are the best educational institutes in the country at this point and they should just be left alone. It is entirely up to them to decide how they want to move forward. They are completely out of the ambit of the UGC and what is happening now isn't right," Anil Kakodkar, noted nuclear scientist who headed the committee, told The Indian Express.

The 11-member Kakodkar committee was constituted by the Union HRD Ministry in 2010 to "recommend autonomy measures to facilitate IITs to scale greater heights".

"At that point, the committee's main objective was to see how the autonomy of IITs can be enhanced. The sense of the committee was that IITs have complete academic autonomy. But what is happening now seems to be a counter-indication which we didn't see then. To use a saying, why fix what isn't broken," Kakodkar said.

In its report, speaking of a strategy to take IITs to "greater level of excellence and relevance", the Kakodkar committee had said, "Managing such a transition would naturally require complete autonomy so that IITs can adopt innovative and flexible management approaches to move forward on a promising new idea in a selective manner."

The report said, "Towards enhancing autonomy that would provide the IITs the necessary flexibility to support and deal with a new idea or take a new initiative and lead them towards world-class excellence, it is proposed that each institute be fully governed by its Board of Governors (BoG), including aspects like financial planning and expenditure rules, faculty remuneration, fees and number of faculty and staff, within the overall policy guidelines of the IIT Council in terms of expectations from IITs as world-class institutions, affirmative actions, technology directions and human resource development."

Another committee member, T V Mohandas Pai, also lashed out at the UGC for attempting to interfere with the functioning of IITs. "The UGC should just keep off IITs as well as other top 15 per cent of the higher educational institutes in the country. The track record of the UGC is hardly great, it isn't as if it has the brightest minds to be able to tell others what to do. The IITs have done very well left to themselves, their management has been great. The IITs have to be left alone for them to develop and compete globally," he said.

"What is happening now is perverse. It is time we stand up to such regulatory overreach

सुलझे तकनीक की गुत्थी

राष्ट्रपति और प्रधानमंत्री ने आईआईटी संस्थानों के शीर्ष पदाधिकारियों से जो कहा है, उसे ध्यान में रखकर एक नई शुरुआत की जा सकती है। उन्होंने कहा कि देश की तकनीकी जरूरत पूरी करने में ये संस्थान अपनी भूमिका निभाएं और 'मेक इन इंडिया' या 'मेड इन इंडिया' की अवधारणा को जमीन पर उतारें। उन्होंने आईआईटी से देश में शिक्षा की गुणवत्ता सुधारने पर विचार करने को भी कहा। पिछले कुछ समय से आईआईटी की भूमिका को लेकर बहस छिड़ गई है। इनकी स्थापना के पीछे अवधारणा तकनीकी शोध को बढ़ावा देने की थी, जिससे देश के विकास के लिए जरूरी टेक्नॉलजी तैयार हो सके। लेकिन पिछले दो-ढाई दशकों से इन संस्थानों का ढांचा कुछ ऐसा बन गया है कि एक तरफ ये अमेरिकी सॉफ्टवेयर कंपनियों के लिए सस्ते प्रफेशनल्स सप्लाई कर रहे हैं, दूसरी तरफ



आईआईटी की भूमिका

आईएस के रूप में देश को काफी सारे नौकरशाह दे रहे हैं, जिनका तकनीकी विकास में रत्ती भर योगदान नहीं होता। इंजीनियरिंग के कई क्षेत्रों में पढ़ाई का सिलसिला ठप पड़ गया है। देश को मकान, सड़क, प्लाईओवर और बंदरगाहों की जरूरत है, लेकिन आईआईटी में सिविल इंजीनियरिंग की ज्यादातर सीटें ही नहीं भरतीं। बिजली, तेल, खनन आदि के स्पेशलिस्ट नहीं मिल रहे क्योंकि आईआईटी में कोई इलेक्ट्रिकल या माइनिंग इंजीनियरिंग पढ़ने के लिए तैयार नहीं है। इस साल आईआईटी में पहली काउंसलिंग के बाद 650 सीटें खाली रह गईं जबकि पिछली बार करीब 400 सीटें खाली थीं। वजह बस वही है- हर किसी को कंप्यूटर साइंस पढ़ना है, क्योंकि दूसरे सेक्टर में उस टक्कर की नौकरियां नहीं हैं। इस असंतुलन का संबंध सरकार की नीति से है। ग्लोबलाइजेशन के माहौल में जब से विदेशी चीजों के आयात ने जोर पकड़ा है, तब से दिनोंदिन मैन्यूफैक्चरिंग सेक्टर का दम निकला जा रहा है, हालांकि इसको औद्योगीकरण की रीढ़ समझा जाता है। सिर्फ 'मेक इन इंडिया' कहने भर से काम नहीं चलेगा। इसके लिए बड़े पैमाने पर निवेश करना होगा, कारखाने खोलने के लिए इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर उपलब्ध कराना होगा और विकास की प्राथमिकताएं बदलनी होंगी। इससे इंजीनियरिंग छात्रों को अपने लिए कई क्षेत्रों में गुंजाइश बनती दिखेगी। और गहराई में उतरने के लिए सरकार को इन क्षेत्रों में शोध को बढ़ावा देने के उपाय करने होंगे। अभी तो छात्रों को बेसिक इंजीनियरिंग और फंडामेंटल साइंस में रिसर्च के लिए कोई प्रोत्साहन ही नहीं मिल रहा है। आला दर्जे के इंजीनियरों और वैज्ञानिकों के विदेश जाने की यह सबसे बड़ी वजह है। इससे बड़ी विडंबना क्या होगी कि हमारे ही साइंटिस्ट दूसरे मुल्कों को तकनीकी रूप से समृद्ध कर रहे हैं, लेकिन हमें छोटी से छोटी तकनीक भी वहां से खरीदनी पड़ रही है। शोधकर्ताओं के लिए आर्थिक निश्चिंतता, आला दर्जे की रिसर्च लैब्स की स्थापना और अपने देश में विकसित होने वाली टेक्नोलॉजी के व्यावसायिक इस्तेमाल की व्यवस्था ही इस बीमारी का अकेला कारगर इलाज है। तमाम आईआईटीज को मिलकर सरकार के सामने इस बदलाव का रोडमैप पेश करना चाहिए। सरकार अगर उसे अमल में उतार सकी तो उसके लिए यह इतिहास की धारा मोड़ने जैसी उपलब्धि होगी।

President laments no Indian institute among the top 100 globally

Hindustan Times (Kolkata)

President Pranab Mukherjee has expressed serious concern over the low level of academic excellence in Indian institutes/universities compared to international benchmarks.



President Pranab Mukherjee with education minister Partha Chatterjee at IEST, Shibpur on Sunday. ASHOK NATH DEY/HT

Speaking at the inauguration of Indian Institute of Engineering Science and Technology (IEST), Shibpur, erstwhile BESU, on Sunday, Mukherjee lamented, “I am saddened and irritated by the fact that no Indian institutes could find a place in the top 200 institutes around the globe in academic excellence.”

The President was addressing the second convocation at Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), Bhopal where he had raised similar concern only a couple of months back.

Highlighting that India in 6th century with Takshashila to 12th century’s Nalanda University had commanded academic excellence globally, he said the current scenario in higher education has left him sad.

“In last 83 years, no research scholar from an Indian university has won Nobel prize after CV Raman. Scholars like Amartya Sen, Har Gobind Khorana, Chandrasekhar who are product of Indian universities, have obtained the Nobel Prize while working for foreign universities. It is worrying,” Mukherjee said.

The President said it is very sad and a matter of risk that India has to import both paper and ink for currency notes. “Through such imports there always lies high risk of production of fake currency, which might destroy the economy of the country. We should develop our expertise in these fields.”

Academic cooperation between institutions must be encouraged, he said. Research and innovation must go hand in hand and should be focused on solving our country's myriad developmental problems, he felt.

"I do not mean that there is a lack of talent here or teachers cannot teach, but the benchmark has to be raised to global standards," Mukherjee said.

Indian universities or institutes should create opportunities for the Nobel laureates of Indian origin to work with their motherland and not foreign universities, said the President.

PRANAB VISTS NATIVE MURSHIDABAD

President Pranab Mukherjee on Sunday took part in two programmes in Murshidabad before leaving for Kolkata. He inaugurated the new campus of Management Development Institute (MDI) at Talai crossing of Jangipur.

Industries, IIT-Gn mull tie-ups to commercialise research products

Vinay Umarji | Ahmedabad

August 24, 2014 Last Updated at 20:55 IST

http://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/industries-iit-gn-mull-tie-ups-to-commercialise-research-products-114082400754_1.html



From designing user friendly dustbins to joint courses in automotive electronics, delegates from over 50 industries explored opportunities to tie-up with [IIT Gandhinagar](#) on Saturday.

In order to boost industry-academia collaboration, the institute had organised its first 'Industry Open House' which saw representatives from companies like Maruti Suzuki, Cadila Pharmaceuticals, Reliance Industries, Smart Grid Torrent, Adani, TCS, IBM and Hospira, as well as several academic and research institutes, including the Institute for Plasma Research, Mudra Institute of Communications Ahmedabad, Centre for Environmental Planning and Technology University, and Physical Research Laboratory (PRL) participate in the event.

"We run such courses with other institutes including other IITs and we can explore such a joint course in [automotive electronics](#) with IIT Gandhinagar," said Chaitanya Rajguru, associate vice president of Pune-based KPIT Cummins Infosystems Ltd.

The event showcased IITGN's expertise, infrastructure and capabilities through presentations, posters, laboratory and

library visits, idea pitches, instrumentation and product demonstrations. The visitors interacted with the Institute's faculty, staff and students, as well as the officials of the Institute's Career Development Services and Continuing Education Program.

For instance, delegates from Heubach Colours were impressed by IIT-Gn's research in waste water treatment. On the other hand, collaboration process is also on between IIT-Gn and Sintex Industries for designing user friendly dustbins that could be used widely in cities and towns like Ahmedabad.

Delegates from pharma industry including Cadila Pharma and Century Pharma expressed their desire to leverage the institute's research in areas like nano technology for possible commercialisation in future.

"While IIT Gandhinagar is growing leaps and bounds in its research and innovation, it is us who know how to commercialise these products that emerge out of such research activities. We are exploring on such possible tie-ups," said a delegate from Cadila Pharma on condition of anonymity.

"Coming from an IIT myself I understand the importance and the value of the innovative initiatives which are being taken up at IIT Gandhinagar. I am also seeing top of the line laboratories here.... I will help leverage the products coming from IITGn and my researchers can work jointly with the Institute in various projects," said Janak Seth, an IIT Alumnus and Managing Director at Century Pharmaceuticals.

Anay Mashruwalla of Venus Engineering, which manufactures industrial valves, too came across one of the institute's project on Helium Gas Detector. "I have proposed to lend my support in the project," he said, adding that there is a major requirement for Helium Gas Detectors in the country in many industries. However, since the machine is not currently manufactured in India, it is very expensive.

"If IIT-Gn succeeds in developing the machine, it would help to significantly reduce its price," Mashruwalla added.

In addition to the opportunities for project tie-ups, the event also provided a platform for industry delegates to be exposed to the quality of IIT-Gn's faculty and students.

"For us, everything outside the campus is an industry. This includes society, community, and government and so on as well and we are open for opportunities everywhere," said Sudhir K Jain, director, IIT-Gn.

Harvard professor collaborates with IIT-Gandhinagar for affordable healthcare

[Parth Shastri](#), TNN | Aug 25, 2014, 12.29 AM IST

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/ahmedabad/Harvard-professor-collaborates-with-IIT-Gandhinagar-for-affordable-healthcare/articleshow/40861695.cms>

AHMEDABAD: The general profile of the most deadly diseases in India is changing fast with a change in lifestyle and population profile. While today India battles with communicable diseases such as malaria and TB, the experts believe that in the next two decades, cancer and trauma will be bigger killers than communicable diseases. India already has more cancer patients than the US.

At the moment, the treatment for diseases such as cancer is beyond the reach of common man and thus, a team led by a Harvard professor is working on developing affordable medicine. Professor Shiladitya Sengupta, associated with Harvard Medical School and Massachusetts Institute of Technology, is collaborating with Indian Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar, (IIT-Gn) for the purpose. They are mapping the diseases that will emerge in future . A research is going on to develop devices that will help patients recover faster from trauma and brain injuries.

Prof Sengupta has received multiple awards and has been featured as one of the top 35 young innovators in the world by MIT's Technology Review Magazine. His work in nanomedicine is already undergoing human trials at the moment and is expected to reduce the cost and time in cancer treatment considerably. Prof Sengupta was at the IIT-Gn for the foundation program, where he taught first year undergraduate students on innovation and entrepreneurship.

"While we have been able to make treatment of malaria affordable, the diseases such as cancer are beyond the reach of the poor. The primary reason why the medicines are costly is due to the cost that the pharma companies incur in research and development for the patented drugs. We will have to start research right here in India, which can allow us to develop drugs at tenth of the cost of the US,. Traditional methods to treat cancer have toxic side effects as they take a carpet bombing approach. What we need is missiles that can directly target the affected part or the tumor

" said Sengupta.

That's why Sengupta is trying to fuse the discipline of medicine with technology. "While the population in the US and China is ageing, India today is a young nation. However, when it will reach the curve 20 years down the line, we would have surge of cases of various kinds of cancer, heart diseases and trauma cases. We will have to prepare for it in advance so that when we reach there, we will have affordable healthcare at hand. Thus, we have to start today," he said.

Sengupta intends to conduct a study of the current scenario and future predictions fusing today's medicines with nano technology, bio-engineering and use of computer science. He said that he wants to engage students in the project to understand the potential of research and development and appreciated the role played by institutes such as IIT-Gn in attracting the foreign faculties for collaboration.

Deccan Herald, ND 25/08/2014 P-8

IIT-M's advanced drone promises to aid disaster relief

CHENNAI: An unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) developed by IIT-Madras students promises unmatched capabilities in disaster relief and other emergency operations as the high-tech drone can be operated even during inclement weather conditions.

The out of the box idea may help in taking to next level the various operations during calamities and perhaps even terror attacks.

The team of the institution has accomplished "Operation Garuda" after a hard work of three years. The UAV with coaxial quadrotor configuration has several hours' endurance and is capable of semi-autonomous navigation.

"Terrorists attacked Mumbai hotels and other places and that time several police personnel lost their lives. Also, during Uttarakhand flood, it took several days for the Army to reach the disaster area. These inci-



It may help in various operations during calamities and perhaps even terror attacks.

dents prompted us to create a device that could solve such type of problems," Ganeshram Nandakumar, a PhD scholar at Department of Engineering Design and the head of the students-team, told Deccan Herald.

"This UAV has the capacity to enter through windows or enter any other sensitive area

which human beings cannot enter. It also has a high-resolution camera which can take clear pictures of anything from a 2 km height. It can be customised for size, flying time and carrying payload, depending on the requirement", he said.

Ganesh said the National Programme on Micro Air Ve-



hicle (NPMICAV), a joint initiative of Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) and Department of Science and Technology (DST), also trying to develop such an UAV, that can travel several kilometres even during severe weather conditions.

According to IIT-M professor Dr Asokan Thondiyath ,

who supervised the student's invention, said the hardware technology onboard Garuda includes all synthetic vision systems which provide ground operators a clearer picture of developing scenarios and offer a greater depth of vision. He said advanced incorporation of night vision and far-infrared spectrum technologies would aid dusk operations.

The professor said that the Garuda, developed at a cost of just Rs 3 lakh, could be enhanced depend upon the requirement from either defence personnel or officials from the disaster management.

He revealed that police department and fire service departments from different states have shown interest in Garuda. "Whatever demand comes, we will develop according to their requirements after the approval of our Chairperson," he added.

DH News Service

Times of India, ND 25/08/2014 Education Times P-3



DELHI RULES

India's two 'most trusted educational institutes' are from Delhi, with Hindu College being ranked first followed by IIT, Delhi. This was announced as a part of the launch of TRA's (formerly Trust Research Advisory) recent research conducted with 7,710 respondents across 40 cities. The next two ranks were occupied by

Chennai institutes – Loyola College was placed third and Anna University, fourth. Hans Raj College, Delhi, was on the fifth rung. There are six Delhi institutes among India's top 10, making the city a leader in higher studies.

Times of India, ND
25/08/2014

P-7

Disconnect in education: JNU VC

New Delhi: The current system of education has suffered a disconnect from spiritual teaching, JNU VC SK Sopory said on Sunday. "There has been a disconnect in our education from spiritual teaching. Spiritual education and technological progress should go hand in hand," he said at a seminar on importance of value education at IIT-Delhi. IANS

कुछ अलग

इस बार परीक्षा में 75% शहरी और 22% कस्बे व गांव के छात्र सफल हुए, 2012 में ये आंकड़े क्रमशः 50% और 45% थे

आईआईटी में अब शहरी छात्रों का ही बोलबाला

नई दिल्ली | अनुराग मिश्र

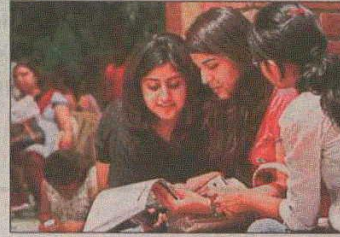
आईआईटी परीक्षा के बदले पैटर्न से बड़े शहरों का बोलबाला बढ़ा है। आईआईटी द्वारा जुटाए गए आंकड़ों के मुताबिक 75 फीसदी छात्र शहरी क्षेत्रों से सफल हुए हैं। 14 प्रतिशत छात्र कस्बों से और सिर्फ आठ प्रतिशत छात्र गांवों से सफल हुए हैं। वर्ष 2012 में करीब 50 प्रतिशत शहरी छात्रों ने आईआईटी में सफलता हासिल की थी जबकि 45 फीसदी कस्बों और गांवों के छात्र सफल हुए थे। इस बार की परीक्षा के आंकड़े बताते हैं कि जयपुर, दिल्ली,

दिल्ली-जयपुर छाए

2014 में जयपुर से सबसे अधिक 2,780 छात्र सफल हुए 2,349 छात्रों के साथ दिल्ली इस सूची में दूसरे नंबर पर है

पहले गांव थे आगे

48.8 फीसदी छात्र पास हुए थे 2011 जेईई के आंकड़ों के मुताबिक कम आय वर्ग के 39 फीसदी कस्बे और गांव के छात्रों ने सफलता हासिल की थी 2011 की परीक्षा में



मुंबई और आंध्र प्रदेश के छात्र आठ हजार से ज्यादा सीटों पर सफल हुए हैं। आईआईटी के एक प्रोफेसर का कहना है कि बदले पैटर्न में चूंकि

अंकों की महत्ता बढ़ी है, ऐसे में क्षेत्रीय बोर्ड और कस्बों के छात्र आईआईटी दाखिलों में पिछड़ रहे हैं। यही कारण है कि यूपी बोर्ड और

बिहार बोर्ड के सिर्फ चार फीसदी छात्र सफल हुए। सुपर-30 के प्रमुख आनंद कुमार कहते हैं कि सीबीएसई बोर्ड के छात्रों

के आगे निकलने की वजह बेहतर पढ़ाई होना है। वहीं क्षेत्रीय बोर्ड और कस्बों में छात्रों को बेहतर प्रोत्साहन नहीं मिल पाता है। साथ ही पढ़ाई का स्तर भी अपेक्षाकृत बेहतर नहीं होता। ऐसे में यहां के छात्र पीछे रह जाते हैं। इस बार केंद्रीय माध्यमिक शिक्षा बोर्ड और आंध्र प्रदेश बोर्ड के कुल मिलाकर 72 प्रतिशत छात्र सफल हुए हैं। इनमें 55 प्रतिशत छात्र सीबीएसई के और 17 प्रतिशत आंध्र प्रदेश बोर्ड के हैं। जबकि पैटर्न लागू होने से पहले कम आय वर्ग और छोटे शहरों के छात्रों की पास प्रतिशत दर बेहतर थी।

IISc Researchers Invent Micro Needle That Stings Less

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/cities/bangalore/IISc-Researchers-Invent-Micro-Needle-That-Stings-Less/2014/08/24/article2395767.ece>

BANGALORE: Researchers at Indian Institute of Science have developed a micro needle which can deliver drugs directly into the body with less pain.

Made of silicon and coated with fine layers of titanium and gold, the needle is result of a collaboration between different departments at IISc — Department of Instrumentation and Applied Physics, Centre for Nano Science and Engineering and Department of Electronic Systems Engineering.

Giving details, Prof K Rajanna, Department of Instrumentation and Applied Physics and a senior member of the research team, said the material for the needle was the most crucial element. Since the micro needle is to be inserted into the skin, the material had to be compatible with both the skin and the drug it delivers.

Scientists have studied titanium, gold and stainless steel for such biomedical applications and they are known to be safe. Silicon, while used for mass manufacturing products, was not suited for medical applications.

“Silicon is neither biocompatible nor biostable in the central nervous system. These are two very important criteria in determining the feasibility of implantable medical devices,” explained Prof Rajanna.

The researchers then took a middle path whereby they used silicon to make the needle and then gave it a covering of biocompatible titanium and gold. “When inserted, the skin is in contact only with the outer cover made of gold,” Rajanna said.

The length of the needle is equivalent to the thickness of three ordinary sheets of printing papers stacked on one another. The human skin with three different layers, approximately, has the same dimension. “The needle gets progressively thinner, and the diameter at the bottom is a little less than the thickness of one sheet of paper,” informed the researchers.

The needle was also made strong to be able to bear the resistive force of the skin. “The needle, though tiny, can withstand the weight of an object weighing more than 20 kg, which is about 10 times the resistive force offered by skin,” said Prof Rajanna

HT.Com ND 25.08.2014 P-6

INDIA WAY DOWN IN RANKINGS

VARSITY RANKING
 Indian Inst of Sci ranked 327 in Academic Ranking of World Universities

Ayesha Banerjee

The Shanghai Rankings were out on the day India celebrated Independence day. Most disappointingly, however, except for Bangalore's Indian Institute of Science listed at a lowly 327, no other institute in the country figured in the 2014 Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU) released by the Centre for World-Class Universities at Shanghai Jiao Tong University.

The usual suspects dominated. Harvard University remained number one in the world for the 12th year.

The other top nine universities were Stanford, MIT, Berkeley, Cambridge, Princeton, Caltech, Columbia, Chicago and Oxford.

Unlike other listings such as Times Higher Education (THE) and Quacquarelli Symonds (QS), the Shanghai rankings adopt only objective indicators and do not bank on reputation surveys.

All the data used in the Shanghai Rankings is obtained from third parties and can be checked anytime by anyone.

“THE and QS use data reported by universities,” says Dr Ying Cheng, executive director, Centre for World-Class Universities and associate professor, Graduate School of Education, Shanghai Jiao Tong University.

ARWU also uses six objective indicators to rank world universities. These include the number of alumni and staff



■ Harvard University remained no. 1 in the world for the 12th year. The other top nine universities were Stanford, MIT, Berkeley, Cambridge, Princeton, Caltech, Columbia, Chicago and Oxford. Those with same rankings are listed alphabetically. THINKSTOCK



The challenges Asian Universities face include language, lack of funds, and also the culture

YING CHENG, Professor

winning Nobel Prizes and Fields Medals, number of highly cited researchers selected by Thomson Reuters, number of articles published in journals of nature and science, number of articles indexed in Science Citation Index - Expanded and Social Sciences Citation Index. Per capita performance with respect to the size of an institution is factored in too, to assess its merits.

Though US institutes did well this year

too, universities around the globe were fast catching up.

Over the past 10 years, the number of top 500 universities from US decreased by around 10% and those from Asia increased by around 20%. Unfortunately, Asian universities needed to do more. “The challenge they face includes language, funding, and also the culture,” Cheng adds.

The highlight of the Shanghai rankings this year was that Swiss universities performed extremely well.

École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne's first appearance in top 100 (96) took the number of Top 100 universities in Switzerland to five, which is the third highest number across all countries. The biggest disappointment? “There are still no Chinese universities making into Top 100,” adds Cheng.

THE TOP PLAYERS

World Rank	Institution	Country
1	Harvard University	USA
2	Stanford University	USA
3	Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)	USA
4	University of California-Berkeley	USA
5	University of Cambridge	UK
6	Princeton University	USA
7	California Institute of Technology	USA
8	Columbia University	USA
9	University of Chicago	USA
9	University of Oxford	UK
11	Yale University	USA
12	University of California, Los Angeles	USA
13	Cornell University	USA
14	University of California, San Diego	USA
15	University of Washington	USA
16	University of Pennsylvania	USA
17	The Johns Hopkins University	USA
18	University of California, San Francisco	USA
19	Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich	Switzerland
20	University College London	UK
21	The University of Tokyo	Japan
22	The Imperial College of Sci., Technology & Med	UK
22	University of Michigan-Ann Arbor	USA
24	University of Toronto	Canada

Why we need qualified faculty in engineering disciplines

AK SARKAR &
SK CHOUDHARY

The last few decades have witnessed a large growth in engineering and technical institutions in India. We have about 3,400 engineering colleges with an intake capacity of about 14.7 lakh. This excludes the existing IITs, NITs and IIITs. The government in its first Budget has proposed the setting up of five more IITs. This quantitative growth is welcome. However, there are areas of concern that need to be addressed if this growth has to complement quality engineering education in the country.

It is reported that many of the recently established private engineering institutions are closing down due to a wide gap between demand and supply. In Madhya Pradesh alone, in the academic session 2013-14, around 30,000 out of 96,000 seats available remained vacant. The same is the case in many other states. Does this mean that engineering education in India has reached a saturation level? If that had been the case, more than 1.86 lakh students would not have competed for about 2,000 seats in BITS Pilani this year or about 13.6 lakh students would not have applied for JEE Mains, apart from the state-level examinations for admission to technical institutions. The problem lies elsewhere. It is the poor quality of education provided in many of these new institutions that is failing to attract students. Studies have indicated that the employability of engineering graduates in the country is quite low. Since most of the students come from middle and low income groups, getting an employment immediately after finishing the degree is important.

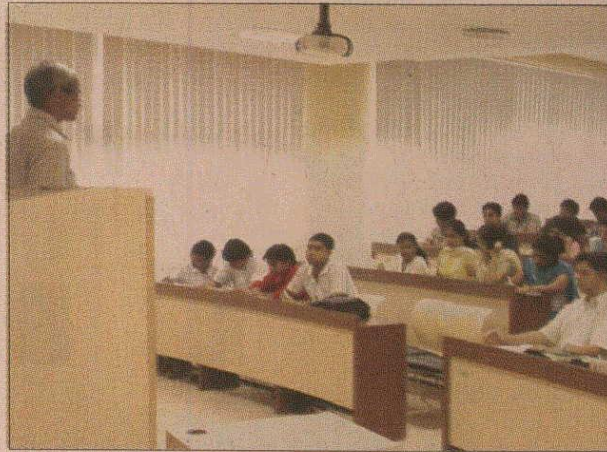
This quality depends on high-class educational infrastructure, qualified faculty,

motivated students and research-driven teaching. Most newly established engineering colleges lack on these aspects. But even those institutions like IITs and NITs which are able to attract large number of aspiring students also lack at least on two counts – sufficient numbers of qualified teachers and research-driven teaching. The matter was raised in Parliament some time ago regarding shortage of faculty in IITs. At a time when 'skill shortage' is frequently bemoaned by industry, nearly half of all teaching positions in IITs and over half in NITs are lying vacant. It is not only the newly-created IITs and NITs that face shortage, even the older IITs have over 40% of their teaching po-

cancies in other 3,400 institutions are included, the number becomes astronomical.

The target at IITs has been to achieve a faculty:student ratio of 1:10. Since 2006, the number of students across IITs has doubled but the faculty strength has grown by just 10%. The ratio now ranges between 1:19 and 1:14 in the older IITs. Inadequate number of faculty members increases teaching load and, in turn, the faculty does not have time to carry out quality research, thereby affecting research.

Can we produce sufficient number of PhDs in engineering to bridge the wide gap existing today? In fact, our aim should not only be to produce PhDs, but also good teachers. Thus, a programme needs to



sitions vacant and the situation in old NITs is even worse, with 57% of faculty jobs finding no takers. The Parliament question inquiring about this shortage was answered on March 13, 2013, and the ministry noted that the reason was lack of PhD candidates in engineering. It was also observed that a majority of students prefer corporate jobs over teaching. In total, about 8,200 vacancies are there, combining all IITs and NITs. If the requirements for the proposed IITs are taken into consideration, the number would be still higher, and if the va-

be developed so as to impart teaching qualities while one is working for PhD. We need high quality faculty members with a research-bent of mind. The ministry of HRD should take it up on an urgent basis, else the establishment of new institutions would not have any value as we would fail to produce quality employable engineers in the absence of adequate quality faculty in our institutions.

Sarkar is senior professor and Choudhary is associate professor, Birla Institute of Technology and Science, Pilani. Views are personal

Debate soon on new education policy: Smriti

Hyderabad, Aug. 24: Union human resource development minister Smriti Irani said on Sunday that the government would soon initiate a "state-wise, region-wise and national" debate to formulate a new education policy required for current times.

"The last time the national education policy was formulated was in 1986. If we have to make 'Made in India' a grand label, then we need a course correction in our education policy. I am happy to share here that we will initiate a state-wise, region-wise, national debate and deliberation to formulate a new education policy," she said at a symposium on "Restructuring our education system with Bharateeya perspective of values", organised by the Keshav Memorial Educational Society as part of its platinum jubilee celebrations.

Regretting that adequate knowledge and awareness on the greatness of Indian legends in different fields is lacking in the present generation, she said there is a need to celebrate "the glory of ancient India".

Citing a few examples, she said that the great contributions of ancient mathematician-astronomer Aryabhata on algorithms are realised when students pursue a masters degree in mathematics.

She said that some officials lacked knowledge of Pingali Venkaiah, the freedom fighter who designed the Indian tricolour, when she wanted to conduct an essay competition on him.

The minister said the



Smriti Irani

youth should know about great Indians, including those still alive, as they often use the Internet to learn about international celebrities.

Recalling celebrated author Mark Twain as having said that India is the birth place of human speech, she said her ministry conducted a "Sanskrit Saptah" recently in which 90,000 students participated.

The government plans to celebrate "Matrubhasha Divas" on February 25, 2015, across the country as India is a diverse nation, the Union minister said.

Later, she called on Andhra Pradesh chief minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and discussed several issues, including setting up of Central educational institutions in the state as well as imparting employable skills to the youth.

The Centre plans to digitise the process of conducting examinations and issuing hall tickets in universities, an AP government release quoted her as saying.

She has also assured of her co-operation to the state government, the release said. — PTI

Times of India, ND

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BIZ COMPETITION

The Entrepreneurship Cell at IIT Kharagpur is inviting entries for its annual business model competition, Empresario, from across countries. For the first round, participants are required to fill a questionnaire online, briefly explaining their business idea. The deadline for submission is October 20. Empresario participants are mentored and supported by organisations like The Indus Entrepreneurs (TiE), National Entrepreneurship Network (NEN). This year, the event is being presented in association with the International Business Model Competition (IBMC). The best entries in all categories will get an opportunity to participate directly in the semi-final rounds of IBMC 2015, which is to be conducted abroad. The final rounds of Empresario 2015 are scheduled to be held during the Global Entrepreneurship Summit 2015. For more details, visit ecell-iitkgp.org

Needed, an antidote to capitation fee menace

As we wait for amicus curiae Salman Khurshid's report on the capitation fee menace in professional colleges, some perspective is necessary

S. Vaidhyasubramaniam

The Supreme Court recently appointed senior advocate Salman Khurshid as *amicus curiae* and directed the Chief Secretaries of the 'capitation quartet' States — Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra — to provide all information to Mr. Khurshid to enable him analyse and submit a solution through which we can put an end to the capitation fee menace in professional colleges. As we await the report, some perspective is necessary.

The Supreme Court's concern on various public issues like smoking in public, parental care, capitation fee and even mosquito control exemplifies its empathy for common citizens. It has protected common citizenry, not only by giving the final word on disputes involving interpretation of the Constitution and legislative enactments, but also framing schemes to ensure a proper implementation.

That is what everyone thought when the Supreme Court in the *Unnikrishnan* case (1993) framed a scheme to prevent commercialisation of admissions to professional colleges.

A fundamental right

I distinctly remember my conversation in 1993 with a senior Supreme Court advocate, who felt that the judgment had made the pendulum move to an extreme position, snatching away the fundamental right to administer educational institutions. He said it needed to be brought to an equilibrium. True to his words, in the *T.M.A.Pai Foundation* case (2002), the Supreme Court scrapped the *Unnikrishnan* scheme, deeming it unconstitutional. The Court held that starting an educational institution was a fundamental right and that the government could not interfere in the administrative rights of private institutions — minority or non-minority.

In *Islamic Academy* (2003) and *P.A. Inamdar* (2005), the Supreme Court reinforced the rights of private institutions and condemned the practice of collecting capitation fees. The Supreme Court's triple-test formula for admissions directed private institutions to ensure fairness, transparency and non-exploitation. The



In 2013, the Supreme Court struck down the National Eligibility and Entrance Test as *ultra vires*. Picture shows medical students staging a protest in support of NEET at Jantar Mantar, New Delhi, in February 2013. — PHOTO: V. SUDERSHAN

The regulators have preferred to turn a Nelson's eye, acting as a catalyst to an annual capitation ritual

same senior advocate in 2002 recalled his 1993 comment and was puzzled that the pendulum had gone to the other extreme.

In 2013 came another opportunity for the Supreme Court in the NEET (National Eligibility and Entrance Test) case.

Justice V.R. Krishna Iyer in *State of Kerala vs. T.P. Roshana* (1979) brought to light the goal of judiciary. He said, "The rule of law should not petrify life or be inflexibly mulish. It is tempered by experience, mellowed by principled compromise, informed by the anxiety to avoid injustice and softens the blow within the marginal limits of legality. That is the *karuna* of the law."

"Nor is law unimaginative, especially in the writ jurisdiction where responsible justice is the goal. The court cannot adopt a rigid attitude of negativity and sit back after striking down the scheme of Government, leaving it to the helpless Government caught in a crisis to make-do as best as it may, or throwing the situation open to agitational chaos to find a solu-

tion by demonstrations in the streets and worse."

He goes on to add, "The need for controlling its repercussions calls for judicial response. After all, law is not a brooding omnipresence in the sky but an operational art in society."

The NEET case was the perfect one to test 'responsible justice'. The Supreme Court struck down the NEET as *ultra vires* and held that Medical Council of India (MCI) Act, 1956 doesn't empower MCI to conduct a unified NEET. The government ended up on the losing side, thanks to a battery of highly paid Supreme Court advocates who appeared on behalf of private medical colleges.

In NEET case, the Supreme Court correctly interpreted the judgments of *Islamic Academy* and *TMA Pai Foundation* cases, which came as a form of relief and rescue to private medical colleges. However, was 'responsible justice' served?

It was Justice Anil R. Dave who, in his dissenting judgement, pointed out: "I fail to understand as to how autonomy of the said institutions would be adversely affected because of the NEET. The government authorities or the professional bodies named hereinabove would not be creating any hindrance in the administrative affairs of the institutions. Implementation of the NEET would only give

better students to such institutions and from and among such highly qualified and suitable students..."

After the NEET case, I wrote an article on how the Supreme Court could have taken the pendulum to its equilibrium position and also suggested a workable formula that not only satisfies the triple test laid down by the Supreme Court but also does not affect the rights of private institutions. The appointment of Mr. Khurshid as *amicus* has provided a ray of hope. Its an opportunity that is too precious to be lost and, if lost, will snap the pendulum beyond anyone's reach.

'Highest bidder is the final buyer'

A mere reliance on the four State Governments' data may lead to an "All izz well" feeling, implying that the Centre and States, through various legislative and statutory provisions, have been effective in dealing with the issue of capitation fees. If that is the case, why did the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy give the education sector a shameful number two position in the list of black money generators?"

The 'highest bidder is the ultimate buyer' principle has resulted in a collusion between management and parents and in an unscrupulous triumph of money over merit. The regulators have preferred to turn a Nelson's eye, acting as a catalyst to this annual capitation ritual.

The capitation fee issue is not just about college managements. It comprises a broad ecosystem having varied stakeholders — selfish parents with brutal money power; deafeningly silent regulators; and other victims and beneficiaries who have been direct or indirect consumers of professional education. It would be a good idea for *amicus* Khurshid to gather inputs from different parties on the ground realities and the possible remedies. The concerned stakeholders, including the students, are high with the hope that 'Dr.' Salman Khurshid will prescribe the killer antidote to this toxic steroid and that the Supreme Court will administer this antidote and deliver 'responsible justice.'

(S. Vaidhyasubramaniam is Dean, Planning and Development, SASTRA University. E-mail: vaidhya@sastra.edu.)

A 'smart skin' that lets aircraft feel damage

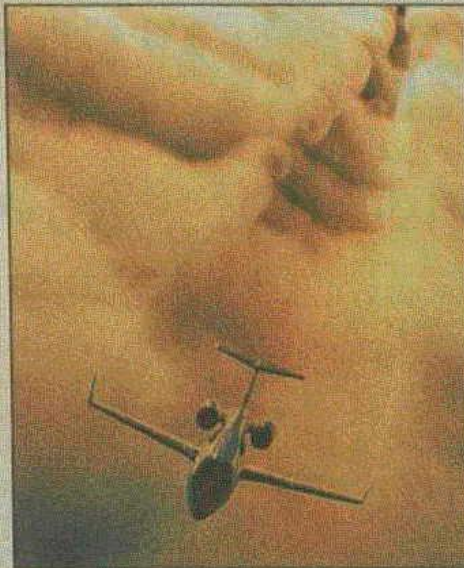
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Sensors Can Detect Winds, Heat & Stress

London: Researchers are developing a new technology that enables the exterior of aircraft to "feel" damage or injury in a way similar to human skin and could warn engineers of potential problems.

The technology, being developed by BAE Systems, a British multinational defence, security and aerospace company, works by covering the entire body of a plane with tens of thousands of micro-sensors, and will be able to detect problems before they occur.

The devices could measure wind speed, temperature, strain and movement. Senior research scientist Lydia Hyde, who came up with the technology, said the idea came to her



while watching her tumble dryer, which uses a sensor to prevent overheating.

"Observing how a simple sensor can be used to stop a domestic appliance overheating got me thinking about how this could be applied to my work and how we could replace bulky, expensive sensors with cheap, miniature, multi-functional ones," she said.

"This in turn led to the

The technology, being developed by Britain's BAE Systems, works by covering the entire body of a plane with tens of thousands of micro-sensors. These sensors, which can be as small as dust particles, can even be sprayed onto an aircraft like paint

idea that aircraft, or indeed cars and ships, could be covered by thousands of these motes creating a 'smart skin' that can sense the world around them and monitor their condition by detecting stress, heat or damage," she added.

The sensors which might be as small as dust particles and have their own power source, could even be sprayed on to an aircraft like paint. ❧

The Statesman ND 25.08.2014

MORGAN STANLEY REPORT PUTS NATION IN 61ST POSITION BEHIND MEXICO, THAILAND, THE PHILIPPINES
'Employer-employee relations poor in India'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
 Mumbai, 24 August

India ranks poorly in employee-employer relations standing at 61st position, which is far behind countries such as Mexico, Thailand and the Philippines, according to a report by Morgan Stanley.

"On the metric of cooperation in labour-employer relations India ranks at 61, behind Mexico (44), Thailand (37) and the Philippines (34)," according to the report titled 'What's Holding Back India's Labour Market Environment? Part II' by Morgan Stanley.

China is just ranked ahead of India in this

regard at the 60th spot, it said. India's demographic trend is likely to be one of the best among large countries in the world, however, the country's track record of converting this development into an opportunity is mixed so far, the report said.

The country's track record in terms of creating productive jobs has been slow so far.

"One of the key issues stifling productive job growth is labour market regulations in the country apart from other factors such as inadequate physical infrastructure," it said.

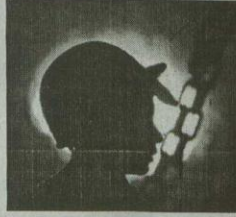
The most contentious issue with regard to labour regulation in

LABOUR PAIN

■ India ranks at 61, behind Mexico (44), Thailand (37) and the Philippines (34), according to the report titled 'What's Holding Back India's Labour Market Environment? Part II' by Morgan Stanley.

■ The most contentious issue with regard to labour regulation in India is flexibility to lay off workers if a firm employs more than 100 workers, because it needs to notify and take permission from the concerned government administration, it pointed out

■ In labour market efficiency ranking among 148 countries, India is placed at 99th spot compared to China (34), Brazil (92) and Philippines (99), the Morgan Stanley report said



India is flexibility to lay off workers if a firm employs more than 100 workers, because it needs to notify and take permis-

sion from the concerned government administration, it pointed out.

Looking at labour laws across countries, most

other nations do not have such a stringent requirement of prior approvals and consultations, apart from Pakistan and Sri

Lanka, the report said.

"Indeed, according to the World Bank's index on hiring and firing practices, Bangladesh ranks at 25, China at 28, and Pakistan at 35 compared to India's rank of 52," it added.

In labour market efficiency ranking among 148 countries, India is placed at 99th spot compared to China (34), Brazil (92) and Philippines (99), the Morgan Stanley report said.

It said, India needs to amend provisions which allow outsiders to be office bearers.

Currently, one-third of the office bearers or five can be outsiders.

"India also needs to

introduce a strike ballot such that a strike can be called only if it is supported by a qualifying majority," it said.

On contract labour, it said, there is a need to allow free use of contract labour while ensuring that the rights of contract labour are protected.

Though countries such as China, Malaysia and Vietnam do not prohibit the use of contract labour for permanent tasks, other Asian countries prohibit the use of fixed-term contract labour for permanent tasks - such as Bangladesh, Indonesia, Pakistan, the Philippines and Thailand.