

Newspaper Clips

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STUDENT FROM IIT-D WINS GLOBAL CONTEST

CHAMP Haryana boy, Uttam Kumar, beats 37,000 entrants to win scholarship

Asian News International

Indian student Uttam Kumar has beaten more than 37,000 competitors from around the world to win the Australian Government's prestigious "Win your Future Unlimited" competition.

His prize includes a 12-month-long study at Australia's world class University of New South Wales, return air-flights, 12 months free accommodation, a generous stipend and the opportunity for an exclusive internship following his studies.

Kumar, aged 22, now plans to study for his Masters in materials science at the University of New South Wales (UNSW), recognised as one of the top-100 engineering and technology schools in the world.

Australia's High Commissioner to India, Patrick Suckling, congratulated Uttam on his significant achievement and wished him well for his studies in Australia.

"Uttam is already studying at the prestigious Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, and now he's beaten entrants from more than 190 other countries to take out this competition," he said.

"Winning this competition will open up a world of new opportunities for Uttam, and I'm delighted he's got the opportunity to



■ Winner Uttam Kumar (Left) with Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop

PTI PHOTO

pursue his dreams in Australia. He joins a growing number of Indian students studying in our world class education system, and no doubt Australians studying with him will benefit from the exchange, just as hundreds

of thousands do in our education system around Australia every year," he added.

The Australian Government's Win Your Future Unlimited competition, organised by the Australian Trade Commission

ABOUT THE WINNER

Name: Uttam Kumar

Age: 22

Home: Haryana

Alma mater: IIT-Delhi. Kumar beat 37,000 entrants from across 190 countries worldwide to win

Course: Masters in materials science at the University of New South Wales (UNSW)

Opportunity: Chance to work with Associate Professor Sri Bandyopadhyay, recently recognized as one of Australia's top-5 innovators

Prize: Kumar receives one year of study in Australia in 2014, including flights, tuition, accommodation, a stipend and an opportunity for an internship

(Austrade), challenged students to design a digital postcard explaining how an Australian education could help realise their future dreams (www.winyourfuture-unlimited.com.au).

The competition culminated in a special ceremony held in Sydney on December 17 2013 where Australian Trade Minister Andrew Robb announced Uttam as the overall Major Prize Winner from seven weekly finalists drawn from the USA, the Philippines, Vietnam, Russia, India, Brazil and Indonesia.

"Each of the other six finalists had an inspiring story and the desire to create a better future by studying in Australia. But Uttam impressed the most with clarity, honesty and creative flair," said Suckling.

Kumar is currently completing his undergraduate studies in the field of materials science at IIT Delhi

IIT-Delhi student wins coveted Australian scholarship

Vijetha S.N

“Win Your Future Unlimited” attracted 37,000 competitors

“The world doesn’t end here...if I didn’t win this, there were other scholarships I could win. If your academics are good and you’re from the right schools, you will land well,” was the well-articulated reply of Uttam Kumar, an IIT-Delhi student who had the audacity to skip campus placements and place his bets instead on Australia earlier this year.

The Australian government’s “Win Your Future Unlimited” had 37,000 students competing from around the world and all Uttam had to do was write in 50 words what he meant to do with the scholarship and how exactly it would help him realise his goals. He wrote about preserving the environment and how his research would contribute to this cause.

“My parents were not very well off; my tuition at IIT too was covered by a merit-cum-means scholarship. They were a little sceptical when I told them I would be skipping placements. But when I explained that this scholarship would open up better avenues than any job could do and that my future lay in academics and research, they agreed,” he said, adding that a Ph. D in natural sciences was in the agenda for him.

The scholarship entitles him to choose a year-long study from any of Australia’s top universities, with return air ticket, 12 months’ free accommodation, a generous stipend and the opportunity for an exclusive internship following his studies also being thrown in. “I will be taking a Masters’ degree in materials science at the University of New South Wales (UNSW).”

Small-town boy

However, Uttam says that he was like any other small-town boy who sees a job after college as the end-point of all his ambitions. “IIT-Delhi changed it all, in fact meeting alumni who were doing a lot of exciting things all over the world did this. I started by searching for internships that were situated out of the country and even landed a fully-funded one in Germany for summer. It broadened my horizons like travel usually does,” he said.

He was yet to tell his friends, most of them with jobs, the good news.

Australian High Commissioner to India Patrick Suckling congratulated Uttam on his significant achievement and wished him well for his studies in Australia.

The Australian Government’s “Win Your Future Unlimited” competition, organised by the Australian Trade Commission, challenged students to design a digital postcard explaining how an Australian education could help realise their future dreams.

The competition culminated in a special ceremony held in Sydney on Tuesday where Australian Trade Minister Andrew Robb announced Uttam as the overall major prize winner from seven finalists drawn from India, the USA, the Philippines, Vietnam, Russia, Brazil and Indonesia.

“Each of the other six finalists had an inspiring story and the desire to create a better future by studying in Australia. But Uttam clearly impressed the judges by making his case with clarity, honesty and creative flair,” said Mr. Suckling.

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IIT के स्टूडेंट ने जीता ग्लोबल ऑनलाइन कॉन्टेस्ट

■ भाषा, मेलबर्न

आईआईटी दिल्ली के 22 वर्षीय स्टूडेंट ने डिजिटल पोस्टकार्ड डिजाइन करने की ग्लोबल ऑनलाइन कॉन्टेस्ट का खिताब अपने नाम कर लिया है। इस प्रतियोगिता में अपने बनाए पोस्टकार्ड के जरिए बताना था कि ऑस्ट्रेलिया में पढ़ाई उनके भविष्य के सपनों को महसूस करने में कैसे मदद कर सकती है। हरियाणा के एक छोटे से गांव के निवासी उत्तम कुमार को 'विन योर फ्यूचर अनलिमिटेड' प्रतियोगिता का विजेता घोषित किया गया है। सात हफ्ते तक चली यह प्रतियोगिता 1 अक्टूबर

से शुरू हुई थी, जिसमें दुनिया भर के 190 देशों से करीब 37 हजार एंट्रीज आई थीं। उत्तम को इस प्रतियोगिता के प्रथम पुरस्कार के रूप में ऑस्ट्रेलिया में एक साल की पढ़ाई का पूरा खर्च दिया जाएगा, जिसमें फ्लाइट का खर्च, रहने का खर्च और वजीफे के अलावा इंटरशिप का मौका भी शामिल है। कुमार ने यह अवॉर्ड सिडनी में आयोजित एक फंक्शन में रिसेव किया। उनके अलावा, इस प्रतियोगिता के सभी फाइनलिस्ट भी वहां पहुंचे थे। ये सभी यहां एक 10 दिन के स्टडी टूर पर आए हैं।

दिल्ली आइआइटी के छात्र का आस्ट्रेलिया में डंका

मेलबर्न, एजेसी : महेंद्रगढ़ के गांव बसई खुड़ाना निवासी 22 वर्षीय छात्र उत्तम मित्तल को वैश्विक ऑनलाइन प्रतियोगिता 'विन योर फ्यूचर अनलिमिटेड' प्रतियोगिता का विजेता घोषित किया गया है। वह आइआइटी दिल्ली के छात्र हैं तथा डिजिटल पोस्टकार्ड डिजाइन किया था। इसमें विश्व के 190 देशों के करीब 37 हजार प्रतियोगियों ने भाग लिया।

प्रतियोगिता के तहत एक डिजिटल पोस्टकार्ड तैयार करना था। उसका विषय था, 'आस्ट्रेलिया में पढ़ाई किस तरह भविष्य के सपनों को एहसास करने में सहायक हो सकती है।' प्रतियोगिता एक अक्टूबर से शुरू हुई थी और सात सप्ताह तक चली थी। उत्तम कुमार प्रतियोगिता के फाइनल में पहुंचे सात प्रतियोगियों में से विजेता चुने गए। इसमें अमेरिका, फिलिपिंस, वियतनाम, रूस, ब्राजील और इंडोनेशिया के युवा शामिल हुए। पहले पुरस्कार के रूप में उत्तम को 2014 में एक वर्ष के लिए आस्ट्रेलिया में पढ़ने का मौका मिलेगा। उन्हें ट्यूशन, निवास और वजीफे की सुविधा दी जाएगी। इसके अलावा इंटरनेशिप का भी अवसर मिलेगा। उत्तम को सिडनी में आयोजित समारोह में ऑस्ट्रेलिया

उत्तम का उत्साह बढ़ा

पुरस्कार ग्रहण करने के बाद उत्तम कुमार ने



कहा कि वह अपने भविष्य को लेकर काफी उत्साहित हैं। उन्होंने यूनिवर्सिटी आफ एनएसडब्लू से मैटेरियल साइंस में मास्टर डिग्री

की पढ़ाई की योजना बनाई है जिसका मुख्य लक्ष्य पर्यावरण को नुकसान नहीं पहुंचाने वाले फाइबरस (धागों) का विकास होगा। पुरस्कार प्रदान करते हुए मंत्री एंड्रू रॉब ने कहा कि उत्तम ने स्पष्टता, ईमानदारी और सर्जनात्मकता से जजों को प्रभावित किया। उन्होंने बताया कि प्रतियोगिता के दौरान 8.50 लाख लोगों ने वेबसाइट पर विजिट किया तथा 10 लाख से अधिक ने प्रतियोगिता के वीडियो देखे।

के व्यापार और निवेश मंत्री एंड्रू रॉब ने यह पुरस्कार प्रदान किया। फाइनल के विजेताओं को दस दिन के स्टडी टूर पर निमंत्रित किया गया था तथा उन्होंने देश की अग्रणी शिक्षण संस्थाओं का दौरा भी किया।

आईआईटी दिल्ली के छात्र ने जीता शीर्ष खिताब

मेलबर्न (भाषा)। आईआईटी दिल्ली के 22 वर्षीय छात्र उत्तम कुमार ने डिजिटल पोस्टकार्ड बनाने की वैश्विक ऑनलाइन प्रतियोगिता का खिताब अपने नाम कर लिया है। इस प्रतियोगिता में अपने बनाए पोस्टकार्ड के जरिए को बताना था कि ऑस्ट्रेलिया में पढ़ाई से उनके भविष्य के सपनों का एहसास दिलाने में कैसे मदद कर सकती है।

हरियाणा के एक छोटे से गांव के निवासी उत्तम कुमार को विन. योर फ्यूचर अनलिमिटेड प्रतियोगिता का विजेता घोषित किया गया है। सात सप्ताह तक चली यह प्रतियोगिता एक अक्टूबर से शुरू हुई थी, जिसमें दुनिया भर के 190 देशों से करीब 37,000 प्रविष्टियां आई थीं।

उत्तम को इस प्रतियोगिता के प्रथम पुरस्कार के रूप में ऑस्ट्रेलिया में एक वर्ष की पढ़ाई का पूरा खर्च दिया जाएगा, जिसमें विमान किराया, आवास का खर्च और वजीफे के अलावा इंटरशिप का मौका भी शामिल है।



पुरस्कार पाने के बाद उत्तम कुमार ऑस्ट्रेलिया के व्यापार और निवेश मंत्री एंड्रयू रॉब के साथ।

Hindustan ND 12/18/2013 P-3

सुब्रमण्यम स्वामी के खिलाफ आईआईटी की याचिका खारिज

नई दिल्ली (व.सं.)। हाईकोर्ट ने आईआईटी दिल्ली की उस याचिका को खारिज कर दिया है जिसमें भाजपा नेता सुब्रमण्यम स्वामी द्वारा दाखिल वाद पर सुनवाई नहीं करने का आग्रह किया था।

सुब्रमण्यम स्वामी ने हाईकोर्ट में याचिका दाखिल कर कहा है कि वह वर्ष 1972 से 1991 के बीच आईआईटी दिल्ली में सहायक

प्रोफेसरस थे। उन्होंने अपनी इस सेवा के बदले वेतन व भत्ता के रूप में आईआईटी से 70 लाख रुपये से अधिक की वसूली के लिए हाईकोर्ट में याचिका दाखिल की है।

जस्टिस मनमोहन सिंह ने आईआईटी और स्वामी द्वारा मामले को अदालत से बाहर निपटाने में विफल रहने पर आईआईटी की याचिका को खारिज कर दिया।

Business Standard

HC rejects IIT's plea against Subramanian Swamy

Press Trust of India | New Delhi December 17, 2013 Last Updated at 20:07 IST

The Delhi High Court today rejected IIT, Delhi's plea to dismiss Subramanian Swamy's civil suit claiming that the institute owes him more than Rs 70 lakhs for the services he rendered during his tenure there as an Assistant Professor between 1972 and 1991.

Justice Manmohan Singh dismissed the plea after both IIT and Swamy failed to settle the issue out of court.

The Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, (IIT-D) had approached high court against a city court's order agreeing to hear Swamy's plea seeking recovery of the alleged dues of Rs 19 lakh along with interest of 18 percent from February 1991.

In its plea, the petitioner took the ground that his plea was time-barred and beyond the jurisdiction of the court.

The lower court had on February 26, 2012 agreed to hear Swamy's plea and dismissed IIT's application seeking dismissal of his civil suit on the ground that it was time-barred and beyond the jurisdiction of the court.

According to IIT, Swamy's total claim, including interest, would come to Rs 70.20 lakh which is beyond the pecuniary jurisdiction of the lower court.

Swamy had filed the suit in the lower court to recover salary and allowances in revised grade from December 12, 1972 till May 21, 1991 along with interest at 18 percent with effect from February 20, 1991 till the date of payment and gratuity, pension.

Opposing Swamy's civil suit, IIT had said his claim for alleged dues was rejected by it as he had failed to provide the details of the amount earned from his employment between December 11, 1972 to March 27, 1991.

Swamy had said he came to know about his dues only in 2009 after filing RTI applications which showed the Director had "falsely" presented the case for his dues before the Board of Governors.

From labs to businesses - this is how the IITs get it right

GOT AN IDEA? IITs provide subsidised infrastructure, funds, mentoring and small seed funding to innovative projects by students at their incubation centres

Gauri Kohli

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The incubation centres at the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) were set up for converting ideas to practical solutions. They are now churning out some real success stories.

Take the case of IIT Bombay. It was among the first engineering institutions in the country to set up an incubation and innovation centre to support many bright sparks. "Incubation centres are a platform where ideas and crude prototypes can be turned into products that can be commercialised. We established the centre at our institute the year 2000 and have incubated 48 companies, of which about 20 have been funded," says Poyini Bhatt, chief administrative officer at IIT Bombay's Society for Incubation and Entrepreneurship (SINE).

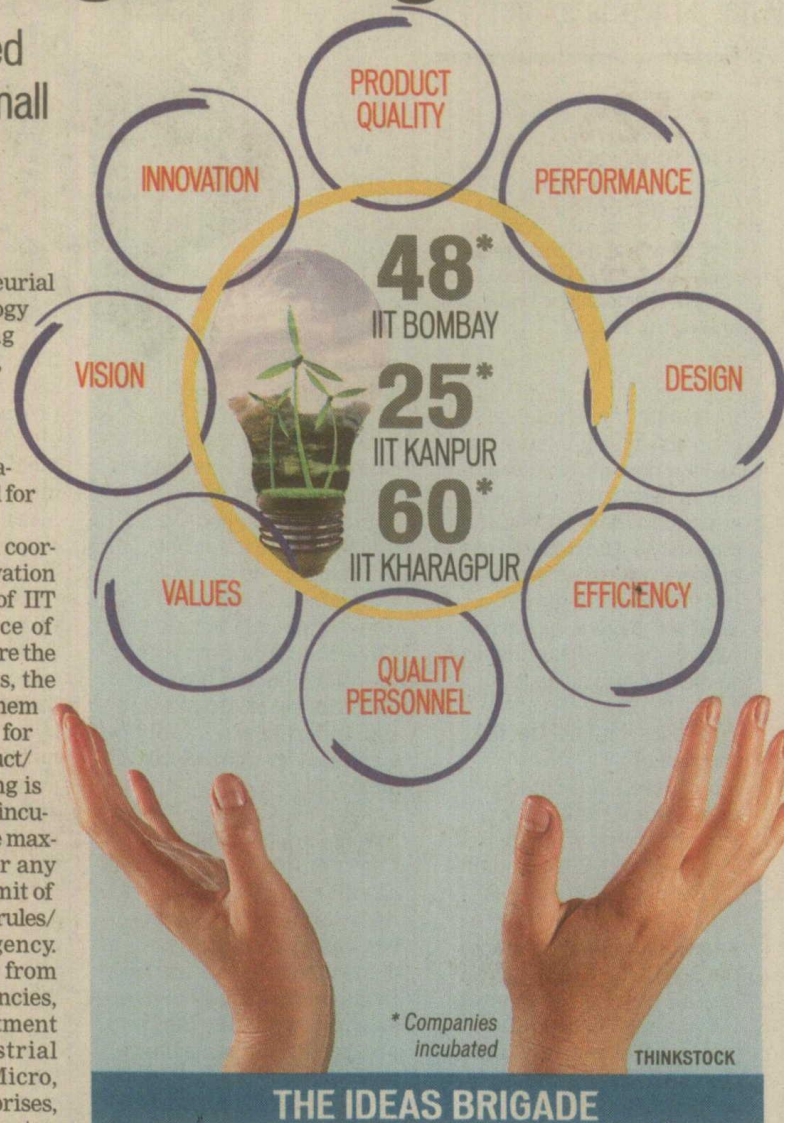
Elaborating on how the projects are selected, Bhatt says, "During screening, we see whether the business plan can be incubated and its chance of reaching the market. The students working on the projects have to justify the need for it to be funded before we actually go ahead. Our budget is upto ₹20 lakh per company and we also get support from the Department of Science and Technology (DST), the Technology Development Board and the Department of Information Technology (DIT)," adds Bhatt. Besides financial funding, the institute also provides subsidised infrastructure, mentoring and small seed funding.

SINE's work includes incubat-

ing early stage entrepreneurial ventures based on technology and innovation, creating physical infrastructure, facilitating networking with experts and advisors for the incubatee companies and identifying innovations which have potential for commercial ventures.

According to BV Phani, coordinator at the SIDBI Innovation Incubation Centre (SIIC) of IIT Kanpur, "The first source of start-ups at IIT Kanpur were the students' research projects, the results of which pushed them to start their own venture for commercialising the product/service. Faculty mentoring is mandatory for companies incubating at our institute. The maximum fund allotted under any project is ₹25 lakh. The limit of funding is governed by the rules/policy of the funding agency. SIIC has availed funding from different government agencies, namely DST, DIT, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Ministry of Micro, Medium and Small Enterprises, and Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council-Department of "Biotechnology."

The corpus funding has been availed from IIT Kanpur, UP Government and SIDBI Bank. It is mandatory for the incubated companies to nominate 3% equity to IIT Kanpur and if it is a faculty company physically incubating at IIT Kanpur, then they have to nominate 13% equity to the institute. An incubated company availing seed fund from IIT Kanpur and opting to repay part of the loan via equity also nomi-



nates its equity to IIT Kanpur (option of repayment of 50% to 25% equity).

"The incubation approval is given by a committee based on the principle of converting potential ideas into a commercial product. Currently, the centre is mentoring 25 projects/incubated companies," says Phani.

IIT Kharagpur is also providing incubation space for R&D of their products. "We are arranging seed funds/grants through various projects sponsored by the

Central government and mentoring to develop their products for commercialisation. About 60 projects have been funded and mentored through various projects sponsored in different domains in the last five years. We are picking 3% equity of the funded company on case to case basis. Around 50% of ideas are converted into real-life solutions," says Indranil Sengupta, managing director, Science and Technology Entrepreneurs' Park, IIT Kharagpur.

SUCCESS STORIES

'Incubators helped us work on our pilot projects'

Gauri Kohli

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Many IIT and IIM alumni have successfully turned their blueprints into start-ups, thanks to the incubation centres there.

Vivek Pandey, an alumnus of IIT Kharagpur is one of them. Co-founder of Ecofrost Technologies, he started an agri-focused company engaged in creating solutions to bridge gaps in cold chain infrastructure and technology. "The company envisions disrupting the current state of food supply chain in India

by empowering farmers, mandis and mobile cold chain players with clean technology for a sustainable future," says Pandey. The company, incubated at the Science and Technology Entrepreneurs' Park of IIT Kharagpur, is developing a small-scale solar-powered cold storage system.

He is happy that the centre provided them with an incubation facility that includes an office space, and necessary amenities like high voltage electricity supply, internet and more. "It has also facilitated to us the funds

necessary to develop the first working model which has been key to our business process. We were funded with ₹15 lakh for product development," he adds.

It's not just the engineering students who have benefitted from these incubation centres. IIM alumni also have similar stories to share. One of them is Manish Jobanputra, an alumnus of IIM Ahmedabad, who started Fine Feather School Health Programme that aims to offer quality health checks for schoolchildren to find hidden ailments. "We

have done checks on more than 25,000 school kids. Our second venture is called Fine Feather Dental Clinics, for which we have six clinics in Ahmedabad. We aim to bring in the best practices in dental health in terms of hygiene, transparency and treatment," he says. Besides the credibility, the innovation centre at his alma mater also helped him with infrastructure. "Institute-based incubation centres such as CIIE also play a major role in building a network of successful entrepreneurs. We got a seed fund of ₹25 lakh from CIIE," he says.

A major boost for IIM students

Gauri Kohli

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The Union Budget earlier this year came as a major boost for management students, especially from the Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs). The Budget suggested that corporate funding to incubators will come under the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) tag.

The proposal was meant to give a fillip to funding for on-campus incubators that encourage budding entrepreneurs to start their own ventures. For instance, IIM Bangalore operates an open incubator which is open to enterprises/founders that do not have any IIMB affiliation. "The idea behind designing it to be an open incubator is that Bangalore must have many entrepreneurs who have a strong tech/product development background who would benefit from their domicile inside a B-school. Many of our incubatees such as Just Books, Mango Technologies and Turtle Yogi and Ttava have been able to make significant changes to their business strategy and raise capital or sell



WE AIM TO MAKE INCUBATEES READY FOR RAISING CAPITAL FROM MARKET-ORIENTED INVESTORS THROUGH MENTORING AND INCUBATION SUPPORT

G SABARINATHAN, chairperson, NSRCEL at IIM Bangalore

technologies thanks to their presence at the NS Raghavan Centre for Entrepreneurial Learning (NSRCEL), says G Sabarinathan, chairperson, NSRCEL at IIM Bangalore.

So far, 35 enterprises have graduated from NSRCEL and nine are on board at present. Direct funding is not a key proposition of NSRCEL's incubation offerings. "It does a limited amount of funding selectively based on availability of funds from patient sources such as government grants. NSRCEL's essential approach is to make its incubatees ready for raising capital from market-oriented investors through its mentoring and incubation support. The centre has received some grants

from the Department of IT and Department of S&T, both of the government of India. The centre funds a few enterprises selectively out of these grant funds. The extent of funding varies in line with the requirement of the enterprise. The extent of equity acquired in an enterprise can vary depending on whether the incubatee has received funding or not and on the extent of funding received.

Interestingly, every single company that has been incubated at NSRCEL has delivered a product or solution, says Sabarinathan.

IIM Ahmedabad's Centre for Innovation, Incubation and Entrepreneurship (CIIE), also helps start-ups by providing mentoring, seed fund, physical

infrastructure facility and networking support. "CIIE also helps them in raising funds from angel investors and venture capitalists. CIIE has supported more than 80 start-ups which are at different stages of incubation. Average investment in start-ups is around ₹25 lakh. Usually, investment is against equity varying from 3% to 10% depending on different factors. We usually do not support start-ups at idea level. We support start-ups where at least prototype has been developed," says Ashwin Joshi, vice president, ecosystem development at CIIE.

IIM Calcutta and IIM Lucknow also run the Centre for Entrepreneurship and Innovation and the Innovation and Incubation Centre respectively to stimulate the development of start-ups.



Does your institute boost innovative start-ups? Tell us at www.facebook.com/htedu

HT Jaipur

IITians skip MNCs, line up for NGO jobs

Apekshita Varshney

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MUMBAI: High-paying jobs never attracted Kalpesh Dalvi, who is pursuing a two-year masters programme at the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay (IIT-B). Having friends who studied in Indian-language schools, he saw the difficulties faced in present-day India by a person who is unfamiliar with English.

Of the 150 students who had applied, Dalvi is the only who bagged a job at Sujaya Foundation in the current placement session of IIT-B. The foundation works to teach underprivileged school-going children.

“There is no proper infrastructure for students from poor families to learn English. I wish

SEEKING CHANGE

For the past few years, not-for-profit groups have been part of the campus placement process

This year, 300 students applied for jobs in 2 NGOs.

to dedicate my life to provide this luxury to them,” said Dalvi.

At least 300 students had applied for jobs in two NGOs, and only two got an offer. Confirming the trend of students applying for jobs in NGOs, Sunil Mehta, assistant placement officer at IIT, said, “It is surprising to see students with a cumulative performance index as high as 9 apply to NGOs when they can get a corporate job.”

» **CONTINUED ON P9**

and bank accounts of Indians working in these schools.

There is little sign of a climb-down from the US side, with a government spokesman maintaining that standard procedures had been followed during the arrest. The US has stuck to its view that Khobragade enjoyed immunity from the jurisdiction of US courts only with respect to acts performed in the exercise of her consular functions.

India has, however, said she should have been treated with sensitivity given her diplomatic status.

ITians skip..

The cumulative performance index is the average of the grades obtained in all subjects taken by students since their entry to the course.

The other, Sablay Rohan Satish, a final-year structural engineering student, believes that his move is calculated because it gives flight to his intention of working for society by not compromising on his career. "I wish to contribute and gain experience. At the same time, the package and opportunities they offer are better than several core jobs in my field," he said. For the past four to five years, not-for-profit groups have been part of the campus placement process at the institute.

The salaries offered to the two students placed by not-for-profit groups have not been disclosed. Although these groups offer salaries that are less than a fourth of

a large number of students who want the experience. "Even if it not like a full-fledged career, a lot of students also opt for part-time jobs at NGOs", said Aakanksha Dimri, institute placement manager.

Keep 6m...

The SC has also asked the state government to reconstitute its high-rise technical committee and widen its mandate so that it can hear people's grievances on construction and on technical aspects of redevelopment of old buildings and cluster redevelopment. The state has been asked to issue the necessary notification within four weeks of the order, re-constituting the committee under Justice PS Patankar, a former Bombay high court judge, and six other members. It has also appointed urban researcher and architect Pankaj Joshi on this committee. Developers had been lobbying to curb the powers of the high-rise committee, arguing that several levels of authority were slowing down development in the city.

Builders said the order will slow down construction activity, especially on the island city which has many old buildings on small plots. "We hope the state government makes a representation to the apex court explaining ground reality, because in the case of redevelopment of old, dilapidated buildings, the plot sizes are very small. This order could bring redevelopment in the island city to a halt," said a devel-



■ Union HRD minister MM Pallam Raju (Right) unveils the foundation stone of the International Center of XLRI at Tata Auditorium in Jamshedpur

ARVIND SHARMA/HT

Extend draft regulation for tech institutes: rep

Press Trust of India

Against the backdrop of UGC coming out with a draft regulation for technical institutes, representatives from over a dozen colleges today met HRD Minister M M Pallam Raju suggesting that they should be allowed to follow the existing evaluation system.

They are also understood to have pressed for extending the deadline to provide feedback to the draft guidelines by about 15 days.

Earlier this month, UGC had announced new draft guidelines to regulate technical institutes comprising engineering and management schools in the country. It had asked education institutions for any feedback to be given by December 9.

Arguing that the time given was not enough for them for giving feedback, the representatives requested Raju to extend it up to December 31, sources said.

The draft UGC guidelines came in wake of a Supreme Court ruling earlier this year questioning the authority of AICTE to regulate technical institutes. It said that colleges affiliated to a university do not come under the purview of the defini-

tion of "technical institution" as defined in AICTE Act, 1987.

It had therefore become imperative for the universities and UGC to evolve a suitable methodology to ensure that existing technical or engineering colleges affiliated to universities do not dilute standards of technical education imparted by them.

LOOKING AHEAD

Sources said during the interaction with the minister, institution heads requested for evolving a mechanism under which the existing evaluation system of AICTE for approval colleges offering technical programme be followed.

They were of the view that the existing system could be followed as they had little time to frame their views on the draft guidelines. The Supreme Court ruling has led to an air of confusion over the status of affiliation to technical institutes. At present there are about 55 to 60 technical universities in the country, with dozens of colleges affiliated to them.

A move by HRD ministry to promulgate an ordinance to restore the powers of AICTE was shelved quietly later on over concerns of it being carried through.

HT Indore

Google acquires military robot-maker

Reuters

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SAN FRANCISCO: Google is now the owner of Big Dog, a four-legged robot that can climb muddy hills, and Cheetah, a robot which can outrun the fastest human.

The world's largest Internet search company acquired Boston Dynamics, a privately held engineering company best known for building robots, which are often co-developed or funded by the U.S. military.

The acquisition is the latest by Google's secretive

robotics division, led by Andy Rubin, the former boss of the company's Android mobile operating system.

Google's new robotics division has acquired more than a half-dozen other robotics companies.

A person familiar with the matter confirmed the deal, which was first reported by the New York Times on Saturday, and said that Google will honor Boston Dynamics' military contracts.

The financial terms of the deal are under wraps as both Google and Boston Dynamics

did not comment on the matter.

Based in Waltham, Massachusetts, Boston Dynamics was founded in 1992 as a spin-off from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The company works with the U.S. Army, Navy, Marine Corps and the Defense Department's Advanced Research Projects Agency, according to its website.

The company's website lists a catalog of nine different robots, including a DARPA-funded machine capable of scaling vertical walls using "micro-claws," and a small four-wheeled

vehicle that can jump 30 feet into the air and which is being developed with the U.S. Army's Rapid Equipping Force.

The four-legged Cheetah robot, which can surpass speeds of 29 miles per hour according to the website, is billed as the "fastest legged robot in the world."

Google has been tight-lipped about what it plans to do with the robots although media reports earlier this month suggested that the company's efforts were focused on developing robotics technology that can be used in factories.

Technical colleges against transfer from AICTE to UGC

Shafaque Alam, TNN | Dec 18, 2013, 03:39 AM IST

NOIDA: Several technical colleges in Noida are resisting the move to be transferred from AICTE control to UGC. In April 2013, the [Supreme Court](#) ruled that colleges affiliated to a university do not come under the definition of "technical institution" as mentioned under Section 2(h) of AICTE Act, 1987. Following the judgment, UGC issued a circular on December 3 for evolving a suitable method to ensure that existing technical/engineering colleges affiliated to universities do not dilute standards of technical education imparted by them.

UGC had also asked for comments and feedback from stakeholders by December 9. More than 13,000 technical institutions in the country are currently under AICTE's control. UGC said that from now state universities will control engineering colleges, management institutes and other technical institutions. However, several stakeholders termed the UGC move to be taken in a haste and without giving sufficient time to them to respond.

[Educational Promotion Society for India](#) (EPSI), a federal body of private institutions, has persuaded the Union HRD ministry to extend the deadline for collecting feedback on "draft UGC guidelines" for regulating technical education. An EPSI delegation met [Union HRD minister](#) MM Pallam Raju and shared concerns.

EPSI alternate director, Dr H Chaturvedi, said, "We requested the minister to intervene to sustain the autonomy of these academic institutions. We also demanded that the process of issuing the said regulations be immediately stopped and wide consultations be held in the matter with all stakeholders, including state governments, universities, colleges and public."

Dr Chaturvedi, who is also the director of [Birla Institute of Management Technology](#), said that the ministry has accepted the plea and extended the deadline for consultation to December 31.

Pvt tech colleges fear empty seats

Ashok Pradhan, TNN | Dec 17, 2013, 04:46 PM IST

BHUBANESWAR: Private engineering colleges apprehend large-scale vacancies of first year BTech seats in the coming academic year in view of the "poor" response from Odisha students to JEE Main 2014, the national-level entrance test for engineering admission.

"We got to know that only around 22,000 students from Odisha have applied so far for JEE Main. Another week or so is left for the application process to be completed. The small number is a worrying trend as it would mean an unprecedented number of unoccupied undergraduate engineering seats in the coming year," said Binod Dash, secretary, Odisha Private Engineering College Association (Opeca).

The application process for JEE Main started on November 15. The last date to apply is December 26.

Till this year, Odisha admitted engineering students through the state-level Odisha Joint Entrance Examination (OJEE). For 2013, over 68,000 students had applied for engineering admission through OJEE, including around 19,000 students from outside the state. Of them, 62,000 had qualified for admission. However, over 24,000 of the total around 42,000 engineering seats remained without admission in 2013-14.

"The situation may worsen in 2014-15 unless steps are taken at the earliest since the number of applicants is far lower this time. Perhaps many student don't know that Odisha will draw students from JEE Main. The government should create awareness about it through publicity properly," Dash said.

Opeca has submitted a memorandum to technical education minister Pratap Keshari Deb seeking to conduct a special OJEE to attract more students in view of the poor response to the national level test. "This is a bridge year when the state shifted from OJEE to JEE Main. We have requested the government to hold a special OJEE so that no aspirant is left out of the process," he said.

Government authorities said it was too soon to call the trend poor. "Most students tend to fill up applications in the last few days. Since more than a week is left, several more students would apply. I don't think any engineering aspirant doesn't know about JEE Main," said Chandra Sekhar Kumar, principal secretary, technical education.

The offline mode of JEE Main is scheduled on April 6 while the online test would be held between April 9 and April 19. There are 88 private and eight government-run engineering colleges in state, excluding two deemed universities.