

Newspaper Clips

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Consulting Firms Vie for Talent in IITs

Consulting Firms Make Beeline at the IITs

IIT Kharagpur sees over 100% rise in the number of offers from consulting firms over last year

For IIT Bombay, the increase in offers has been over 50% from tier 1 consulting firms over last year

Number of engineers hired from IIT campuses has doubled for both BCG and Ernst & Young while for Bain it is up by 40%

Experts say that this is nothing less than war for "early" talent resulting from government's push on the projects like e-governance, digitalisation, smart cities, etc



Prachi Verma Dadhwal & Sreeratha D Basu

New Delhi | Mumbai: Top consulting firms such as Bain, BCG and Ernst & Young are hiring fresh engineer graduates like never before, and most of these have almost doubled the number of offers they made in this campus placement season in the country's top institutes.

Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur has reported more than 100% rise in the number of offers for engineers from consulting firms compared to last year, while at IIT Bombay, the numbers are up 50% for tier 1 consulting companies. At IIT Delhi, Roorkee and Guwahati, the rise in offers from this space is 30%-40% so far.

"Lately, many of the consulting firms are getting a lot of work in the engineering space and this is push-

ing the demand for the engineers at colleges," said Shashi Mathur, professor-in-charge of placement and training cell at IIT Delhi.

Among top consultancies, BCG and EY have doubled the number of offers given to fresh engineers compared to last year while Bain & Co has increased it by 40%.

Bain, which went to IIT Delhi and Bombay this year, is also looking at adding to the list in the future. Gopal Sarma, a Bain & Co partner who heads the recruiting process at the firm and also leads its Infrastructure practice, said the sharp increase in top talent coming to Bain from IITs is also based on the encouraging prospects from the economic environment. "We see excellent opportunities in the Indian top-tier consulting market," he said.

EY, which earlier recruited from IIT Bombay and Delhi, has started visiting IIT Madras and Kharagpur

from this year.

"This year's intake from the IITs has increased by over 100% and is primarily driven by business growth, constant need to hire the best project ready talent and to cater to the high-end technical requirements in the digital transformation, data analytics, cyber security and other advanced technology space," said Sandeep Kohli, national director for human resources at Ernst & Young. BCG hired 38 engineers from IITs this year. "We hired more than double from last year as associates for consulting roles involving complex analysis, hypothesis generation and problem solving," said Amit Kumar, partner and director at BCG.

Uday Chawla, managing partner at executive search firm Transearch India, said, "This is clearly a war for 'early' talent. With government engaging a lot many consulting firms in its projects like e-governance, smart

cities, digitalisation, etc., there is a clear pressure on consulting firms to acquire talent at all levels."

The fight is not limited to early talent. Transearch India is seeing over 50% rise in the search mandates for senior level in the consulting space, Chawla said.

Many consulting firms visited Kharagpur for the first time. The first timers included EY that made six offers and Kepler Cannon with four offers. This apart, recruiters included ZS Associates (20 offers) and The Chatterjee Group (nine offers).

"The rise in overall offers is driven partly by the new recruiters as also more offers, including PPOs, from earlier firms," said Atal Ashutosh Agarwal, vice president, technology students' gymkhana, IIT Kharagpur.

The offers by the consulting firms to the fresh engineering graduates is anywhere between ₹10 lakh and ₹30 lakh.

Navbarat Times ND 15/12/2015 P-7

IIT कानपुर ने दी पल्यूशन पर सख्त हिदायतें

रिपोर्ट में डीजल की क्वालिटी को बीएस-6 स्तर तक लाने की सिफारिश की गई है

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■ नई दिल्ली : दिल्ली में पल्यूशन पर आईआईटी कानपुर की रिपोर्ट में गाड़ियों की फ्यूल क्वालिटी, एमिशन नॉर्म्स और फिटनेस को लेकर कई सख्त हिदायतें दी गई हैं। इसमें जहाँ इंजन और डीजल की क्वालिटी को बीएस-6 स्तर तक लाने की सिफारिश की गई है, वहीं फिटनेस सर्टिफिकेशन और पल्यूशन चेकिंग की तकनीक और मानकों को बदलने की जरूरत बताई गई है। जानकारों का कहना है कि इन्हें लागू करने में मैन्युफैक्चरिंग लेवल पर जहाँ कारों की न्यूनतम कॉस्ट 2 लाख रुपये और ट्रकों की तीन लाख रुपये बढ़ जाएगी, वहीं रिफाईनिंग, फिटनेस और पल्यूशन चेकिंग के स्तर पर सरकार को करोड़ों रुपये का इनवेस्टमेंट करना होगा।

फिलहाल दिल्ली सहित बड़े शहरों में एमिशन और फ्यूल के बीएस-4 मानक लागू हैं, जबकि देश के दूसरे हिस्सों में बीएस-3 ही फॉलो हो पाया है। केंद्र सरकार 1 अप्रैल 2016 से पूरे देश में बीएस-4 लागू करने जा रही है। लेकिन आईआईटी रिपोर्ट में पल्यूशन घटाने के लिए बीएस-6 फ्यूल कंप्लायंस की जरूरत बताई गई है।

बीएस-4 के मुकाबले बीएस-6 लेवल के फ्यूल एमिशन में सल्फर की मात्रा 5 गुना तक कम हो जाती है।

भारत सरकार ने पूरे देश में बीएस-6 के स्तर तक पहुंचने के लिए 2026 का लक्ष्य तय किया था, लेकिन हाल ही में इसे घटाकर 2022 और बीएस-5

के लिए वर्ष 2019 तय किया गया है। दिल्ली में फिलहाल बीएस-4 वाले वाहनों का ही रजिस्ट्रेशन होता है, लेकिन नेशनल परमिट वालों को बीएस-3 रजिस्ट्रेशन की भी छूट है। हालांकि यहां के सभी पेट्रोल पंपों पर बीएस-4 स्तर का

बीएस-6 लागू करने से 1-3 लाख तक बढ़ जाएंगे कारों और ट्रकों के दाम

फ्यूल मिलता है। डीपीसीसी के एक अधिकारी ने बताया 'फ्यूल और एमिशन नॉर्म्स पर 2-टियर व्यवस्था के चलते लोग दिल्ली से सटे दूसरे शहरों में सस्ते में लोवर-नॉर्म्स का रजिस्ट्रेशन कराते रहे हैं। इसके अलावा जहां बस, ट्रक जैसे कमर्शियल वाहनों को

हर एक साल पर फिटनेस टेस्ट और हर तीन महीने पर पल्यूशन चेक कराना होता है, पैसेजर गाड़ियों को 15 साल तक की छूट मिली हुई है। रिपोर्ट में इस

गैप को कम करने और कार, बाइक की भी फिटनेस कड़ी करने पर जोर दिया गया है। रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक दिल्ली में फिटनेस के लिए एक मात्र सेंटर बुराड़ी पर लोड ज्यादा है। इस तरह के और सेंटर बनाए जाने चाहिए।

इंडियन फ्राउंडेशन ऑफ ट्रांसपोर्ट रिसर्च एंड ट्रेनिंग के कन्वेनर एस. पी. सिंह ने बताया 'बीएस-6 लागू करने में दो तरह की मुश्किलें आएंगी। देश की ऑयल रिफाइनरीज के पास इस स्तर तक तेल शुद्ध करने वाली मशीनें नहीं हैं। कंपनियां कह चुकी हैं कि इसके लिए उन्हें करीब 80 हजार करोड़ रुपये निवेश करने होंगे, जो चरणबद्ध तरीके से होगा। दूसरा, ट्रक और कार बनाने वाली कंपनियां अपग्रेडेड इंजन और कंपोनेंट पर लागत बढ़ने का हवाला देकर रोड़े अटकाती रही हैं।'

कोचिंग संचालक बोले- बच्चों पर न डालें दबाव, उन्हें ही चुनने दें करिअर

कोटा से लौटकर लोकेश सोलंकी, गजेंद्र विश्वकर्मा

देशभर के कई माता-पिता भले ही अपने बच्चों को आईआईटी या आईआईएम में पढ़ाने का सपना देखते हों, लेकिन कोटा के बड़े कोचिंग संचालक खुद अपने बच्चों पर इन कोर्सेज में एडमिशन लेने के लिए दबाव नहीं डालते। यानी उनके खुद के बच्चे अब तक न जेईई में सिलेक्ट हुए, न ही एआईपीएमटी में। शहर के लोग और खुद कोचिंग संचालक भी इस

ग्रांड रिपोर्ट अंतिम भाग

रिपोर्ट से बखूबी वाकिफ हैं। आईआईटी प्रवेश परीक्षा के लिए सुपर-30 की तर्ज पर दस साल पहले कोटा में कोचिंग शुरू करने वाले निशान्स-99 के एमडी एमएल शर्मा भी कोचिंग सिस्टम की खामियां स्वीकार करते हैं।

शर्मा के मुताबिक, तनाव में आकर बच्चे जो कदम उठा रहे हैं, वह स्वाभाविक है। मैं जो पाना चाहता हूँ, वह नहीं मिलेगा तो हताशा आएगी ही। शर्मा के मुताबिक, यहां बड़े कोचिंग संचालकों के किसी भी बच्चे ने आज तक न तो आईआईटी में दाखिला लिया और न ही एम्स में। कोचिंग वाले भी अपने बच्चों की क्षमता और रुचियों से बखूबी वाकिफ हैं। उन पर दबाव नहीं डाल रहे, लेकिन बाहर के लोगों को यह गलतफहमी है कि वे कोटा की अमुक क्लास में एडमिशन लेंगे, तो उनकी सफलता तय है।

कोचिंग वालों के बच्चे अब तक न जेईई में सिलेक्ट हुए, न ही एआईपीएमटी में



एमएल शर्मा

भीड़ में कैसे पढ़ेंगे

निशान्स-99 के संचालक शर्मा के मुताबिक, कोटा के बड़े कोचिंग संस्थानों में हर क्लास में ढाई सौ से पांच सौ बच्चे एक साथ बैठते हैं। 75 हजार से ज्यादा छात्र-छात्राओं को प्रवेश देने वाली कोचिंग में भी ढाई सौ से ज्यादा टीचर नहीं हैं। कोचिंग में टीचर्स सिर्फ लेक्चर देकर चले जाते हैं। बच्चों को कुछ समझ नहीं आता तो बाहर जाकर काउंटर पर प्रॉब्लम सॉल्व कराते हैं।



कोचिंग संस्थानों के बाहर रोजाना छात्रों की ऐसी भीड़ दिखती है।

उपलब्ध नहीं होते टीचर

कोचिंग का सिस्टम समझाते हुए शर्मा कहते हैं कोचिंग वालों ने कक्षाओं से बाहर प्रॉब्लम काउंटर बना दिए हैं। इन पर वी-टेक किंग फ्रेशर्स छात्र बैठा दिए गए हैं। छात्र को कक्षा में कुछ समझ नहीं आता तो उसे डाउट विलियर करने के लिए इन काउंटर पर भेज दिया जाता है, यानी जिन मशहूर शिक्षकों के नाम पर कोचिंग संस्थानों का नाम हो रहा है, वे छात्रों की समस्या हल करने के लिए उपलब्ध ही नहीं होते।

बैच का आकार तय हो

कोचिंग संचालक अब प्रशासन को सुझाव दे रहे हैं कि हर कोचिंग में बैच का आकार तय किया जाए। छात्रों के मुताबिक शिक्षकों की संख्या भी तय हो। शहर के लोगों ने भी इस बारे में मांग उठाई है। भाजपा के जिला महामंत्री अमित दाधीच के अनुसार, हाल ही में शिक्षा मंत्री कालीचरण सराफ को भी शहर के लोगों ने ज्ञापन सौंपकर कोचिंग के लिए कानून बनाने की मांग की।

हॉस्टल वाले करेंगे इंडौर-भोपाल समेत सात शहरों का दौरा

बच्चों में बढ़ रहे तनाव के बाद अगुलिया कोटा के हॉस्टलों पर भी उठी है। कोचिंग वालों की दलील है कि उनके परिसर में बच्चे दिन में छह से आठ घंटे रहते हैं। बाकी समय में वे हॉस्टल में बिताते हैं। लगातार खुदकुशियों के पीछे उनके रहने की स्थिति भी जिम्मेदार हो सकती है। इस आरोप के बाद हॉस्टल वालों ने एलान किया है कि वे देश के सात शहरों का दौरा कर हॉस्टल की व्यवस्थाओं को बेहतर बनाने के लिए तुलनात्मक रिपोर्ट तैयार करेंगे। हॉस्टल एसोसिएशन के महासचिव नवीन मितल के मुताबिक बच्चों को तनावमुक्त और खुश रखने पर पूरा ध्यान दिया जा रहा है। एसोसिएशन के अध्यक्ष गजेंद्र यादव ने बताया कि 4-4 सदस्यीय दल इंदौर, भोपाल, हैदराबाद, अहमदाबाद, चंडीगढ़, जयपुर और बंगलुरु जाकर व्यवस्थाओं को देखेंगे। वीडियो रिकॉर्डिंग के साथ तुलनात्मक रिपोर्ट तैयार कर प्रशासन के सामने रखेंगे।

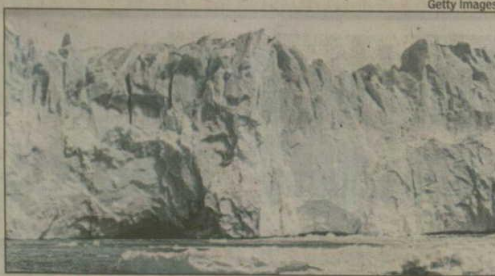
66 हॉस्टल के लिए गाइडलाइन का सुझाव: बाहर से आए छात्र ही शहर की प्रगति का आधार हैं। हॉस्टल वाले जिम्मेदारी समझ रहे हैं। मुख्य सचिव को अपनी रिपोर्ट सौंपने के साथ हॉस्टल-कोचिंग के लिए गाइडलाइन बनाने का सुझाव देगे। - गजेंद्र यादव, अध्यक्ष, कोटा हॉस्टल एसोसिएशन

By 2100, global temperatures may rise by 8°C

Billions Of People At Risk From Flooding, Drought & Food Shortages: UK Study

London: The global land surface temperatures may rise by an average of almost 8°C Celsius by 2100, if significant efforts are not made to counteract climate change, a new study has warned.

Such a rise would have a devastating impact on life on Earth. It would place billions of people at risk from extreme temperatures, flooding, drought and food shortages, researchers said. The study by researchers at the University of Edinburgh, UK, calculated the likely effect of increasing atmospheric levels of greenhouse gases above pre-



POINT OF NO RETURN? The finding breaches the UN's safe limit of 2°C, beyond which dangerous climate change can be expected

industrialisation amounts.

It found that if emissions continue to grow at current

rates, with no significant action taken by society, then by 2100 global land temperatures

will have increased by 7.9°C Celsius compared with 1750. This finding lies at the very uppermost range of temperature rise as calculated by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). It also breaches the United Nations' safe limit of 2°C, beyond which the UN says dangerous climate change can be expected, researchers said.

Researchers first created a simple algorithm to determine the key factors shaping climate change and then estimated their likely impact on the world's land and ocean temperatures. The study was based

on historical temperatures and emissions data. It accounted for atmospheric pollution effects that have been cooling Earth by reflecting sunlight into space, and for the slow response time of the ocean.

"Estimates vary over the impacts of climate change. But what is now clear is that society needs to take firm, speedy action to minimise climate damage," said Roy Thompson, a professor at the University of Edinburgh. The findings were published in the journal Earth and Environmental Transactions of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. ९१

Volcanic event caused ice age

A large-scale volcanic event during the Jurassic Period may have caused the 'ice-age' that took place on Earth around 170 million years ago, a new study by researchers at Camborne School of Mines in UK has found. Researchers have found evidence of a large and abrupt cooling of the Earth's temperature during the Jurassic Period, which lasted millions of years. It coincided with a large-scale volcanic event — called the North Sea Dome. The study was published in the journal Nature Communications. ९१

Millenium Post ND 15/12/2015 P-07

Over 8L engineering seats remained vacant in 2014-15: Irani

MPOST BUREAU

NEW DELHI: Over 8 lakh engineering seats remained vacant in 2014-15, the government on Monday said as it noted the surplus capacity in the sector while pointing to “competition among students due to limited seats” in government and reputed private institutions.

In a written reply in Lok Sabha, Human Resource Development (HRD) minister Smriti Irani said that “overall, there is surplus capacity in the engineering sector with 8,44,328 seats remaining vacant in 2015”. She noted, however, that “there is competition among students due to limited seats in government and reputed private institutions as compared to the number of applications”.



Meanwhile, in a written response to another question, Irani said that her ministry is considering a proposal for the setting up of a National Academic Depository, which envisages online storage, verification and authentication of academic awards.

In her reply to another question, Irani said that all institutions of higher education have been requested to install solar rooftop systems.

IISc scientists develop solar cooking device

Bengaluru, Dec 14, 2015, DHNS:



<http://www.deccanherald.com/content/517528/iisc-scientists-develop-solar-cooking.html>

Scientists from the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) have developed a device whereby “solar energy can be directly brought to the kitchen” paving the way for the use of clean energy for cooking.

The hybrid device transfers solar energy to the kitchen using a solar thermal collector to store the solar energy. Explaining the functioning of the device, a release from IISc said: “The device transfers solar energy to a curved concentrating collector that absorbs the energy and increases the temperature of heat transfer fluid. The fluid is of a special kind whose temperature can go up to 300°C and is stored in a thermally insulated tank. A heat exchanger is positioned in the kitchen which transfers the heat from the fluid to the food that is meant to be cooked. A pump is used to regulate the heat transfer from the collector to the heat storage tank.”

While there are already solar cookers, a number of problems crops up - they can only be used during periods of clear skies, the rate of cooking cannot be controlled, etc, the release said.

Dr Prasanna U R, along with Dr L Umanand, from the Centre for Electronic Design and Technology, IISc, has developed the device. “This cooker can also be used indoors within the kitchen, reducing use of conventional energy. It can be used at any time of the day or night,” said Prasanna.

This device allows heat to transfer from the solar collector to the food meant to be cooked at an optimal rate. Despite the apparent advantages of the hybrid solar cooker, scientists say that certain challenges in the technology persist.

“People still need to design this device better so that everything can be installed at home cost effectively and quickly,” he said.

WTO के खिलाफ स्टूडेंट्स का हल्ला बोल

हायर एजुकेशन पॉलिसी को लेकर होंगे एकजुट

■ प्रमुख संवाददाता, नई दिल्ली

डब्ल्यूटीओ की कॉन्फ्रेंस में भारत के उठाए जाने वाले कदम के खिलाफ स्टूडेंट्स पब्लिक प्रोटेस्ट की तैयारी में हैं। 15, 17 और 18 दिसंबर तक दिल्ली में स्टूडेंट्स हायर एजुकेशन के फंड कट और इस एग्रीमेंट के खिलाफ आवाज बुलंद करेंगे। जंतर मंतर, सेंट्रल पार्क और उद्योग भवन के आगे प्रदर्शन किया जाएगा। ये प्रदर्शन उन्हीं दिन किए जा रहे हैं, जब नैरोबी, केन्या में डब्ल्यूटीओ कॉन्फ्रेंस में भारत एग्रीमेंट साइन करने जा रहा है।

भारत की हायर एजुकेशन पॉलिसी में बदलाव करने जा रही डब्ल्यूटीओ पॉलिसी के खिलाफ भारत के कई हिस्सों में प्रदर्शन चल रहे हैं। 15 से 18 दिसंबर तक नैरोबी में डब्ल्यूटीओ की 10वीं मिनिस्ट्रियल कॉन्फ्रेंस होगी, जिसमें भारत भी शामिल हो रहा है। एक्सपर्ट का कहना है कि भारत के डब्ल्यूटीओ एग्रीमेंट साइन करने से विदेशी कॉर्पोरेट को देश में इंस्टिट्यूट, यूनिवर्सिटी और टेक्निकल इंस्टिट्यूशन खोलने का खुला अधिकार मिलेगा।

एग्रीमेंट के तहत भारत सरकार को इंटरनैशनल लॉ का पालन करना होगा,

WTO के खिलाफ प्रोटेस्ट

■ जंतर मंतर, सेंट्रल पार्क और उद्योग भवन के आगे प्रदर्शन किया जाएगा

■ ये प्रदर्शन उन्हीं दिन किए जा रहे हैं, जब नैरोबी, केन्या में डब्ल्यूटीओ कॉन्फ्रेंस में भारत एग्रीमेंट साइन करने जा रहा है

■ 15, 17 और 18 दिसंबर तक स्टूडेंट्स हायर एजुकेशन के फंड कट और इस एग्रीमेंट के खिलाफ दिल्ली में करेंगे प्रदर्शन

■ 15 से 18 दिसंबर तक नैरोबी में डब्ल्यूटीओ की 10वीं मिनिस्ट्रियल कॉन्फ्रेंस होगी

जिसके तहत सबसे पहले हायर एजुकेशन से पब्लिक फंड काटा जाएगा। इसी वजह से स्टूडेंट्स की मांग है कि सरकार इस एग्रीमेंट से पीछे हटे वरना भारत में हायर एजुकेशन महंगी हो जाएगी, साथ ही एक बिजनेस बनकर आम स्टूडेंट की पहुंच से दूर हो जाएगी।

प्रोटेस्ट में जवाहरलाल नेहरू यूनिवर्सिटी, जामिया मिल्लिया इस्लामिया, दिल्ली यूनिवर्सिटी, आंबेडकर यूनिवर्सिटी, इंद्रप्रस्थ यूनिवर्सिटी समेत दूसरे राज्यों की यूनिवर्सिटी के स्टूडेंट्स भी शामिल होंगे। यह प्रोटेस्ट ऑल इंडिया स्टूडेंट्स असोसिएशन (आइसा) की अगुवाई में हो रहा है। जेएनयू स्टूडेंट आशुतोष कुमार कहते हैं कि जंतर मंतर, सेंट्रल पार्क और उद्योग भवन के आगे

प्रदर्शन कर लोगों को बताया जाएगा कि आखिर किस तरह से यह साजिश की जा रही है और इसका असर हर आम इंसान पर पड़ने वाला है।

17 दिसंबर को सेंट्रल पार्क पर स्टूडेंट्स ह्वामन चैन बनाकर दोपहर 2 बजे से अपना प्रोटेस्ट शुरू करेंगे। वहीं, 18 दिसंबर को 2 बजे से हायर एजुकेशन में कॉमर्स एंड इंडस्ट्री मिनिस्ट्री की पॉलिसी का विरोध करते हुए उद्योग भवन के आगे प्रदर्शन करेंगे। आइसा की नैशनल प्रेजिडेंट सुचेता डे का कहना है कि काफ़ी पहले से टीचर्स, स्टूडेंट्स और एक्टिविस्ट इसे लेकर आवाज उठा रहे हैं, मगर सरकार रिस्पॉन्स नहीं दे रही है। आम लोगों को इस एग्रीमेंट के बारे में पता ही नहीं है।

Economic Times ND 15/12/2015 P-14

'Education is Fundamental Need for More Just, Prosperous & Competitive Society'

ET Q&A

Professor John Kim, senior lecturer of business ad-

ministration at Harvard Business School, teaches second-year course, Entrepreneurship and Technology Innovations in Education, which tries to tackle the root causes of performance problem in urban education, and the entrepreneurial behaviour of leaders and managers trying to affect systemic change in both traditional and new types of public schools. Kim, who was in India recently, spoke to ET's **Varuni Khosla** about the scope of educational entrepreneurs in India. Edited excerpts:

What's the scope of entrepreneurs to get into the education space?

For most of the world, education is a service, or a public good, that the government provides. The idea that entrepreneurs should even be part of that conversation reflects the desire for society to improve performance around education. Education is a fundamental need for a more just, prosperous and competitive society.

In the US, even after 30-40 years of investment in education, the gap really hasn't narrowed. But in the last 20 years, there has been more interest in



the area and the question – should we allow entrepreneurs or innovator to come in this field – has cropped up. We now have 'charter' schools or public schools that are privately run, free for students, but they have less regulations, no unions, etc.

Are charter schools popular?

Yes, 5% of the entire schooling is now charter schools, and in some states, nearly 20% of the students go to such schools. Other ventures like in Teach for America by Wendy Kopp – which is more of a social entrepreneurial venture – measure performance of education of students of colour. While they've made some changes, they're not large, scalable changes.

Do you think technology can be

There is a notion that you need to teach students in a more personalised way and I think that idea can be applied in India too

PROFESSOR JOHN KIM

Senior lecturer, business administration, Harvard Business School

used to create a better future in education?

There are three kinds of technology: the first is 'personalisation', or personalised apps, that can be used to teach children the ways that are best for them. There are companies such as Newton Education Services that are doing 'personalisation' for students.

The second is 'distance'. A good example of this is the Khan Academy, a non-profit educational organisation created in 2006 by educator Salman Khan, which uses videos to provide information to all sorts of people, any-time, anywhere.

The third is which gets very little attention – 'productivity'. Teaching is very labour-intensive and there aren't many tools to help teachers make their work

more productive. Tools such as staffing, scheduling, helping teacher can be more effective in a cost effective way.

Are there any interesting scalable models in the world which are doing well?

There are companies in the assessment space that are doing well. There are more international standards such as the Common Core (an educational initiative in the US that details what K-12 students should know in English language arts and mathematics at the end of each grade). There is a notion that you need to teach students in a more personalised way and I think that idea can be applied in India too.

What is your advice to entrepreneurs getting into this space?

Solve real problems. Everyone went to school, so they think they know a bit about the issues. But they must go and talk to people and understand the real issues. And also be patient. Unlike other businesses that have 100% quarter on quarter growth, this may take a little time. But once you get in, it is a very defensible business. Another would be, if people ask me, where they should start – I would say it's a people intensive business, so they must look for ways to make people more efficient.

Twenty five cases of sexual harassment reported in JNU: Smriti Irani in LS

"As per University Grants Commission (UGC), 295 cases of sexual harassment have been reported during 2014-15 in various institutes of higher learning against women," Irani said.

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-news-india/smriti-irani-talks-about-25-cases-of-sexual-harrasment-reported-in-jnu/>

Twenty five cases of sexual harassment were reported from the prestigious Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) in 2013-2014, the highest among 104 higher education institutions from where such matters were reported according to University Grants Commission (UGC) data.

During the period from April 1, 2014 to March 31, 2015, there were 15 cases of sexual harassment reported in Banaras Hindu University (BHU), Varanasi and 10 cases in Sam Higginbottom Institute of Agriculture Technology and Sciences, Allahabad.

Nine cases were reported from King George's Medical University, Lucknow. There were 8 such cases reported in University of Mumbai and Viswa Bharati, Santi Niketan, Birbhum during this period.

These details were shared in the Lok Sabha by Human Resource Development (HRD) minister Smriti Irani, who in a written reply to a member's question said that as per UGC, there were 295 cases of sexual harassment that have been reported during 2014-15 in various institutes of higher learning.

The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has also reported two cases of sexual harassment

Indian universities not in global ranking due to criteria followed: Smriti Irani

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/services/education/indian-universities-not-in-global-ranking-due-to-criteria-followed-smriti-irani/articleshow/50170587.cms>

NEW DELHI: Indian universities and higher education institutions are not getting their due place in global rankings mainly due to the criteria which depend a lot on the perception of a "select group" of persons, the government said today.

Human Resource Development Minister Smriti Irani told the Lok Sabha that the government is coming out with a system for ranking of institutions based on objective criteria under the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF).

During Question Hour, Irani said several premier educational institutions in the country have set global standards in education and research.

Although entry of Indian institutions of higher education in global ranking surveys like the 'QS' and the 'THE' portrays a positive and optimistic trend, the Indian institutions are not getting their due place in the global rankings, the Minister said.

"This is primarily because of the criteria used by these agencies for ranking, which depend a lot on the perception of a select group of persons.

"While working on their strengths, the Indian higher education institutions would need to work on improving their perception index if they have to better their global rankings," Irani said.

In 2015 QS ranking, there are two institutions in the top 200 - IIT Delhi (179) and IISc, Bangalore (147). Others in the list include IIT Bombay (202), IIT Kanpur (271), IIT Kharagpur (286), IIT Madras (254) and IIT Roorkee (391).

In the Times Higher Education (THE) ranking for this year, there are three Indian institutions - IIT Bombay (351-400), IIT Roorkee (351-400) and IISc Bangalore (276-300), as per the written reply given by the Minister.

According to Irani, several initiatives have been taken to improve the teaching and learning processes and research.

These include Global Initiative for Academic Networks (GIAN) under which academicians from foreign universities come to teach in India, Choice-Based Credit System (CBCS) and improving curricula for undergraduate courses.

Responding to TMC member Sugata Bose who disagreed with the Minister's remarks that global rankings was more of a perception than substance, Irani said such comments would be like doing disservice to the Indian universities.

To a query on appointment of vice chancellors at central and state universities, Irani said those are done after fully following the procedures.

Studying at IITs likely to get costlier

Hindustan Times (Lucknow)

With the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) seeking to become self-reliant, the fee structure of the institute is likely to be revised soon.

Maintaining that the fee being charged from IIT students was 'very less' considering the standard of education being provided at premier educational institute, the IIT council has made a recommendation to the centre to allow it to increase the fees.

As of now, the government gives the IITs 85% grant, which results in major subsidy in fee to the students.

However, the IITs plan to do away with government assistance, confirmed RC Bhargava, chairman, IIT Kanpur.

Bhargava, who heads IIT's Board of governors, was at the institute with other board members to review many projects on Sunday evening.

"Council has asked all the IITs to create new resources while the decision to increase the fee will be taken after due considerations, it won't hurt the needy student," said Bhargava, who is also chairman of Maruti Udyog Limited.

The needy students will be given loans from the bank and they could repay it after getting employment, said Bhargava while insisting that the chairmen of all the IITs will meet and discuss it threadbare.

IIT-K director Prof Indraneel Manna said the faculty and students would work to help the manufacturing sector as a part of Prime Minister's Make in India initiative.

Also, the scientists of IIT-K and IISc Bangalore would jointly work on micro nano technology project.

Bhargava said the IIT Kanpur's students will work for Maruti in future as well.

Lucknow School Is Most Polluted Place In The Country: Report

<http://www.ndtv.com/india-news/lucknow-school-iit-madras-are-most-polluted-places-in-the-country-report-1254873>

New Delhi: A central school in Uttar Pradesh's capital city, Lucknow, has recorded the highest level of suspended particulate matter, PM 2.5 on Monday, followed by Delhi's Anand Vihar stood third according to the latest report by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

The peak levels of PM 2.5, harmful microscopic particles that can penetrate deep into the lungs, were recorded at 477 in a central school in Lucknow yesterday afternoon.

Anand Vihar recorded a level of 469 yesterday evening at 7pm.

These three locations come under the 'severe' category.

Lucknow had a total of three places with high PM 2.5 levels in the ten most polluted areas of the country, said the report.

But there is hope for Delhi as a System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research (SAFAR) study shows a 'steady fall' of pollutants over the last four days.

This despite the sudden fall in the city's temperature has the potential to elevate the quantity of such pollutants.

"This is another indicator that indeed something worked in favour of relatively much better PM figures for this time of the year with such cooler weather conditions. There is one rider though, the wind speed is not high but at the same time, it is not really as calm as it should have been at this time," said Gufran Beig, Chief Project Scientist of SAFAR who prepared the report.

The safe limits of PM 2.5 and PM 10 are 60 and 100 and anything beyond that poses threat to a healthy respiratory system. They have been consistently high, at times multiple times, in the capital, prompting the government to resort to a host of anti-pollution measures.

Mr Beig said the fall was noteworthy as the weather conditions, "drop in temperature, normal wind flow pattern and relatively calm local wind", were congenial for the formation of off-white (light brownish) haze.

SAFAR has also observed a slight increase in the level of gaseous pollutants like Carbon Monoxide (CO) and Ozone (O3) "although, still well within the permissible limit."