

# Newspaper Clips

## August 28, 2013

Mail Today ND 28/08/2013 P-3

### EXCLUSIVE

By **Neha Pushkarna** in New Delhi

WHEN Pranav Das joined IIT Delhi four years ago, he had expected to live through a world-class educational experience. But faculty shortage is one problem that always stared him in the eye all these years.

The problem which Das faced is now affecting premier technical and management institutes all over the country. According to data collated by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD), as many as 4,521 faculty positions are vacant in 16 IITs while over 2,100 teaching posts are to be filled up in over 20 NITs (National Institutes of Technology).

Similarly, Indian Institutes of Management as well as Indian Institute of Science are struggling to fill up all the sanctioned posts. There are 156 vacant posts in IIMs and 114 in IISc.

"We could not do so many courses we wished just because we did not have enough teachers. There were courses like Ergonomics, Supply Chain Management, Value Engineering which were not even offered, perhaps, because our teachers were already overloaded with work," said Das (name changed on request), who studied Production and Industrial Engineering.

The faculty crunch has been a problem ever since

#### Quality of candidates to blame

the government rolled out 27 per cent OBC quota from academic year 2008-09. The rollout done over three years created a demand for more teachers to maintain the ideal teacher-student ratio set at 1:10. MHRD officials said many factors have led to faculty shortage in technical institutes across the country.

While those institutes, which have not achieved a ratio of 1:10, still show a shortage, it is also quite difficult to get high quality candidates. The reasons, as cited by Minister of State for HRD, Shashi Tharoor, in the Lok Sabha earlier this month, are retirement and resignation besides "non-availability of suitably qualified people."

"Not many B.Tech students like to study further

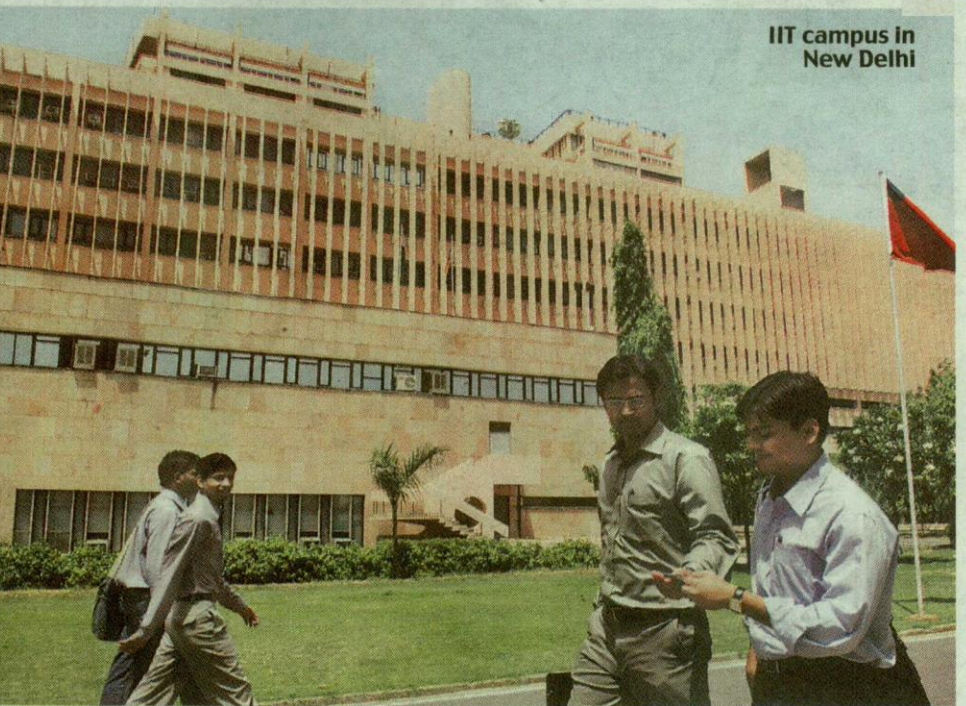
and get into research to finally become teachers at a salary which they could have fetched right after graduation," he added. An assistant professor at entry level in an IIT would earn anything between Rs 7.5-8 lakh per annum. That is the average salary of students graduating from IITs, with the highest salary package even touching Rs 50 lakh per annum.

"We are gradually catching up by hiring more teachers. We have hired 120-

130 teachers in last two to three years with our teacher-student ratio now touching 1:15. It was much worse earlier," Professor D. V. Khakhar, Director, IIT Bombay, said.

Khakhar added that hiring more faculty members is essential to boost research activities, which is the grand vision of the government for all technical institutes.

Currently, NITs and other institutes are managing the situation with the help of guest and visiting faculties.



IIT campus in New Delhi

# Faculty crunch hits top institutes

### THE WORST-HIT

Institutes	Sanctioned	Strength	Vacancy
IITs	11,920	7,399	4,521
NITs	6,425	4,259	2,166
IISc	520	406	114
IIITs	240	159	81
IIMs	737	581	156
IISERS	396	318	78
SPAs	190	119	71

Source: Written reply in Lok Sabha

**Staff shortage has been an issue ever since the Centre rolled out 27 per cent OBC quota**

Times Of India ND 28/08/2013  
P-15

## IITs lower quota bar, restart yr-long prep courses

**Mumbai:** Hamstrung by the lack of qualified candidates to fill up mandatory quota seats, the IITs have lowered the cut-offs for the reserved category students and restarted the year-long preparatory courses.

But not all campuses will run these courses. This year, the IITs have decided to run the bridge programme by rotation.

IIT-Roorkee is holding these classes for their students and also those of IIT-Delhi and IIT-Mandi. IIT-Madras is conducting 'prep classes', for its candidates and those of IIT-Bombay, IIT-Hyderabad and IIT-Gandhinagar. IIT-Kharagpur is training students of IIT-Patna and IIT-Bhubaneswar, apart from its own. Preparatory courses are special coaching classes for reserved category students who fail to make the grade despite a substantial lowering of the cut-off marks. These students are taken in when there are not enough candidates to fill up the quota seats. TNN

Tribune ND 28/08/2013 P-10

# Admissions on paper

## Arrange IIT coaching in schools

**T**HE coaching industry has been allowed to grow and usurp what could have been the government's contribution in the education sector - to mentor the bright and hone excellence. Government schools hire the best available teachers, get the best locations and infrastructure, yet they could not capitalise on competitive examinations for professional colleges. Instead of waking up to the need of offering special coaching in schools, an unhealthy practice of dummy admissions has been allowed to grow. School teachers escape the required hard work of updating knowledge. Students aspiring for top professional colleges take admission in senior secondary schools to appear for the plus-two examination and ensure fake attendance, while they spend time in coaching classes.

As such under the new system, devised by former HRD Minister Kapil Sibal, for admission to all the Centrally funded institutes like NITs, IITs and IIITs, there will be 40 per cent weightage for performance in plus two, 30 per cent weightage in the main exam and 30 per cent in the advanced test. In case of IITs, the board results and the main test will be given 50 per cent weightage each. Though, there is a difference of opinion about the implementation of the new system, it was devised to give equal weightage to plus two that has been neglected by students aspiring for professional courses

Therefore, the decision of the Education Department, Punjab, to penalise principals who allow admissions without ensuring attendance is right, though it rests on easy options. One, the department should also think responsibly towards the needs of the small-town students whose aspirations to get into a professional college are equally important. Two, they should know, if government schools deny fake attendance, private schools would oblige them. The solution should be such as could offer the students quality coaching in their school environment by inviting special faculty. Small-town students have as much right to dream and enter a professional college as do the big-town ambitious students.

# आईआईटी से एयरपोर्ट होगा जाम फ्री

नई दिल्ली (एसएनबी)। आईआईटी से एयरपोर्ट जाने वाले वाहनों को अब राव तुलाराम मार्ग पर जाम का सामना नहीं करना पड़ेगा। एयरपोर्ट व राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग 8 से आने वाले वाहन अब बीजे मार्ग का प्रयोग करके भी रिंग रोड व मोतीबाग की ओर जा सकेंगे। दक्षिणी दिल्ली में यातायात को सुगम बनाने के लिए राव तुलाराम मार्ग पर फ्लाईओवर व रिंग रोड पर बाईपास बनाने से संबंधित लोक निर्माण विभाग की दो परियोजनाओं को दिल्ली अर्बन आर्ट कमिशन (डीयूपसी) ने मंजूरी दे दी है। लोक निर्माण मंत्री राजकुमार चौहान के अनुसार, अब जल्द ही इन परियोजनाओं पर निर्माण की प्रक्रिया शुरू कर दी जाएगी।



चौहान ने बताया कि यह फ्लाईओवर मुनिरका फ्लाईओवर के एलिवेटेड कैरिज-वे से शुरू होगा और आरटीआर के मौजूदा 3 लेन फ्लाईओवर के समानांतर बनेगा। लगभग 2.2 किलोमीटर लंबे इस फ्लाईओवर के निर्माण पर लगभग 125 करोड़ की लागत आएगी। चौहान ने बताया कि 9 मीटर चौड़ा यह

फ्लाईओवर विवेकानंद मार्ग, नेल्सन मंडेला मार्ग तथा पूर्वी मार्ग इंटरसेक्शन के ऊपर से जायेगा और उसके बाद मौजूदा फ्लाईओवर के समानांतर बनेगा। उन्होंने बताया कि फ्लाईओवर के आस पास बसी कॉलोनियों के यातायात व बाहरी रिंग रोड के यातायात को यह फ्लाईओवर बाधित नहीं करेगा। सरकार से वित्तीय अनुमति मिलने के बाद छह माह के भीतर फ्लाईओवर का काम शुरू कर दिया जाएगा।

- आरटीआर फ्लाईओवर व रिंग रोड अंडरपास को मंजूरी
- मौजूदा आरटीआर मार्ग फ्लाईओवर के समानांतर बनेगा तीन लेन का फ्लाईओवर
- 2.2 किलोमीटर लंबा होगा फ्लाईओवर
- बीजे मार्ग व मोतीबाग को रिंग रोड पर जोड़ेगा अंडरपास

इसके अलावा राजकुमार चौहान ने बताया कि धौलाकुआं व आरटीआर पर यातायात का दबाव कम करने के लिए लोक निर्माण विभाग ने बीजे मार्ग का पूरी तरह से उपयोग करने की योजना बनाई है इसके लिए बीजे मार्ग को रिंग रोड व सेन मार्टिन मार्ग से जोड़ने के लिए अंडरपास बनाया जाएगा। इस अंडरपास के निर्माण को भी डीयूपसी ने मंजूरी दे दी है। इस प्रस्तावित अंडरपास के जरिए बीजे मार्ग से आने वाले वाहन जहां रिंग रोड पर दाईं तरफ मुड़ सकेंगे, वहीं मोतीबाग जाने वालों को भी एक नया मार्ग उपलब्ध होगा। रिंग रोड पर प्रस्तावित मेट्रो स्टेशन से बीजे मार्ग तथा आस पास के अन्य केन्द्रों को जोड़ने के लिए एक 590 मीटर का स्काईवॉक पैदल यात्रियों के लिए बनाने का प्रस्ताव भी इस योजना में शामिल है। इस अंडरपास के बनने से एयरपोर्ट व एनएच 8 की ओर से मध्य व नई दिल्ली की ओर जाने वाले वाहनों को भी एक वैकल्पिक मार्ग उपलब्ध होगा।

# Govt to launch 50 educational channels

ANUBHUTI VISHNOI

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 27

AHEAD of Lok Sabha elections, the government will launch 50 educational channels beaming lectures real time to students. Expected to be launched on the next Republic Day, the channels will be free to air, with content from IITs, Central Universities and Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU).

The Pallam Raju-led education ministry is eyeing over a thousand education channels across streams and disciplines in various Indian languages to reach quality education to the remotest of areas.

While the Union Human Resource Development (HRD) Ministry has been pushing for educational channels for nearly two years now, the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting and the Telecom

Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) have objected, pointing out that no government department is permitted to launch Direct to Home (DTH) channels under the current policies. A Committee of Secretaries has since 2012 been attempting to thrash out a compromise. At a meeting last week by the Cabinet Secretary, it was resolved that HRD Ministry will sign an MoU with Prasar Bharti which will hold broadcasting licence. A consortium of education channels will enter into an agreement with Prasar Bharti for content development. The Department of Space has agreed to lease two transponders.

Each institute will be given Rs 50 lakh by the HRD Ministry from funds with the National Mission on Education through ICT to set up TV studios. "There will be 20-25-minute live lectures by eminent

faculty across prominent institutes, and students will be able to put queries to teachers. They will be able to sms queries on a given number and the teacher will be able to answer right away," an official said.

In June 2011, the ministry sought I&B Ministry's nod to launch some 1,000 education channels. The I&B Ministry, in May 2012 declined permission citing new guidelines issued in December 2011. It said permission can only be given to a company registered under the Companies Act.

The Committee of Secretaries led by the Cabinet Secretary set up in 2012 end observed that since the HRD Ministry was seeking the nod for uplinking educational content with public good in mind, the guidelines applicable to firms run on private good should not be applicable to HRD channels.

# Stop blaming Indian companies for visa abuse

Loopholes in the H1B norms are there for all IT companies to abuse. So, why should Indian firms alone be punished?

## NORMAN MATLOFF

It is amazing, in this racially enlightened century, that we still see members of the US Congress demonising an ethnic group. Yet that is what happened when the Senate adopted a provision in the immigration bill singling out Indian and Indian-American IT companies that have operations in the US with punitive restrictions on H-1B work visas. By contrast, the legislation expanded access to the visa to others in the technology industry.

Indian and Indian-American (collectively "Indian" below) IT businesses are being scapegoated for abuse of the visa programme—using it for cheap, immobile labour—that actually pervades the entire industry. Dick Durbin, an Illinois Democrat who was one of the "gang of eight" senators who oversaw the bill, accused Indian businesses of usurping the programme. His Democratic Senate colleague Charles Schumer of New York even used the term "chop shops" in referring to Indian employers.

The word "Indian," of course, doesn't appear in the text of the bill, which essentially defines the targeted class as those companies that rent out computer programmers to other companies. But those businesses are virtually all run by ethnic Indians; Indian-Americans lead the majority of them, though many of the largest companies are based in India. Schumer has cited a number of specific India-based operations, such as Infosys, in his speeches.

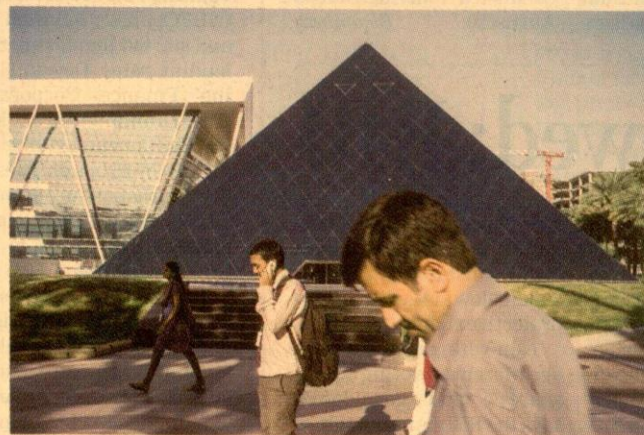
### Distorting facts

Why gang up on the Indians? The technology industry has publicly called on Congress to enact punitive legislation

against Indian companies, a strategy that appears aimed at diverting attention from the entire industry's own widespread abuse of the visas.

Propaganda typically relies on distortion of facts. In this case, the argument is based on excellent research by professor Ron Hira of the Rochester Institute of Technology on the Indian companies. Although Hira says abuse pervades the entire industry and he opposes making the Indians the target of H-1B visa

changes, his work was hijacked to justify the attacks on them in the Senate bill.



**Non-Indian companies use visas to acquire cheap labour, saving about 20% in an apples-to-apples comparison— young foreign workers versus young Americans—and as much as 50% for hiring young H-1B visa holders instead of older Americans**

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It's true that almost all the programmers the Indian companies hire are foreign workers, and that they offshore some of their work. But for many US companies, most of their programmers are foreign workers, too; just plug "software engineer eBay" into LinkedIn's search en-

gine for a dramatic demonstration. And those companies do offshoring as well.

Most important, both Indian and other businesses use the H-1B programme for cheap labour. Although the Indian companies hire at the low end—typically holders of bachelor's degrees—while other companies often hire at the master's level, both types of companies are underpaying at those respective levels.

And the underpayment is legal. Even Schumer has conceded

My own research, published in the academic journal *Migration Letters*, has shown that non-Indian companies use the visas to acquire cheap labour, saving about 20% in an apples-to-apples comparison—i.e., young foreign workers versus young Americans—and as much as 50% for hiring young H-1B visa holders instead of older Americans. A 2001 National Research Council report, commissioned by Congress, also found that underpayment of the visa holders is an industry-wide practice.

### Further abuses

US companies also abuse the related green-card process, which renders a foreign worker immobile for the several years during which the green-card approval is pending. The employer doesn't want engineers leaving for a competitor during an urgent project. The beholden workers can't move around to find the best salary, and this holds wages down. Sankar Mukhopadhyay and David Oxborrow of the University of Nevada have shown that workers attain significantly higher salaries after their green cards finally come through and they gain their freedom.

Because Indian companies only rarely sponsor their foreign workers for green cards, the rest of technology industry arguably abuses the foreign workers even more than the Indian ones do.

Hira projects that if the Senate bill's provision is enacted, the biggest beneficiaries will be companies such as IBM, much of whose work involves the same "programmer rental" business model as that of Indian companies. This would seem to be the ultimate in Capitol Hill cynicism: Squash the little guys to help the ones with deep pockets.