

Newspaper Clips

December 12, 2011

Tribune ND 12-Dec-11

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DMRC wants IITs to start course on Metro techniques

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 11

The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) has now written to the human resources development (HRD) ministry seeking to start new engineering courses at all the premier Indian Institute of Technology (IITs) in the country.

These courses have been proposed, keeping in mind the demand of talented engineers for the upcoming Metro projects all over the country.

DMRC chief E Sreedharan has said that there is a definite need for engineers specially qualified in this modern technology.

The IIT-Delhi already runs a diploma course on Metro technology with full funding from the Delhi Metro. The course was started three years ago and has 25 engineers in one batch who are imparted lessons by officials and engineers from the Delhi Metro before they join the organisation.

The IIT-Delhi already runs a diploma course on Metro technology with full funding from the Delhi Metro

"We started our own course with IIT-Delhi and we are funding the course entirely. Then they are given hands-on training in the Metro technology and are assured with a job," said Sreedharan.

"The post-graduate courses in various disciplines relating to the Metro technology should be started in all IITs and a minimum of 50 engineers should pass out every year, keeping in mind the rising demands in the future," he said.

"We have suggested (to the HRD ministry) that IITs should start courses in the Metro technology. It is not mere civil engineering, but we need professionals in signaling, electrical and air-conditioning engineering," he said while speaking to mediapersons.

He said when the

Metro construction initially began in the late 1990s, the technology was new to Indian engineers and there were not many experts in the field. But over the time, with successful projects like the Delhi Metro, some of the best engineering minds in the field of underground Metro building now belong to India.

"Now we have the resources. In the early days we were depending upon different consultants. We can use that experience to train many more young talented engineers. We have gained lot of experience now. Some of our engineers are among the best in the world. Foreign expertise is still required at times, but such a course will bring forth many more talented engineers in Metro technology," he added.

'IITs should start Metro tech courses'

New Delhi: With Metro rail services coming up across the country, Delhi Metro has shown the need for engineers specially qualified in this technology and has even written to Human Resources Development (HRD) Ministry to launch such courses in the IITs.

E Sreedharan, managing director of Delhi Metro, said the post-graduate courses in various disciplines re-

lating to Metro technology should be started in IITs and that at least 50 engineers should pass out every year to meet the demands in the near future.

"We have suggested (to the HRD Ministry) that IITs should start courses in Metro technology. It is not mere civil engineering, but we need (professionals) in signaling, electrical and air-conditioning engineering," he said. PTI

Business Line ND 12/12/2011 p-15

e-India 2011 to be held from Dec 14 in Gandhinagar

Our Bureau

Ahmedabad, Dec. 11

The seventh edition of e-India, the country's largest conference on information and communication technologies (ICT), will be held in Gandhinagar from December 14 to 16.

To be organised jointly by the Union Government's Department of Science and Technology (DST) and the Gujarat Government, in collaboration with Elets Technomedia Pvt Ltd, besides others, it will be inaugurated by the Chief Minister, Mr Narendra Modi, said Mr Ravi Saxena, Additional Chief Secretary, State Department of Science and Technology, and General Program Chair, at a recent press confer-

► *The event is being co-organised by the Department of Information Technology, the Ministry of Communications and IT, the All-India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and the Centre for Science, Development and Media Studies (CSDMS).*

ence here. The event is being co-organised by the Department of Information Technology, the Ministry of Communications and IT, the All-India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and the Centre for Science, Development and Media Studies (CSDMS).

This is the first time that this is being organised outside New Delhi or Hyderabad, where the e-India was organised four

times and twice, respectively, during the last six years.

Mr Saxena also said the Gujarat Government's new IT policy will be announced next year, in tandem with the Centre's IT policy.

PARTICIPANTS

About 4,000 participants, including bureaucrats, corporate leaders and experts, are expected to participate in the event in which three major the-

matic sessions on e-governance, education and health will have about 50 sub-sessions with 400 speakers. An exhibition showcasing products and services and e-India awards will be the other attractions.

About one million votes have already been polled recommending the awards in various categories.

Mr Saxena said Nasscom had estimated that India's ICT market is expected to grow

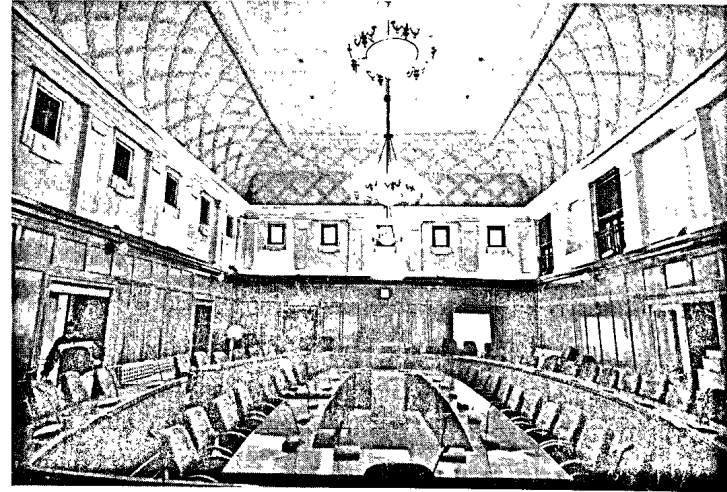
from \$50 billion now to \$400 billion by 2018-19.

With IT hubs such as Bangalore, Mumbai and others reaching a saturation point and stretched with infrastructure, Gujarat offered a better ecosystem for evolution of the next Indian miracle in this space.

Mr Sunil Kakkar, Chairman and Managing Director, SIS Infosystems, which is platinum sponsor of the conference, said the event is being seen as the "mother of all IT events in India". The small and medium industries (SMEs), which contribute to about half of all financial transactions in the country can derive immense benefits from it.

The Hindu ND 12-Dec-11

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A LEGACY LITTLE KNOWN: A view of the Vice-Regal Lodge Estate that currently houses the office of the Delhi University Vice-Chancellor. (At right) The university's Academic Council meeting hall which was the legislative assembly hall during the British rule. PHOTO: SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Delhi University's grand inheritance from British India

The building housing the V-C's office has been the venue of historic events; is set to open to the public soon



A poster depicting the excessive lifestyle of the British Raj. PHOTO: SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Vijetha S.N

NEW DELHI: It was in 1857 that armed British forces marched to Delhi to recapture the city from rebellious sepoys. The storming of the Kashmir Gate fortifications and the palace is well-known, but there was another area, north of the city, that the British troops stormed to rescue their fellow soldiers and their families who had taken refuge inside a building - the Vice-Regal Lodge Estate - that now houses the office of Delhi University's Vice-Chancellor. "Some of the British who were putting up a fight against the Indian troops from this lodge were about to be massacred when they were saved by the timely intervention of the British army from Punjab. After a pitched battle,

the British got the upper hand but the roads leading out of this office till Kingsway Camp were strewn with bodies," says Delhi University Vice-Chancellor Dinesh Singh, seated at his office which was once the private quarters of the then resident Viceroy.

Soon after, the seat of power was transferred from Calcutta to Delhi in British India and the estate became the residence of the Viceroy until 1933 when it was passed over to Delhi University.

However, the lodge's tryst with freedom struggle did not end there. "Bhagat Singh and two of his comrades were housed in the dungeons here," he adds. The dungeon has been freshly painted and cleaned but still has that eerie atmosphere of a prison. There is a gaping hole in the

ceiling which was formerly used to throw food down to the prisoners, and toilets with enough fortifications that ruled out any possibility of escape.

Restored to glory

The lodge, like many buildings from the colonial era, had fallen into disrepair, but has now been painstakingly restored to its former glory albeit with a few missing chandeliers which have been replaced by modern contraptions. The majestic ball-room which once saw several parties during Lord Irwin's reign now serves as the convocation hall. The Legislative Assembly used to meet in the room which now sees meetings from the university's Academic Council. There are massive chandeliers that

hang from the high ceilings of this huge room, with public viewing galleries running the entire breadth of the hall.

The meeting room of the university's Executive Council, which once served as the meeting place of British India's Executive Council, is surprisingly not as grand and almost austere. "There were very few members of Cabinet rank in those days," is Prof. Dinesh Singh's explanation.

The Vice-Chancellor adds that he has started giving personal tours to city residents on Sundays to acquaint them with the Lodge's history. Interesting tidbits of information not recorded elsewhere accompany the personalised tour.

"In the Registrar's office called room No. 13, Lord Mountbatten proposed to his

wife Edwina who was the niece of the then Viceroy Lord Reading. She then told her aunt who remarked, "That's all very well, but we would have preferred you to get engaged to someone with a more promising career". Mountbatten was just a naval officer then," he says.

"Mahatma Gandhi was a regular visitor here and so was Jawaharlal Nehru," he adds, showing photographs carefully preserved in the Lodge's archives. There are photographs of almost everyone recorded in Indian history from the 20th Century onwards.

Convocation photographs dating from the 1930s onwards, portraits of scholars and writers like Rabindranath Tagore and university reports from decades make

up the rest of the archives.

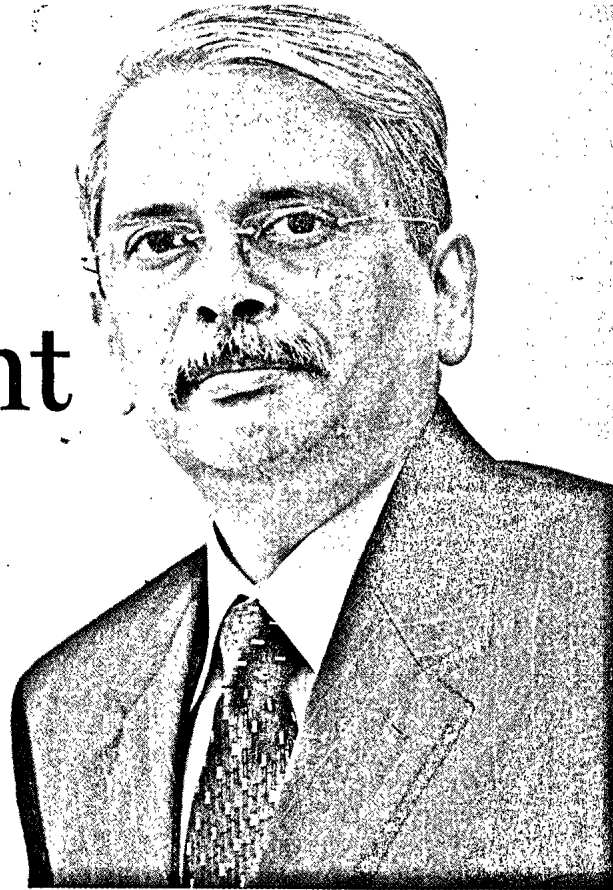
The Lodge also houses a museum with paintings and posters that portray the excessive lifestyle of the British Raj.

The gardens surrounding the estate run into several acres and on most days students can be seen loitering around or sitting on the lawns. There are guards posted in front of the Lodge at all times.

The Lodge, centred in the North Campus of Delhi University, is inaccessible to the public on most days, but all that is set to change. "We will be taking in students who will work as interns for the university administration and will conduct tours for Delhi citizens on weekends," says Prof. Dinesh Singh.

KRIS

on a different plane



DeCODE
Darlington
Jose Hector



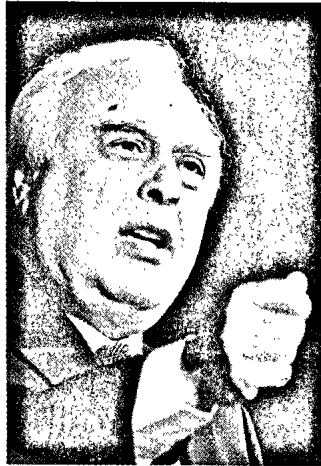
MEETING Kris Gopalakrishnan is always fun. Soft spoken, gentle and unassuming, right? Wrong. There are some visible changes now, and it does not take too long to figure the transformation. This time he is much less reserved and willing to comment on issues even outside software—assertive and willing to call a spade, a spade. Some interesting remarks rolled out on the FDI-in-retail logjam and Kapil Sibal's censorship moves.

"There is nothing to fear," he says, referring to the Centre's indecision and delaying tactics on FDI in retail. "Indian corporates across sectors—telecom, IT and even automobiles—know that they can compete and win against MNCs. Indian businessmen are very competitive and will devise ways to take them on. There is no need to be worried about foreign competition."

Kris would obviously know. He and his teammates take on IBM and Oracle's star studded sales operations day in and day out. But UP polls and election politics are something that Kris, obviously, does not worry about. UPA has no such luxuries and FDI in retail is in abeyance.

He also had something to say about Sibal. "We have to be careful about going the censorship route. I do understand that one has to be watchful about any comments that would religious sentiments etc. But one cannot stop people from expressing their thoughts."

Usually Kris does not spend too much on matters outside software, but after having assumed the role of co-chairman at Infosys, he has stepped up a gear. "Tell me an industry which provides jobs globally? It is the Indian IT sector. We are providing jobs everywhere. We want to hire overseas talent locally. That's something we



Kapil Sibal, Minister for Communications & IT

always emphasise."

Kris says the year 2011 was not a roller-coaster ride. "The industry has been growing at 16-18% and as Nasscom president Som Mittal rightly said that's good going. There is no problem on the growth rate front." He says the government could do something to simplify the existing tax structure. "The budget next year could help on that count. The current system is tough for start-ups and emerging players."

Here's looking forward to the next meeting with him.

Kapil under a social cloud

KAPIL SIBAL does not like social media, much unlike Shashi Tharoor who loved it too much and paid the price. Too much of provocative content out there, Kapil feels. Shashi on the other hand used to love it for the very same reason.

Online censorship is a funny track to take.



Mark Zuckerberg, CEO, Facebook

Such a move will only do more harm than good. The medium's lifeline is fearless self-expression. Without that freedom social media amounts to nothing. Stockbroker Rakesh Jhunjhunwala tweeted, "Don't think Sibal even understands the internet. This happens when you make a lawyer an IT minister. Like hiring Mayawati for an item song."

Saving private Mark

FACEBOOK CEO Mark Zuckerberg's private photos leaked on his own social media platform but it has not brought the roof down. No exciting stuff there. All one could see was Mark cooking (making some sushi) and spending time with his puppy.

The company has blamed a software error in a feature that lets users report inappropriate content. The error was fixed before too long. It has not been announced how many users were impacted due to the error.

ASIAN AGE ND 12/12/2011

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CAMPUS CHEER: IITians OFFERED BETTER SALARY

K.A. DODHIYA
MUMBAI, DEC. 11

The improving economic situation in the country has brought a smile to the face of IITians during the ongoing campus placement process, as the salary packages offered to them are much better than what their peers got in previous campus placement drives.

According to placement cell officials, while there is an apparent increase in average salary packages, students getting placed this year will also benefit from additional incentives and perks that the recruiters plan to disclose to the students once they join.

"The placement scenario this year has seen a positive trend over last year, as we have managed to get more than 50 per cent of the students placed in the first phase of the process itself. The remaining students will also get placed by the end of the process," said **Snehanshu Mallik**, placement manager at IIT-Bombay.

Mr Mallik said that while in 2010 the average salary package was ₹7.5 lakh, the trend this year indicates that the average could be around ₹8 lakh to ₹9 lakh. Apart from the packages, many recruiters have disclosed that they would be giving additional benefits to the students once they join. As per 2010 placement report, the institute had managed to place 81 per cent of the students at the end of both phases of placement. However, this year the trend indicates that nearly 87 to 90 per cent of the students will be placed.

"Some students are dissatisfied because the placements are not to their liking. In most cases, peer pressure where in comparisons are drawn among the packages causes students to be disgruntled," said Mr Mallik.

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DRDO making robot soldier:

Going futuristic with unmanned fighting systems, the Defence Research and Development Organisation on Sunday said it is developing robots to function as soldiers. "We are in the process of developing robots that can work like soldiers. They are working on the data and artificial intelligence that is needed in the process," Vijay Kumar Saraswat, DG of DRDO and scientific adviser to defence minister, said. Earlier, Saraswat inaugurated a new technology centre for CVRDE, the lab which is making main battle tank Arjun. He also stressed for the need to produce indigenous aircraft, adding that organizations like BEML should step up. ¶¶

ANOTHER EARTH?

Home away from home

The existence of the most Earthlike planet yet has just been confirmed

ONE of the more memorable slogans to come out of the climate-change talks in Durban over the past few days is: "there is no planet B". But what if there were? Over the past couple of decades astronomers have logged thousands of so-called "exoplanets"—worlds which orbit stars other than the sun. On December 5th the scientists in charge of Kepler, a space telescope designed to look for such planets, confirmed their instrument's discovery of its first Earthlike world. It is dubbed, rather unromantically, Kepler 22b.

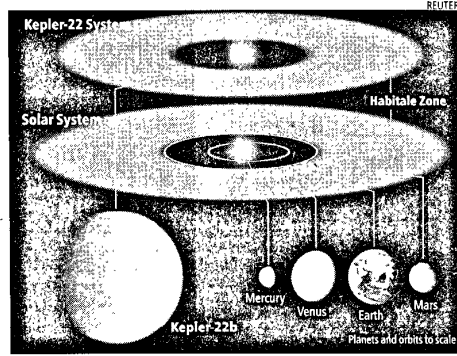
The existence of this planet, which circles a star 600 light-years away, in the constellation of Lyra, had previously been suspected. Kepler, which belongs to NASA, America's space agency, works by observing dips in a star's brightness as a planet passes in

front of it. It flags likely looking reductions as "candidate planets", of which Kepler 22b was one. But three passes are needed to confirm a planet's existence, and Kepler 22b has now passed this test. Crucially, it orbits well within its star's "Goldilocks zone": neither too close nor too far away for liquid water (and therefore, perhaps, life) to exist on its surface.

It joins two other Earthlike planets—Gliese 581d and HD 85512 b—discovered by another instrument within the past few years. In truth, the term "Earthlike" is a stretch. Kepler 22b has a radius 2.4 times that of Earth, and if it is made from roughly the same stuff its surface gravity will also be about 2.4 times as strong. But NASA's astronomers remain unsure whether it is predominantly gaseous, liquid or solid.

Nevertheless, Kepler 22b is the most promising exoplanet yet found. Unlike the others, which skirt the edges of their stars' Goldilocks zones, Kepler 22b orbits comfortably within its own. NASA's researchers reckon its surface temperature is about 22°C, compared with 15°C (at least for now) on Earth. Its parent star is similar to the sun, again unlike those of the other two candidates, both of which orbit cooler, dimmer stars. Indeed Gliese 581d's parent is a red dwarf—the tiniest stellar species. That means its Goldilocks zone is so close to it that the planet may be tidally locked, as the moon is to the Earth. If that were the case, one side of Gliese 581d would be permanently lit (and heated) while the other experienced unending darkness.

These three potentially habitable



exoplanets may soon be joined by many more. In the two and a half years since its launch, Kepler has spotted 2,326 candidate planets. About 650 others have been discovered by other instruments. That plethora allows astronomers to start drawing conclusions about how common various sorts of planets are. Of Kepler's

haul, 9% seem to be of a similar size to Earth (though not all are in the Goldilocks zone of their star); a further 29% are Super Earths—planets substantially larger than Earth that are nevertheless rocky. Forty-eight of Kepler's unconfirmed candidates look as if they orbit within their stars' habitable zones; of those, ten seem to

be Earth-sized.

The ultimate goal, of course, is to let astronomers make a plausible estimate of the total number of planets in the galaxy, of the number that could conceivably support life, and of the fraction of those that could (at least in theory) sustain human colonists. If only a few of Kepler's possible Earthlike planets turn out to be real, that third number is likely to be in the millions.

Such knowledge will mark an historic transition, says Chris Lintott, an astronomer at Oxford University who is giving the Kepler team a hand with the data analysis, since the uncertainties around the question of whether life exists elsewhere will cease to be astronomical (how many suitable planets are there?) and become purely biological (how easy is it for life to get going, and how easy is it for it to become intelligent?). Based on the preliminary data, it looks as if there are numerous suitable planets. The science of exobiology may soon cease to be an oxymoron.

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Business Standard, ND 12/12/2011 P-12

आईआईएम कलकत्ता ने बालकृष्णन समिति की सिफारिशों में किया फेरबदल

स्वाति गर्ग

भारतीय प्रबंध संस्थान कलकत्ता (आईआईएम-सी) के शिक्षकगण (फैकल्टी) शोध, परामर्श, अध्यापन और प्रशासनिक कार्यों के बीच अपने समय को बांटने की तीन वर्षीय योजना संस्थान को सौंपेगी। आईआईएम के फैकल्टी के लिए कक्षा में 160 घंटे पढ़ाना जरूरी करने की अजित बालकृष्णन समिति की विवादास्पद सिफारिशों के बाद विरोध-प्रदर्शन हो रहे हैं।

आईआईएम-सी के बोर्ड ऑफ गवर्नर्स के चेयरमैन अजित बालकृष्णन ने कहा कि 'हमारा मानना है कि प्रत्येक फैकल्टी सदस्य को सभी चारों क्षेत्रों में रूचि नहीं हो सकती। इसलिए यह उचित है कि वे अपने समय को सही तरीके से

बाँटें और तीन वर्षीय लक्षित योजना सौंपें, जिसके अंत में उनकी उपलब्धियों का आकलन किया जाएगा।' बालकृष्णन समिति की सिफारिशों के विरोध में अप्रैल में आईआईएम के फैकल्टी सदस्यों ने संस्थान की वेबसाइट पर एक पेपर अपलोड किया था, जिसमें फैकल्टी आकलन प्रक्रिया में सुधार के उपायों को लागू करने के मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय (एमएचआरडी) के प्रयासों को बिंदु दर बिंदु गलत करार दिया गया।

आईआईएम-सी के एक फैकल्टी सदस्य ने कहा कि वर्तमान व्यवस्था स्वीकार करने योग्य है, क्योंकि यह फैकल्टी को अपने रुचि के क्षेत्र में कौशल दिखाने का मौका देती है। यह सुनिश्चित करेगा कि ज्यादा परामर्श कार्य होने की स्थिति में भी कक्षा अध्यापन से कोई समझौता

नहीं किया जाएगा। बालकृष्णन समिति के मुताबिक फैकल्टी सदस्यों को पूरे वर्ष के दौरान करीब 160 घंटे अध्यापन करना होगा, जबकि वर्तमान में यह करीब 90 घंटे है। ज्यादातर आईआईएम में यही स्थिति है। ज्यादा अध्यापन और शोध वाले संस्थानों के स्वस्थ विकास के लिए यह सिफारिश की गई है। हालांकि इससे आईआईएम का राजस्व प्रभावित होगा।

वर्तमान में आईआईएम द्वारा सृजित ज्यादातर पैसा प्रबंधन विकास कार्यक्रम (एमडीपी) और एक्जीक्यूटिव एजुकेशन प्रोग्राम से आता है। अगर उनका यह भरोसा खंड हो जाएगा तो वे या तो घाटे में होंगे या मामूली मार्जिन आएगा। प्रत्येक आईआईएम की एक योजना होती है, जिसके अनुसार एमडीपी के जरिए कमाए गए पैसे को इसे आयोजित करने वाले फैकल्टी सदस्यों और

संस्थान के बीच बांटा जाता है। आईआईएम के 100 फैकल्टी में से केवल 50-60 फीसदी ही एमडीपी करवाने के काबिल होते हैं। उनमें से कुछ फैकल्टी सदस्य हर साल इससे 60 लाख रुपये तक कमाने में कामयाब रहते हैं। इसलिए फैकल्टी सदस्यों का एमडीपी चलाने में भारी हित जुड़ा हुआ है। ज्यादा अध्यापन और ज्यादा शोध का मतलब होगा कि कम एमडीपी और जिसके कारण न केवल प्रोफेसरों बल्कि आईआईएम की आमदनी भी कम हो जाएगी।

इसी तरह आर सी भार्गव समिति ने आईआईएम में कोष सृजित करने का सुझाव दिया था। इस कोष को आय का उपयोग आईआईएम को वित्तीय रूप से व्यवहार्य बनाने और उन प्रोफेसरों को अतिरिक्त पैसा देने में किया जा सकेगा, जो अध्यापन, शोध और

एमडीपी के आयोजन में अच्छा कार्य करते हैं। सभी पुराने आईआईएम में फैकल्टी ने प्रस्तावित नियमों पर विरोध जताया था। उनका कहना था कि ये नियम अन्यायपूर्ण हैं और इनमें फैकल्टी के पक्ष पर विचार नहीं किया गया।

उदाहरण के लिए आईआईएम लखनऊ ने 300-अंक प्रणाली स्थापित की है, जिसे इसके निदेशक देवी सिंह ने मैनेजमेंट डेवलपमेंट इंस्टीट्यूट (एमडीआई) पुडुचांव के अपने कार्यकाल के दौरान लागू किया था। 300-अंक प्रणाली के तहत फैकल्टी सदस्यों को शोध, प्रशासनिक कार्य और अध्यापन के लिए अंक दिए जाते हैं। इन अंकों के 300 अंकों का आंकड़ा पार करने पर बोनस अंक दिए जाते हैं। यह व्यवस्था अपने आप में फैकल्टी को जवाबदेही तय करने को एक प्रणाली है, जहाँ उनकी प्रगति

का आकलन हर साल किया जाता है। यह समझा हर तीन साल के बाद की जाती है।

नाम न छापने की शर्त पर एक नए आईआईएम के निदेशक ने बताया कि 'आईआईएम लखनऊ में लागू की गई 300 अंक प्रणाली फैकल्टी की जवाबदेही सुनिश्चित करने की अच्छी व्यवस्था है। यह बाध्यकारी न होने के बावजूद मूल्यांकन के मकसद को पूरा करती है।' आईआईएम अहमदाबाद और बेंगलूर में फैकल्टी सदस्यों के साथ इस बारे में बातचीत चल रही है। हालांकि आईआईएम बेंगलूर 100 घंटे व्युत्पन्न अध्यापन जरूरी होने के अपने नियम पर कायम रहेगा। आईआईएम बेंगलूर के निदेशक पंकज चंद्रा ने कहा कि 'मुझे पक्का पता नहीं है कि कलकत्ता ने क्या किया है। हम 100 घंटे जरूरी अध्यापन की शर्त को जारी रखेंगे।