

Newspaper Clips
December 13, 2014

Times Of India ND 13/12/2014 P-8

Cars idle for 24% of time

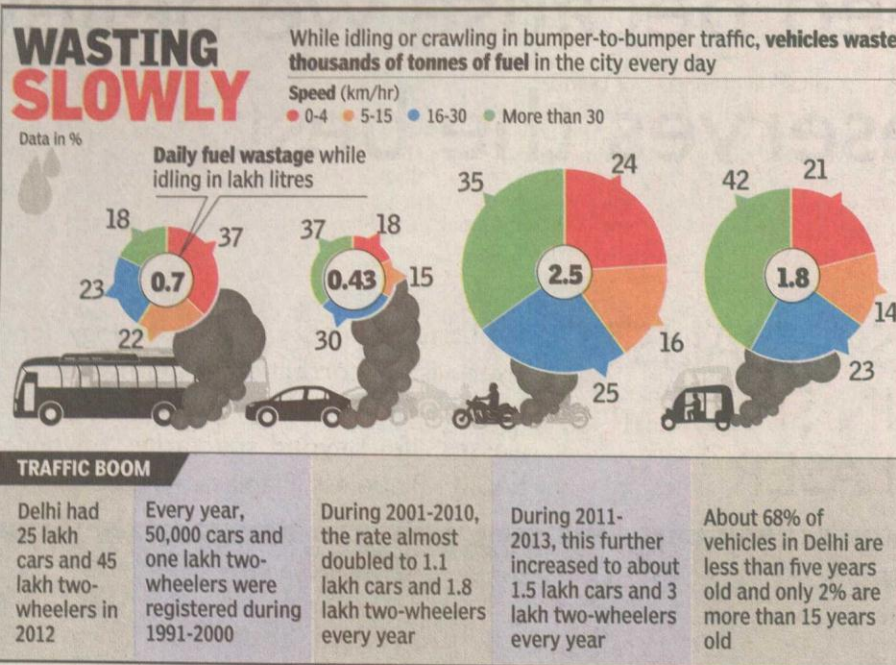
Negligible Speed Causes Not Just Snarls But Also Massive Pollution: IIT-D Study

Jayashree.Nandi
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: An IIT-Delhi study has revealed that vehicles in the capital don't run but crawl for a considerable part of their travel time.

The research jointly carried out by Transportation Research and Injury Prevention Program at IIT and Des-

POLLUTION WATCH		
AIR QUALITY INDEX PM2.5		
Delhi	259	Poor
Tomorrow	285	Poor
Pune	174	Moderate
Tomorrow	169	Moderate
Source: SAFAR@MoES-IITM-IMD Based on 10 Station Data Per City and Forecast model		
Hyderabad	162	Unhealthy
Chennai	85	Moderate
Kolkata	218	V Unhealthy
Mumbai	174	Unhealthy
Source: US Embassy website Based on 1 Station Data Per City at 7pm US Embassy uses a different AQI rating than India Figures in micrograms/cubic metre		



centralized system is not available for other transport modes, so the team collected data using a "floating car method". A mix of 10 professional car drivers, 20 professional three-wheeler drivers and three researchers using two-wheelers drove around the city with a GPS device on the dashboard between 6am and midnight. The total distance covered during the exercise was 2160 km for cars, 1,210 km for three-wheelers and 650 km for two-wheelers. Of the total travel time of vehicles, idling time for cars was found to be 24%, three-wheelers 18%, buses 37% and for two-wheelers it was 20%. The team defines idling to be the time spent by the vehicle running at less than 4 kmph speed.

When asked how to deal with such congestion, Sarath Guttikunda of Division of Atmospheric Sciences at Desert Research Institute and one of authors of the study, said: "It can be dealt with by not having so many cars or motorcycles on the road. We hope, one day there will be lesser number of cars and motorcycles on the roads and more people. If you ask me is that possible? Yes, if and only if, the public transportation system is multiplied. For example, by introducing at least 4 times the current number of the buses and promote safer walking and cycling conditions in the city."

speed certainly defeats the purpose of using a motorized mode of transport, it also pollutes the city's air immensely.

If one considers more than a million cars running at similar speed, they may be wasting about 2.5 lakh litres of fuel every day while idling at traffic snarls. The emissions from such long idling time are obviously massive.

The research published recently in the Elsevier journal, Travel Behavior and Society, used pollution under control (PUC) data maintained by the transport de-

partment, surveys of vehicle owners at fuel stations and GPS logs to assess a number of trends in commuting behavior in Delhi. It found that

TOI AGAINST POLLUTION

the average age of two-wheelers and cars is about 4.4 and 4.7 years. About 68% of the vehicles are less than five years old and only 2% are more than 15 years old. Interestingly, 17% of trucks and 15% of

tempos were in the 10-15 year bracket which means they may soon add to more than 15-year-old vehicle group. About 14.2% of the petrol or CNG vehicles were also found to be more than 10 years old. This analysis was done using a database of for 700,000 vehicles maintained by 300 PUC centres in 2010.

For buses, the research team used GPS logs for two days (November 1-2, 2012) from 941 state buses covering most of Delhi's road network. The GPS data for buses is archived by DIMTS. A similar

ert Research Institute, Reno, has used GPS logs of buses as well as speed and fuel consumption readings of two-wheelers, three wheelers and cars to arrive at some shocking findings. Cars were found to be running at less than 4 kmph for 24% of the travel time. While travelling at this

IITians reject big pay packets for 'peace of mind'

AMITA VERMA
LUCKNOW, DEC. 12

The young IITians in Uttar Pradesh are shunning lucrative salary packages and are opting for "peace of mind" instead. Their decisions are expectedly leaving their parents and teachers perplexed.

Four students of IIT Kanpur, including a girl student, this week spurned a ₹1 crore per annum salary package offered to them by foreign companies. This is the

first time in the history of the institution that students have rejected such high salary offers.

"Higher salary means greater tension in the job. We are starting our careers and have seen how some of our seniors have crumbled under such pressures. We want to work on our own terms and do not wish to burn ourselves out. Money is important but not at the cost of our lives," said one of the four students who have turned down the offer.

Another student in this

group, who requested anonymity, said that he would want to continue higher studies and start his own consultancy firm instead of working for someone else.

"I want job satisfaction more than the money. I am not running after the luxuries in life but want a peaceful existence which is not possible in highly paid jobs like these," he explained.

In IIT in Banaras Hindu University too, students have rejected high salary offers made to them dur-

ing campus placements and have opted for lower salaries that suited their requirements.

"I stay with my aged parents and cannot afford to leave them alone and shift to a foreign location. It is more important for me to look after my family than to get jam with bread and butter," said student who gave up an offer from a multinational company and chose an Indian online trading firm instead. Rajiv Sangal, director, IIT BHU, said that he was happy to see

this emerging trend where students are no longer chasing big packages but are weighing other aspects too.

"This proves that the young generations are firmly rooted and not as materialistic as it is made out to be. They young technocrats have their priorities firmly in place and know what they want. They want to pursue their academic goals and not get caught in the material web which is a very healthy sign for the future," he said.

Dainik Bhasker ND 13/12/2014 P-4

आईआईटी, खड़गपुर : 16 जनवरी से ग्लोबल आंत्रप्रेन्योरशिप समिट



छठा ग्लोबल आंत्रप्रेन्योरशिप समिट 16 से 18 जनवरी तक आईआईटी, खड़गपुर में आयोजित होगा। शिक्षाविद् और आंत्रप्रेन्योर्स के अलावा

कॉरपोरेट हस्तियां इसमें शामिल होंगे। समिट में पूरी दुनिया में आंत्रप्रेन्योरशिप को बढ़ावा देने के लिए जरूरी संसाधन जुटाने और इसमें यूनिवर्सिटीज की भूमिका पर चर्चा होगी।

HRD panel backs common entrance test for Central universities

RUHI TEWARI

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 12

THERE could soon be a common admission process for all Central Universities across the country. A working group set up by the Human Resource Development Ministry has recommended such a process and suggested necessary guidelines for it.

The Smriti Irani-led ministry had set up a working group of Vice-Chancellors of seven Central Universities to frame guidelines for common admissions and curriculum, student and faculty mobility and a national system of credit transfer. The working group, set up during a retreat of V-Cs in Chandigarh in September, submitted its report last week.

According to ministry sources, the group recommended a common entrance test each for undergraduate, post-graduate and PhD levels for all Central Universities, on the lines of the Common Admission Test (CAT) for post-graduate management programmes.

The group suggested a combination of the common entrance test results and interviews, and said each uni-

versity should have the freedom to decide the weightage of each, as well as that of the Class XII Board exam marks.

Sources said the group also said it should be an online test conducted once every year. The test would include one paper on general aptitude and one on the respective course the student wishes to opt for.

The Vice-Chancellors were from Central Universities of Kerala, Gujarat and Jharkhand, Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Pondicherry University, Delhi University and Tripura University.

The ministry is also pushing for a "single Act for Central Universities" and a draft bill to that effect was circulated to all Central Universities inviting their suggestions. The draft bill is based on recommendations of the A M Pathan committee and has been criticised for compromising the autonomy of these universities.

There are currently 40 central universities under the Ministry, of which 16 were created in 2009 under one Act, while the rest are governed by separate Acts of Parliament.

नासा की जलवायु परिवर्तन पर ऐप्स पर पुरस्कार की पेशकश

वाशिंगटन/लीमा। अमेरिकी अंतरिक्ष एजेंसी नासा ने उन नागरिक वैज्ञानिकों के लिए पुरस्कारों के तौर पर 35,000 डॉलर की पेशकश की है जो जलवायु परिवर्तन से निपटने में अमेरिका के सामने मौजूद चुनौतियों का निवारण करने के लिए जलवायु डाटा के सही इस्तेमाल को लेकर विचार सुझाएंगे। 'नासा टूर्नामेंट लैब' और 'हार्वर्ड विश्वविद्यालय' की ओर से 'क्लाईमेट रेसिलिएंस डाटा चैलेंज' की शुरुआत की जा रही है। यह प्रतियोगिता आगामी 15 दिसम्बर से मार्च, 2015 तक चलेगी।

नासा ने एक बयान में कहा, '35,000 डॉलर से अधिक की राशि उन ऐप्स को तैयार करने वाले लोगों के लिए है जिनके जरिए संघीय जलवायु ब्योरे का इस्तेमाल कर स्थानीय स्तर पर लोगों को जलवायु परिवर्तन के प्रभाव को लेकर तैयार रहने और अपने पर्यावरण के संरक्षण में मदद मिलेगी।' इस अंतरिक्ष



■ 35,000 डॉलर से अधिक की राशि उन ऐप्स को तैयार करने वाले लोगों के लिए है जिनके जरिए संघीय जलवायु ब्योरे का इस्तेमाल कर स्थानीय स्तर पर लोगों को जलवायु परिवर्तन के प्रभाव को लेकर तैयार रहने और अपने पर्यावरण के संरक्षण में मदद मिलेगी

एजेंसी का कहना है कि सरकार और शैक्षणिक क्षेत्र के 300 से अधिक विशेषज्ञों द्वारा तैयार राष्ट्रीय जलवायु आकलन के मुताबिक जलवायु परिवर्तन के परिणाम स्वरूप अमेरिका के साथ कई मौजूदा और भविष्य की चुनौतियां हैं। (भाषा)

IIT-Delhi graduates sell their firm Wishpicker to Snapdeal

In its first acquisition after USD 627-million Softbank fund infusion, e-commerce major Snapdeal has acquired Wishpicker, an online gift retailer founded by IIT-Delhi graduates.

The acquisition amount for Wishpicker, which was founded last year itself by IITians Apurv Bansal and Prateek Rathore, was not disclosed. "We are investing in strengthening our technology platform and Wishpicker.com is an excellent platform with top-tier entrepreneurial, engineering talent and fits in perfectly with our vision," Snapdeal Co-Founder Rohit Bansal said today. Wishpicker claims to provide "gift ideas from across the internet" through intelligent gift recommendation engine. It uses parameters like relationship with the recipient, age and personality for suggesting gifts.

Bansal said as consumer buying trends are evolving, intelligent recommendations will be one of the key drivers for business volume for sellers.

This is the company's first acquisition after Japanese telecom and Internet giant SoftBank invested USD 627 million in the homegrown online marketplace in October.

Overall, this is Snapdeal's fifth acquisition since inception. Snapdeal had earlier acquired Bangalore-based group buying site Grabbon.com (June 2010), esportsbuy.com (April 2012), Shopo.in (May 2013) and Doozton (April 2014).

"This is an important acquisition for us in terms of adding new technology capabilities and helping sellers connect with buyers in newer ways," Bansal said.

With over 30 million members and more than 50,000 sellers, Snapdeal.com delivers products to 5,000 cities and towns in India.

Snapdeal has received funding from several global marquee investors like Softbank, BlackRock, Temasek, eBay, Premji Invest, Intel Capital, Bessemer Venture Partners, Ratan Tata, Nexus Venture Partners and Kalaari Capital among others.

Snapdeal had said it would use the investments from Softbank to expand its chain of fulfilment centres and make acquisitions in the coming few months, specifically in the area of mobile technology.

Co-founder Kunal Bahl had told PTI: "Snapdeal is looking at acquisition opportunities across sizes, ranging from less than USD 1 million to USD 100 million.

IIM A in Tie with Corporate Houses to carry out Research Activities

<http://www.jagranjosh.com/articles/iim-a-in-tie-with-corporate-houses-to-carry-out-research-activities-1418384234-1>

To carry out research in the field of Financial markets, infrastructure and entrepreneurship, Indian Institute of Management in Ahmedabad (IIM-A) has tied up with corporate houses for the last six months and has raised Rs. 20 crore till date. It is the second phase of fundraising by the premiere business institution to help the research process grow further.

Credit rating agency CRISIL and ATS Infra has provided funds for researches in financial markets and infrastructure respectively. SAP has also came in terms with IIM A and has showed interest in the IIM-A's long

term goals. It has showed desire to foster the spirit of entrepreneurship with the business school in future. The three corporate bodies have roped in Rs. 1.50 crore for their term chairs in research for five years.

Professor Ashish Nanda, director of IIM-A said that they want to carry out high-quality research and the corporates have contributed significant money as well as access to data for research purpose. The contribution by these companies will help the institute to strengthen its impact and maintain quality.

The collaborations with the corporate houses would help the faculties to carry out research activities smoothly, so that they can get resources and collect data easily by hiring research assistants and managers.

Important Points

- IIM-A to tie up with corporate houses to conduct research
- This will help in fundraising to move ahead with research process
- Many corporate houses have shown concern and interest

Madhu Kishwar's attack on Smriti Irani disgraceful

<http://www.niticentral.com/2014/12/11/madhu-kishwars-attack-smriti-irani-disgraceful-256158.html>

Women's rights activist Madhu Kishwar has intensified her personal attacks on HRD Minister Smriti Irani. Kishwar, who has attacked the HRD Minister several times earlier for what she believes to be 'incompetence' to hold the coveted post, said in an interview to [Scroll.in](#):

“Modi's appointment of Irani came as a horrible shock to me. Here is someone who is not just poorly educated and mal-educated – she is just Class 12th pass – but she even lied in her affidavit about her qualifications. Nor does she have the learning of a lived experience.”

It is the prerogative of the Prime Minister as to who he chooses to be his Cabinet Ministers. As far as Narendra Modi's Cabinet goes, Ministers have been chosen by the Prime Minister in his judgement based on political leadership, not on the basis of their educational qualifications. Educational qualification can't be the sole criterion to be a Union Minister. In an era where politics means delivery, a Minister is judged by what he/ she delivers. After all, during the previous UPA dispensation, we had Manmohan Singh as the Prime Minister who was a renowned economist but an abysmal failure as a Political Leader. Rahul Gandhi with a MPhil from Cambridge has been a disaster as a political leader.

Madhu Kishwar's second argument that Smriti Irani lied about her qualification is disingenuous. On both the Rajya Sabha website and in the affidavit filed before the Election Commission during the last Lok Sabha election, Smriti Irani had clearly stated that she had enrolled in the graduation course in Delhi University but could not complete it.

Madhu Kishwar's contention that Smriti Irani does not have the learning of a lived experience is beneath contempt and not worthy of a rebuttal.

When one looks at the venom Madhu Kishwar expresses in her Interview, one wonders of the bitterness underlying it:

“Smriti Irani just gives speeches that are fed to her.”

“Look at the trajectory of this woman – at 18, she leaves home for the glamour industry, to become a fashion model, a beauty queen, then gets into saas-bahu serials. She could not even qualify to head the National School of Drama.”

Madhu Kishwar’s comments on Smriti are not just disgraceful, but are sans all objectivity.

It is ironic that Madhu Kishwar has shrunk herself to a caricature of the very same Media that she took on with her Modinama last year. It would not be an exaggeration to say that Madhu Kishwar -through these remarks- is attempting to do to Smriti Irani exactly what the media did to Narendra Modi that she was so critical of in her Modinama.

By equating the Prime Minister with Lalu Yadav and making references loaded with innuendo to Rabri Devi, Madhu Kishwar has crossed a line of public and political decency. By choosing to deliver her venom through Scroll.in, a website well known for its Left-Lib ideological leanings, Madhu Kishwar it seems has permanently burned her bridges with the Centre Right movement.

For someone who identified herself long with so called Center Right classical liberal causes, this sell-out to the Left-Libs over a personal peeve makes us wonder of her credibility as a Public Intellectual.

Smriti Irani picks three professors with saffron tinge for National Research Professorship scheme

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/smriti-irani-picks-three-professors-with-saffron-tinge-for-national-research-professorship-scheme/1/406436.html>

One of the most prestigious schemes of government to recognise and honour distinguished academics and scholars- the National Research Professorship scheme- is also now beginning to get a saffron twist.

The BJP led government is considering three new candidates to be designated as National Research Professors- all three seen as BJP and RSS sympathisers. Among these are eminent Kannada author Prof S L Bhyrappa whose novels paint Tipu Sultan as a religious fanatic, Dr Ashok Gajanan Modak - an Economics lecturer and a BJP Member of Legislative Council in Maharashtra for 12 years and Surya Kant Bali- a journalist and known RSS sympathiser whose book was recently released by RSS Joint General Secretary Dr Krishna Gopal in the presence of Union Human Resource Development minister Smriti Irani.

Incidentally both Bhyrappa and Bali were among the signatories who issued a counter appeal in favour of Modi as the PM candidate after a number of eminent academics -seen by many as Left leaning-- had appealed with people not to vote for the BJP in the 2014 Lok Sabha elections.

National Research Professors are held in great esteem and are usually highly acclaimed academics. Among these have been renowned physicist Prof Yash Pal, eminent economist Prof Jagdish Bhagwati, and noted scientist Prof CNR Rao among others. There are 12 positions offered under the NRP scheme- currently four are vacant. While these candidates are likely to be appointed to three of the positions, another has fallen vacant recently with the demise of historian Tapan Raychaudhuri last month.

A National research Professor draws a tax free honorarium of near Rs.one lakh per month and is entitled to a life time pension after completion of his five year tenure. Initiated in 1949 by the Government of India, the scheme honours distinguished academics who have attained the age of 65 years, have made outstanding contribution in their respective fields and continue to engage in productive research.

The proposal to appoint the three as National research Professors has been sent by the Irani led ministry to the Home Ministry. A committee comprising the Home Minister, Finance Minister and the Prime Minister takes a final call on the appointments of National Research Professors.

Among the shortlist are:- Santeshivara Lingannaiah Bhyrappa was a Lecturer of Philosophy at Sri Kadasiddheshwar College, Hubli and later at Sardar Patel University in Gujarat and is known for his popular novels which include Vamshavruksha, Tabbaliyu Neenaade Magane, Parva, and Saartha-- some of these are based on epics like Mahabharatha. He is the recipient of Kannada Sahitya Academy Award in 1966 and the Kendra Sahitya Academy awards in 1975 besides the 20th Saraswati Samman in literature for 2010 for his epic novel Mandra. Bhyrappa has also courted many a controversy. From sparring with Girish Karnad over the religious tolerance of Mysore ruler Tipu Sultan, Bhyrappa entered into quite a few debates with eminent Kannada writer UR Ananthamurthy who accused him of being a Hindu fundamentalist.

Dr Ashok Gajanan Modak who comes with a Doctorate (Ph.D.) from the Jawaharlal Nehru University also served as a Member of the Legislative Council (MLC) of the state of Maharashtra for a good 12 years from 1994 on until 2006. Since then he has been with the University of Mumbai the as an Adjunct Professor in the Centre for Central Eurasian Studies. He has written extensively on Swami Vivekananda, Gopal Krishna Gokhale, Dr Ram Manohar Lohia, the Left rule in West Bengal and the economic history of the Soviet Union.

The third likely National Research Professor of India will be Suryakant Bali-he recently recent released a book titled - "Mahabharat ka Dharmasankat'-Bali was a former Editor at a Hindi daily.