

# Newspaper Clips

August 26, 2011

Mail Today ND 26/08/2011 P14

## IITs fail to make it to world's top-500 list

By Ritika Chopra  
In New Delhi

THE Indian Institute of Technology (IITs), widely regarded as one of a handful of Indian institutions that are among the best in the world, may not be all that great any more.

That is, if the Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU) is to be believed.

For the first time in nine years, not a single IIT figures in the ranking of the top 500 universities in the world.

The sole representative of the IITs, IIT Kharagpur, which has seen its ranking fall steadily over the past few years, has been dropped altogether from the 2011 list released last week.



Convocation at IIT Kharagpur, which was a regular on the list.

This leaves just one Indian university on the long list — Indian Institute of Science (IISc).

This, certainly, is the kind of news the IITs could do without right now — especially with Jairam Ramesh, himself an alumnus, recently saying the standard at the IITs had dropped, and the recent debate on the lack of research being produced by these premier institutions.

“We are aware that our institute no longer figures on the (ranking) list. We are trying to explore why this has

### THE CREAM OF THE LOT

1. Harvard University (US)
2. Stanford University (US)
3. Massachusetts Institute of Technology (US)
4. University of California, Berkeley (US)
5. University of Cambridge (UK)

### What is the Academic Ranking of World Universities or ARWU?

The ARWU is a list of the best 500 universities in the world that is released by the Shanghai Jiao Tong University every year. The ARWU puts a lot of focus on a university's achievements in scientific research and its stability is respected

happened,” said B.K. Mathur, dean of planning and coordination at IIT Kharagpur, not wishing to comment further on the issue.

The ARWU is prepared and released by the Shanghai Jiao Tong University every year. It focuses mainly on a university's achievements in scientific research and was the first global ranking of universities when it made its debut in 2003.

IIT, Kharagpur, has featured in every edition of ARWU ever since it started, except this year. IIT, Delhi, was the only other IIT that ever made it to the list, but only once, in 2003.

ARWU is prepared based on a number of parameters, which include the frequency of publication in top journals such as the *Nature and Science* magazines. The number of citations in articles appearing in these top journals and the number of Nobel prizes and Fields medals won by staff and alumni are also taken into account, something which the American universities are pretty good at. Another important consideration is per capita performance with respect to the size of an institution.

# Education for future

Effective teaching can overcome student indifference and can close racial, socioeconomic gaps writes **Jennifer Jennings**

**H**ERE'S a thought experiment: if teachers unions disappeared tomorrow, how would American public education change? And would kids - especially poor kids - do better as a result?

Given the tastes of political actors on both sides of the aisle, my best guess is that a new education policy order would look something like this: Teachers would be at-will workers evaluated based on students' standardized test scores and principals' evaluations. Compensation would not be a function of experience or degrees, but of these evaluations. Pensions would be restructured to reduce costs and create disincentives to stay in the classroom to collect a payout after a specific number of years in the system. And teachers would not be tenured, but retained or fired based on periodic quantitative and qualitative evaluations.

This all sounds pretty good - the kind of policy prescriptions that sit nicely at the Thanks giving dinner table with an uncle who prides himself on commonsense. But the folks who've punched the clock in the education policy trenches understand that these "first principles" statements mean nothing.

It's in the mundane details that education policy succeeds or fails. The footnote at the bottom of page 50 in the manual describing the estimation of teacher value-added measures may seem unimportant, but these "minor details" may be what matters most.

That is why Steve Brill's argument reads more to me like a campaign speech than a blueprint for reform. Take reforming teacher evaluation, on which Brill writes, "Can there really be a debate about whether their performance should be measured and acted on?" This makes a mockery of the very real - and very complicated - decisions and trade-offs that we need to make in designing evaluation systems.

For example, my colleagues Sean Corcoran, Andrew Beveridge, and I have found that which teachers you choose to reward or punish is largely dependent on your choice of outcome. We found that half of the "high-performing" teachers on high-stakes exams would not achieve the same rating on low-stakes audit

exams. What's more, gains on high-stakes state tests fade out much more quickly than gains on audit tests. These findings alone aren't evidence of teaching to the test or inflated scores, but they are good reasons to worry about it.



**Elementary school teachers who are good at improving students' standardised test performance are not usually the same teachers who are most effective at improving kids' non-academic skills like task persistence and interpersonal skills**

Since these are the very gains used in back of the envelope calculations showing, as Brill writes in his book, that "truly effective teaching" can "overcome student indifference, parental disengagement and poverty," it should also temper the predictions we make about whether highly effective teachers can close racial and socioeconomic achievement gaps.

Moreover, as any parent knows, good teaching is about a lot more than increasing test scores. It's also about shaping our kids into the kinds of people we want to live and work with. We often assume that a "good teacher" is equally effective at promoting all outcomes of schooling, even in the absence of evidence to support that point. When my colleague Tom DiPrete and I took up this question directly, what we found surprised us. Elementary school teachers who are good at improving students' standardised test performance are not usually the same teachers who are most effective at improving kids' non-academic skills like task persistence and interpersonal skills. Again, which outcome we pick fundamentally changes which teachers we identify as high or low-performing.

Given concerns about teaching to the test that improves scores without improving learning more generally, as well as widespread disagreement about which goals of schooling are the most important to promote, we need to iron out these details before we start racing at 150 miles an hour on the education reform autobahn. We also need to know where all these high performing teachers are going to come from when we fire the "bad" ones. With 3.3 million teachers in the country, getting rid of even ten per cent of them means you need an awful lot of talented bodies to take their place. Figuring out who will replace them is neither straightforward nor simple, and we shouldn't pretend that it is.

What so many education pundits seem to forget is that "reform" can make the world worse as well as better. And because many policymakers have no qualms about treating poor kids like guinea pigs in the education reform wars, those are the kids most likely to suffer when we make bad education policy.

If the last decade of education reform has taught me nothing else, it's that politicians are too busy chasing the next vote or donation to represent kids' long-term interests. They have a dog in the race as much as the unions do, and they love to blame the teachers' union boogeyman for mucking up our education system.

If teachers unions went away tomorrow, poor kids' outcomes probably would not change much either way. There is a formidable body of research showing that students' test scores are largely determined by out-of-school factors, and no credible research shows that unions are the problem. But eliminating teachers unions would certainly open the door for politicians to implement faddish reforms that are unlikely to help kids.

Where I do agree with Brill is that teachers' unions haven't stepped up to the plate and offered a coherent critique of current education policy. Nor have they given us something to put in its place. It's true that when you're backed into a corner, as the unions have been, marching forward is no small feat.

Economic Times ND 26-Aug-11 P27

# GK Pillai Heads Venture Cap Fund for IIT, IIM Grads

**VIKAS DHOOT**  
NEW DELHI

Former Home Secretary GK Pillai has become the chairman of a first-of-its-kind venture capital fund that will focus exclusively on financing ideas and ventures of graduates from IITs, IIMs and other premier institutes. Unlike other venture funds, 5% of the fund's profits will be ploughed back into the educational institutions chosen by the investors.

Mumbai-based Ivy Cap Ventures Trust Fund has roped in Pillai, an IIT-Madras alumni, to head its board through the IITian old boys' network.

"We will be looking to fund early stage ideas and small and medium enterprises across all sectors with a focus on education, healthcare, technology and innovation," Pillai told ET, confirming his decision to join IvyCap.

Apart from Pillai, IvyCap's board includes deans of four IITs, HCL Technologies' co-



**ON NEW GROUNDS: GK Pillai**

founder Arjun Malhotra and former BSE president Bhagirath Merchant.

The fund had got Sebi's nod to raise money in June and

aims to garner a ₹400 crore corpus in its first phase by March 2013. The IIT Alumni Trust is the anchor investor in the fund, with a commitment to finance around 20% of the total corpus.

The fund expects to close its first tranche of fund-raising — around ₹100 crore — by December this year. The fund would announce a couple of investments soon after that.

The founder and managing partner of IvyCap, Vikram Gupta said the fund was build-

ing a close connection with the IITs as it can help tap into all the interesting projects underway in incubation centers across IITs. "We may look at a similar approach with the IIMs as well," Gupta told ET from the IIM Ahmedabad campus. "Several IITians have already approached our fund with their ideas and projects that need funds for expansion. We hope to raise funds and start investing in such professional entrepreneurs as soon as we can," Pillai said.

Times of India ND 26/08/2011

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## 'Social networking ups drug abuse risk in teens'

London: How much time does your child spend on Facebook? Teenagers who regularly use social networking sites are much more likely to drink, smoke and use marijuana, a new study has claimed. The Columbia University study of 1,000 American teenagers aged between 12 and 17 years found that those who used such sites daily were five times more likely to smoke tobacco than those who did not.



**VIRTUAL THREAT**

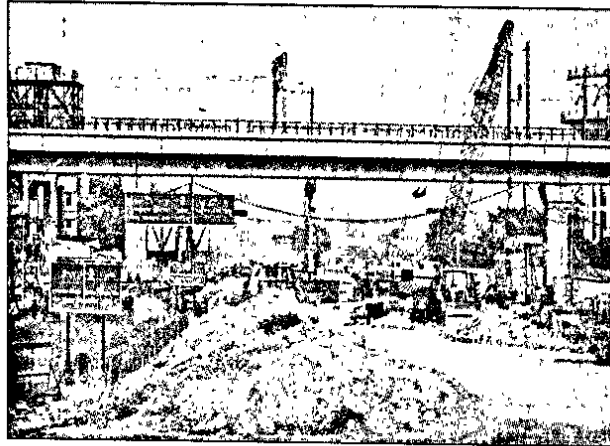
Similarly, they are three times more likely to drink alcohol and twice as likely to use marijuana. The poll also found that 70% of those interviewed said they used social networking sites on a typical day, while 30% did not, Daily Telegraph reported.

One of the main reasons for going on such sites, besides actually communicating with friends, is to keep tabs on peers by looking at their photographs.

But the study found that pictures of teenagers "drunk, passed out, or using drugs on Facebook and other sites were rampant". However, parents seemed unaware that browsing such sites could increase their child's likelihood of abusing— drink or drugs. Joseph Califano, founder of National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse, called for instigate tighter controls to block such photos. REUTERS

## INFRA DEVELOPMENT

# Admin blames RITES, IIT for project delays



■ The Rajnigandha underpass, which is now expected to be thrown open for public soon, missed several deadlines. HT FILE PHOTO

**Darpan Singh**

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**NOIDA:** Accusing central consultant RITES of having a routine approach and failing to provide effective quality monitoring in big-ticket infrastructure projects in the city, the Noida authority has decided to set up an independent agency for "better surveillance".

In order to "end the monopoly and seek relief from the ever-increasing fees" of IIT Delhi, the authority has also decided to have tie-ups with IIT Kanpur and IIT Roorkee for verification projections and works done by consultants and contractors. The authority will seek advice from these two IITs in case of any project costing ₹10 crore or more.

The authority has admitted major projects in the city have got delayed because of ineffective monitoring and "hard-to-come-by" inputs on budgeting and designs. "We have been paying crores of rupees without much benefits. We're forming an independent agency through a competitive bidding process," Noida chairman Balvinder Kumar said.

"There is little check on use of substandard materials," said a senior officer. Project management consultants (PMCs) —

supposed to ensure quality, prepare cost-effective budgets and foolproof designs — are themselves doubling up as contractors too in Noida. Lack of transparency and effective monitoring is causing inordinate delays and untold miseries to residents.

"RITES, despite being the PMC, is executing three major projects in Noida — an underpass at Rajnigandha Chowk and a flyover and an underpass at Sector 37," he said.

The authority has now woken up to this "anomaly". "We have decided to get works being done by RITES verified by IITs. Since RITES is doubling up as PMC as well as contractor, taking fresh steps for transparency and monitoring was the need of the hour," the officer said.

The authority first verifies the credentials and financial viability of PMCs. The designs and estimates prepared by them are crosschecked by IITs. Once a PMC is decided upon, tenders are floated for selection of a contractor. The contractor is chosen through competitive bidding in terms of technical and financial expertise and viability. The final budget is once again verified by IITs.

Samples taken recently have shown "big-time qualitative compromises".

# नवभारत टाइम्स

Navbharat Times - Breaking news, views, reviews, cricket from across India

## करप्शन को सुलझाने में जुटे आईआईटीयंस

26 Aug 2011, 04:00 hrs IST, नवभारत टाइम्स

### ओम अवस्थी

**रामलीला मैदान**॥ उनके दिमाग में केमिकल इक्वेशंस होती हैं। उनकी जिंदगी इलेक्ट्रॉन के मोशन और इलेक्ट्रिक फील्ड के बीच में गुजरती है लेकिन आजकल वे अवेयरनेस की मैग्नेटिक फील्ड बना रहे हैं। करप्शन ने उनके दिमाग में केमिकल लोच कर दिया है। सोसायटी के इंटीग्रेशन और डिफ्रेन्शिएशन को प्रूफ करने के लिए आजकल वे किताबों से निकल कर सड़कों और रैलियों में आ रहे हैं। अन्ना के अनशन में आईआईटी से काफी स्टूडेंट्स पहुंच रहे हैं। इनमें कई वॉलन्टियर्स भी हैं।

### रोज देते हैं 2 घंटे

न्यू यॉर्क से मास्टर डिग्री लेने के बाद गूगल में सॉफ्टवेयर इंजिनियर के तौर पर काम कर चुके नितिन अरोड़ा इन दिनों भ्रष्टाचार के खिलाफ लोगों को जागरूक कर रहे हैं। आईआईटी दिल्ली से मैथमेटिक्स में पीएचडी कर रहे नितिन बताते हैं कि करप्शन के खिलाफ आम आदमी जागरूक हुआ है। पढ़ाई से वक्त निकाल कर वह दिन में 2 घंटे के लिए रामलीला मैदान जाते हैं। उन्होंने बताया कि आईआईटीयंस अब पहले से कई ज्यादा अवेयर हैं। लोगों को जोड़ने के लिए हमने ऑफिशल ई-मेल का सहारा लिया ताकि ज्यादा से ज्यादा स्टूडेंट्स को जोड़ा जा सके। हमने अन्ना के सपोर्ट में शांति पूर्वक रैली भी निकाली। इसमें 1,100 स्टूडेंट्स शामिल हुए। उन्होंने बताया कि करीब 25 स्टूडेंट्स बतौर वॉलन्टियर अपनी सेवाएं दे रहे हैं।

### आम आदमी हुआ है जागरूक

आईआईटी दिल्ली से एमएससी मैथ्स की लास्ट ईयर स्टूडेंट श्रेया सकलानी ने बताया कि वह जॉब के लिए यूएस नहीं जाना चाहती। सिर्फ पढ़ाई और नौकरी करने के बजाय वह सोसायटी में चेंज लाना चाहती है ताकि भारत की स्थिति बेहतर हो सके। जन लोकपाल बिल के आने से देश में करप्शन पर काफी हद तक पाबंदी लगेगी। ऐसे में अन्ना के सपोर्ट के लिए वह बतौर वॉलन्टियर रामलीला मैदान में लोगों को अवेयर करती हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि आईआईटी स्टूडेंट्स और प्रफेसर सभी करप्शन के खिलाफ हैं। अन्ना ने आम लोगों को जागरूक किया है। अब लोग खुद ही घूस देने और लेने से बचेंगे। अन्ना के मूवमेंट की सबसे बड़ी अचीवमेंट यही है।

### इंडिया गेट पर करते हैं प्रोटेस्ट

आईआईटी दिल्ली के एमटेक फर्स्ट ईयर के स्टूडेंट विकास भुराडिया पिछले 2 महीनों से अन्ना हजारों के साथ जुड़े हैं। अप्रैल में अनशन के दौरान जन लोकपाल बिल और गवर्नमेंट बिल के बारे में इंडिया अगैस्ट करप्शन की साइट पर उन्होंने डिटेल्स दे पढ़ा। इसके बाद से वह करप्शन के खिलाफ मुहिम में अन्ना के साथ हैं। अन्ना के अनशन के दौरान वह बतौर वॉलन्टियर रामलीला मैदान में लोगों को अवेयर करते हैं। पढ़ाई से वक्त निकाल कर वह रोजाना 3 घंटे रामलीला मैदान में देते हैं। वह शाम को 2 से 5 बजे के बीच यहां आते हैं। इसके अलावा इंडिया गेट पर भी शांतिपूर्वक डेग से वह प्रोटेस्ट करते हैं। अब तब 3 बार वह इंडिया गेट पर प्रोटेस्ट कर चुके हैं।

### कोई नौकरी तो कोई एडमिशन छोड़कर रुका

आईआईटी स्टूडेंट्स के अलावा दूसरे कॉलेजों और जॉब से छुट्टी लेकर भी कई लोग बतौर वॉलनटियर अपनी सेवाएं दे रहे हैं। वॉलनटियर शशांक बताते हैं कि वह ऑफिस से हाफ डे लेकर पिछले 7 दिनों से रामलीला मैदान में रात बिताते हैं। यह सब एक अच्छे मकसद के लिए है। हमारे भविष्य के लिए है इसलिए जो कुछ भी करना पड़ेगा, करेंगे। शशांक के साथ मौजूद इंजिनियर अभिनव ने बताया कि वह भी रात में रामलीला मैदान में अपनी सेवाएं देते हैं। उन्हें मेडिकल की जिम्मेदारी दी गई है। इन सबके अलावा आईटी इंजिनियर प्रनव मोहला पिछले 6 दिन से रामलीला मैदान में सेवाएं दे रहे हैं। यूनिवर्सिटी ऑफ कैलिफोर्निया बरकले में बायो इंजिनियरिंग में एडमिशन मिल गया था पर अन्ना को सपोर्ट करने के लिए 4 महीने के लिए यहां रुक गए हैं।

Hindustan ND26/08/2011 p-2

## आईआईटी इंजीनियरों का भी दल पहुंचा



नई दिल्ली। भ्रष्टाचार के खिलाफ अन्ना की मुहिम में देश भर के आईआईटी के पूर्व छात्र भी शामिल हो गए हैं। दिल्ली आईआईटी के इंजीनियरों ने जहां सिग्नेचर कैम्पेन चला कर जनलोकपाल बिल का समर्थन किया। वहीं आईआईटी खड़गपुर के एक छात्र ने कैम्पस में अनशन पर बैठ कर अपना विरोध दर्ज किया गया। इस मुहिम को

अपना समर्थन देने के लिए इंजीनियरों अन्य गतिविधियों का भी सहारा ले रहे हैं। जिसमें खासतौर पर नुक्कड़ नाटक, पेंटिंग और संगीत मुख्य रूप से शामिल हैं। इंजीनियरों के आगमन से संदेश गया कि देश का प्रबुद्ध वर्ग भी साथ है। अन्ना के समर्थकों ने आईआईटी इंजीनियरों का मंच पर चढ़ने के साथ ही तालियां बजाकर स्वागत किया।

Mahamedha ND. 26.08.11, p-4

# कानपुर व रुड़की आईआईटी को सौंपी जाएंगी प्रोजेक्टों की जिम्मेदारी

नोएडा (संवाददाता)। आईआईटी का चुनाव करने के साथ ही चारों अफसरों ने मुख्यमंत्री मायावती के ड्रीम प्रोजेक्टों पर चर्चा की। सीएम के संभावित दौरे के मद्देनजर शहर में हो रहे कार्यों पर विशेष नजर के साथ-साथ इन्हें जल्द से जल्द पूरा करने की बात भी कही गई।

सभी विभागाध्यक्षों को सीसीईओ की तरफ से यह निर्देश जारी किया गया कि वह संबंधित अधिकारियों से हर कार्य की प्रतिदिन की रिपोर्ट तैयार करवाएं, जिससे मौका मिलने पर इनका औचक निरीक्षण करके जांच की जा सके। गौरतलब है कि प्राधिकरण के बड़े-बड़े प्रोजेक्टों के साथ दस करोड़ रुपये की लागत वाले कार्यों पर अब आईआईटी कानपुर और आईआईटी रुड़की से मंजूरी ली जाएगी। आईआईटी दिल्ली

की बढ़ती फीस और एकाधिकार को समाप्त करने के लिए यह निर्णय लिया गया है। प्राधिकरण में हुई अति गोपनीय बैठक में यह फैसला हुआ। सीसीईओ, डीसीईओ, इंजीनियरिंग इन चीफ और सीपीई ने सर्वसम्मति से यह निर्णय लिया। शहर में बनने वाले फ्लाईओवर, अंडरपास, एलिवेटेड रोड, सिटी ब्यूटीफिकेशन योजना, बड़ी-बड़ी डेन और दस करोड़ रुपये से ऊपर के सभी प्रोजेक्टों का एसीस्टमेंट करवाने के लिए आईआईटी दिल्ली की अनुमति लेना अनिवार्य है।

यह नियम प्राधिकरण ने बोर्ड से मंजूरी प्राप्त करके ही लागू किया था। पिछले काफी समय से नोएडा के प्रोजेक्टों पर आईआईटी दिल्ली मनमाने पैसे वसूल कर रहा है। साथ ही इनकी एसीस्टमेंट करने में भी काफी समय

लगाया जा रहा है, जिसकी वजह से कार्यों को शुरू करने में समय लग जाता है। प्राधिकरण के प्रशासनिक कार्यालय में सीसीईओ बलविंदर कुमार, डीसीईओ एसके सिंह, इंजीनियरिंग इन चीफ यादव सिंह और मुख्य परियोजना अभियंता संतराम सिंह के बीच इन बिंदुओं को लेकर मंत्रणा हुई।

प्राधिकरण के अधिकारिक सूत्रों ने बताया कि दिल्ली का एकाधिकार समाप्त करने के लिए और प्राधिकरण के राजस्व को बचाने के लिए अब आईआईटी कानपुर और आईआईटी रुड़की से प्रोजेक्टों की एसीस्टमेंट करवाई जाएगी। इसके लिए नोएडा एक सार्वजनिक सूचना जारी करके टेंडर आमंत्रित करेगा और इसमें कई प्रोजेक्टों की जिम्मेदारी कानपुर और रुड़की को सौंपी जाएगी।