

# Newspaper Clips

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## Pallam Raju lays stone of IIT-D extension campus

Says Centre will focus on quality education in 12th five-yr plan

**OUR CORRESPONDENT**

SONEPAT, DECEMBER 21

Union Human Resource Development Minister MM Pallam Raju said today that keeping in view the recognition of the Indian education at the international levels, the Centre would focus on quality education during the 12th five-year plan.

He was addressing a public meeting after laying the foundation stone of the extension campus of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)- Delhi, along with Haryana Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda, at Rajiv Gandhi Education City, Rai. During the 11th five-year plan, the government concentrated on the expansion of higher education and the budget allocation was increased by 11 times during the plan in comparison to the budget allocation in the 10th five-year plan, he said.

Raju praised the Haryana CM for his concept on Rajiv Gandhi Education City to providing international standard skills and bright future for the younger and future generations of the state and the country. He also stressed the need for vocational skill training.

Hooda said the opening of these centres would be a milestone in promoting research and technical edu-



Union HRD Minister MM Pallam Raju and Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda lay the foundation stone of an IIT extension campus at Kilorad village in Sonapat district on Saturday. PHOTO: BS MALIK

cation. The IIT-Delhi campus would have a faculty development centre where teachers of technical institutes and engineering colleges would be provided world-class standard training free of cost, he announced and said the campus would also have a science and technology park and high performance computing facility.

He said Haryana had emerged as an educational hub during the last nine years as the state government had increased the number of technical institutes. "The 21st century is of knowledge and the demographic dividend today is in India's favour," he said, while stating that India was a leading country in the world for its youth power. Their proper educa-

tion and training would take the nation to greater heights in various fields. He announced that the foundation stones of a national law university and national tourism university would be laid soon on the Rajiv Gandhi Education City premises.

Haryana Technical Education Minister Mahender Pratap Singh, Rohtak MP Deepender Singh Hooda, Sonapat MP Jitender Singh Malik, MLA Jai Tirth Dahiya, Political Adviser to CM Virender and the Director of IIT-Delhi RK Shivgaonkar also addressed the meeting.

Later, the Union Minister and the CM laid the foundation stone of the Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) at Kilorad village in the district.

## HRD minister lays stones for IIT extension campus

[HT Correspondent](#), Hindustan Times Rohtak, December 21, 2013

Union minister for human resource development MM Pallam Raju on Saturday laid the foundation stone of an extension campus of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) at Rajiv Gandhi Education City, Rai, Sonapat. In view of demand and recognition of quality education, the government has set up the ambitious project in the state, he said.

Chief minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda, who was also present on the occasion, said the opening of such centres would prove a milestone in promotion of the research and technical education.

Later, both also laid the foundation stone of the Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) at Kilohrad village in Sonapat district.

Praising Hooda, Pallam Raju said during the past nine years the state government had laid special emphasis on higher and technical education in the state. He said more educational institutions would be set up in the state to lay special emphasis on skill education.

He said about 120 lakh children were coming to the work force every year in the country and to impart skill education to them the Centre had set up a number of institutions across the country. As part of same initiative, 20 new IITs were being opened in the country. He said Prime Minister Manmohan Singh had made an action plan to educate 50 crore children by 2022.

Speaking on the occasion, Hooda said while the extension campus of IIT-Delhi would be constructed at a cost of Rs. 500 crore, a sum of `128 crore would be spent on the construction of IIIT. The IIT extension campus would also have a Science and Technology Park, High Performance Computing Facility and Faculty Development Centre. The IIIT at Kilohrad would be the 11th such institute in the country and the first institute, which would be constructed in a rural area.

Hooda said during the past nine years, his government had laid special emphasis on technical education and as a result of this a number of new universities and colleges have been opened in the state.

In 2005, the number of seats in technical institutions were only 23,000, which have been increased to 1.5 lakh, added Hooda. He said educational institutions have been set up right from Panchkula to Sirsa. Citing examples, he referred to National Institute of Fashion Technology, National Institute of Design, Kalpana Chawla Medical College, Bhagat Phool Singh Women University and Medical College, NIFTEM, first defence university of the country.

Taking a dig at the opposition parties, he said people need to remain vigilant from those people who are trying to mislead them and asked them to see for themselves who are their real well wishers. He said the Congress' Gohana Rally on November 10 has snubbed the opposition to that extent that these parties had stopped organising rallies in the state.

## Raju, Hooda lay foundation of IIT extension camps in Sonipat

Press Trust of India | Sonipat (Har) , Business Standard  
December 21, 2013 Last Updated at 20:46 IST

Union Minister Pallam Raju and Haryana Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda laid the foundation stone for extension campus of IIT-Delhi at Kundli and that of IIIT at Kilhorad village in Sonipat today.

IIT-Delhi's extension campus would be set up at Rajiv Gandhi Education City in Kundli at a cost of Rs 500 crore, Hooda said, adding that it would have Science and Technology Park, High Performance Computing Facility and Faculty Development Centre.

The IIIT to be set up at Kilhorad would be the 11th such institute in the country and first institute in a rural area, he said.

The National Law University and National Tourism University would also be set up soon at Rajiv Gandhi Education City, Hooda said.

Explaining his government's commitment to education, he said, "In 2005, the number of seats in technical institutes were only 23,000 which have increased to 1.5 lakh."

Speaking on the occasion, Union Minister for Human Resources Development Pallam Raju emphasised on skill-based education and said that the Centre was opening 20 IIITs to make about 120 lakh children entering the work force every year employable.

Raju said that Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has made an action plan to educate 50 crore children by 2022.

Haryana Technical Education Minister Mahender Pratap Singh, Sonipat MP Jitender Malik and Rohtak MP Deepinder Singh Hooda also spoke on the occasion.

# ऐसा न हो, आईआईटी का पत्थर लग जाए और धूल ही उड़ती रहे : राजू

भास्कर न्यूज. सोनीपत

केंद्रीय मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री डॉ. एम. पल्लम राजू ने



हरियाणा में आईआईटी और आईआईआईटी कैंपस निर्माण में देरी की आशंका जताई। उन्होंने कहा कि वे नहीं चाहते कि शिलान्यास का पत्थर लग जाए और उस पर धूल उड़ती रहे। किसी भी परियोजना का लोगों को लाभ तभी मिल सकता है, जब वह जल्दी से जल्दी धरातल पर आए। शिलान्यास की जल्दबाजी के लिए रोहतक के कांग्रेसी सांसद को

जिम्मेदार बताते हुए उन्होंने कहा कि मैं जब से मंत्री बना हूँ, तभी से रोहतक सांसद इस प्रोजेक्ट का शिलान्यास करने के लिए दबाव डाल रहे थे।

राजू शनिवार को सोनीपत के राई स्थित राजीव गांधी एजुकेशन सिटी में दिल्ली आईआईटी एक्सटेंशन कैंपस का शिलान्यास करने के बाद लोगों को संबोधित कर रहे थे। इसके बाद उन्होंने किलोहड़द गांव के पास आईआईआईटी का भी शिलान्यास किया। उन्होंने दिल्ली आईआईटी के डायरेक्टर प्रो. आरके शेवगांवकर से कहा कि प्रायः ऐसा देखा गया है कि आमतौर पर फाउंडेशन स्टोन लगाने के बाद लोग काम भूल जाते हैं। ऐसा नहीं होना चाहिए।

## जल्द से जल्द शुरू हो निर्माण : केंद्रीय मंत्री

केंद्रीय मंत्री डॉ. राजू ने कहा कि आईआईटी का फाउंडेशन हो गया है। अब इसके निर्माण के बारे में भी प्लान तैयार कर काम जल्दी शुरू कराएँ। रोहतक के सांसद की जल्दबाजी के बावजूद हमने पहले यह तय किया कि यहां बनेगा क्या? अब यह भी फाइनल हो गया है कि यहां पर इंजीनियरिंग कॉलेज के शिक्षकों का ज्ञान बढ़ाया जाएगा। इंडस्ट्री पर रिसर्च होगी और कंप्यूटिंग सिस्टम भी बनेगा। कार्यक्रम की अध्यक्षता हरियाणा के मुख्यमंत्री ने की।

## गडकरी बोले- रद्द कर देंगे एजुकेशन सिटी

राई. भाजपा के पूर्व राष्ट्रीय अध्यक्ष नितिन गडकरी ने राई क्षेत्र के किसानों से वादा किया है कि प्रदेश में भाजपा की सरकार बनी तो उनकी अधिग्रहण की गई जमीन तो वापस कर देंगे। साथ ही राजीव गांधी एजुकेशन सिटी प्रोजेक्ट को भी रद्द कर दिया जाएगा। गडकरी शनिवार को करनाल में आयोजित एक कार्यक्रम में जा रहे थे। पूर्व मंत्री रमेश कौशिक के आग्रह पर वे भूमि अधिग्रहण के विरोध में धरने पर बैठे किसानों के बीच में पहुंचे। उन्होंने कहा कि सरकार का राजीव गांधी एजुकेशन सिटी प्रोजेक्ट एक कलम से रद्द कर दिया जाएगा। गडकरी ने कहा कि भाजपा किसानों के हित की नीतियां बनाती है।

# मिलेंगे और बड़े सैलरी पैकेज!

## आईआईटी मद्रास सहित राज्य के सभी इंजीनियरिंग छात्रों की उम्मीदें और बढ़ीं

चेन्नई

चालू वर्ष के अंतिम माह में यदि किसी आईआईटीयन या इंजीनियरिंग छात्र को अच्छा ऑफर न मिला हो तो उसे निराश होने की कतई जरूरत नहीं है और न ही उसे उम्मीद छोड़नी चाहिए, क्योंकि उन जैसे छात्रों के लिए यह किसी बड़ी खुशखबरी से कम नहीं है कि नए वर्ष में एक बार बड़ी कंपनियों के ऑफरों की बाढ़ फिर से आ सकती है। यह बात कोई आईआईटी संस्थान या कोई इंजीनियरिंग कॉलेज द्वारा नहीं कही गई है बल्कि देश-विदेश की जानी-मानी लगभग पांच हजार बड़ी कंपनियों की राय है। इससे कम से कम उन छात्रों को राहत मिलेगी जिन्हें चालू वर्ष के अंतिम माह दिसंबर में किसी कंपनी का ऑफर उनकी योग्यता के अनुसार पसंद नहीं आया था। अब वे नए सिरे से नए ऑफर के संबंध में सोच-विचार कर सकते हैं क्योंकि ये ऑफर आगामी जनवरी से आने शुरू हो जाएंगे। सर्वे के बाद

मद्रास आईआईटी और राज्य के सभी बड़े इंजीनियरिंग कॉलेजों में एक बार फिर से प्लेसमेंट में तेजी की उम्मीद बढ़ी है। यहां से पास आउट छात्र अभी इस उम्मीद में हैं कि उनको और अच्छा ऑफर मिलेगा। तभी तो आईआईटी मद्रास के पासआउट कम से कम एक दर्जन छात्रों ने अभी आए ऑफर ठुकरा दिए थे। उन्हें उम्मीद है कि जनवरी में और बड़े ऑफर आ सकते हैं। साथ ही कई और बड़ी कंपनियां आकर छात्रों को आकर्षक ऑफर दे सकती हैं। आईआईटी मद्रास के छात्र कुलश नारंग का कहना था कि नए वर्ष में और बड़ी कंपनियां आएंगी जो और अधिक आकर्षक ऑफर छात्रों को देंगी। उल्लेखनीय है कि यहां के छात्रों में यह उम्मीद एक सर्वे के बाद जागी है। इस सर्वे के मुताबिक अगले साल जनवरी से लेकर मार्च तक के दौरान लगभग सभी बड़ी कंपनियों ने नई भर्ती के संकेत दिए हैं। यह सर्वे मैनपावर एम्प्लॉयमेंट आउटलुक सर्वे में कही गई है। सर्वे की मानें तो 30 फीसदी कंपनियों ने स्टाफ बढ़ाने की बात कही है। इससे यह निश्चित हो जाता है कि आगामी माह में छात्रों के पास और आकर्षक प्रस्ताव आ सकते हैं। इसके अलावा 49 फीसदी कंपनियों ने अपने संस्थानों में बदलाव के भी संकेत दिए हैं। सर्वे में 2014 की पहली तिमाही

में कंपनियों के भर्ती अभियान में तेजी की उम्मीद जताई गई है। इसमें सभी 7 इंडस्ट्रियल सेक्टरों में भर्तियों में बढ़ोतरी की उम्मीद की जा रही है। सबसे बेहतर हायरिंग प्लान माइनिंग, कंस्ट्रक्शन और होलसेल एंड रिटेल ट्रेड सेक्टरों में है। इन सेक्टरों में 38 फीसदी रोजगार उपलब्ध है। फाइनेंस, इश्योरेंस और रीयल एस्टेट सेक्टर में भी भर्तियों में तेजी की संभावना जताई गई है। इन सेक्टरों के लिए रोजगार 36 फीसदी है। सर्विस सेक्टर के मामले में 35 फीसदी रोजगार है।

### तेजी की संभावना

मैनपावर ग्रुप इंडिया के ग्रुप मैनेजिंग डायरेक्टर एजी राव ने बताया कि पहली तिमाही में हायरिंग की रफ्तार तेज रहने की संभावना है। विशेषतौर पर माइनिंग और कंस्ट्रक्शन सेक्टरों में रोजगार बढ़ने वालों को आक्रामक भर्ती का लाभ मिलेगा। सर्विसेज सेक्टर में भर्तियों की रफ्तार तेज रह सकती है जहां मल्टी नेशनल और नेशनल दोनों तरह की कंपनियां आक्रामक तरीके से आईटी प्रतिभाओं की भर्ती करेंगी। ग्लोबल लेवल पर पहली तिमाही में हायरिंग के मामले में भारत, ताइवान और न्यूजीलैंड ऐसे देशों में शामिल हैं जहां के छात्रों की सबसे अधिक मांग है।

# Govt to ease norms for African students

## To Cut Red Tape With Single Window Clearance

Akshaya Mukul | TNN

**New Delhi:** India's foreign policy focus on Africa is soon going to reflect in its educational policy too. The HRD ministry, while reworking its initiative for foreign students, has decided that students from Africa should get special attention in Indian educational institutions, both in government and private.

HRD sources said India has become an attractive destination not only for African students who come on government scholarship but even those who can pay for their study. "We want them to attend good institutions," a source said. The ministry has also decided to put in place a new mechanism to ensure that after students are allotted a university they should go to good colleges.

On the lines of many US



The HRD ministry also wants Indian universities to conduct remedial courses for Africans

universities, the ministry also wants Indian universities to conduct remedial courses for Africans. Earlier this month, a senior ministry official received a lot of complaints from African students about the lack of infrastructural facilities as also about their problems in various colleges of Pune that offer courses in Marathi language.

These students — mostly on scholarship offered by the

Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR) and Indian Technical Education Cooperation — said they are facing problems from Foreigners Regional Registration Office.

As part of its comprehensive programme to attract foreign students and make their stay in India comfortable, HRD secretary Ashok Thakur has mooted a new scheme to set up international hostels and foreign student offices in 15-20 universities. "Foreign student office should be a one-stop institution that should take care of all the needs of foreign students so they do not have to run around for various clearances," a ministry official said.

The ministry has convened a meeting of UGC, ICCR and the ministry of external affairs (MEA) to look into the issues relating to welfare of foreign students.

# सस्ते इलाज के मिशन में जुटे इंजीनियरिंग छात्र

कई राष्ट्रीय प्रतियोगिताओं में पेश किए मॉडल्स से साफ है कि इंजीनियरिंग छात्र मेडिकल प्रोफेशन को गंभीरता से ले रहे हैं। उनका जोर लोगों को किफायती स्वास्थ्य सुविधाएं उपलब्ध कराने पर है।

1. हर साल कई महिलाओं को पोस्टपार्टम हेमरेज की वजह से मौत हो जाती है। इसमें डिलीवरी के बाद बहुत ज्यादा ब्लॉडिंग होती है। इसका कारण गर्भाशय में प्लेसेंटा रह जाना या गर्भाशय में लचीलापन नहीं होना है। इस समस्या को दूर करने के लिए चेन्नाई के एसएसएन कॉलेज ऑफ इंजीनियरिंग के पांच छात्रों के ग्रुप ने एक महीने तक कड़ी मेहनत की। गर्भाशय को गरमाहट देने की तकनीक इंजाद की, जिससे खून जमाया जा सके। उन्होंने पाया कि अति सूक्ष्म कण आपस में टकराने पर गरमाहट पैदा करते हैं। जो गर्भाशय की अंदरूनी दीवारों को गरमाहट के लिए पर्याप्त है। इससे लीक हो रही खून की कोशिकाओं को जमाने की प्रक्रिया शुरू

हो सकती है। भारत में प्रसव के दौरान मौत के 30 प्रतिशत मामलों में कारण बहुत ज्यादा ब्लॉडिंग ही है।

2. दिल का दौरा पड़ने पर मरीज को सही समय पर अस्पताल पहुंचाना और विशेष उपचार दिलाना जरूरी है। तत्काल उपचार नहीं मिला तो मरीज की जान भी जा सकती है। तमिलनाडु के ही नॉलेज इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ टेक्नोलॉजी सलेम के तीन छात्रों के ग्रुप ने एक उपकरण बनाया है। जो मरीज को बिजली का झटका देकर या वाइब्रेशन (कंपन) से धमनियों में बने ब्लॉक्स को साफ करता है। उन्होंने इस उपकरण का नाम रखा है- ई-ऐडर। यह छोटे वाइब्रेशंस या जरूरत के मुताबिक बिजली के झटके पैदा करता है। इससे ब्लॉकिंग के हिस्से में धमनी फैलती है और खून का बहाव सहज हो जाता है। यह उपकरण इतना छोटा है कि कपड़ों के अंदर भी पहना जा सकता है। यदि किसी मरीज को दिल का दौरा पड़ने वाला हो और कोई भी



मैनेजमेंट फंडा

एन. रघुरामन

उसके पास न हो तो वह बटन दबाकर अटैक से बच सकता है। यह उपकरण हाई-इंटेन्सिटी सॉनिक तरंगें बनाता है, जिससे बिना सर्जरी या दवाओं के धमनी के ब्लॉक को हटाया जा सकता है।

3. खड़गपुर आईआईटी के छात्रों ने कैसर के ट्यूमर का पता लगाने के लिए हार्डवेयर-सॉफ्टवेयर कॉम्बिनेशन बनाया है। यह ग्रामीण इलाकों में पैरामेडिकल और टेक्नीशियंस के लिए उपयोगी है। वे ट्यूमर का पता लगाकर डॉक्टरों को तस्वीर के तौर पर संदेश भेजते हैं। यह एक तरह की पेंसिल टेलीमेडिसिन है। स्मार्टफोन पर लेंस-स्टाइल का कैमरा अटैचमेंट हार्डवेयर लगा है। जो एनएफसी (नियर फील्ड कम्युनिकेशन) से कनेक्ट है।

उससे ही यह एप काम करता है। ट्यूमर स्कैन होते ही उसकी तस्वीर क्लाउड बेस्ड प्लेटफॉर्म पर अपलोड होती है। जिसके आधार पर डॉक्टर अपना डायग्नोसिस करते हैं।

4. वर्ल्ड हेल्थ ऑर्गनाइजेशन (डब्ल्यूएचओ) की 2011-12 रिपोर्ट कहती है कि दुनियाभर में 45 प्रतिशत नवजात शिशुओं की मौत सांस लेने में तकलीफ या बर्थ हायपोक्सिया से होती है। इसमें बच्चे को जरूरी ऑक्सीजन नहीं मिलता। ऑक्सीजन देने के लिए सिलेंडर का इस्तेमाल होता है। जो फार्मसी और अस्पतालों में 4-5 हजार रुपए में आता है। वेल्लूर इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ टेक्नोलॉजी के तीन छात्रों की टीम ने सस्ता विकल्प सुझाया है। उन्होंने ऐसा उपकरण बनाया है, जो काफी कम खर्च पर ऑक्सीजन उपलब्ध कराता है। पानी की इलेक्ट्रोडिसिस से ऑक्सीजन सिर्फ 70 रुपए में बनाई जा सकती है। यह पोटेंशल और काफी हल्का है। इलेक्ट्रोडिसिस के बाद ऑक्सीजन एकत्रित करने के लिए इस्तेमाल

होने वाले चैम्बर्स को आसानी से एक जगह से दूसरी जगह ले जाया जा सकता है। इसका रखरखाव भी आसान है।

5. आईआईटी वाराणसी के दो छात्रों ने टचपैड विकसित किया है। यह असाध्य और साध्य ट्यूमर को अलग करता है। अंतर समझने के लिए कोशिकाओं की इलेक्ट्रिकल प्रॉपर्टीज का अध्ययन करता है। यह उपकरण कैपेसिटंस से रीडिंग लेकर उसे डिजिटली कन्वर्ट करता है। इसकी मदद से डॉक्टर कैपेसिटंस में बदलाव नाप सकते हैं। यह बता सकते हैं कि कौन-सा ट्यूमर कैसर का नहीं है या साध्य है, जो आगे चलकर असाध्य ट्यूमर बन सकता है।

## IIT-Bombay's Dandi March memorial to pay tribute to satyagrahis

[Nergish Sunavala](#), TNN Dec 22, 2013, 02.28AM IST

So little is known about the satyagrahis hand-picked by Mahatma Gandhi for the 1930 Dandi March that despite starting work on a memorial in 2010, IIT-Bombay researchers have still not been able to identify half of the 80 marchers. "We have videos, we have images but who can recognize them?" asks Sethu Das, a consultant to the Rs 63 crore project, which was awarded to IIT-B by the Ministry of Culture.

The monument is meant to commemorate the Dandi March, which was undertaken to defy the British-imposed salt tax. Each satyagrahi will be identified in the finished memorial — it is supposed to be completed by 2015— but matching the names to the sculptures was so cumbersome that the task was put off for now. "We are going ahead with the making of the statues without knowing who the person is," explains Das.

This ambiguity has heightened the challenge for the 40 sculptors - eight of whom are foreigners - who were charged with creating two life-size statues during two-week-long workshops. "I don't know anything about him. I just have this one blurry picture," says 30-year-old artist Johanna Schwaiger about the young satyagrahi she was assigned to sculpt. Schwaiger, who is a professional sculptor in Austria and a believer in passive resistance, estimated that the boy was around 18 from the image. "From the picture I got the sense of a boy that's afraid, I could sense fear," says Schwaiger. Others like Delhi's Niharika Manchanda didn't even have an image from the march to work with. She had to imagine what the satyagrahi looked like based on a few biographical details. For instance, "if he is from Maharashtra, he must have been wearing a Gandhian cap and a kurta-pyjama," she explains.

In order to be thorough, IIT-B contacted the marchers' living relatives — thus avoiding blunders that would have arisen from blindly recreating archival images. For instance, the researchers initially assumed that all satyagrahis had donned Gandhi topis. However, one marcher's son narrated a story about his South Indian Christian father raising hackles when he refused to wear one. His father's resolve was so strong that he eventually forced Gandhi's hand on the issue. "So if we had made a life-size statue of Titusji with a cap we would have been wrong," says Das.

According to current plans, the Dandi memorial will have a 16-foot Gandhi statue inside a light pyramid with a cluster of satyagrahis to the right. There will also be a pathway running along the left bank of an artificial lake, which will replicate the route with panels to represent major events during the 24-day journey. The sculptors, who are part of the project, were chosen on the basis of their portfolios and given a token amount to be part of the project. Some are from countries with ongoing freedom struggles like Tibet and Myanmar. In fact, the two Tibetan sculptors from a monastery in South India were chosen despite having never worked with clay— their medium of choice being butter.

Though the Gandhi statue, sculpted by Sadashiv Sathe, will take pride of place, the memorial's significance lies in the fact that it acknowledges the unknown, unsung marchers. "When we say Salt March, we only think about Babu," says Das, "but the more research you do on these individuals, the more you feel that they were heroes."

## Dragons, Korean lanterns usher in IIT's three-day Mood Indigo fest

Saturday, Dec 21, 2013, 11:46 IST | Agency: DNA

[Seema Wadhwa](#)



A music troupe performs at the IIT Mood Indigo fest on Friday.

As a crowd of students from 200 colleges trooped into IIT-B for the annual fest, Mood Indigo, a two-floor high thermocol dragon welcomed the visitors, symbolising the oriental theme of the fest.



Around 3,000 colourful Korean lanterns swayed across the campus, on Day One of the festival. While Korean dancers performed the Korean Bongsantal masked dance, dancers straight out of the Shanghai streets performed the Chinese dragon dance.

To give an insight into the Korean and Chinese culture, events such as tea-tasting, lantern-making, taekwondo workshops, eating with a chopstick, use of Korean post cards, Hanbok-Korean national dress trial counter have been organised.

Celebrating the global experience of the fest, a band from Ireland - Outside Track – performed the tap dance to the tunes of AR Rehman’s Jai Ho while playing the harp, guitar and violin. “We have come up with various events keeping in mind the global theme this year. There’s a versatility to each event, yet there’s something suitable for every participant,” said Dhaval Goyal, events head at Mood Indigo.

Another activity will be twisting, licking and dunking Oreo biscuits in milk by 2,000 IIT students in a bit to create a Guinness World Record.

The three-day fest from December 20 to 23 will have interactive music arena, EDM Night and International music fest.

## **IISc students bag plum offers**

Ramzauva Chhakchhuak, Bangalore, Dec 21, 2013, DHNS :, Deccan Herald

**The placement season has barely picked up at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc). However, two postgraduate students have already landed jobs with a pay packet of Rs 22.26 lakh per annum.**

Both are from the department of computer science and have been picked up by the online retail giant based in US, e-bay. Likewise as many as 113 of the 300 students who registered for this year’s placement have been placed in a number of well-known Indian and foreign companies from the fields of information technology and manufacturing.

Last year, two students were recruited for an annual salary of Rs 25 lakh. The average salary of students placed from here is Rs 16 lakh per annum, according to J M Chandra Kishen, professor, department of civil engineering, who heads the placement cell.

The placement season which runs from November to February every year, has got a confirmation from at least 45 companies – Indian and foreign so far, and more are expected to participate. These include companies like IBM, Goldman Sachs, Airbus and Microsoft, besides the Mahindra Group and Tata Consultancy Services (TCS).

Significantly, most of the students who register with the placement cell are those in ME (Masters in Engineering) and MTech (Masters in Technology).

Out of these, students from the departments of Civil Engineering, Computer Science, Electrical Engineering and Electronics and Communication Engineering and even from the Centre of Product Design and Manufacturing are the most sought after. There are on an average 20 to 25 students in each of these departments and almost 90 per cent of them get placed every year. For students in other departments like Mechanical, Aeronautical and Material Engineering, the placement percentage is 50 percent to 60 per cent.

A majority of those pursuing their PhD and postdoctorate studies in the Institute rarely register with the placement cell. “These students may land jobs on their own or through their respective departments or contacts. Sometimes companies send their requirements specifically for PhD candidates which we convey to the respective departments. In any case, most of them may be more interested in pursuing higher studies,” said Prof Kishen.

The number of students placed last year was 200 out of the 300 who had registered. In 2011-12 and 2010-11 it was 269 and 264 respectively.

With the first batch of students of the four-year BS (Bachelors in Science) course all set to pass out next year, the institute is planning to appoint a full time placement officer, said Prof Kishen.

## **Odisha Government to follow CBSE’s JEE (Main) 2014 for Engineering Admissions in the State**

The Odisha Government has decided to follow CBSE, and asked the aspirants seeking admission in B.Tech and B. Arch programmes in State Government and Private engineering colleges for session 2014-2015 to appear in CBSE’s JEE (Main) 2014.

Till now, the admission in Engineering courses in State Government as well as Private engineering colleges in Odisha had been done through Odisha Joint Entrance Examination (OJEE).

To apply for JEE (Main) 2014, the candidates need to visit <http://jeemain.nic.in/jeemainapp/Welcome.aspx>

To determine eligibility for offering admission seats for Undergraduate programmes – B.Tech and B. Arch in Government and Private engineering colleges as well as State Universities and Autonomous colleges, the government of Odisha notified of Odisha state participating in JEE (Main) 2014.

15% approved seats of Private institutions as well as, Autonomous institutions and Private State Universities are to be filled on the basis of Merit following the All India Merit list of JEE (Main) 2014, through state admission Agency, which is OJEE in Odisha.

However, to obtain admission in other courses such as first year degree courses in Homeopathy/Pharmacy/Ayurveda, Master degree in Applied management (MAM), Master’s degree in Computer Application, and lateral Admission to second year (Third semester) in Engineering, Technology, Pharmacy, Architecture, Master’s degree in Computer Application, and first year Master’s degree in Computer Application (MCA), Business Administration (MBA)/PGDM/ PGCM/ PGDM (EXECUTIVE), M. tech, M. Pharm, M. Arch., the aspirant needs to apply for Odisha Joint Entrance Exam 2014. The OJEE will be conducted on 11 May, 2014. The applying procedure of OJEE 2014 would commence from the last week of January.

The admission counseling for session 2014-2015 is to be done by the state through Odisha Joint Entrance Exam committee on the basis of JEE 2014 merit list.

(<http://www.jagranjosh.com/articles/odisha-government-to-follow-cbse-jee-main-2014-for-engineering-admissions-in-the-state-1387624971-1>)

## IIM-B, Swiss Varsity Working on Alternative Healthcare Models

Author: Bharath Joshi

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**The Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore, and University of St Gallen, Switzerland, are conducting a research on designing conceptual models to improve healthcare access for low-income families in India.**

The Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore, and University of St Gallen, Switzerland, are conducting a research on designing conceptual models to improve healthcare access for low-income families in India.

The research project, titled 'Consumer Preferences for Market-based Healthcare Models: Leveraging Innovations for Low-income Families in India,' has received competitive research grants under the Indo-Swiss Research Programme in Social Sciences.

"The key objective of our research is to design conceptual healthcare models which leverage innovations in technology and service delivery to improve access," said Prof Shainesh G from IIM-B. He is collaborating with Roger Moser and Pietro Beritelli at St Gallen for the project.

The researchers have identified hospitalization and surgery as one of the major reasons for financial strain among poor families. However, developments and success stories in telemedicine, micro-health insurance, low-cost diagnostic devices and mobile applications show that concerns surrounding access to healthcare can be addressed, he said.

"We propose to test alternate models by combining some of the features of existing successful healthcare organizations in the public, private and not-for-profit sectors which leverage technology, namely telemedicine and low-cost diagnostic devices to improve access and emerging payment mechanisms to lower transaction costs.

Consumer preferences for these alternate models will be tested through choice based conjoint analysis," said Prof Shainesh, who is also chairperson of the IIM-B Executive Post Graduate Programme.

"The research will involve collection of inputs from experts and leading practitioners in the health sector through Delphi panels (with 16 experts), consumer preferences for different features of alternate healthcare models and analysis of operational and financial viability of scalable and sustainable delivery models," he said.

The research project is spread over two years from September 2013 to August 2015. In the next stage, the researchers will conduct research among poor patients and their family members. "Then we will test preference for alternate models among the poor through choice based models and evaluate feasibility," Prof Shainesh said.

**December 23**

Times of India 12/23/2013 P-6

# Alumni to ponder how to make IIT-D world's best

Manash Pratim Gohain | TNN

**New Delhi:** The alumni of Indian Institute of Technology Delhi will get together in their alma mater on December 29 in a first-of-its-kind engagement to discuss how to improve its declining overall ranking and global position. The day-long event will also see lively discourse on ways to boost academia-industry linkag-

es, infrastructure and research. Exploring how to place IIT Delhi in the global list of top 20 research and technology institutions would be the focus of Alumni Day.

Alumni meets are usually batch-specific and are organized by alumni associations. But Alumni Day is being hosted by the institute and this is the first time alumni from across batches

are being invited. "This is different from other alumni reunions. It is being initiated by IIT Delhi to strengthen alumni engagement with the affairs of the institute. We want guidance and assistance from alumni. This is going to be an annual event," Prof. Ambuj Sagar, dean, alumni affairs and international programme, said.

Terming it as a new concept, dean, academics, IIT Delhi, Anu-

rag Sharma, said, "Alumni Day is a new concept, an idea our director, R K Shevgaonkar, suggested when he took over."

IIT Delhi has more than 35,000 alumni. They include RBI governor Dr Raghuram Rajan and Vinod Khosla of Sun Microsystems fame. "Over 2,000 alumni are expected," Pravin Purang, president, IIT Delhi Alumni Association, said.

## IIT Delhi to hold first-ever Alumni Day on December 29

The Indian Institute Technology (IIT), Delhi, one of the country's leading engineering colleges, will hold its first-ever Alumni Day here on December 29 with the theme, "Envisioning the Future. Together".

The institute's alumni have, over the last five decades, distinguished themselves in fields such as technology, pure sciences, economics, administration and literature.

IIT Delhi's more than 35,000 alumni spread across globe include many successful entrepreneurs, corporate czars and senior decision-makers in the government. The list includes Reserve Bank of India Governor Raghuram Rajan and Mr Vinod Khosla of Sun Microsystems fame.

"More than 2,000 alumni are expected to participate in the Alumni Day celebrations. In the past, alumni have contributed in a big way to their alma mater. They helped in establishing an Innovation Centre, Innovation Awards and various centres for advanced studies at IIT Delhi in addition to numerous scholarship programs. This year, the alumni shall be sharing and contributing ideas on how to transform IIT Delhi into one of the world's top 20 research and technology institutions," said Mr Pravin Purang, President, IIT Delhi Alumni Association.

Some of the areas that are likely to be discussed include strengthening the academia-industry linkage, infrastructure and research, he said.

Mr Ashok Kumar, a senior Indian Police Service (IPS) officer and also Secretary, IIT Delhi Alumni Association said, "There have been concerns about the declining rank of IITs and we are worried about this. On this Alumni Day, we commit ourselves to alter this. Many top brains that have changed the contours of the world in many ways are expected to come up with a blueprint for the future and lend themselves to this task."

The alumni and their families shall be able to meet, interact with each other and explore how the association can be made more vibrant and useful for the institute and the nation, a press release from the association added.

(<http://netindian.in/news/2013/12/22/00027228/iit-delhi-hold-first-ever-alumni-day-december-29>)

Hindustan Times ND 12/23/2013 P-12

## IIT-K STUDENTS DEVELOP SKIN CANCER DETECTION APP

**KOLKATA:** IIT Kharagpur students have developed a mobile phone application which can assist medics perform fast and accurate diagnosis of skin cancers and ailments. The application 'ClipOCam-Derma' which can be used on any smart-phone has been developed in the School of Medical Science and Technology at IIT-Kharagpur. The mobile app, which will be launched in the market after regulatory approvals. It can help physicians speed up diagnosis and handle more patients within a shorter time. The innovation has won the 'GE Edison Challenge 2013' recently in Bangalore.

**PTI**

# JEE test format may engineer gender divide

The emphasis on standardized scores for admission might be one reason why fewer women are admitted to India's top colleges, says new study

Rema Nagarajan | TIG

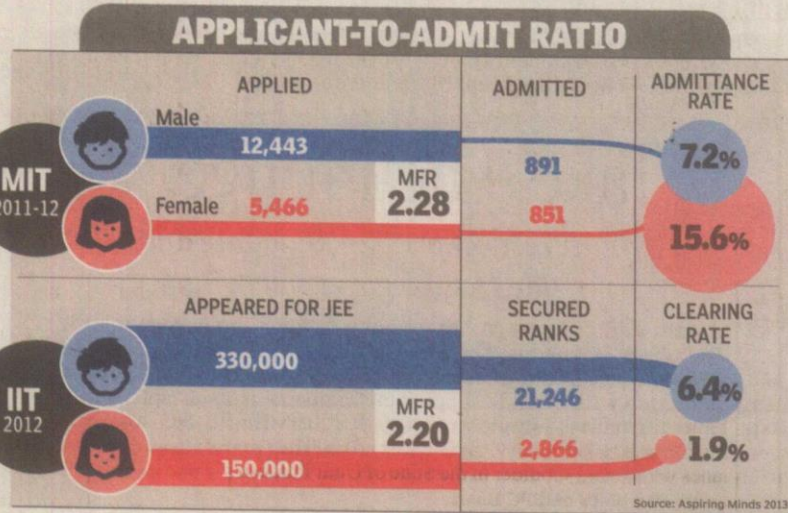
For every eight to 14 men at IIT, NIT and other top state-run engineering institutes in India, there's just one woman who makes the cut. This low ratio of male to female (MFs) is now the subject of a study being conducted across Indian and American institutions.

Titled, 'Women in Engineering: A Comparative Study of Barriers Across Nations', the 2013 study, done by Aspiring Minds, a venture of IIT and MIT alumni involved in human capital assessment, compares the low numbers of Indian women in engineering colleges to female engineering students from MIT, Stanford and Berkeley in the US, where the numbers are significantly higher — about one woman to 1.4 to four men.

The study compares the applicant-to-admit ratios in MIT and the IITs. At the application stage, the male to female ratios were quite similar — one woman for every 2.27 male for MIT and at IITs, over two men for every female applicant. The selection rate for men across the two countries was also similar; 7.2% for MIT (just over seven out of every 100 male applicants) and 6.4% for IIT.

However, the selection rate for women differed drastically. At MIT, just over 15 women for every 100 applicants were selected (15.5%) but at the IITs, it was just 1.9% — less than two women out of every 100 that had applied. As a result, the MFR at IITs range from 14:1 to 10:1, and at the next batch of top-tier institutions, like NITs and other top state run colleges, it is 8:1.

According to the study, the US has taken several measures to improve female participation in



science, technology, math and engineering higher education programmes. Over the last 40 years, the percentage of engineering degrees has jumped from less than 1% in the 1970s to 19% now.

The Indian government and IITs too have taken some steps to encourage more women to join the stream by introducing reduced fees and grace points in entrance exams. While the number of women taking the IIT entrance exam has grown significantly (from 29,291 in 2005 to approximately 1.5 lakh in 2012), the clearing rate remains low, vacillating between 1.07% and 1.90%.

Is this a reflection that fewer high quality female candidates aspire to gain admission into India's top-tiered engineering colleges? To find the answer, the study surveyed 14,000 engineers and graduates from across India about their stream choice in Class XI and their Class X percentage. The study shows that two-thirds of the top 1% sample in the non-medical science stream, a proxy for engineering aspiration, was women. Despite such a high proportion of high quality female candidates, the gender ratio in top engineering colleges remains highly skewed.

One of the main reasons for this, says the study, is Indian institutes' over-dependence on test scores in student selection. While MIT takes in about three-quarters of students from the highest test score bin, it opts to reject 85% applicants in this top range, instead offering admission to students who have other strengths. The IITs do not consider any candidate who is not in the top 5% of the Joint Entrance Exam. This is de-

spite the fact that universally, it is accepted that the standardized test format is not suited to women. It is this realization that had made colleges in US opt for a more broad-based selection process.

The study also examines other pre-college barriers that skew the gender ratio in engineering, like inadequate academic preparation. In 2010, an informal survey conducted across three of India's well-known engineering entrance coaching institutes in six cities across India including Jaipur, Mumbai, Delhi, Hyderabad and Tirupathi, showed that women comprised just 17-24% of the students being coached. Female IIT students quoted in the India-US comparative study had undergone coaching to clear the JEE, and many spoke of friends who were not allowed to attend coaching and thus unable to clear. The other pre-college barrier identified was self-perception of ability — women with the same mathematical ability as men tend to assess themselves lower.

Interestingly, once they make it to these colleges, Indian female engineering students fare much better than their American counterparts. In the US, there is a steady drop-out of women — of the 30% female students enrolled in engineering programs, only 18.5% received degrees. In India, the dropout rate is less than 5% of those enrolled, for both men and women. Isolation caused by the alleged disrespect shown to female students on campus is among the main reasons for women dropping out in the US. However, female students in India reported no in-college barriers. In fact, most of these women displayed greater confidence than men.



## JEE ranking norm changed

DC | L. Venkat Ram Reddy | 23rd Dec 2013



Picture for representational purpose only.

**Hyderabad:** In a change of policy, marks secured in both the Intermediate first and second year exams will be considered while giving 40 per cent weightage to decide JEE (Main) rankings this year. Last year, only the second year marks were considered.

The rankings in JEE (Main) will decide if the students will make it to the JEE (Advanced), test for admission to IITs and other prestigious engineering institutions. Only the top 1.5 lakh rankers will be allowed to sit for JEE (Advanced).

However, the controversial policy of normalisation of 10+2 Board exam marks, that was adopted last year, will be continued this year too. "Last year, only Inter second year marks were considered for giving weightage owing to protests from students and parents who said they were unaware of the policy when students took the first year exams," said Dr N. Nageshwara Rao, a senior lecturer.

The weightage policy was announced in the middle of the academic year, and some students had even approached the courts over the issue. Following this, the CBSE considered only the second year marks last year.

“Since the students were aware of the weightage policy last year, the CBSE has decided to take into consideration the marks secured in both first and second year exams this year,” Dr Rao said. With just 75 days left for the Inter exams, students who had concentrated on the Eamcet and JEE all these months are now making a beeline to coaching centres, aiming for higher marks in the Board exams.

“Just 60 per cent of the marks in the Intermediate exams were enough to appear for JEE all these years. We used to devote more time to JEE and Eamcet and relatively less to Board exams,” said P. Sushanth, a JEE aspirant.

The 40 per cent weightage for Inter marks in JEE (Main) and top-20 percentile in Inter exam for JEE (Advanced) adopted since last year changed all that. “A score of over 90 per cent in Board exams would also not ensure a place in the top 1.5 lakh ranks in JEE (Main) and top-20 percentile cut-off list for JEE (Advanced),” he said.

HT Lucknow

## **BHU prof gets US patent for Ayurvedic drug**

**VARANASI:** A Banaras Hindu University professor has secured a US patent for his Ayurvedic medicine which is useful in slowing down the ageing process, prevention and management of senile dementia and age-related neurodegenerative changes. A Chennai-based firm would soon start commercial production of the medicine.

» P5



Pioneer ND 12/23/2013 P-4

# Centre to act tough on private varsities

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With private universities flouting all norms of higher education across the country in setting up their study centres beyond territorial jurisdiction, the Centre is likely to act tough now. An independent authority to regulate the standards of higher education called the Distance Education Council of India (DECI) would be established through an act of Parliament.

The HRD Ministry had set up a committee to draft rules on distance education which suggested setting up of an independent authority to put a check on the mushrooming business of the private universities in the name of awarding degrees through distance education.

HRD Ministry has already disbanded DEC (Distance Education Council) after reports and indication of irregularities reported in the last few months which also involved the racket of awarding PhDs to a large number of undeserving ones by CJM University. Some of them were named in violating the terms and references of DEC which was functioning as a nodal agency of IGNOU before it was put under the legality of UGC in June 2013.

Once the systems are in position, DECI and UGC may start the recognition of open and distance learning institu-

tions according to the newly developed system and enforce norms and standards laid by it in the recognised institutions, it suggested. The committee was set up under the chairmanship of N R Madhava Menon against the backdrop of the distance education council coming under the purview of UGC from IGNOU through an executive order of the government.

The DECI could subsume with the pending Higher Education and Research Bill (HERB) when it is passed, however, as the enactment of the legislation could take some time, DECI could be set up as an interim body through necessary directions.

"First of all, the interim authority shall evolve systems related to development of programme specific quality benchmarks in respect of all relevant parameters, system for on line application and processing, and disclosure of relevant information on the website of the institution and development of quality self learning material etc," said a HRD Ministry official.

The draft reports says that DECI should also evolve a credible system of counseling, evaluation of assignments and examination. Contribution of open distance learning to Gross Enrolment Ratio in higher education is about 22 per cent at present.

# Mathematics key to develop knowledge power: Anand Kumar

**PBD BUREAU/PTI**  
PATNA, DEC 22

IDENTIFYING a comprehensive knowledge in mathematics as a must for developing knowledge power, Super 30 founder and mathematician Anand Kumar today mooted a reality show based on brain-teasing sums on the lines of one existing for cricket and film.

"In this era of reality shows, can't we have a

reality show based on brain-teasing sums? Cannot we have a mathematician hosting the show and have a role model, as cricket and films, for math and science also," Kumar said speaking at a function on world mathematics day on 126th birth anniversary of mathematics legend Srinivas Ramanujan.

Last year India had declared this year as the 'year of mathematics' as a mark of respect to the great mathematician.

Maintaining that Ramanujan was special and such legends were always rare, Anand said it was high time India pondered why it could not have another of his type in the last 126 years.

"Perhaps, it is time to take a look into our education system, because interest for mathematics needs to be identified in children. May be, our present education system is not able to identify and preserve the talent. We are too engrossed with who quali-

fies for IIT or other exams and don't look forward, like America or China.

"Even Serbia has a special school for talented students and they dominate international Olympiads along with China year after year," he added.

Lamenting lack of interest in mathematics among students, he said there was need to make them enjoy.

Anand said growing use of computers and calculators from primary

school level was also affecting children's creativity. "Technology can make life easy, but it also tends to nip inventiveness", he said.

Kumar, the founder of super30 is known for providing opportunity to 30 students selected from economically deprived sections of the society to qualify in IITs.

He met Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Ram Singh yesterday at Raipur who evinced interest in spread of his concept in his state.



## **Former ISRO chairman seeks more funds for research**

Staff Correspondent

*He was delivering an address at Rashtrothana Vidyakendra*



G. Madhavan Nair

The former chairman of Indian Space Research Organisation Madhavan Nair has urged the Union government to allocate more funds for research and development.

### **Key-note address**

He was delivering a key-note address at the Regional Education Convention organised by Vidyabharathi organisation at Rashtrothana Vidyakendra at Garag near Dharwad on Saturday.

Mr. Nair expressed dismay over the Union government's move of bringing down fund allocation for research.

"The results of research and development cannot be found overnight. However, it will yield rich dividends in later stages," he said.

Mr. Nair gave an example of an IIT graduate working as a data operator in a multinational company and said if similar training was given to an SSLC student, he/she too could perform the task of feeding data.

He said it was unfortunate that intelligent brains of India, who could have become the country's assets if tapped by the government, were working as software engineers in USA.

### **'US-oriented'**

All-India joint organising secretary of Vidyabharathi Society K.M. Kashipati said as the education system in the country was Europe and US-oriented, the overall personalities of students were not being developed.

He stressed upon the need for adopting the ancient education system for the development of human resources and the country's progress.

Vijayanand Saraswati of Ramkrishna Vivekananda Ashram, Dharwad, and south regional president Shivayya Mathpati were present.

Printable version | Dec 28, 2013 8:21:37 PM | <http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-karnataka/former-isro-chairman-seeks-more-funds-for-research/article5491519.ece>

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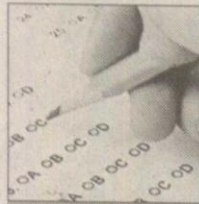
Deccan Herald ND 12/23/2013 P-10

## Messing around

**H**aving embarked on a misadventure to change the system of admission to professional courses like medicine and engineering and then rolling back the decision, the Karnataka government should learn a hard lesson: Don't meddle with a system that has served well for over a decade. It's not clear why the Siddaramaiah government suddenly pulled out the Karnataka Professional Educational Institutions (Regulation of Admission and Determination of Fee) Act of 2006 which was in the mothballs and decided to implement it from the next academic year. The Common Entrance Test (CET), which was evolved in 2002, had received broad acceptance because it worked on the principle that those with lesser marks but having the affordability to pay higher fee would cross-subsidise the merit students with lesser means. For up to 40 per cent of the seats the private colleges would accept the students picked by the CET after a transparent, competitive test, and the fee fixed by the government in return for a fairly liberal fee structure for filling the rest of the 60 per cent of seats. How could anyone find fault with it?

The government's explanation that under the new system the private colleges would be required to reserve 50 per cent of seats for SCs, STs and OBCs and hence would serve the cause of 'social justice' had few takers because by giving up control over admissions and the fee structure (which was to be determined by an independent committee), the government would have willy-nilly permitted a steep increase in fee for all categories of students. Besides drastically reducing the opportunities for merit students to get admission into best colleges, the government would have been forced to subsidise the cost of education of students taking the reserved seats. The new admission procedure would have also meant that merit students of Karnataka would be competing with students from across the country for a limited number of seats.

The government's proposal to have an Admission Overseeing Committee and a Fee Regulatory Committee was also completely flawed as it would have been humanly impossible for them to inspect hundreds of colleges and verify their claims for facilities being provided and the demands accordingly made by them. It would be uncharitable to conclude that the Siddaramaiah government was influenced by the 'education lobby' to give life to a dormant Act as some of the Cabinet ministers themselves own professional colleges. The government would do well to consult all stakeholders, including experts, before initiating any further action.



**"The govt should initiate broad consultation."**

December 24

Millennium Post ND 12/24/2013 P-1

# Arvind Kejriwal to walk the talk with Team IIT

**SIDDHESHWAR SHUKLA**



Rajendra



Manish Gupta

**NEW DELHI:** As an IIT alumnus is going to hold the reins of Delhi, all eyes have shifted to IITians in bureaucracy who may form Arvind Kejriwal's team. Rajendra Kumar, currently Secretary, Information Technology and Secretary, Higher Education, who was earlier Power Secretary from 2007 to 2010, is likely to be assigned the job to implement the most talked about poll promise of bringing down power tariff by 50 per cent.

If whispers in corridors of power are to be believed, these technocrats turned bureaucrats are likely to get plum posts. 'As IITians have a strong sense of broth-

erhood, they trust one another more than some other officer from other institute or university,' said a senior IAS officer posted in Delhi Secretariat.

The talks in the secretariat suggest the next Delhi CM may fall back on his 'brethren' to deliver his poll promises. The city has four IITians serving the Delhi government. The senior most among them is Puneet Goel, an officer of 1990 batch, who is from IIT Kanpur. Rajendra Kumar and Manish Gupta, both 1991 batch IAS, were classmates in IIT Kanpur.

Goel is now Transport Commissioner cum Principal Secretary while Manish Gupta is commissioner of South DMC. Gupta has wide experience in infrastructure projects and social welfare programmes of MCD. He may get assignments related to development of unauthorised colonies. Sanjeev Khirwar, an alumni of IIT Delhi, is personal secretary to the women and child development minister. He too may be brought in.

Times of India 12/24/2013 P-14

# Palash Sen's 'sexist' remark at IIT-B fest sparks row

Sandhya Soman | TNN

**Mumbai:** Euphoria band's lead singer Palash Sen faced music after a blog post by an IIT-B woman researcher on his 'sexist' remarks during a concert at the institute's cultural festival went viral. "It began with the most pressing concern of IIT boys on the campus — do boys have enough good-looking girls to look at and hit on? So he asked—Are there good-looking girls in IIT-B?" wrote Arpita Biswas, researcher on caste and gender in her blog. While men raised their hands in solidarity to signal 'no',



Palash Sen

it made "women at IIT feel small". The singer went on to cheer the men up: "Don't worry guys, you will find the best looking women when you leave this campus. Aur woh tumhaare liye roti belenge."

When TOI spoke to Sen, he said his comments were misconstrued. "I couldn't hear the girls' voices. When I asked where were the IIT's girls, guys said there were no women there," said Sen. When he asked who were the "beautiful girls" in the audience, the men said they were from outside.

*For the full report, log on to [www.timesofindia.com](http://www.timesofindia.com)*

HT Chandigarh

# IIT Ropar hosts Indo-US workshop

**RUPNAGAR:** Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Ropar, hosted an Indo-US workshop on 'Recent Advances in Micro/Nanoscale Heat Transfer and Applications in Clean Energy' which concluded here on Sunday.

The importance of micro/nanoscale heat transfer in improving the energy conversion efficiency and other applications such as lighting, better cooling of data centres and miniature electronic components were the main focus of the workshop.

Mechanical engineering department assistant prof Himanshu Tyagi with assistant prof of University of Texas, Arlington, USA, Ankur Jain, organised the workshop with support of the Indo-US Science and Technology Forum. IIT Ropar director, MK Surappa, emphasised the need for collaborative research activities between academicians from India and USA. Six researchers from USA, 10 from India and three industry representatives participated in the workshop. **HTC**

# Has first exomoon been found?

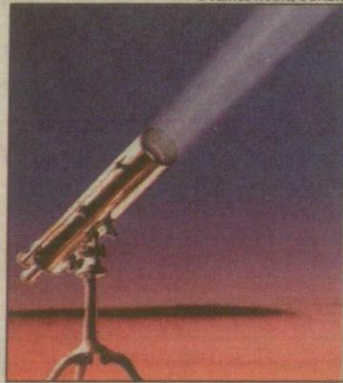
## Experts Say A Satellite & Its Planet Seen 1,800 Light Years From Us

**London:** Astronomers may have discovered the first known moon outside our solar system and it is 1,800 light years from Earth.

Exomoons have long been predicted to exist, offering the tantalizing possibility that some of them may be habitable worlds. However, there has been no confirmed discovery of an exomoon yet. Astronomers discovered the new moon and its exoplanet adrift in the cosmos, far from any star.

While most of the 1,000 or so exoplanets discovered to date were found by analysing changes in the light of their star, a select few have been seen using a technique called gravitational microlensing.

When an object passes in front of a distant star as seen from



© James Noble/CORBIS

**STELLAR FIND:** The cosmic pair looks like a planet nearly four times the mass of Jupiter and a moon about half the mass of Earth — and thus many times more massive than our Moon

Earth, the object's gravity bends the light from the background star, focusing it like a lens — and making the star temporarily appear brighter if observed from a particular angle, 'New Scientist' reported. David Bennett of the University of Notre Dame, Indiana, and colleagues said they spotted a microlensing event in 2011, using a number of telescopes around the world.

First they saw the distant star's light amplified to 70 times its normal brightness. An hour later came a second, smaller increase in brightness.

That suggests that a large object passed in front of the star, followed by a smaller one. However, it is unclear whether these two

objects are a planet and its moon as the team came up with two possible scenarios that fit the microlensing data.

In the first case, the pair of objects is relatively near to our solar system, at a distance of about 1,800 light years, and consists of a planet around four times the mass of Jupiter and a moon about half the mass of Earth — and thus many times more massive than our Moon. If this is true, then the team have discovered the first exomoon.

However, in the other scenario, the pair of objects is much further away and consists of a very small star or a failed star known as a brown dwarf, orbited by a Neptune-mass planet. AGENCIES





PUSHKAR

# More homework needed

The government has chosen the wrong way to address India's research deficit

**I**N the just-released QS University Rankings: BRICS, 17 Indian higher education institutions are listed in the top 100 and five IITs in the top 20. Earlier, Times Higher Education (THE) had released its THE BRICS and Emerging Economies Rankings 2014, which had 10 Indian higher education institutions in the top 100, but only Panjab University made it to the top 20.

What is common to both the QS and THE rankings is China's dominance over other developing countries. In the QS list, China has 40 universities in the top 100, 22 in the top 50, four in the top five, with Tsinghua University ranked first. In the THE list, China has 23 universities in the top 100, four in the top 10, with Peking University ranked first.

One of the reasons why China's universities are well ahead of India's is research. Philip Baty, editor of the THE rankings, is not the first to draw attention to the need for developing a "stronger research culture" in India. While a few institutions, such as the Indian Institute of Science and the IITs, do reasonably well in terms of research, India's total research output — which stood at 3.5 per cent of world research output in 2010 — does not measure up to China's, which is soon expected to overtake that of the

Asia-Pacific leader, Japan.

There are two broad problem areas for research in India: funding and the research orientation or the capability of faculty. To begin with, India spends less than 1 per cent of its GDP on research, significantly less than what Western or many Asian countries do. Private sector contribution is a dismal 20 per cent of the total. The second problem is that nearly all research is carried out by a small number of people at an even smaller number of elite institutions. The majority of the faculty at higher education institutions does not do any research.

## The government and higher education administrators need to abandon the idea of making researchers out of non-researchers.

In India's current higher education structure, the responsibility for research lies with post-graduate departments at state universities, teaching-cum-research institutions such as the IITs, the IIMs and central universities, and specialised research centres such as the IISc and the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research. To address the research deficit, the government has started to insist that faculty members research and publish papers. These are now necessary for promotions and other advancements. This insistence ignores ground realities, especially

the current composition of faculty.

One can identify four kinds of faculty members at Indian institutions. First, there are active researchers. They mostly belong to elite institutions. Their total number is fairly small. Before the country's research deficit was acknowledged and became a matter of great concern, the government did not care much about them. Second, there are research-capable faculty. They are well-trained for research or have trained themselves on the job, but have abandoned research, usually because they are demoralised by the ero-

than done. The same is true of research-capable faculty — it is not easy to get back in the game after many years of missing out. Moreover, senior faculty members have no incentive to make the extra effort.

The government and higher education administrators need to abandon the idea of making researchers out of non-researchers. Research-capable faculty and non-researchers who are good teachers should be encouraged to keep doing what they are doing well. They could also be useful in administrative roles and as mentors to new faculty, leaving active researchers to get on with publishing. These are far better options than insisting that they reorient or upgrade their roles.

India's higher education institutions will eventually improve their research output. A growing number of new faculty members at research-responsible institutions are trained at the best places in India or the West, places where a research culture is deeply entrenched. On its part, the government needs to ensure that the number of such faculty members continues to grow.

sion of academic culture at their institutions or by the lack of recognition and support for their work. Then there are the non-researchers — faculty members who are research-deficient. Some of them are sincere and/or good teachers. They form a large section of the faculty. Finally, there are the non-performers, another large group, consisting of those who are barely qualified for teaching or research.

Active researchers and research-capable faculty are outnumbered by the others. Non-researchers could perhaps learn to do research, but this is easier said

*The writer is with the department of humanities and management, BITS Pilani, Goa*  
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## Civic body to appoint IIT to revive clogged Powai lake

TNN Dec 24, 2013, 02.12AM IST

MUMBAI: A torrent of complaints about the deteriorating status of the Powai lake has finally nudged the civic body into action: The BMC has proposed to appoint IIT-Bombay to suggest steps to clean the lake and give it a new lease of life.

The proposal will be tabled in the next standing committee meeting on Thursday.

The water body, which is spread over 600 sq hectares, is now clogged with water hyacinths, filled with garbage dumped into it and contaminated with sewage water flowing into it. Several drain lines have been leaking, resulting in sewage water getting contaminated in the water.

According to civic officials, the cleaning up of the lake would be done in phases. In the first round, the BMC will fix all the drains, while IIT-B will work on a natural water-filter bed at drain points to check pollutants. Officials said that several new technologies developed by the IIT would be used to map the lake and study sediments found in it. The BMC will also use effective methods to remove the debris, as suggested by the institute.

The next phase will focus on the removal of water hyacinths and de-silting of the water body.

In the last phase, the officials will beautify the lake, which will include solar lighting and floating pavements. The draft plan also talks about water sports and leisure fishing.

The cost of the entire project has been estimated at Rs 92 lakh.

Residents living near the lake have time and again petitioned the BMC to undertake steps to clean the lake and to ensure that the flora and fauna can be restored. They have also taken up signature campaigns and a project called "revitalization of Powai lake" under which, they urge people not to throw garbage in the water.

## Only 10 Indian names among top 100 BRICS universities

Monday, Dec 23, 2013, 10:07 IST | Place: New Delhi | Agency: DNA

In a reflection of the country's higher education scenario, only 10 Indian institutions feature among the top 100 institutions in BRICS nations and other emerging economies in a recent survey.

Panjab University, at 13, has got the best rank among Indian universities with 40.2 points, followed by six IITs, Jadavpur University (47) and Aligarh Muslim University (50) figuring in the top 50 list.

The only other institution figuring in the list is Jawaharlal Nehru University at 57th rank with 25.3 points.

The Times Higher Education BRICS and Emerging Economies Rankings 2014 powered by Thomson Reuters includes only institutions in countries classified as "emerging economies" by FTSE, including the "BRICS" nations of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.

The study used the same methodology as the Times Higher Education World University Rankings, covering all core missions of a world-class university — teaching, research, knowledge transfer and international outlook — based on 13 carefully-calibrated performance indicators.

Interestingly, 23 universities from China figure in the list, including the first two slots: Peking University is ranked

number one with 65 points and Tsinghua University comes second with 63.5 points.

The University of Cape Town in South Africa is rated three with 50.3 points. Also, 23 universities from Taiwan figure in the top 100.

In a similar ranking of Universities at Asia level, only three Indian institutions, including IIT Bombay, IIT Kharagpur and IIT Roorkee, figure in the top 100.

While the horizon gets broader at world level, no university from India figures in the list of top 200 institutions around the world.

Panjab University is the first Indian institution ranked at 239th position at the global level.

December 25

## IIT-Madras suspends professor after student alleges sexual harassment

[Arun Janardhanan](#), TNN Dec 25, 2013, 01.04AM IST



(The research scholar had...)

CHENNAI: The board of governors of IIT-Madras has suspended a professor on charges of sexually harassing a research scholar who accompanied him on an academic tour of Europe in September. The suspension followed a probe by the complaints committee against sexual harassment of the institute which said B Ramamoorthy, a professor of mechanical engineering, behaved in "an improper manner, displaying what may be referred to as mala fide intentions towards a student who trusted him".

The research scholar had complained that the professor, with whom she had gone to Poland for a science conference in September this year, asked her to sleep in his hotel room. The student alleged she left the hotel after the professor tried to force himself on her at night.

Sources said the IIT-M governing body decided to suspend the professor based on recommendations of the inquiry report submitted two months ago. She had been through "severe depression and weight loss" in the weeks following the incident, according to statements of her friends, as recorded by the inquiry committee.

It found that the professor told the student to stay in his room and that she accepted it with the knowledge of her mother and a friend, since she didn't find anything wrong in sharing a room in a city in Southern Poland. The professor told the inquiry committee that he suggested her to stay with him considering her safety, and because she did not have enough money to pay for a room, said a source close to the panel. However, the inquiry found that after she left the room, he did not call her or try to find about her whereabouts to know if she was safe.

Ramamoorthi was not available for comment.

IIT-M director Bhaskar Ramamurthy and registrar VG Bhooma refused to reply to queries from TOI. A statement from the registrar's office said: "As per section 16 of the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013, details regarding complaint of sexual harassment, if any, cannot be disclosed. In the light of the above, IIT-Madras is not in a position to give any details of complaints of sexual harassment received by us, whether past or present."

It said any complaint received is immediately forwarded to the complaints committee against sexual harassment which independently inquires into them.

The Hindu

## IIT-M remains tight-lipped over suspension of professor

Staff Reporter

Officials of IIT-Madras maintained their stand of refusing to reveal details about the recent case of sexual harassment on campus that led to the suspension of a professor. According to sources, the complaint of sexual harassment was filed between July and August this year after which the Complaints Committee Against Sexual Harassment at the institute inquired into the matter and found the professor guilty. The complaint was brought to light by the victim's friend.

A member of the committee said they had submitted a report of their findings to the administration several weeks ago.

An email from the registrar of IIT-Madras said that as per section 16 of the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013, details regarding complaints of sexual harassment cannot be disclosed. "IIT-Madras, however, would like to place on record that action is always taken up immediately on any such complaint and justice is secured for the aggrieved persons following due processes of law."

Sources said the committee has over nine members, which include professors, wardens and also, a women's rights activist who is not an employee of IIT-Madras. Sources at the institute have confirmed the suspension of the professor, reportedly from the mechanical engineering department.

Keywords: [IIT-M](#), [sexual harassment](#), [Complaints Committee Against Sexual Harassment](#), [professor suspended](#)

Printable version | Dec 28, 2013 8:22:01 PM | <http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/chennai/iitm-remains-tightlipped-over-suspension-of-professor/article5498560.ece>

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# IIT-M prof accused of sexual harassment

Arun Janardhanan | TNN

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The research scholar had complained that the professor, with whom she had gone to Poland for a science confer-

**The prof was sharing a room with the student while they were in Poland for a conference. He allegedly forced himself on the student**

ence in September this year, asked her to sleep in his hotel room. The student alleged she left the hotel after the professor tried to force himself on her at night.

Sources said the IIT-M governing body decided to suspend the professor based on recommendations of the inquiry report submitted two months ago. She had been through "severe depression and weight loss" in the weeks following the incident, ac-

ording to statements of her friends, as recorded by the inquiry committee.

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Ramamoorthi was not available for comment.

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It said any complaint received is immediately forwarded to the complaints committee against sexual harassment which independently inquires into them.

Hindustan Times ND 12/25/2013 P-21

## IIT DELHI TO HOLD ALUMNI MEET

**NEW DELHI:** The Indian Institute Technology (IIT), Delhi, is holding their first-ever Alumni Day on December 29, 2013 on the theme - 'Envisioning the Future. Together.' Over the last five decades, IIT Delhi alumni have distinguished themselves in fields as diverse as technology, pure sciences, economics, administration and even literature. The institute has produced more than 35,000 alumni

including many successful entrepreneurs, corporate honchos and senior government officials. The illustrious list includes Raghuram Rajan, RBI governor, and Vinod Khosla of Sun Microsystems fame. More than 2,000 alumni are expected to participate. Over the years, they have helped in establishing an innovation centre, and various centres for advanced studies at IIT Delhi.

शिक्षा

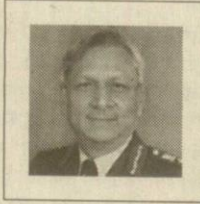
# आईआईटी ब्रांड की साख पर सवाल

**आ** आईआईटी और एनआईटी की जब स्थापना हुई, तो इंजीनियरिंग में ऐसे मापदण्ड स्थापित किए गए कि उन मापदण्डों की चर्चा देश में ही नहीं, विदेश में भी हुई। प्रारम्भिक पांच आईआईटी से निकले छात्रों ने रिसर्च और अपनी प्रतिभा से अमरीका, यूरोप और विश्व के अन्य देशों में परचम फहराया। अविश्वसनीय सफलता से उत्साहित होकर एक के बाद एक आईआईटी खुलते चले गए। आज देश में 16 आईआईटी और 30 एनआईटी कार्यरत हैं। दुर्भाग्य से कोचिंग सेंटरों ने छात्रों का बौद्धिक विकास रोककर उनमें रटी-रटाई योग्यता उत्पन्न कर दी, उसका परिणाम यह हुआ कि आईआईटी के रिसर्च कार्य धीरे-धीरे समाप्त होते चले गए। साथ ही कोचिंग से छात्रों की प्रतिभा में भी गिरावट आ गई। आश्चर्य यह है कि इन 16 आईआईटी व 30 एनआईटी पर जो राशि खर्च की जा रही है, उसका उचित उपयोग ही नहीं हो रहा है।

मानव संसाधन मंत्रालय ने जो रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत की है, वह चौंकाने वाली है। अगर इस रिपोर्ट को हमने ईमानदारी से नहीं आंका तो इसके गम्भीर परिणाम निकलेंगे। रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक वर्ष 2010 में आईआईटी में कुल मिलाकर 676 सीट खाली रह गई, जबकि 30 एनआईटी में 839 सीट खाली रहीं। ये सीट सिर्फ 2010 में ही खाली नहीं गईं,

पिछले चार साल से ऐसी ही स्थिति बनी हुई है। हमें तुरन्त प्रभाव से एक उच्चस्तरीय आयोग गठित करना चाहिए, जो इस बात का पता लगाए कि सीट खाली जाने का आखिर कारण क्या है? क्या आईआईटी और एनआईटी की फीस ज्यादा है? क्या छात्र उचित स्तर प्राप्त करने में असमर्थ हैं? क्या इंजीनियरिंग संस्थान उचित प्लेसमेन्ट दिलाने में समर्थ नहीं हो रहे? कारण जो भी हो इतनी बड़ी संख्या में सीट का खाली जाना किसी भी तरह से उचित नहीं है। करोड़ों रुपयों से चलने वाले आईआईटी और एनआईटी संस्थानों की सीटों का खाली जाना निश्चित रूप से देश के संसाधनों एवं समर्थ छात्रों की योग्यता का उचित उपयोग न होना है।

मानव संसाधन मंत्रालय की रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक पिछले चार वर्षों में काफी सीटें खाली रहने से करोड़ों रुपए का नुकसान हुआ है। देश और विदेश में हमारी प्रतिष्ठा भी गिरी है। यह किसी एक आईआईटी या एनआईटी संस्थान की घटना नहीं है, वरन् देश के सभी आईआईटी व एनआईटी में स्थिति इस प्रकार है। वर्ष 2010 में एसटी कोटे में आईआईटी कानपुर में 22, गांधीनगर में 2, रोपड़ में 1 इंदौर में 1, दिल्ली में 10, खड़गपुर में 36, पटना में 8, बनारस में 66, मद्रास में 3 सीट खाली गईं। ओबीसी कोटे में कानपुर में 28, रुड़की में 115, दिल्ली में 7, पटना में 6,



कौशल मिश्र

शिक्षाविद् एवं पूर्व कर्जल

आश्चर्य है कि 16 आईआईटी व 30 एनआईटी पर जो राशि खर्च की जा रही है, उसका उचित उपयोग ही नहीं हो रहा है। सीटें खाली रहना सोचनीय है। विदेश में अपनी काबिलियत और रिसर्च वर्क का जो स्तर स्थापित किया है, उसे किसी भी प्रकार से गिरने देना हमारे लिए उचित नहीं होगा।

बनारस में 124, खड़गपुर में 107, मुंबई में 6, गुवाहाटी में 26, मद्रास में 7 सीट खाली रहीं। एससी कोटे में खड़गपुर में 7, दिल्ली में 4, रुड़की में 10, कानपुर में 4, बनारस में 123, मद्रास में 4 सीट खाली रह गईं। सामान्य कोटे में मद्रास में 10, पटना में 3, हैदराबाद में 2, दिल्ली में 12, मुंबई में 7, रोपड़ में 2, जोधपुर में 2 सीट खाली रहीं। कुल मिलाकर 16 आईआईटी में वर्ष 2010 में 676 सीट खाली रह गईं।

वर्ष 2011 में एससी कोटे में कानपुर में 12, एसटी कोटे में वाराणसी में 25, गुवाहाटी में 24 सीट खाली रह गईं। सामान्य कोटे में खड़गपुर में 3 और एसटी कोटे में 2 सीट नहीं भरी जा सकीं। एससी कोटे की वाराणसी में 4 सीट खाली रहीं। एनआईटी की स्थिति तो और भी चौंकाने वाली है। इसमें वर्ष 2011 में 315, वर्ष 2012 में 214, वर्ष 2013 में 520 खाली रह गईं अर्थात् 3 सालों में कुल मिलाकर 839 सीट खाली रह गईं।

प्रश्न यह उठता है कि क्या इन आईआईटी और एनआईटी में छात्रों की मनपसंद फैकल्टी उपलब्ध नहीं हो पा रही है? क्या कोचिंग सेंटर अपनी जेब भरने के लिए प्रतिभावान छात्र तैयार करने में असमर्थ हैं? क्या रिसर्च वर्क में गिरता स्तर इसके लिए उत्तरदायी है? कारण जो भी हो, मानव संसाधन मंत्रालय को एनआईटी और आईआईटी

के गिरते स्तर को तुरंत प्रभाव से संभालना चाहिए और वे सारे उपाय करने चाहिए जिससे किसी भी कोटे की कोई भी सीट रिक्त न रहे।

इस पर भी विचार किया जा सकता है कि क्या ओबीसी, एससी, एसटी व सामान्य कोटे का निर्धारण कर हम ऐसी परिस्थितियां तो नहीं उत्पन्न कर रहे हैं, जिससे इन प्रतिष्ठित संस्थानों में सीट खाली रह जाती है? क्या यह संभव नहीं है कि यदि किसी एक कोटे की सीट खाली रह जाए तो उन्हें अच्छे अंक प्राप्त करने वाले छात्रों को आवंटित कर दिया जाए ताकि इन प्रतिष्ठित संस्थानों में एक भी सीट रिक्त न रह जाए। विचार इस पर भी किया जा सकता है कि इन संस्थानों में कोटा समाप्त कर मैरिट में आए छात्रों को क्रम से सीट दी जाए। जो भी निर्णय लिया जाए, वह ऐसा होना चाहिए कि छात्रों को सामाजिक न्याय मिल सके।

इन इंजीनियरिंग संस्थानों ने देश तथा विदेश में अपनी काबिलियत और रिसर्च वर्क का जो स्तर स्थापित किया है, उसे किसी भी प्रकार से गिरने देना हमारे लिए उचित नहीं होगा। ध्यान रहे शिक्षा संस्थानों की प्रतिष्ठा को स्थापित करने में एक लम्बा समय लगता है, किन्तु इन संस्थानों की अनदेखी शीघ्र ही इन्हें निम्न स्तर पर ले आती है। अतः आवश्यकता है, सतर्क रहने की और उचित कारणों का पता लगाकर उन कारणों का निवारण करने की।



Hindustan Times ND 12/25/2013 P-13

# IIT students make app to detect skin cancer

**Vanita Srivastava**

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**NEW DELHI:** Students of IIT Kharagpur have developed a mobile application named 'ClipOCam-Derma' which is a hardware software co-designed smartphone app to assist clinicians perform fast and accurate diagnosis of skin cancers and related abnormalities.

The team consisted of research scholars (PhD and MS) from the School of Medical Science and Technology, IIT Kharagpur.

Coupled with a special computational imaging service, the application can be used by semi-skilled paramedics working at rural and primary healthcare centers for fast and high-precision screening

of skin lesions and abnormalities which may or may-not be evidently visible on the surface.

Priced at less than 2500, this device is a portable solution. However, cancer specialists are wary of such pop diagnosis for something as serious as cancer.

"Main diagnosis of cancer is still through pathology and cytology tests where the cells or the fluid is examined under a microscope. No scan or imaging technique can be confirmatory, not even a CT or an MRI. One can only suspect by looking at images but for accurate diagnosis one needs proper examination. Nothing like this is available anywhere in the world," said Dr GK Rath, chief, AIIMS Cancer Institute.

HT Mumbai

# 900 recruited in first phase of placements at IIT-Bombay

**HT Correspondent**

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**MUMBAI:** As the first leg of campus placements drew to a close at Indian Institute of Technology-Bombay (IIT-B), 900 students from the institute got job offers from prominent MNCs across the globe and a few government employers.

The institute has recorded a total of 182 offers on the first day of the placements, which began in December. While 1,600 students from various disciplines registered for the placements, some of them did not eventually participate as they may pursue higher studies or other fields of interest.

The institute said that it had registered an impressive placement record this year despite the economic downturn. "The placement pattern has not been affected in any way as most of the best companies come for recruitment. The second phase of placements, which starts during January, is relatively slower, but the placement record is not drastically affected by it," said Avijit Chatterjee, professor in-charge of placements, IIT-Bombay.

The highest numbers of offers were predictably made by engineering firms, which extended 265 offers. With 249 students getting offers from IT firms, recruitments in the sector have steadily grown.

With 83 offers made in the analytics sector, Chatterjee said that data analytics was a preferred field for both employers and students.

## 265 JOBS FROM ENGG COMPANIES

**Phase I** of recruitment began on December 1 and went on till December 19

**1,600 students** to graduate as B Tech, Dual Degree, M Tech, M Sc, M Des, M Phil and PhD

**900 students** had received job offers during Phase I of placements

**260 companies** had visited the campus during Phase I

**182 get jobs** from 37 firms on Day 1

**Sectors recording** highest recruitment include Engineering (265), IT (249), Analytics (83)

**The institute** saw 35 job offers from the R&D sector in Phase I

**Phase II** of placements begins in January and ends in June

"The numbers for the field of data analytics, be it any stream, have been steadily increasing. Its demand has been growing," he said.

The institute also registered an increase in the number of offers in the R&D sector, with 35 jobs offered in the first phase.

## US presidential award for two Indian American scientists

### Indian Express

President Barack Obama has named two Indian-Americans among 102 scientists as recipients of a presidential award - the highest honour bestowed by the US on young science and engineering professionals.

The winners, including Karunesh Ganguly of San Francisco VA Medical Center and Hardeep Singh of Houston VA Medical Center, will receive the Presidential Early Career Awards for Scientists and Engineers at a ceremony here next year.

"The impressive achievements of these early-stage scientists and engineers are promising indicators of even greater successes ahead," Obama said in a White House statement.

"We are grateful for their commitment to generating the scientific and technical advancements that will ensure America's global leadership for many years to come," he said.

The awards, established by President Bill Clinton in 1996, are coordinated by the Office of Science and Technology Policy within the Executive Office of the President.

Awardees are selected for their pursuit of innovative research at the frontiers of science and technology and their commitment to community service as demonstrated through scientific leadership, public education, or community outreach.

## IIM- Indore's new director to take charge on January 1

**Indore:** It's official now. The newly appointed director of Indian Institute of Management Indore, Dr Rishikesh T Krishnan will assume charge on January 1. He informed the institute about his joining date on Monday. Krishnan, a faculty of IIM Bangalore, was appointed as director of IIM Indore as the five-year term of Prof Ravichandran expired on November 27.

By the date, the Ministry of Human Resource and Development could not appoint the new director so extension to Ravichandran was given till the appointment is made. Recently, Chairman of IIM Indore KV Kamath issued appointment orders of Krishnan. PRO of IIM Indore, Akhtar Pervaz, confirmed the date of joining of the new director.

(<http://freepressjournal.in/iim-indores-new-director-to-take-charge-on-january-1-2/>)

# Sibal to make his 'unfulfilled dream' Aakash come true

Telecom minister laments lack of support from govt departments for the project

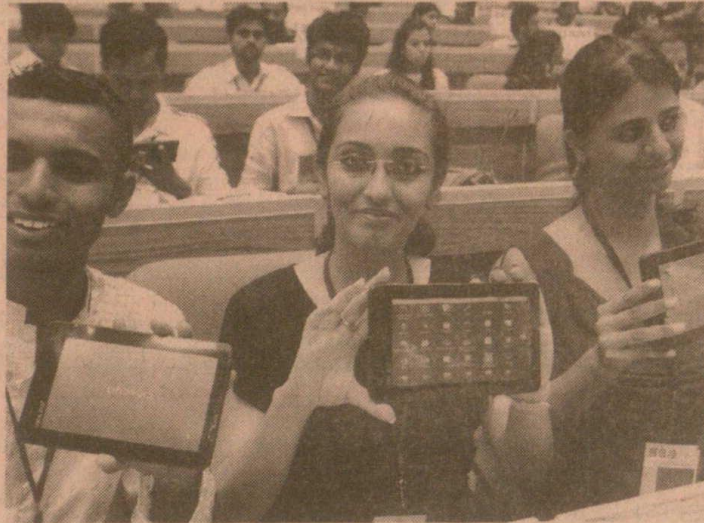
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
New Delhi, 24 December

Calling low-cost tablet PC Aakash his unfulfilled dream, Telecom Minister Kapil Sibal on Tuesday said he has pursued the project despite not getting support from some government departments and that the tender for manufacturing the latest version will be finalised in January.

"Aakash was my dream but it was not fulfilled, I tried hard...Some departments of my government did not support me... despite that I continued to strive and then I brought the project in my ministry and now specifications for Aakash 4 have been completed," Sibal said at the launch of an "e-inclusion" project here.

"Some departments did not support me but despite that we are bringing the Aakash," Sibal said.

The Aakash project was Sibal's brainchild when he was the human resource develop-



**A file photo of students display Aakash, after its launching ceremony in 2011. The Aakash project was Telecom Minister Kapil Sibal's brainchild, when he was the human resource development minister. Sibal on Tuesday said he has pursued the project despite not getting support from some government departments and that the tender for manufacturing the latest version will be finalised in January**

PHOTO: REUTERS

ment (HRD) minister. The idea was to provide a low-cost computing device at subsidised rates to students to enable them to access internet for educational purposes.

Canadian company DataWind had bagged the contract to produce the first and second versions of the Aakash tablet.

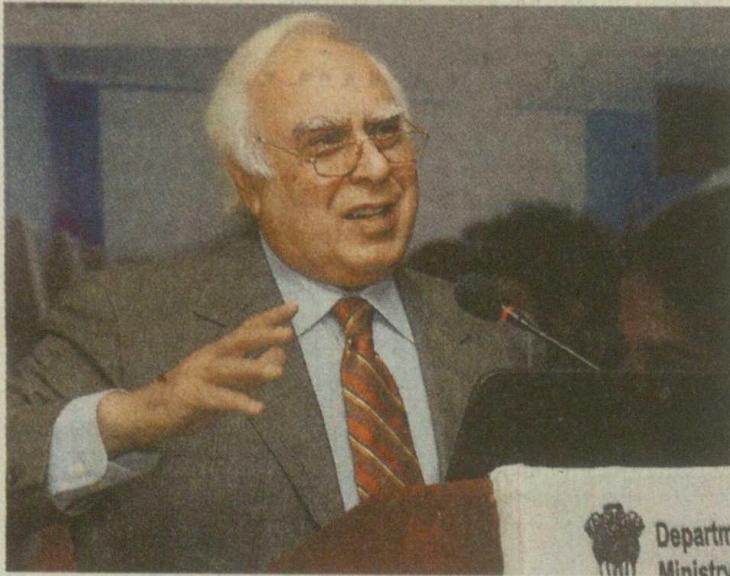
"The specifications of

Aakash 4 has been finalised. DGSD (Directorate General of Supplies and Disposals) has floated a tender, which will be finalised sometime in January. All those entities which will meet the tender conditions will be entitled to manufacture the Aakash and depending on the volume of production, it will be available to anybody who wants to buy it," Sibal said. DGSD procures products for government supplies.

Asked about the price of the tablet PC, Sibal said: "We will see what the price is. Originally what we wanted was around ₹2,500 but that is without excise, without any of the other transportation costs and other things. So once you add those on I don't know what it may come to," he said.

He, however, added those who can afford it can buy and those who cannot, the government departments like Human Resource Development Ministry and Rural Development Ministry can provide subsidy if they wish to.

# Govt Depts can sell Aakash 4 at subsidised price: Sibal



**Kapil Sibal**, Minister of Communications and Information Technology, addressing the beneficiaries of the e-inclusion project in New Delhi on Tuesday. — PTI

## Cogencis

*New Delhi, Dec. 24*

Government agencies and departments can buy the next version of Aakash tablet and sell the same to the public at subsidised rates, Minister of Communications and Information Technology Kapil Sibal said today.

The Government is expected to finalise the tender for the manufacture of the fourth version of the low-cost Aakash tablet in January, which includes enhanced specifications laid down by the Department of Electronics and Information Technology. As many as 18 manufacturing companies are in the fray for the tender.

"Specifications of Aakash 4 have been finalised, the Direc-

torate-General of Supplies and Disposals has floated a tender, that tender is on. The tender will be finalised sometime in January," Sibal said on the sidelines of an event.

Initially touted as the cheapest tablet costing about Rs 2,500, the earlier versions of the tablet, made by London-based DataWind, invited flak for poor performance.

"We will see what the price is...originally Rs 2,500 was what was planned, but that is without excise, without any of the other transportation cost and other things but once you add those on I don't know what it will come to...those who can afford it will buy...if government departments buys and gives subsidies, than they can give it," he said.

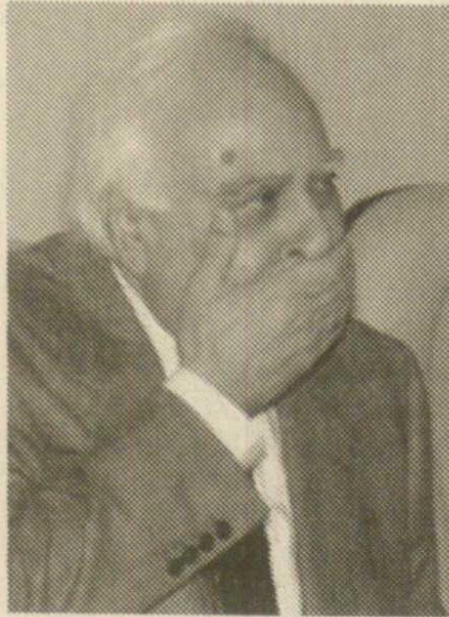
# Aakash tablet remains unfulfilled dream: Sibal

AGE CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, DEC. 24

Communication and Information Technology minister Kapil Sibal on Tuesday called low-cost tablet PC Aakash as his unfulfilled dream. The minister said that he has pursued the project despite not getting support from some government departments and that the tenders for manufacturing the latest version would be finalised in January.

"Aakash is my dream but it is not fulfilled, I tried hard... Some departments of my government did not support me... despite that I continued to strive and then I brought the project into my ministry and now specifications for Aakash 4 have been completed," informed the telecom minister.

In 2011, Mr Sibal had launched Aakash when he was human resources department minister as world's cheapest tablet PC, costing ₹2,276.



"Some departments did not support me but despite that we are bringing the Aakash," explained Mr Sibal.

He said that the specifications of Aakash 4 has been finalised.

"All those entities which will meet the tender conditions will be entitled to manufacture the Aakash and depending on the volume of production, it will be available to anybody who wants to buy it," Sibal informed.

**Aakash is my dream but it is not fulfilled, I tried hard... Some departments did not support me... despite that I brought that project into my ministry... specifications for Aakash 4 have been completed**

**— KAPIL SIBAL**  
Communications  
minister

The telecom minister said that the government originally wanted Aakash to cost around ₹2,500.

"But that is without excise, without any of the other transportation costs and other things. So, once you add those, I do not know what it may come up to. Those who can afford it can buy it and those who cannot afford it, if government departments intend to buy it and give subsidies they can give it," Mr Sibal added.

# Creating world class universities in India

**I**N INDIA, there are a few topics that remain in continuous discussion. Education is one of them. We are locked within the unacceptance of changes that is essential for the approval of our graduates in various fields and also help them meet the various expectations in this new century.

Man's expectations have undergone a change over the past years. It is just not 'roti, kapda and makaan' that makes for a good life today. Such a life is precious and demands good governance, health support, freedom to communicate, technology-driven connectivity, entertainment, environment, peace and security. Thus, India's prospects ask for an open path in contemporary education. This is what 12 million students in the higher education domain today ask for. The right to education, financial support and access to school education, which are posing an extreme burden for access to higher education, would push the number, which demands university education, to 50 million by 2022. Therefore, when we raise a query on where are world-class universities in India, we have to be sensitive towards the ground realities.

We talked about the first ground reality — the number growth. But we must also be aware of the fact that out of 250 million families that desire that their children get relevant education, as many as 220 million families are either poor, middle or upper middle level income earners. So to them, high cost is an issue.

Moreover, today there are 609 universities and around 30,000 colleges in the country, but 75 per cent of them are in villages and in B and C

Arun Nigavekar



**TOP NOTCH:** Students take part in a perception skills lesson at IIM-Bangalore. Creating world class universities in India is not impossible, and we must hope that this mental change happens in the nation's youth leadership

cities. These colleges have huge physical infrastructures but very poor academic infrastructure and sub-standard teachers. There is no research that says what triggers the minds of youths. And the low flow of government grants to colleges and misuse of enormous money that the non-funded colleges earn from the students make the scenario worse. The colleges and universities, thanks to UGC learning connectivity, do get good e-communication now and also have access to the many learning objects that are produced by several global teachers.

However, our teacher communities like to remain distant from such delivery methods. It is these differences in the Indian education system along with the enormous reforms

that have happened around the world in delivery of education, which makes one to raise a query why India does not have world class universities.

We are talking of universities in economically sound countries. In these countries, the field of education is as significant as foreign and defence ministries. They flow in the government's money and allow private investments. This makes for a very healthy financial balance for it is an open legal and tax-linked approach. There is an exciting environment, which gives total freedom to universities in terms of operations and decision-making. One could have an exclusive teaching university imparting higher standards of education and there could be universities that would like to club research

and learning in teaching degree programmes. There could be exclusive research universities exploiting the domains of future growth or exclusive futuristic research.

The bottom line is that there is colossal openness, higher level of trust amongst each other and flexible delivery systems that allows students to learn whichever discipline they enjoy. Students are given the freedom to do credit-based modular structure learning which is assessed by teachers who trust in an individual's thought process and teach as well as judge their performance through credits. The time frame for completing the modules is flexible; what is more critical is that students pick and learn subjects or skills they are fascinated by and are curious to learn more

about the same. It is fully a students' centric system. It is an environment that nurtures talent and cultivates minds as well as allows one to pursue, in addition to modules, fields such as art, drama, painting, music, and drama and so on. Therefore, in terms of diversity, sky is the limit and that is what makes them world-class teaching institutions.

In such organisations, teachers have the liberty to change the curriculum and deliver it to students by combining the discoveries of the past and new aspects that are emerging globally. Students are given activities which demand them to explore the world. While doing these exciting things, they also understand the big picture of the economy, industry and businesses in their own country. Students looking for jobs in particular fields are given a blend of core subjects and skill expertise in the domain they intend to work in. The universities even allow students to come back after working for a few years. The foundation of such institutions is focused on nurturing the brain of every youth.

India used to have such an environment centuries ago, including the first two decades after Independence. But today, the scenario has changed. Yes, there are several obstacles to be faced, but we could certainly address them. Creating world-class universities is not impossible, and we must hope that this level of mental change happens in India's youth leadership.

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*(The writer is former chairman of UGC, former vice-chancellor of University of Pune and founder director of NAAC)*

# Reform was the catchword

ADITI TANDON

**2013**  
IN RETROSPECT  
EDUCATION

Reform of technical and general examination systems remained the highlight of 2013 with the government taking firm decisions to end cartelisation of education at the hands of coaching centres in both engineering and medical courses.

On the front of general education, too, reform was the way to go with one of India's best rated varsities, the Delhi University, showing the way to the rest of the higher educational institutions.

## DU ROLLS OUT FOUR-YEAR UG COURSE

### Old order changeth!

DU weathered widespread resistance from academics and students to introduce the 10+2+4 format of instruction at the undergraduate level replacing the old 10+2+3 system which allowed an undergraduate to choose only one subject for specialisation.

In the new four year UG format, a student can now choose both a major and a minor subject for specialisation. The course spread over eight semesters enables an undergraduate student to pick a Major subject called Discipline 1 in the first year. This is the main subject of specialisation with 20 papers but at the end of Semester 2, a student in the new system

can pick a Minor subject (Discipline 2) to study in Semester 3. This subject has six papers spread between Semesters 3 and 8.

The hallmark of the new format, introduced for the first time this July in India, is its compliance with the western education system. Moreover, the new format allows students tremendous flexibility with multiple exit points and the freedom to leave college and come back later to finish studies.

Students can opt out of the course after two or three years of studies or stay for the entire four-year period. "The decision is historic as students who have left with two or three years of degrees

will actually have the choice to return later to complete the remaining years of the degree. In between they can pursue jobs which our new foundation courses will help them get," DU Vice-Chancellor Dinesh Singh argues.

The new format has 11 foundation courses and 26 interdisciplinary courses (20 in Discipline 1 and six in Discipline 2) from which a student can choose. Whoever joined the format in 2013 took seven foundation courses along with four interdisciplinary papers in the first year. The new course is DU's second major reform initiative after it introduced semester system after an equal level of resistance.



## INTRODUCTION OF JEE MAINS AND JEE ADVANCED PATTERN

### Teething troubles

On the technical education front, the first version of the reworked Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) for admission to non-IIT central technical institutions and separately for the 15 premiere IITs was successfully held this year. The same format will be followed in 2014.

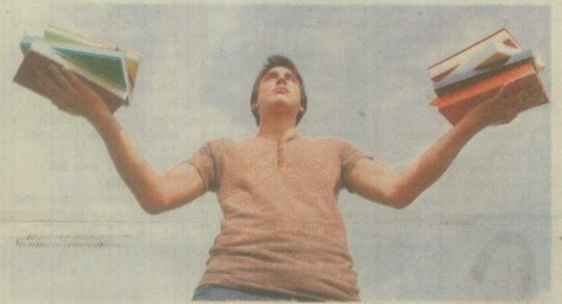
The new version consists of two examinations — JEE Main conducted by the CBSE for admission to all non-IIT technical institutions such as the 30 National Institutes of Technology and the IITs among others. The merit list for JEE Main followed the pattern finalised by the Council of NITs and the Council of IITs after over a two-year debate.

For the first time in many years, JEE Main gave 40 pc weightage to a student's school leaving marks coupled with 60 pc weightage to the JEE Main score. The

key was normalisation of school marks considering school boards give marks variously — some are miserly and some generous.

The normalisation was done successfully and students in 2013 were admitted to NITs and other centrally funded technical institutions through JEE Mains. Some parents challenged the exam in court (Andhra Pradesh HC), but the court refused to stay the results. The case is on but the court is unlikely to interfere in the functioning of autonomous academic bodies like the NIT and IIT Councils.

The most interesting shift in technical education sector this year was the transition of IITs from the old version of IIT-JEE to the new JEE Advanced test for selecting students. The first JEE Advanced was held this year.



Conducted by the IIT Joint Admission Board, the JEE Advanced was also met with tremendous resistance as several JEE Mains top scorers failed to become eligible for JEE Advanced because they had not done well in board exams. After a lot of debate, IIT-JAB decid-

ed to continue with the new system next year (IIT Kharagpur will hold the test in 2014) and ignore demands for reversal to the IIT-JEE system. So next year the students hoping to enter IITs would have to work equally hard at school.



TRIBUNE PHOTO: MANOJ MAHAJAN



## NEET: SINGLE ENTRANCE EXAM FOR MEDICAL COURSES

### Not a neat job

The first version of NEET-UG (National Entrance cum Eligibility Test), the single-window entrance for 340 medical colleges in India was also held earlier this year amid severe resistance from the private medical education lobby which wanted the old system that allows them to fix prices for seats.

Sadly, after the NEET UG was conducted by the CBSE (it entails common admission test and final student selection based on all-India merit list) for admission to UG MBBS and dental courses, the Supreme Court quashed its validity with a majority judgment. In the three judge bench headed by former Chief Justice of India Altamas Kabir, the CJI and Justice Vikramjit Sen held NEET UG violative of the Constitution.

However, in a dissenting judgment Justice Anil Dave dismissed the petitions filed by private medical and dental colleges challenging the Medical Council of India's notification providing for a common NEET for both medical UG and PG admissions.

The good news, however, is that the Apex Court in October this year agreed to review its judgment on NEET after the Government

(Ministry of Health) filed a review petition citing the dissenting judgment and the fact that NEET sought to bring transparency in medical education by ending years of capitation dominated admission processes by private lobbies. Importantly, due to lucrative returns, private players, including corporate houses and politicians, have set up medical colleges where arbitrary

admission and fee charging is the norm. That explains why 190 out of India's 340 medical colleges are in private hands.

Former MCI Board of Governors Chairman S.K Sarin, who conceptualised NEET in 2011, says, "NEET is a uniform transparent assessment system which is convenient; it ends the anguish of parents and students who have to run to 10 centres at a time to give exams for different colleges. Above all, it reduces corruption. But private players were never ready to accept it and in an unprecedented move, the SC permitted them to hold their own admission even when NEET UG had been conducted earlier this year. But there is still hope as a review is on."



## PAVING WAY FOR A BETTER FUTURE

### Accreditation & opening doors for foreign varsities

While much was achieved in 2013 by way of examination reforms, progress on the legislative front was slow with all Bills pertaining to HRD Ministry remaining stuck in Parliament for want of consensus — among these were Bills to end malpractices such as capitation fee in higher education; another to set up innovation universities and still another to create a legislative framework for

mandatory accreditation of all higher educational institutions.

To find an alternative route to legislative breakdown, the HRD Ministry took two major decisions this year — it got the UGC to issue a notification to all colleges and universities asking them to get accredited by 2014 or risk cancellation of funding.

Two, it initiated a proposal to create a regulatory framework (through an

executive order) for top 400 foreign institutions (ranked by TIMES Education and other major rating agencies) to set up campuses in India.

The proposal allows such entry by processing the applications of interested parties under the Companies Act. Foreign institutions would however be required to show Rs 25 crore corpus and promise to plough back returns

into campuses.

Most importantly, such institutions would only be allowed to offer foreign degrees and not Indian degrees as they are proposed to be permitted to enter India through an executive and not legislative route.

This proposal is under consideration of the Government at the highest levels with the Union Cabinet expected to take a decision soon.

# छह लाख तक की आय पर इंजीनियरिंग की फ्री पढ़ाई

● अमित त्यागी

नोएडा। इंजीनियरिंग की तैयारी कर रहे छात्रों के लिए अच्छी खबर है। जिन छात्रों के अभिभावकों की सालाना आय छह लाख रुपये तक है, उनके बच्चे भी अब इंजीनियरिंग की फ्री एजुकेशन ले सकेंगे। यूजीसी ने आय सीमा 4.5 लाख रुपये से बढ़ाकर छह लाख रुपये कर दी है।

इंजीनियरिंग-तकनीकी संस्थानों में आर्थिक रूप से कमजोर छात्रों के लिए आरक्षित पांच फीसदी अतिरिक्त सीटों पर यह लाभ मिलेगा। प्रदेश के इंजीनियरिंग कॉलेजों में 2014-15 के दाखिलों पर यह नियम लागू होगा। यूपीटीयू

- पांच प्रतिशत फ्री सीटों पर लागू होगा नियम
- यूजीसी ने बढ़ाई सालाना आय की सीमा
- प्रदेश की 7500 बीटेक सीटों पर मिलेगा लाभ

की एसईई के तहत ही छात्रों को इस स्कीम का लाभ मिलेगा। इसके बाद उत्तर प्रदेश के 302 इंजीनियरिंग कॉलेजों में बीटेक की 7500 से ज्यादा सीटों पर छात्रों को इस स्कीम का सीधा लाभ मिलेगा। कई सालों से इंजीनियरिंग समेत तमाम तकनीकी डिग्री और डिप्लोमा कोर्सों में 5% फ्री सीटों का प्रावधान है। शुरुआत में इन सीटों पर दाखिले का लाभ 2.50 लाख सालाना आय

वालों को मिलता था। 2012-13 के सत्र से आय सीमा 4.50 लाख कर दी गई। अब 2014-15 के सत्र से इसे छह लाख कर दिया गया है। इसके आधार पर छात्रों के लिए संबंधित संस्थान की सिर्फ ट्यूशन फीस फ्री रहेगी, बाकी मर्दों पर खर्च वहन करना होगा। यूपी के कॉलेजों में औसतन ट्यूशन फीस 85 हजार रुपये है, जिसके फ्री होने से छात्रों को बड़ी राहत मिलेगी।

नई चिंता

कहीं अतिमशीनीकरण विचार करने और गहराई में उतरकर देखने की हमारी क्षमता न खत्म कर दे

# शिक्षा पर हावी टेक्नोलॉजी का क्या करें ?

**शिक्षा** से जुड़े इतने सारे प्रश्न हैं कि उन सबकी चर्चा एक साथ कभी संभव नहीं होती। यह भी एक पीड़ादायक सत्य है कि जीवन के अन्य क्षेत्रों के संबंध में जितना विचार-विमर्श होता है उतना शिक्षा के संबंध में नहीं होता जबकि शिक्षा संपूर्ण व्यवस्था का आधार है। शिक्षा बिना व्यक्तित्व का विकास नहीं, समुचित शिक्षा के बिना सही व्यवस्था-तंत्र का निर्माण नहीं और जीवन के अन्य क्षेत्रों में जिस विकास की हम अपेक्षा करते हैं वह भी संभव नहीं।



**जनार्दन द्विवेदी**  
शिक्षाविद और  
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जीवन दृष्टि की अनेक विसंगतियों के कारण शिक्षा के प्रति यह अगंभीर दृष्टिकोण है। शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में कई ऐसे प्रश्न हैं जिन पर विचार की आवश्यकता है जैसे ज्ञान के तमाम नए द्वार खुले हैं, लेकिन ये द्वार कौन से हैं, क्यों हैं और किसके लिए हैं? मनुष्य के मन में क्या है यह मनुष्य समझेगा या मशीन समझाएगी और क्या जो मशीन समझाएगी, हम वही मानेंगे? क्या कृत्रिम प्रतिभा नैसर्गिक

प्रतिभा का स्थान ले सकती है? मैं यहां कुछ प्रश्नों पर विचार कर शेष प्रश्न कालदेवता पर छोड़ता हूँ।

माना जाता है कि आने वाली पीढ़ी पिछली पीढ़ी से अधिक बुद्धिमान, जागरूक और कल्पनाशील होती है। तमाम अध्ययन कहते हैं कि दूसरे विश्व युद्ध के बाद से हर पीढ़ी में बौद्धिक स्तर (आईक्यू) लगातार बढ़ रहा है। भारत इसका अपवाद नहीं हो सकता। कम से कम परीक्षा में मिलने वाले अंक और प्रतिशत इसी ओर इशारा करते हैं। हालांकि कई बार यह हास्यास्पद हो जाता है। जैसे दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय में दाखिले के लिए निर्धारित कट ऑफ का प्रतिशत 2013 में कुछ विषयों में सौ फीसदी तक पहुंच गया। सवाल उठता है कि क्या सचमुच नई पीढ़ी की बौद्धिक क्षमता सर्वोच्च स्तर तक पहुंच गई है? क्या यह पीढ़ी 60-62 फीसदी हासिल करने वाली पीढ़ी से वाकई 40 फीसदी आगे निकल गई है? या परीक्षा के मानदंड बदल गए हैं?

न्यूजीलैंड के ओटागो विश्वविद्यालय के समाजशास्त्री प्रोफेसर जेसलिन मानते हैं कि कच्चा बौद्धिक स्तर (रॉ आईक्यू) हर दशक में तीन अंक बढ़ रहा है। इस रफ्तार से उसे 100 फीसदी हो ही जाना था। 1970 के इस अध्ययन पर अब सवाल उठ रहे हैं। मेरे विचार से यह पूरा सच नहीं है। हमारी जानकारी में कुछ नई इबारतें जुड़ गई हैं, जो पहले नहीं थीं और केवल इसी अर्थ में



हम आगे निकल गए दिखते हैं। अमेरिका के प्रसिद्ध शिक्षाविद निकोलस कार अपनी किताब 'द शैलोज' में कहते हैं कि हम चीजों को टुकड़ों में देखने, खांचों में बांटने और रूढ़ प्रतीकों को समझने में महारत हासिल कर रहे हैं, लेकिन स्मरण शक्ति, शब्द भंडार, सामान्य ज्ञान और मामूली गणित में हम काफी पिछड़ गए हैं। इन क्षेत्रों में हम वहीं हैं जहां सौ साल पहले थे। यह कहना गलत नहीं होगा कि टेक्नोलॉजी के तमाम उपकरण और कंप्यूटर दिमाग को मशीन की तरह प्रयोग में लाने वाली वस्तु बना देते हैं। इसमें आंकड़े, प्रतीक और खांचे होते हैं। आप मशीन की तरह, एक छोटे पुर्जे के रूप में उससे जुड़ जाते हैं। सवाल उठता है कि क्या नई टेक्नोलॉजी मस्लन इंटरनेट हमारे पढ़ने और सोचने की क्षमता को प्रभावित कर रहा है? कभी-कभार ऐसा भी लगता है कि हम बहुत तेजी के साथ नई दुनिया में जाने के चक्कर में रास्ता भटक रहे हैं, क्योंकि यह आशंका भी है कि कहीं अतिमशीनीकरण, सोचने-समझने, विचार करने और गहराई में उतरकर चीजों को देखने की हमारी क्षमता को लगातार शिथिल करते हुए हमें पंगु न बना दे। यह चिंता सिर्फ मेरी नहीं है, सबकी है या होनी चाहिए अन्यथा शिक्षा और प्रतिभा या बुद्धिमत्ता का कोई अर्थ नहीं रह जाएगा। निकोलस कार भी इसी ओर इशारा करते हैं कि अगर हम नहीं सुधरे तो कृत्रिम बौद्धिकता मशीन में नहीं बल्कि इंसान में होगी।

भारतीय समाज-व्यवस्था और शिक्षा में ज्ञानार्जन और संग्रहण मूलतः इस बात पर निर्भर करता है कि आपने कितना सुना और कितना याद रखा। सब कुछ श्रुति, आवृत्ति और स्मृति से नियंत्रित होता रहा है और भारत का सांस्कृतिक विकास इसी पर टिका हुआ है। विचार इसी की अगली सीढ़ी है, जिससे हम अपनी समस्याओं का समाधान ढूंढते हैं। छोटे लक्ष्य और तात्कालिक सोच से आगे बढ़ती दुनिया में दूरगामी वैचारिकता का महत्व बढ़ जाता है, जिसके सतत विकास का रास्ता अपना

होगा। यह रास्ता मशीनी नहीं हो सकता, क्योंकि विचार कारखानों में नहीं बनते।

विचार करना, सोचना कितना जरूरी है, इस संदर्भ में मुझे उस व्यक्ति की आत्मकथा याद आती है, जिसने अपनी उच्च शिक्षा पूरी नहीं की, लेकिन आज वह बेहद कामयाब और विश्व के सबसे अमीर लोगों में से एक है। बिल गेट्स कॉलेज से लौटकर सीधे तहखाने के अपने गैराज में चले जाते थे। घंटों वहीं बैठे रहते थे। एक दिन गेट्स की मां ने खाने के लिए आवाज दी। गेट्स ने पुकार नहीं सुनी तो मां ने पूछा, 'तुम कर क्या रहे हो?' तहखाने से जवाब आया, ' मैं सोच रहा हूँ, मां।'

उस तहखाने में कंप्यूटर नहीं था। सोच थी। मशीन बाद में आई। यानी वास्तविक बौद्धिकता ने कृत्रिम बौद्धिकता गढ़ी और उसे आगे बढ़ाया। होना भी यही चाहिए, लेकिन इसका उल्टा भी हो रहा है। यह चिंताजनक है। इंग्लैंड की सबसे बड़ी शैक्षिक परीक्षण कंपनी (एड एक्सेल) ने सालभर पहले यह घोषणा भी की कि वह परीक्षा में लिखे गए निबंधों को जांचने, उनका मूल्यांकन करने का काम कृत्रिम बौद्धिकता वाली एक मशीन को सौंप रही है। मशीन निबंध पढ़कर छात्रों को अंक देगी और विचार, भाषा तथा व्याकरण की दृष्टि से उसका मूल्यांकन करेगी। यह न केवल चिंता की बात है, बल्कि खतरनाक है।

हर मशीन, मशीन होती है। एक निश्चित नियम के अनुसार चलती है, लेकिन कोई भी मशीन फैसला नहीं कर सकती है। वह केवल वही सोच सकती है, जितना उसे बताया गया है। अगर कोई छात्र या छात्रा स्थापित विचारों से आगे की सोच रहे हों तो मशीन क्या करेगी। अगर उसकी मेधा उपलब्ध ज्ञान से आगे तक जाती हो तो भी मशीन उसे अयोग्य और अक्षम करार देने के अलावा क्या कर सकती है। ऐसे में उन संस्थानों और विश्वविद्यालयों का क्या होगा, जिनका लक्ष्य प्रतिभा को संवर्द्धित करना और आगे बढ़ाना है। उनकी उपेक्षा ही होगी, जिसकी शुरुआत हो भी चुकी है। अपने देश में उच्च शिक्षा पर पहले आयोग का गठन 1948 में हुआ था। प्रथम प्रधानमंत्री जवाहरलाल नेहरू ने इस आयोग का अध्यक्ष डॉ. राधाकृष्णन को बनाया था। बाद में 1964 में कोठारी आयोग बना। राधाकृष्णन आयोग ने अपनी रिपोर्ट अगले साल 1949 में दी, जिसमें उन्होंने कहा कि शिक्षा को ऐसा बनाना होगा कि वह 'सामाजिक, आर्थिक और सांस्कृतिक बदलाव का प्रभावी औजार बन सके, जिससे हम अपने राष्ट्रीय लक्ष्य प्राप्त कर सकें।'

दूसरा और अंतिम भाग 2 जनवरी के अंक में...

# IT में बढ़ रहा सैलरी का फासला

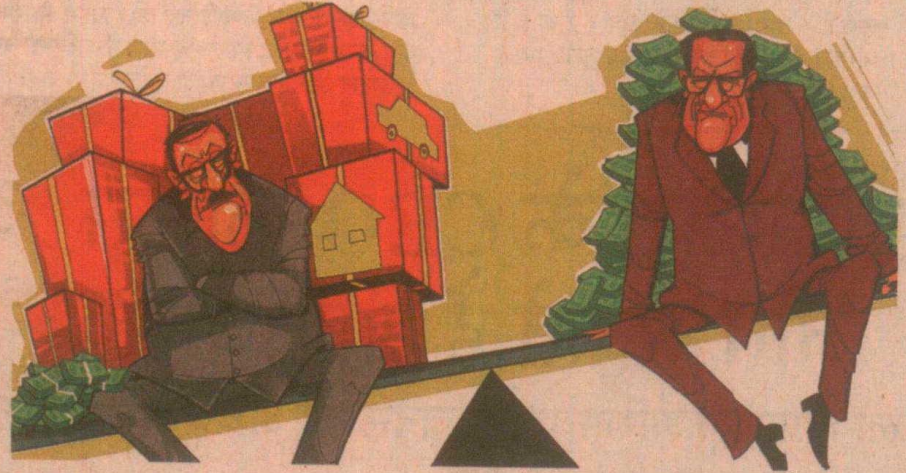
## मिड-मैनेजमेंट लेवल और फ्रेशर्स की सैलरी का फर्क 8 गुना तक पहुंचा

[ श्रेया रॉय | बंगलुरु ]

इंफॉर्मेशन टेक्नोलॉजी इंडस्ट्री में इस साल फ्रेशर्स और मिड-मैनेजमेंट की सैलरी के बीच का फासला कम से कम 8 गुना तक बढ़ जाएगा। आईटी कंपनियां फ्रेशर्स की ट्रेनिंग कॉस्ट घटाने की कोशिश कर रही हैं।

ह्यूमन रिसोर्सेज कंसल्टिंग फर्म मर्सर इंडिया के मुताबिक पांच साल पहले तक मिड-मैनेजमेंट लेवल और फ्रेशर्स की सैलरी का फर्क पांच से छह गुना था। इस साल यह बढ़कर 8 गुना तक पहुंच गया है। खासतौर पर 2008 की मंदी के बाद एंटी लेवल सैलरी 2.75-3.5 लाख सालाना के बीच है। मर्सर के बिजनेस लीडर (इंफॉर्मेशन सांल्यूशंस) शांति नरेश ने कहा, 'इसके मुकाबले मिड-मैनेजमेंट की सैलरी 8 पैसेट से 14 पैसेट तक बढ़ी है। यह फासला बढ़कर 5 से 6 गुना हो गया है।'

टावर वॉटसन के डायरेक्टर (टैलेंट एंड रिवॉर्ड) एस बखशी के मुताबिक, इनफ्लेशन एडजस्ट करके देखें तो एंटी लेवल सैलरी 10 साल में सबसे कम हो गई है। इस बीच मिड-मैनेजमेंट की सैलरी में 100 से 150 पैसेट का इजाफा हो चुका है। कंसल्टेंसी फर्म के मुताबिक, 10 साल पहले मिड-मैनेजमेंट सैलरी सालाना 7 से 8 लाख रुपये थी। आईटी एनेबलड सर्विसेज कंपनियों में अभी यह 15-18 लाख रुपये है। वहीं, मल्टीनेशनल कंपनियों में यह 21-22 लाख रुपये है। कंपनियों के मुताबिक फ्रेशर्स और मिड-मैनेजमेंट लेवल की सैलरी का फासला बढ़ने की सबसे बड़ी वजह डिमांड और सप्लाई मिसमैच है। मिड-मैनेजमेंट लेवल के लोगों को तलाश करना काफी मुश्किल है, जबकि हर साल 6 लाख इंजीनियर ग्रेजुएट्स आते हैं। वहीं इंडस्ट्री सिर्फ 2.50 लाख फ्रेशर्स को



**फ्रेशर्स को ज्यादा सैलरी देना मुमकिन नहीं है, क्योंकि उन्हें काम करने लायक बनाने में एक साल लगता है। उनकी 22 हफ्ते तक लगातार ट्रेनिंग होती है, जिस पर काफी खर्च आता है**

**सोम मित्तल, नैस्कॉम के प्रेसिडेंट**

ही हर साल जॉब दे सकती है। जिन इंजीनियर्स को हायर किया जाता है, उनकी ट्रेनिंग पर भी कंपनी को काफी खर्च करना पड़ता है। इस वजह से ज्यादातर कंपनियां फ्रेशर्स को कम सैलरी पर हायर करना चाहती हैं। नैस्कॉम के प्रेसिडेंट सोम मित्तल

ने कहा, 'फ्रेशर्स को ज्यादा सैलरी देना मुमकिन नहीं है, क्योंकि उन्हें काम करने लायक बनाने में एक साल लगता है। उनकी 22 हफ्ते तक लगातार ट्रेनिंग होती है, जिस पर काफी खर्च आता है।'

एचसीएल टेक्नोलॉजीज के चीफ ह्यूमन रिसोर्सेज ऑफिसर पृथ्वी शेरगिल ने कहा, 'इंडस्ट्री में प्रतियोगिता काफी ज्यादा है। हमारे लिए कॉस्ट कम रखना बहुत जरूरी है। सैलरी का खर्च प्रॉफिट या लॉस का 50 से 60 पैसेट तक होता है।' आईटी कंपनियां इस अनुमान से सहमत हैं। माइंडट्री के चीफ पीपल ऑफिसर रवि शंकर ने कहा कि वह मर्सर के इंडस्ट्री एवरेज से सहमत हैं। उन्होंने कहा, 'हमारी मिड मैनेजमेंट सैलरी हर साल 6-10 पैसेट बढ़ती है। जहां फ्रेशर्स की सैलरी 3 लाख रुपये हैं वहीं मिड-मैनेजमेंट की सैलरी एनुअली 15 लाख रुपये है। फिलहाल इसमें कोई बदलाव करने की योजना नहीं है।'

# What happens to students, institute and AICTE after the court judgments? No one knows

by [Lajwanti D'Souza](#) in [MBA in India](#) • [24 December '13](#)



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The once larger-than-life AICTE 'almost' ceases to today. Thanks to a couple of Supreme Court [judgements](#) and also the Centre's slothful approach to higher education in general, the regulatory body has little to do.

SS Mantha, chairman of AICTE is as baffled as most management and engineering institutes in the country are at this moment. Mantha, who is rather quiet these days made an exception for PaGaLGuY and answered a few straight questions.

## **The Supreme Court judgements were hard**

After 30 years, it is now felt that AICTE did nothing and that standards have declined and so many other issues. What to say.

## **Apparently your problems started during a court case in which AICTE's regulatory powers were not in contention?**

Yes, sometime in 2004, AICTE objected to some arts, science colleges in Tamil Nadu for running a Master of Computer Applications programme. Some universities went to court to check whether they needed AICTE's permission for these courses. That is when it all started.

**But institutes have found issues with your regulatory powers?**

There are problems with all regulatory and governing bodies. After the recent court judgement, quite a few institutes have come together in support of AICTE.

**What would you say AICTE actually did in the last 30 years?**

We brought it accountability, transparency and flexibility in the system.

**Can you be more specific?**

We brought in e-governance. A purely transaction based system was converted to a process driven one which was based on rules, open to scrutiny and RTI complaints. We maintain electronic records.

**But corruption is still a complaint?**

The benefits of e-governance is that there is utmost transparency. This means that corrupt practices and delays have almost ended. I can say that about AICTE for sure. Elimination of manual processing has only led to better productivity.

**Any initiatives taken by AICTE in the last 30 years?**

We have ensured that 5% of intake in all courses come under the Tuition Fee Waiver Scheme. This benefits over 1 lakh students. We make surprise visits to institute. We have also made rules easy for institutes.

**Anything specific to management institutes?**

Yes, we started CMAT and conducted it successfully. We try to ensure that institutes follow a common admissions calender and have also pushed for a model curriculum. We have started integrated management programmes with professional programmes and also dual degree programmes.

**You have been allotted a 5-acre plot at JNU for a permanent campus, what happens to that?**

Yes, construction began in 2012 and will be completed by September 2014. Other AICTE offices in states like Gujarat, Assam, MP, Kerala are also in the midst of getting new offices.

**UGC now takes over many of your functions.**

I just hope technical education gets the importance it deserves. Some universities do not even have engineering departments.

**What happens to CMAT?**

Nothing, CMAT continues as it is. In fact, many more states have opted for CMAT.

[\(http://www.pagalguy.com/news/whatever-happened-mighty-aicte-a-18382020/\)](http://www.pagalguy.com/news/whatever-happened-mighty-aicte-a-18382020/)

## 'Vocational education can make Gujarat a model state'

TNN Dec 25, 2013, 04.41AM IST

VADODARA: Gujarat can become a model state with effective implementation of the National Vocational Education Qualification Framework (NVEQF), chairman of All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) Dr S S Mantha said on Tuesday. Mantha was speaking on the sidelines of M S University's 62nd annual convocation ceremony.

Mantha, one of the alumni of MSU's faculty of technology and engineering, assured that AICTE, the highest body of technical education in the country, is ready to provide all assistance to Gujarat government for effective implementation of NVEQF.

"The gross enrollment ratio (GER) in our country is just around 19 percent in contrast to United States where the GER is as high as 80 per cent. Presently, 50 million students in the age group of 18 to 23 years clear their board and plus two level exams, but only 25 million students out of them go to college. There are over 10,000 it is in the country which provide trade-based training, but the society does not take it seriously considering it as terminal in nature," Mantha said.

NVEQF, which has recently been cleared by Government of India, can increase GER from present 19 per cent to 25 per cent within a year. The scheme establishes a system to clear educational pathways from school to higher education while providing certification of vocational skills.

"There are seven certificate levels and we can use the existing colleges to implement the scheme. Within a year's time, one million students across the country can be trained through this scheme," said Mantha, adding that even 1.5 lakh to 2 lakh youths in around 600 colleges in Gujarat, it can become a big step for the state.

Kamla Raman Vatika (convocation ground) behind university head office was jam-packed with students, parents, teachers and university staff after a gap of many years.

A total of 156 students were conferred 287 gold medals during the convocation ceremony in which state education minister Bhupendrasinh Chudasama was the chief guest.

"I am happy to have cleared my subjects with distinction," said Raghav Bharvad, who hails from Kheda's small village Kunjara, and is amongst the few in his community to have received gold medal.

"Since my childhood I wanted to get into MSU," said Bharvad, son of a farmer, who did part time jobs at showrooms to finance his own education.

While Bharvad aims to clear PhD and become a professor after completing his masters in arts, Komal Pandya, who made a hat-trick of sorts, wants to turn into a higher secondary school teacher.

Pandya had bagged a gold medal in 2010 after she cleared her bachelors in science. Later, she received a gold medal in 2012 when she cleared her M Sc and on Tuesday she bagged four gold medals after she cleared her BEd with high academic score. "I am proud that I have received six gold medals in six years," she said.

## Over 100 IIT-Bombay students get offshore jobs

[Yogita Rao](#), TNN Dec 25, 2013, 01.01AM IST

MUMBAI: Over 100 students at IIT-Bombay were placed by multinational companies for their global requirement this year. The corresponding numbers, last year, was around 80. The first phase of placements came to an end on December 19 with 889 students on the campus getting job offers, which is over 55% of the total strength on the campus. The analysis of the data shows that the placement session this year was least affected by the global slowdown.

Reputed organizations from Europe, Japan, Korea, Middle East, Singapore, Taiwan, USA etc. visited IIT Bombay this year. While a significant number of such companies included regular recruiters, many new international companies also came down to the campus this year. Even though a few US companies did not turn up for placements this year owing to visa issues, several companies from countries like Japan, made up for their absence.

The inclination towards technical and software sectors continued to dominate students' choices with 265 students picking up jobs in engineering and technology, followed by 249 in software and IT firms. Maximum offers on an average were made by firms in these two sectors. Around 25 firms in the analytics sector hired 83 candidates and 21 consulting firms hired 73 students in all. A couple of NGOs too have picked up one student each from the campus. Only one public sector company that came in the first phase hired two students, more will visit the campus in the second phase, which begins from January first week, said an official. Several educational institutes also made job offers to 23 students, including few doctoral degrees, to join them as faculty members.

In all, 889 students got job offers from 260 companies at the end of the first phase, out of 1,600 students. Last year, out of 1,300 students, 828 students had got job offers from 240 firms after the first phase.

'Opportunities in research and development (R&D) have been steadily growing for the past few years and this year too, IIT Bombay saw some premier job offers in this sector', said the official release issued by the institute. A total of 13 research and development organisations offered 35 positions in the first phase.

Major companies who made their presence felt in the first phase include Google, Microsoft, Goldman Sachs, Boston Consulting Group, Shell, Morgan Stanley, IBM, Schlumberger, Sony (Japan), Samsung (Korea), LinkedIn, Deutsche Bank, Oracle and ITC, among others.



December 26

## **Pradeep Rohatgi Receives 2013 PANIIT Leadership Award**



PANIIT Dec. 6 presented the Academic Accomplishment Award to Pradeep Rohatgi, a distinguished professor of materials engineering at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, during the PANIIT 2013 Global Conference.

Rohatgi, who is also director of the UWM Centers for Composites and Advanced Materials Manufacture, was recognized for sustained leadership in research on solidification synthesis and characterization of metal matrix composites, pioneering initiatives in technology and product development, education, materials policy, and institution building.

Rohatgi also received this award for his internationally recognized leadership in research on the solidification processing of metal matrix composites, natural fiber composites, and his outstanding contributions to education, technology development, institution building, and materials policy.

Rohatgi is internationally recognized as a world leader on solidification synthesis of metal matrix composites, and promotion of advanced materials research.

Through his exemplary leadership he has made a significant impact on his profession and the larger society. He has provided opportunities for high school teachers, high school students, and the community at large to visit and work in his laboratory to expose them to advanced materials research.

Rohatgi was born in Kanpur, received his bachelor's degree in metallurgical engineering in 1961 from Banaras University and the degree of doctor of science in metallurgy from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1964.

The Indian American professor worked as a research scientist at the Merica Research Lab of the International Nickel Company where he first synthesized metal matrix composites, and then at the Bethlehem Steel

Research Laboratory. He was a full professor for a period of five years at the Indian Institute of Science Bangalore and visiting faculty at the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur.

Read more at <http://www.indiawest.com/news/15872-pradeep-rohatgi-receives-2013-paniit-leadership-award.html#cPxOLTDXXYEX29CX.99>

# आईआईटी से टूटता मोह!

चार साल आईआईटी में पढ़कर इंजीनियरिंग की डिग्री हासिल करना लाखों छात्रों का सपना होता है। लेकिन क्या अब इस सपने से मोह टूटने लगा है? हाल ही में आई एक रिपोर्ट के आंकड़ों को देखें, तो ऐसा महसूस किया जा सकता है। इस रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक 2010 में 769 छात्रों का प्रवेश लेने से इंकार कर देना आईआईटी की साख को बड़ा झटका कहा जा रहा है। हालांकि इसके बाद काउंसिलिंग प्रक्रिया सुधारी गई, पर जानकार मानते हैं कि आईआईटी का क्रेज पहले से कम जरूर हो गया है।



प्रो. यशपाल, जाने-मने शिक्षाविद

**मैं** इस बात को नहीं समझ पाता हूँ कि हम केवल आईआईटी या ऐसे बड़े संस्थानों के पीछे ही क्यों पड़े रहते हैं? केवल आईआईटी ही पर्याप्त नहीं है, हमें ऐसी शिक्षा चाहिए, जो सारे पहलुओं को समेटे। ज्ञान परिपूर्णता लिए होना चाहिए। जो लोग एंट्रेस एग्जाम कराते हैं, उनके दिमाग में आना चाहिए कि इससे बच्चे प्रतिस्पर्धात्मक परीक्षा के लिए तो तैयार हो सकते हैं, लेकिन उनको अच्छी शिक्षा का मानक नहीं कहा जा सकता है। अब नए लड़के परम्परागत शिक्षा से हटकर भी सोचने लगे हैं। शिक्षा का पैटर्न बदल भी रहा है, और बदलना भी चाहिए। आईआईटी जैसे संस्थान केवल 'स्पेशलिस्ट' बना सकते हैं, जो काफी नहीं है। सरकार को सोचना चाहिए कि वह और आईआईटी बनाकर कोई बड़ा काम नहीं कर रही है। वहां छात्र 'कॉम्प्लेट' तो बन सकते हैं, पर 'कम्पलीट' नहीं। शिक्षा ऐसी हो, जो छात्रों को बेहतर इंसान भी बनाए। शिक्षा में प्रशासनिक स्तर पर सुधार की काफी जरूरत है। हमारी शिक्षा में अभी उतनी आजादी नहीं है। अगर किसी छात्र को इंजीनियरिंग करते-करते दूसरे विषय में रुचि पैदा हो, तो उसमें जाने की आजादी होनी चाहिए। हमारा शिक्षा प्रशासन शुरू से ही विद्यार्थियों को अनुशासन में बांधकर रखता है। पिछले कुछ वर्षों में जितनी भी सुजातात्मकता हुई है, उन्हें करने वाले बहुत-से लोग ऐसे हैं, जिन्होंने अलग-अलग जगह अलग-अलग विषयों में काम किया है। गौरतलब है कि अनुशासन की दीवारों में ही बांधकर सुजातात्मकता नहीं पैदा की जा सकती। हम अक्सर विदेशी संस्थानों की तारीफ करते हैं, वहां तो छात्रों को विषय के बाहर भी पढ़ने की आजादी होती है। ऐसा करने वाले आगे बढ़ते हैं। यह सही है कि देश की तरक्की के लिए अच्छे इंजीनियर, मैनेजर चाहिए, लेकिन उन्हें अपने विषय में ही कैद नहीं हो जाना चाहिए। सूचना व ज्ञान में फर्क करना होगा। आईआईटी जैसे बड़े संस्थानों से लेकर प्रत्येक संस्थान में ऐसे छात्र तैयार करने चाहिए, जो नए तरीके और नई सोच के साथ काम कर सकें।

17 आईआईटी भारत में है, आईएसएम धनबाद सहित

30 एनआईटी हैं भारत में, इनमें नई दस भी शामिल हैं।

आई आई टी

25,180

सीटें हैं आईआईटी और एनआईटी में

अब खोने लगी है चमक

आनंद कुमार, सुपर-30 के संचालक

**अ**ब आईआईटी का 'क्रेज' पहले जैसा नहीं रहा। आईआईटी का ब्रांड चमक खो रहा है, पुराना दौर खत्म हो गया है। पहले आईआईटी सेक्टर में तेजी थी, लेकिन अब उतनी नहीं रही। पहले आईआईटी की किसी भी ब्रांच से छात्र पढ़ लेते थे, तो भी उन्हें नौकरी मिल जाती थी। अब आर्थिक संकट आने की वजह से आईआईटी में नौकरियां भी घट गई हैं। दूसरा, कपिल सिब्बल ने आठ नए आईआईटी और खोल दिए हैं, कुछ नए आईआईटी के पास तो अपना भवन भी नहीं है। जिन बच्चों को पटना आईआईटी, धनबाद, जोधपुर मिलता है, तो वे एनआईटी में ही चले जाते हैं। यह तो साफ है कि यहां पढ़ाई की गुणवत्ता पहले जैसी नहीं रही। आईआईटी अब अपनी गुणवत्ता खो रही है। पहले भारत से बाहर जाने के लिए छात्र बहुत कम सोचते थे, पर अब तो स्नातक के लिए भी बाहर जाने लगे हैं। आईआईटी टॉप-200 की लिस्ट में भी नहीं आता है।

समय रहते आईआईटी को सुधार करने चाहिए। अब और ज्यादा सीटें नहीं बढ़ाई जाएं। जितनी भी सीटें हैं, उनकी गुणवत्ता को बढ़ाना चाहिए। यहां रिसर्च कार्य अधिक कराना चाहिए। जब तक रिसर्च को मजबूत नहीं करेंगे, तो आईआईटी का नाम बड़ा नहीं होगा। अब अन्य संस्थानों से भी अब अच्छा प्लेसमेंट मिलने लगा है, वहां भी अच्छे ब्रांच हैं। नए आईआईटी में तो पर्याप्त संसाधन भी नहीं हैं। इसलिए जरूरी है कि प्रवेश से लेकर संसाधन, गुणवत्ता और प्लेसमेंट पर आईआईटी को फिर से विचार करना चाहिए और अपनी साख चमकाने की कोशिश करनी चाहिए।

04

आईआईटी को ही टाइम्स हायर एजुकेशन रैंकिंग में इस वर्ष जगह मिली।

217

सीटें नहीं भर पाई इस बार आईआईटी की कुल 9985 सीटों में से

## फैकल्टी की कमी

**आ** आईआईटी भले ही देश की प्रतिष्ठित शिक्षण संस्थाएं मानी जाती हैं। लेकिन वहां भी लगभग समय से अध्यापकों की भारी कमी घली आ रही है। हाल ही में मानव संसाधन मंत्री ने संसद में बताया कि बीटैक और एमटेक करने के बाद अधिकतर लोग बड़ी कम्पनियों में काम करने चले जाते हैं। पीएचडी नहीं करते इस कारण अध्यापक नहीं मिलते। एनआईटी का भी यही हाल है।

## आईआईटी का हाल

अध्यपक/छात्र स्वीकृत अनुपात 1:10

वास्तविक अनुपात 1:16.5

इतने शिक्षक कम 2608

## एनआईटी की स्थिति

अध्यपक/छात्र स्वीकृत अनुपात 1:12

वास्तविक अनुपात 1:17.6

इतने शिक्षक कम 3034

## भारी खर्चा

सरकार आईआईटी के एक विद्यार्थी पर एक साल में 3 से 4 लाख रूपए खर्च करती है।

आईआईटी का 80 फीसद खर्च सरकार (एमएचआरटी) द्वारा दी जाती है।

आईआईटी बॉम्बे का कुल सालाना खर्च 250 करोड़ रूपए है, जिसमें 200 करोड़ सरकारी खर्च से पूरी किया जाता है। केवल 10 फीसद धन ही ट्यूशन फीस से आ पाता है।

आईआईटी गुवाहाटी का कुल खर्च 110 करोड़ है, जिसमें केवल 15-18 करोड़ ही ट्यूशन फीस से आता है। जो कुल खर्च का केवल 15 फीसद है।

दिल्ली आईआईटी का सालाना कुल खर्च 170 करोड़ रूपए है, जिसमें से केवल 10 फीसद ही ट्यूशन फीस से आता है।

एसटी/एसी और वॉन क्रीमी लेयर-ओबीसी के विद्यार्थियों को कोई फीस नहीं लगती है। 25 हजार आईआईटी पास लोग अमरीका में बस चुके हैं वर्ष 1953 से अब तक।

## सीटें तो खाली रहेंगी ही

आर. के. शिवगांवकर, निदेशक, आईआईटी, दिल्ली

**ख**ाली रहने वाली सीटों की संख्या अब कम हो गई है। हमने तीन राउंड काउंसिलिंग शुरू कर दी है, जिससे अब सीटें बहुत कम खाली रहती हैं। मेरे हिसाब से करीब 100 सीटें अभी खाली होंगी। आईएसएम धनबाद में खाली रह जाती हैं। आईआईटी में कई छात्र पहले प्रवेश ले लेते हैं, फिर एनआईटी जैसी संस्था में मनपसंद ब्रांच मिलने पर सेमेस्टर शुरू होने के बाद भी छोड़कर चले जाते हैं। दूसरे अच्छे संस्थान खुलने से फर्क पड़ा है। कई दफा आरक्षित कोटे के छात्र पूरे नहीं आ पाते हैं, चूंकि कोटा परिवर्तित नहीं हो सकता, इसलिए सीटें खाली तो रहेंगी ही। सीटें भरने के लिए ही तीन राउंड काउंसिलिंग सिस्टम अपनाया। पर इसके बाद सेमेस्टर शुरू हो जाता है, तो फिर हम कुछ नहीं कर सकते। इसके बाद प्रवेश के लिए कोई प्रावधान नहीं है। लेकिन यकीन मानिए छात्रों के लिए आईआईटी पहले भी सपना था, अब भी है, उसमें कोई कमी नहीं आएगी।

# आईआईटी और आईआईएम सरीखे संस्थानों की जरूरत

नई दिल्ली, (वार्ता): गुणवत्तापूर्ण उच्च शिक्षा पाने के उद्देश्य से विदेश जाकर पढ़ाई करने वाले भारतीयों ने वर्ष 2012-13 में इस पर 10 हजार करोड़ रुपये से अधिक की राशि खर्च की है। वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग संगठन एसोचैम ने अपनी रिपोर्ट में कहा है कि शिक्षा के नाम पर देश से बाहर जाने वाले धन पर लगाम लगाने के लिए जरूरी है कि सरकार शिक्षा क्षेत्र को

नियंत्रणमुक्त करे और निजी सार्वजनिक भागीदारी के आधार पर देश में अच्छे शिक्षण संस्थानों की स्थापना का प्रयास करे। रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है कि हाल के आकलन को देखते हुए समझा जा सकता है कि देश में भारतीय तकनीकी संस्थान आईआईटी और भारतीय प्रबंधन संस्थान (आईआईएम) की ही तरह अन्य गुणवत्तापूर्ण शैक्षणिक संस्थानों की जरूरत है।

The Hindu

## Code of conduct soon for pupils, faculty at IIT-M

Vasudha Venugopal

IIT-Madras's administration will soon issue an advisory to both students and professors on a 'code of conduct' on campus, to be followed during cultural festivals and on academic tours.

This was decided at a meeting on the campus on Tuesday, in the aftermath of the suspension of a professor for sexually harassing a student. According to sources, the complaint was filed by the student's friend after she went on an academic tour to Europe with the professor.

"With our cultural and technical fests approaching, we want to make sure no one is made to feel uncomfortable on campus," said L.S. Ganesh, dean (students).

He said the advisory will mainly deal with rules of conduct, particularly verbal and physical behaviour.

"We want to especially make sure no one, not even guests, passes comments that are sexist or in bad taste," he said. Last week, at the cultural festival of IIT-Bombay, pop music artiste Palash Sen was accused by a section of students of making sexist remarks on campus.

IIT-Madras's advisory will be handed out to students and professors in about a week, just ahead of the festivals that begin in the first week of January. Strict instructions will also be issued to students and professors who are sent on any academic tours, Prof. Ganesh said.

Students on campus said news of the incident of sexual harassment and suspension of the professor came out during the holidays, and not many were aware of it.

"The administration did not care to apprise the student community of this development. Instead, we get to know about this from members of the press. The authorities should have at least mailed us about the action taken so that we feel empowered to complain when faced with such a situation," said a student.

Keywords: [IIT-Madras](#), [Code of conduct](#), [Indian Institute of Technology Madras](#)

Printable version | Dec 28, 2013 8:21:10 PM | <http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/chennai/code-of-conduct-soon-for-pupils-faculty-at-iitm/article5501647.ece>

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## Hiring foreign teachers will now be easier for IITs

PTI Dec 26, 2013, 07.11PM IST

(Giving a big boost to the...)

NEW DELHI: Giving a big boost to the [IITs](#) plan to hire teachers from abroad, the [Home Ministry](#) has relaxed the income criteria for grant of employment visa to them.

With this, IITs can hire faculties from abroad with a salary of \$14000 per annum as per the revised norms. Earlier, visa was not allowed to those who would get a salary of less than \$25,000 per annum.

"We have already informed the IITs about the relaxation in norms," said an [HRD Ministry](#) official, adding the new norms would help these institutes tide over the faculty shortage to an extent.

However, the relaxation will be given for two years up to December 31, 2015 and it will be reviewed taking into account the progress in the intake of foreign faculty.

While providing the relaxation, the Home Ministry has also made it clear that norms will be available only for those recruited as teaching faculty and not for exclusive research positions in strategic areas or in strategic institutions.

The National Institutes of Technology ( [NITs](#)) and central universities would also be benefited from this, the official said.

IITs, which face up to 30 per cent faculty shortage are willing to recruit foreign nationals on contract basis for posts of assistant professors or associate professors.

The [IIT council](#) had a couple of years ago given the go-ahead for inducting foreign teachers up to 10 per cent of the total faculty strength.

The new norms would, however, not be available to foreign nationals coming from countries such as China, Pakistan, Afghanistan, [Iran](#), Iraq and Sudan, he said.

On the issue of recent reports of foreign students admitted to IIT Kanpur facing problems in local police stations at the time of registration, the official said they have taken up the matter with the highest level in Uttar Pradesh administration and have sought Home Ministry's intervention.

As per rule, foreign students are required to get themselves registered at the local police station within a fortnight of arrival.

## **IIT Bombay plans to license tech to corporates**

**Venkatesh Ganesh**

*Bangalore, Dec. 25*

IIT Bombay plans to launch its parallel computing initiative.

The institution, which has seen computer scientists and businessmen such as Arun Ne-travali (former President of Bell Laboratories), and Nandan Nilekani, Chairman of the Unique Identification Authority of India, is trying to get its parallel computing initiative going that would help government organisations and privately run institutions, to use IIT Bombay's technology infrastructure on a rental basis.

Further, the institution has plans to license its 60-odd patented technologies to corporates in India, according to sources in IIT Bombay.

Talking to *Business Line*, P.S.V. Nataraj, professor of systems and control engineering group at IIT Bombay, said the institution is in the process of upgrading its data centre (a location that hosts high-end computer servers and storage devices) and will rent the excess capacity to companies. "This will be rolled out in 2014," he added.

### **PACT WITH NVIDIA**

Further, IIT Bombay has partnered with NVIDIA, a maker of graphical processing units (which started off in gaming and entertainment circles) but now is starting to find acceptability in areas such as aerospace, climate studies and mechanical engineering. For this, IIT Bombay will use NVIDIA technology in its Powai campus.

Publication: The Times Of India Delhi; Date: Dec 26, 2013; Section: Times Business; Page: 19;

# Talented Indian data scientists get top dollars

Shilpa Phadnis | TNN

Bangalore: Mumbai-based Shashi Godbole is a do-it-yourself (DIY) data scientist. He holds a Bachelor's and Master's degree in mechanical engineering from IIT Bombay, has solved business challenges in many areas, predicted the auction sale price for a bulldozer and even developed an algorithm that uses patient records to prevent unnecessary hospitalizations.

This data wizard spends a few hours in a day gleaning insights from volumes of data by running complex algorithms. He was recently paid \$300 an hour for a healthcare consulting project in the US.

Godbole is a regular contestant on various competitions on Kaggle.com, a US-based crowdsourcing platform that connects companies and prospective data scientists. He was previously an as-



**Consulting firm McKinsey estimates that India will need two lakh data scientists in the next few years. Wipro already has as many as 8,000 people in analytics functions, according to Heidrick & Struggles report**

sociate director in analytics firm Fractal Analytics. He quit that to start his own consulting firm. "I was introduced to machine learning in college. I later enrolled for a course on machine learning on Coursera (online tutoring) to brush up my skills," he said.

Godbole was ranked 19 and 28 out of over 135,000 participants in recent Kaggle competitions. Another machine learning enthusiast is Abhishek, currently pursuing his Master's thesis from the University of Bonn in computer vision and machine learning and also

working at the Fraunhofer Institute for Intelligent Analysis and Information Systems. He is ranked 34 in the Kaggle list.

"We have a service called Kaggle Connect, where the elite from the Kaggle community earn top dollars from consulting engagements. The rate at launch for Kaggle Connect is \$300 per hour (data scientists take home two-thirds of this)," said Anthony Goldbloom, founder and CEO of Kaggle. Many Indians are participating in data analysis competitions to get paid these top dollars.

According to Goldbloom, India is one of the strongest countries on Kaggle and it can potentially build a talent pipeline for data scientists that are virtually non-existent today. "India has a culture of respecting engineers because they're highly numerate and pragmatic," he added.

Started in 2010, Kaggle is a two-sided marketplace that bridges the gap between data problems and data solutions. It's free to all data scientists; charges a fee to companies with a data problem. Kaggle boasts of clients including Facebook, GE, Nasa, Tesco and Merck. Deepinder Dhingra, head of products & strategy at analytics service provider MuSigma, says startups like Kaggle bring together a curated network of data scientists. "You need an interdisciplinary approach of math, business and technology to solve a real business problem. Data

science is a harmony between the right and left brain thinking."

Consulting firm McKinsey estimates that India will need 2 lakh data scientists in the next few years. The world would need many lakhs more. The extent of hiring for analytics or data science can be gauged from the fact that a single company, Wipro, already has as many as 8,000 people in analytics functions, as per a Heidrick & Struggles report.

MuSigma has established what it calls the Mu Sigma University to create a pool of analytics talent and puts them through a three-month mini MBA programme. "We are what the IT industry was in the 90s. There is a supply-side arbitrage. Hence, we want to train raw engineering talent from campuses and enroll them to our programme to groom them as data scientists," Dhingra said.



# Unlearning undemocratic values

Sukhadeo Thorat

The brutal sexual attack on a young woman in Delhi, in 2012, and a savage attack on a girl student of Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) on its campus this year are just two examples of extreme violence that have shocked the nation. Acts of sexual violence are common despite public outrage and the fear of legal action. Equally disturbing was the mass exodus of citizens of north-eastern States from Bangalore in 2012. Instances of caste discrimination and violence occur at regular intervals to which we have become quite immune. Occurrences of discrimination based on caste, gender, race and religion are not disparate but a reflection of the ways in which our society works. Traditional values contradictory to democratic norms and practices continue to shape the behaviour of our children and adults in their formative stages through socialisation in the family and society. Public policy can do little to influence this informal learning which is at variance with the principles of equality and respect for differences.

Education can be an instrument of change. But nation-building would require reform in education; unlearning of undemocratic values is as important as the learning of democratic ones. Unfortunately, our education system, with its present curricula and pedagogy, has less to offer by way of civic learning and democratic engagement that shapes good citizens out of men and women. This is not to say that we do not have goals for education, for the education policy talks of national integration, equality and the development of a common culture. Selectively, some civic learning also takes place through courses on human rights and gender. But all these have remained on the periphery of learning in school and higher education. The prime focus in our schools and higher education learning system seems to be only on preparing students for the job market. Civic learning and democratic engagement have not become the core component of our teaching. J.A. Banks, an Afro-American academician, observed that "the role of education in the 21st century is to prepare students 'to know, to care, and to act in ways that will develop and foster a democratic and just society' and to 'develop a commitment to personal, social, and civic action, as well as the knowledge and skills needed to participate in effective civic action'."

Civic learning is pivotal when dealing with

India's long-standing legacies of caste, gender and class antagonism replicate on campuses as well. As higher education moves forward, it does so on these social cleavages

diversity in societies. The United States is one such example. Beginning 1995, it developed an education policy to deal with diversity by bringing about reforms in curricula and pedagogy for civic learning and engagement in colleges and universities. The education for diversity has four elements: knowledge, values, skills and action. Reform in knowledge includes a new curriculum with themes that deal with diversity, inequalities, racism, sexism, religious oppression, classism, anti-Semitism and heterosexism. To develop individual capabilities and skills, it introduced new pedagogical methods like inter-group dialogue and mixed peer group, where students from diverse groups interacted and learned to respect differences. Through new knowledge and skills, they unlearned many things that they had imbibed from family and society and also developed skills and capacities to deal with diversity and differences in a democratic way. The third component was to motivate the students for action. These reforms were expected to enhance the "civic capital" among youth for enhanced citizenship. Sixteen years later, in 2011, a review indicated positive outcomes not only in civil learning and engagement but also in their academic performance.

## Missing goal in education

Campuses of higher education in India have moved from being relatively homogeneous to becoming more diverse. Figures at the macro- and micro-levels will make this clear. In 2008, of the total number of students in higher education, about 45 per cent were from rural areas and the rest from urban areas; 42 per cent were women and 58 per cent men. Social composition comprised four per cent Scheduled Tribes, 13.5 per cent Scheduled Castes, 35 per cent Other Backward Classes and 48 per cent, the rest. Hindus accounted for about 85 per cent followed by Muslims at eight per cent, and Christians and others at three per cent. Although a majority of students were relatively

better off, there were poor students as well. About a fourth were from private institutions and the rest from government and private-aided institutions. The medium of instruction for about half of them were the regional languages, and English for the rest.

JNU represents Indian diversity at the micro-level. In 2013, about half the number of students are women; about 41 per cent are from a rural background and 59 per cent, from cities and towns. The caste/ethnic composition is eight per cent STs, 15 per cent SCs, 32 per cent OBCs and 42 per cent others. About 26 per cent are from low-income groups, 19 per cent from the medium-income level, and 54 per cent from the high-income bracket. About 21 per cent are from public schools, and the rest from other schools. Besides, they come from 26 States and 235 universities/colleges, representing different language and cultural backgrounds.

In this widening diversity, students from low castes, the poor, women and those from different religious, regional, rural and language backgrounds live in the company of high caste, urban and better off males who dominated the higher education campus scene for long. With greater diversity, students bring with them ideologies, values and differing ways of dealing with others. While diversity provides a unique opportunity for students to experience its richness under one roof, it also poses challenges of living in a socially inclusive way. It tends to induce social and peer groups around "identities" and develop a divide in social relations that are along caste, ethnic, class, linguistic, regional and religious lines. Exclusionary behaviour also brings on discrimination, psychological and physical violence for the low castes and women. Thus, the nation's long-standing legacies of caste, gender and class antagonism are replicated on campuses. As higher education moves forward, it does so on social platforms of caste, gender, and class cleavages. A study by Prof. Mary Thornton and others of five higher educa-

tional institutions in India and the United Kingdom, in 2010, observed "that separation of groups on the higher education campuses studied is pervasive and ubiquitous. While some such separation may be for supportive reasons, convenience or inertia, at other times it is due to overt discrimination on the grounds of race, region, nationality, caste, class, religion, age or gender." In 2013, Samson Ovichegan, in a study on the experience of Dalits in an elite university in India, observed that "this university is yet another arena in which the practice of caste division continues to exist. The university environment reinforces and maintains a divide between Dalit and non-Dalit. Dalit students do, indeed, experience overt and covert discrimination based on caste at this premier university."

## Crucial moment

Higher education in India today lacks the potential and capacity to promote cognitive knowledge, social skills, values and actions for civic learning and democratic engagement that are so essential to build citizenship. A U.S. report on education, *A Crucible Moment: College Learning and Democracy's Future*, observed that "... unlike liberty, civic knowledge and capability are not bestowed at birth. They are hard won, through education at all levels and through taking seriously the perspectives of others. Democratic insight and competence are always in the making, always incomplete. Therefore, civic learning needs to be an integral component of every level of education, from grammar school through graduate school, across all fields of study."

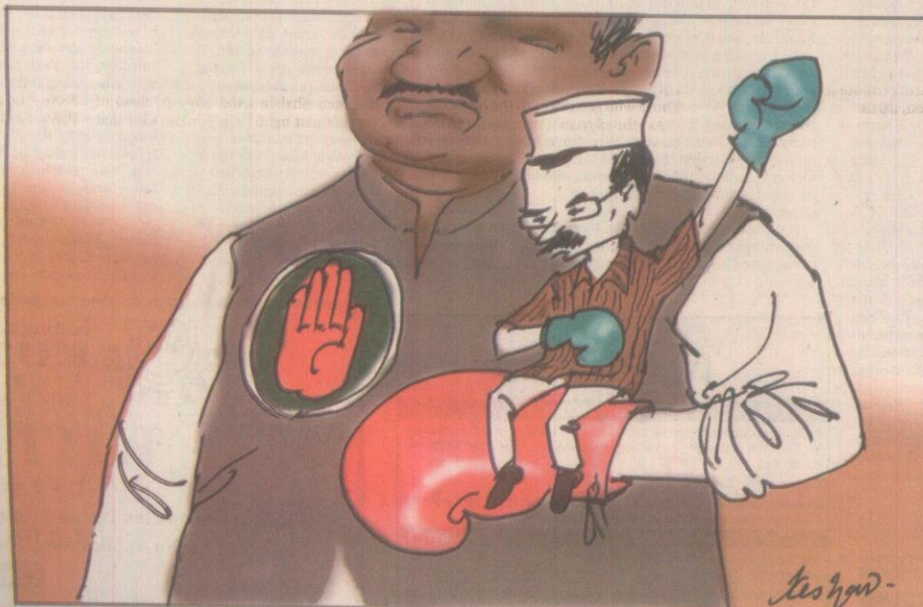
This is a crucial moment to use higher education and the pathways to it as a "carrier of democratic values, ideals, and processes," and narrow the divide between the ideals of the Constitution and the reality of the daily lives of our people. It is a critical moment for India, when we have hardly made a beginning in education to deal with diversity, discrimination and sexism.

## Initiatives

JNU and Delhi University have been pushed to strengthening the mechanism to deal with gender violence and sexism. While these are good steps, the direction needs to be well thought of. Of the two ways of dealing with gender and caste discrimination — legal safeguards and gender sensitisation and learning — the focus so far has been on the former. Though essential, legal safeguards need to be supplemented and supported by a strong component of civic learning and engagement. The measures have their limitations in reforming undemocratic behaviour. Laws discourage wrongdoing but do not necessarily correct sources of undemocratic behaviour. Laws do not strengthen people's knowledge and social and cognitive skills for democratic practice. The Anti-Untouchability Act of 1955 and other such acts related to gender have been in operation for about half-a-century. Yet, untouchability is still prevalent just as gender discrimination and violence are. Education can help in the unlearning of undemocratic values and practices. We need a two-pronged approach: legal safeguards and civic learning to enhance knowledge, and the social and individual capacities of students to deal with gender and caste discrimination and violence. The goal of higher education, in imparting knowledge and career preparation, needs to be combined with a third national goal of fostering an informed and engaged citizenship, and reducing the "national deficit in civic capital." The "Crucible Moment" report emphasised the point that "constructing environments where education for democracy and civic responsibility is pervasive, not partial; central, not peripheral." This requires reform in our educational system to develop a generation that will be more sensitive and engaged in the promotion of gender and caste equity, freedom, and fraternity, and reduce dependence on legal safeguards.

(Sukhadeo Thorat is professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University, and chairman, Indian Council of Social Science Research. E-mail: thoratsukhadeo@yahoo.co.in)

## CARTOONSCAPE



## Business Standard ND 26/12/2013

P-10

# Wait gets longer for mandatory vocational education in colleges

M SARASWATHY

Mumbai, 25 December

The National Vocational Education Qualification Framework (NVEQF) — launched by the All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE) to be implemented in polytechnics, engineering colleges and other colleges in the university systems from 2012-13 — will take more time to be implemented.

The scheme envisages seven certificate levels with each level with about 1,000 hours, with each 1,000 hours being made of certain number of hours for vocational competency based skill modules and the rest for general learning simultaneously integrated and providing a diploma for vocational education after the certificate level five or leading to a degree after

level seven in the university system, subject to their statutory approval. The programmes are sector-specific and sectors such as information technology (IT), media, entertainment, telecommunications, mobile communications, automobile, construction, retail, hotels, and fashion design, among others have been identified for implementation.

On making NVEQF mandatory in all educational institutes, Shankar S Mantha, chairman of AICTE recently told *Business Standard*: "I wish that this is so. There is no point in converting an existing division in a school or a polytechnic or a college to run NVEQF. What should happen is all these

should create a new division of maybe 100 students that conducts NVEQF in different sectors and becomes the feeder mechanism."

However, institutes said there were a lot of areas that needed to be clarified before it could be made compulsory.

**Institutes say there are a lot of areas that need to be clarified before it could be made compulsory**

Academicians said while the ministry's efforts to boost vocational education should be lauded, the industry was not ready for offering

these programmes on a large scale. According to the admissions head of a Pune-based technical institute, top-end corporate jobs are still a far cry for graduates in vocational education. "While there is a need to promote these courses, not many of the educa-

tional institutions will immediately adopt it since they are not many takers," he said.

AICTE officials said more than 350 colleges have registered for the programme. However, they are not looking at a mandatory scheme. "We need the necessary infrastructure to prepare the courses and get students enrolled. We need at least three-four years before it is made compulsory," said the associate dean of a New Delhi-based college specialising in arts and commerce programmes.

Although AICTE has made preparations to provide the requisite statutory approvals to any institutions planning to conduct these programmes from the academic year 2012-13, institutes would wait for a few more months before approaching the regulators.

# Low Women Ratio In Higher Technical Colleges Like IITs & NITs

**Published on :** 26-DEC-2013

For every 8 to 14 men at IIT, NIT and other top state engineering colleges in India, there is mere one woman who gets selected. This low ratio of male to female (MFs) is now being researched upon as a subject of a study, conducted across institutes of India and America, presently.

The 2013 research study coined as 'Women in Engineering: A Comparative Study of Barriers Across Nations', is being done by 'Aspiring Minds' - a venture of IIT and MIT alumni who are involved in human capital assessment.

It compares the imbalanced ratio of Indian women studying in engineering colleges with the female engineers pursuing from MIT, Stanford and Berkeley of US. The female ratio in US engineering institutes does not reflect such a wide unevenness as the number there is relatively higher with about 1 - 1.4 to 4 men.

This research study is comparing the applicant-to-admit ratios in US's MIT and the Indian IITs.

It brought out that at the application stage, the ratio of male to female were almost similar with showing 1 woman for every 2.27 male for MIT and at IITs, that means there are over two men for every female applicant.

The selection rate for men in MIT and IIT were also seen to be coming similar with 7.2% for MIT and 6.4% for IIT. (Six/seven or just a little above out of every 100 male applicants)

On the contrary, the women selection rate showed a drastic difference in both countries' institute. At MIT selection was just above 15 women for every 100 applicants (15.5%) whereas at IITs just 1.9%, meaning that less than two women out of every 100 that had applied.

It resulted, Male Female Ratio (MFR) from ranging 14:1 to 10:1 in IITs and at NITs and other top state run colleges, it showed MFR 8:1.

The US has taken several measures to improve female participation in science, technology, math and engineering higher education programmes.

Over the last 40 years in US, the percentage of engineering studies pursuers rose from less than 1% in the 1970s to 19% at present. In addition US have taken several measures in order to perk up involvement of female in science, technology, math and engineering through higher education programmes.

With that the GOI and IITs too have also following some measures to support more women to join the technological field by introducing fee waiver schemes and allotting grace points in entrance exams.

IIT entrance exam witness growth of Women applicants which is from 29,291 in 2005 to approximately 1.5 lakh in 2012, yet the clearing rate remains low, standing between 1.07% and 1.90%.

To find the answer of this low entrant of women in top-tier institutes of India, the study surveyed 14,000 engineers and graduates countrywide about their opted stream in Class XI and their percentage of Class X.

One of the major reasons for imbalanced gender ratio in Higher technical institutions in India as per this study is that the Indian institutes' depends way too much on scores of test, to select eligible students.

In contrast, MIT picks about three-quarters of high scoring students band, while rejecting 85% applicants of it. It instead focus of offering admission seats to students possessing other significant strengths.

While in India the IITs do not regard any candidate as eligible who is not in the top 5% of the Joint Entrance Exam.

Hence it is universal fact that standardized test format is not suited to women and realizing it US colleges have opted for a broad-based process of selection.

The other barriers for unequal gender ratio in higher education and low women rate in technical programmes as per the study are inadequate academic preparation. The other pre-college blockade identified was self perception of ability, where women with the same mathematical ability as men lean on evaluating themselves as lower.

Interestingly, once the women and men get admission in the colleges, Indian female engineering students perform much better than their American counterparts.

While US institutes observes a steady drop-out of women stating that out of 30% enrolled female students in engineering programs, only 18.5% received degrees. While India has a less dropout rate of merely 5% for both men and women.

<http://www.jagranjosh.com/articles/low-women-ratio-in-higher-technical-colleges-like-iits-nits-1388061910-1>

You are here: [Home](#) » [Metro](#) » IIT alumnus heads to hills for peace, loves Sufi music

## **IIT alumnus heads to hills for peace, loves Sufi music**

Rahul Chhabra, New Delhi, Dec 26, 2013, DHNS :

**He loves Sufi music and escapes to hills in his SUV to unwind. When he is not busy with fighting legal battles, he takes up causes of the poor. Meet Aam Aadmi Party's leader Somnath Bharti who is set to take oath as a cabinet minister on Saturday.**

The instant fame that has come along with his election to the Delhi Assembly has not impacted his down-to-earth personality, he claimed.

“I had never dreamt of being a legislator,” said Bharti, 39, who did his MSc in Mathematics from IIT-Delhi before pursuing a degree in law.

An explorer at heart, Bharti prefers to drive on the highway and head for hills in Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand to distress and meditate.

“My wife, Lipika, a financial consultant, likes beaches but I am a hill station lover. So, we keep alternating between beaches and hills during vacations with my two children,” said Bharti, wondering if the political career's responsibility will now leave him with any free time for leisure trips.

Bharti said his desire to serve the people was linked to his upbringing in which his father, a follower of Radha Soami Satsang, Beas in Punjab, inculcated the culture of spirituality. “I still follow the surat shabd yoga practised by followers of the satsang and also practice meditation,” said Bharti.

Born in Bihar's Nawada district, Bharti also studied in the Ramjas College in the North Campus. The lawyer-turned-politician is also a lover of Sufi music.

"From my college days I have been a lover of music," said Bharti, who was actively involved in his 15 year long association with IIT Delhi Alumni Association and IIT-Delhi.

Apart from filing public interest litigations, he has also represented Kiran Bedi, Arvind Kejriwal and Swami Agnivesh in Common Wealth Games case against the Government of India.

He has big plans for his constituency. "I am targeting 100 per cent employment and literacy in the constituency," he said.

"I am also planning to get a GIS based survey of the constituency done to collect details of the demographics and also get made maps of the sewer lines and water pipes," said Bharti.

His family or lawyer friends reacted with surprise. "Everyone is happy," said Bharti. He unseated Kiran Walia of the Congress, who was a minister in the previous cabinet, from the Malviya Nagar constituency in the December 4 election.

## Government appoints IIT-B scientist to train math, science teachers

Mumbai Mirror | Dec 26, 2013, 05.40 AM IST

*Chief minister alarmed by falling school standards in these subjects.*

Anxious to shore up the dipping standards of mathematics and science education in the state, Chief Minister Prithviraj Chavan has appointed a senior scientist from the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay, to train teachers and master trainers at state-run schools.

"We have appointed Dr Madhuri Sawant from IIT-B for a period of one year to impart us the knowhow. We hope our standards will improve," chief secretary of Maharashtra J S Saharia said, Chavan had recently expressed his concern about the matter, especially on the performance of rural schools in the two subjects. A D Kale, Director of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan in the state, also agreed that low scores in maths and science were a matter of such severe concern that it had persuaded the government to take this step.

Dr Sawant told Mumbai Mirror that an earlier pilot project for training teachers had fetched approval from education minister Rajendra Darda and Saharia. "I will be teaching the master trainers and teachers via videoconferencing. We will prepare training modules, change the science textbooks and include a lot of animation. Each of our training sessions will cater to 100 remote centres in the state and each centre will have 50 to 60 teachers." She intends to train 36,000 teachers.

"We notice that students who score 80 per cent in maths in their 10th exams, score only 60 per cent in their 12th. According to me, this is because the foundation laid from 8th standard is not sound."

Among the core subjects, it has been mathematics that has been, from time immemorial, given the hardest time to students, agreed school principals. Phobia for the subject has been the biggest reason for this. "Any student with a decent IQ level will pass in all the subjects but struggle particularly with Mathematics," said Dr. Rashmi Choudhri,

principal of Podar International School in Nerul. Even in the Mumbai region, where standards are fairly good, the highest pass percentage was recorded in science and technology, at 97.94 in the SSC exams of 2013, while the lowest was seen in Mathematics. at 77.47.

"In an ICSE school, the students have the choice of opting out of maths. I have seen even good students, at the first opportunity, dropping maths for another subject," said Perin Bagli, principal of Activity High School in Pedder Road.

Rekha Vijaykar, principal of state board Guru Harikrishnan High School, Santa Cruz, said the trick lay in the approach to mathematics. "As soon as we move to algebra and geometry, that is when the fear starts."

Parents, in agreement with the observation, lauded the idea of appointing a consultant to intervene into the education system. "Children find mathematics to be the most difficult subject because teachers in most schools don't make lessons interesting," said Arundhati Chavan, president of the PTA.

Other principals attributed the problem to the presence of the Right To Education's no-detention policy till class 8 to be partly responsible for the poor performance. "When the students come to class 9 they begin to face problems. Almost 35 per cent of students in my school end up struggling during exams," said Sandhya Sondur, principal and maths teacher at VPM International School in Airoli.

## **AAP pull strong in top institutes**

[Chitra Unnithan](#), TNN Dec 26, 2013, 04.30AM IST

AHMEDABAD: The khadi-clad image of politics is set to undergo a sea change. Some of the best brains in the country from top class institutes based in Gujarat are queuing up to work with the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP).

Poll year is luring students from IIM Ahmedabad (IIM-A), National Institute of Design (NID), CEPT University, IIT Gandhinagar, MICA and other leading institutes towards AAP's Gujarat unit to take care of the interest of citizens.

For example, Utsuk Srivastava, a final-year IIM-A student has been an AAP member since the party's inception in Gujarat. Three other students from IIM-A are also working with AAP ahead of the general elections in 2014.

"Many students from IIM-A, NID, CEPT and other institutes have applied through social media and the internet. During a preliminary discussion, the students told us that they are frustrated with the current state of politics in the country. They need change and see potential in our party, which is also young like them," said Sukhdev Patel, AAP's Gujarat convener.

Students who are keen to work with AAP are open to explore any profile offered by the party. Shirali Tyabji, a PG student from NID, said, "I am keen to volunteer and work for AAP and can offer my expertise- be it design, research or simply running around. Everybody wants a change as the other parties have been there since long and have been operating in the same way for generations. Young people like us understand what AAP is doing for us and their revolutionary attitude pulls us to them."

A stellar show in the Delhi assembly polls seems to have brought a turnaround in the image of the party among students.

AAP will create a database of the students and recruit the final candidates from Gujarat in the first week of January. "We have told the students that they themselves need to decide their prospects with the party and are free to do what they choose," said Patel.

HT Kolkata

# New Oxford-led study throws a challenge to Charles Darwin's theory on species

**Prasun Sonwalkar**

■ [letters@hindustantimes.com](mailto:letters@hindustantimes.com)

**LONDON:** A new study led by researchers at the University of Oxford has found that species living together are not forced to evolve differently to avoid competing with each other, challenging a theory that has held since Darwin's Origin of Species.

By focusing on ovenbirds, one of the most diverse bird families in the world, the Oxford University-led team conducted

the most in-depth analysis yet of the processes causing species differences to evolve.

The study published in 'Nature' found that although bird species occurring together were consistently more different than species living apart, this was simply an artefact of species being old by the time they meet, a university release said.

In fact, once variation in the age of species was accounted for, coexisting species were actually more similar than species

evolving separately, opposite to Darwin's view which remains widely-held today.

Joe Tobias of Oxford Department of Zoology, who led the study, said: "It's not so much a case of Darwin being wrong, as there is no shortage of evidence for competition driving divergent evolution in some very young lineages. But we found no evidence that this process explains differences across a much larger sample of species".

## Business Standard ND 26/12/2013

P-10

# 'Firms are ready to pay for talent... we want a more diverse mix in our intake'

Management schools in India are much more than only the IIMs, believes **VIVEK SANE**, Director, Symbiosis Institute of Business Management (SIBM). His own institute, ranked among the top 20 B-schools in India, is taking various measures to keep pace with its clientele, he tells Shivani Shinde Nadhe. Edited excerpts:

## What plans do you have for the institute?

We have been in existence for 35 years and done well. While the flagship programme has been doing well, we would be launching a SIBM Innovation and Venture Incubation Centre (SIVIC), giving an impetus to students who want to pursue entrepreneurship. We never thought we would need a structured effort for this. But looking at the demand and the fact that students cannot start without guidance, we thought this makes sense.

The Centre would be launched on June 4, 2014. SIVIC will create a platform for students and alumni to get mentorship and consulting support for generating and developing or evaluating business ideas in Phase-I. In Phase-II, SIVIC would seek to facilitate financial support for the ventures. It will operate from a dedicated space, with a dedicated person available for consulting on a weekly basis, supported by a host of guest mentors, consultants drawn from a pool of senior entrepreneurs and venture capitalists.

## B-schools are looking at having more female students on campus. Are you laying any special emphasis on this?

There has been an uptick in demand from companies. When they come for placement, they ask for women students, as they want to incorporate gender diversity within the organisation. For us, we want to have a good mix of boys and girls; we have not made any special reservation for women. The good news is that the ratio of women is improving. For instance, for the batch of 2012-14, the male-female ratio was 79 per cent and 21 per cent, respectively. For the batch of 2013-15, the female ratio has gone up to 29 per cent.

## Could this (imbalance) be because a majority of the B-schools have engineering graduates?

Yes. We want to change this. Additionally, companies are also asking for such students. Our entrance test is biased towards quantitative analysis. This is a universal trend. We want more students from a liberal arts or commerce background. But the influx of engineers is so huge that other students do not get a chance. We are making some changes in our entrance exams to accommodate this change.

**Pune has a good share of foreign students in its universities. Does SIBM intend to increase foreign**

## student intake?

Yes. At present, 27 international students join our institute on an annual basis. We have a separate international office, so we are looking at expanding this base.



**VIVEK SANE**

Director, Symbiosis Institute of Business Management

Meanwhile, we have also embarked on a student exchange programme with universities abroad. This being the first year, four students from Symbiosis, Pune, have been selected to go to Dauphine University, France.

## What about international accreditation?

International accreditation is like an ISO certificate. If you want a stamp of approval from the world, you need such accreditations. SIBM is part of Symbiosis University, so certain accreditation is taken care of by the university. At this stage, we do not have any accreditation. But we have 33 collaborations with various universities. This is for faculty visits, industry collaboration, etc.

## SIBM is going through its placement process. How does the environment look like?

So far, a little more than 60 companies have visited our campus for this year and the (yearly) salary offered was ₹10-20 lakh. We are very happy with the progress. Leading companies like Mahindra & Mahindra, Asian Paints, Aditya Birla Group, Reliance Industries, Pidilite, Citi Group, J P Morgan, Goldman Sachs, ITC, GSK and Wipro have visited. Other than placements, we have been encouraging students to participate in international competitions. Every year, we have students who come in the top three on any large corporate event, and these students get picked up by companies even before the placement season.

## Has there been any change in the choice of students in terms of sectors they

**International accreditation is like an ISO certificate. If you want a stamp of approval from the world, you need such accreditations. SIBM is part of Symbiosis University; so, certain accreditation is taken care of by the university. At this stage, we do not have any accreditation. But we have 33 collaborations with various universities**

## wish to work with?

No. Students still prefer FMCG (fast-moving consumer goods) industries for marketing. If it is finance, they prefer banks or companies with a dedicated finance department or profile. I do see a sudden jump in HR (human resource or personnel management), specially with an industrial relations background. The change I have seen is from the companies. They are ready to pay for talent. The mandate by companies is, if there are good students, they would be picked up. They're becoming more stringent in their choice, as the number of colleges has gone up. And, hence, their demand to get the best has also increased.





# विदेशी तालीम पर भारतीय छात्रों का सालाना 10,000 करोड़ खर्च

■ एसोचैम ने जारी की 'फंड्स फ्लो आउट ऑफ इंडिया फोर हायर एजुकेशन-2103'

बिजनेस भास्कर | नई दिल्ली

गुणवत्तापूर्ण उच्च शिक्षा के लिए वित्त वर्ष 2012-13 में लगभग आठ लाख भारतीय छात्रों ने विदेशों में शिक्षा ग्रहण करने पर 10,000 करोड़ रुपये खर्च किए हैं। एसोसिएटेड चैंबर्स ऑफ कॉमर्स एंड इंडस्ट्री ऑफ इंडिया (एसोचैम) ने इस चलन को देखते हुए अब देश में शिक्षा क्षेत्र को पूरी तरह नियंत्रण मुक्त करने की जरूरत बताई है और कहा है कि सार्वजनिक-निजी भागीदारी के साथ इस क्षेत्र में कुछ बड़े कदम उठाने होंगे।

एसोचैम ने हालिया जारी अपनी 'फंड्स फ्लो आउट ऑफ इंडिया फोर हायर एजुकेशन-2103' नामक रिपोर्ट में कहा है कि ऐसे छात्रों के लिए जो मैनेजमेंट, एकाउंटिंग, इंजीनियरिंग और चार्टर्ड एकाउंटेंसी में करियर बनाना चाहते हैं उनके लिए देश में इंडियन इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ टेक्नोलॉजी (आईआईटी) और इंडियन इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ मैनेजमेंट (आईआईएम) जैसे गुणवत्तापूर्ण संस्थानों की आवश्यकता



## जरूरत

देश में शिक्षा क्षेत्र को पूरी तरह नियंत्रण मुक्त करने तथा सार्वजनिक-निजी भागीदारी के साथ इस क्षेत्र में कुछ बड़े कदम उठाने की है आवश्यकता

दुनियाभर से सबसे ज्यादा छात्र अमेरिका में पढ़ना पसंद करते हैं। 2012-13 में 82 फीसदी नामांकन यहां हुआ, जबकि भारत में यह 12 फीसदी था

है। इस तरह के संस्थानों की स्थापना से न केवल विदेशी मुद्रा को बाहर जाने से रोकने में मदद मिलेगी बल्कि देश के भीतर ही वैश्विक मानकों का विस्तार होने से उद्योग और रिसर्च संस्थाओं में छात्रों के लिए रोजगार के अवसर भी बढ़ेंगे। एसोचैम के सेक्रेटरी जनरल डीएस रावत ने कहा कि शिक्षा क्षेत्र को पूरी तरह नियंत्रणमुक्त कर सार्वजनिक-निजी भागीदारी से गुणवत्तापूर्ण संस्थानों की स्थापना से यह ट्रेंड पूरी तरह से बदल सकता है। एसोचैम की रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक

औसत रूप से एक आईआईटी छात्र प्रति माह 150 डॉलर फीस देता है, जबकि अमेरिका, कनाडा, ऑस्ट्रेलिया और ब्रिटेन में आईआईटी के समकक्ष संस्थान में शिक्षा के लिए छात्रों को 2,000 से 6,000 डॉलर तक फीस देनी होती है। चैंबर का मानना है कि यदि उच्च शिक्षा को नियंत्रणमुक्त कर दिया जाए तो भारत न केवल विदेशी मुद्रा की बचत कर सकेगा बल्कि अन्य विकासशील देशों के छात्रों के लिए एक बेहतर शिक्षा क्षेत्र भी बन सकेगा।

## December 27

### For a new avatar of the AICTE

R. Sethuraman

*The policy paralysis at the top of the All India Council for Technical Education is manifested in different ways at all levels.*

The present pitiable position of the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) is of its own making. The AICTE, pre-Independent India's recommendatory body, was in its 42nd year — in 1987 — vested with statutory powers through an Act of Parliament. The parliamentary wisdom hoped that the AICTE would discharge its statutory role of maintaining the standards and coordinated development of technical education in the country. During the 1970s and a part of the 1980s, a large number of unrecognised private self-financing/capitation-fee institutions came into existence in several States and most of them were sub-standard institutions run on a commercial basis and predominantly concentrated in four States, viz., Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu. Twenty-six years after the statutory incarnation of the AICTE, such an imbalance continues to exist with its stamping approval. The issue of regional imbalance was pointed out but ignored by the AICTE through a self-appointed committee.

Coupled with regional imbalance was the resultant negative impact on the national quality of technical education. This writer pointed out, in *The Hindu* on April 6, 1993, the AICTE's functioning out of a two-bedroom flat with skeleton staff. Immediately, the MHRD made arrangements for a spacious building and appointment of necessary personnel in the AICTE. The personnel appointed were either retired, on deputation as an Advisor or on contract. This 'triple personnel avatar' affected three basic requirements in the functioning of a statutory body — accountability, transparency and continuity. Very rarely, the AICTE benefited from the aggregate wisdom of its three top posts — Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Member Secretary — and there were times when the AICTE was managed for many months with an official deputed from the Ministry.

The policy paralysis at the top manifested in different ways at all levels. When the AICTE was given statutory powers, the Ministry of Human Resource Development wrote to State governments that the AICTE would grant one-time approvals based on inspection of quality, infrastructure, etc., and that the National Board of Accreditation (NBA) to be set up by the AICTE would handle issues of withdrawal, renewal, etc. But it did not happen. Approval by the AICTE continues to be an annual paper exercise and even the High Court of Madras as early as 1990 deprecated the AICTE on granting of approvals subject to conditions on "temporary or provisional basis" against the provisions of the Act. The charitable approval policy of the AICTE also resulted in another *suo motu* admission of a writ petition by the Madras High Court recently, questioning the AICTE's supportive role in the mindless mushrooming of engineering colleges.

### **Model curriculum in limbo**

On the issue of academics and curriculum, the story is no different. The AICTE published a model curriculum for the undergraduate engineering programme in the year 2000 which till date has not been updated. An attempt made by the AICTE to make engineering education multi-disciplinary by blending Science and Humanities never took off despite 1,000 man-days having been spent on it. The AICTE did not even have a copy of its funded research project report on MBA education in India.

The AICTE Act mandated the organisation to evolve a suitable performance appraisal system for technical institutions and universities and incorporate norms and mechanisms for enforcing institutional accountability and formulate schemes for the initial and in-service training of teachers. It is yet to be accomplished. In the early 1990s, the AICTE made an honest attempt to improve the quality of teaching faculty through its well-planned Early Faculty Induction Programme (EFIP). This successful EFIP was killed, however, without the stakeholders having been consulted, much to the grief of its many beneficiaries. In respect of diploma education, the AICTE suffers from the "all power, no responsibility" syndrome. The AICTE chose to retain its power to grant approvals for polytechnics but all the other responsibilities are discharged by the respective Directorates of Technical Education or universities.

The AICTE failed miserably to even provide a model curriculum for diploma education. Professor V.C. Kulandaiswamy in 2000 rightly recommended that polytechnics, being extensions of Higher Secondary Schools and sub-university level education, must be left to State governments through the concerned universities. This was accepted and delegated to State Level Boards in 2001 but was withdrawn in 2010 because the delegation was done without proper provisions in the Act. The AICTE never bothered to fix the issue and continued to enjoy its "power without responsibility" status.

Prof. Kulandaiswamy rightly added that “there has been a progressive emasculation of the university system over the years. It is necessary to examine the desirability of weakening the universities which are grassroots-level institutions, by the AICTE taking over certain responsibilities that better remain with the universities. Also, if the AICTE takes over fully and faithfully all the responsibilities under clause 10 (k) devoting time to approve new institutions, new branches, new additions and involve itself in unending litigations, it may not be possible for it to fulfil all other functions under 10 (a) to 10 (v)”.

The AICTE did not realise the seriousness of the Prof. Kulandaiswamy’s recommendation and sought to continue with its “Approval Only” motto as if it were the organisation’s only function.

Consequential to the Supreme Court’s latest order withdrawing the AICTE’s powers of approval, the quality of technical education is at a crossroads. The proposed remedy that transfers power from one statutory body to the other, University Grants Commission (UGC) may become worse than the disease.

Hence, it is suggested that the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) should amend the Act with a five-point formula (i) allow the AICTE to function as per the provisions of the Act under Section 10 (k) to grant approvals for new institutions and or new programmes as a one-time event only and not as an annual ritual; (ii) vest affiliating Universities with the power to enforce the AICTE’s guidelines/regulations; (iii) leave diploma-level educational institution to Universities and State Directorates of Technical Education; (iv) direct the organisation to concentrate on producing competent teachers for technical education and (v) direct the promotion of innovations and research in all institutions based on competitive proposals besides attending to the other provisions of the Act. This five-point formula needs immediate legislation.

***(The writer is the vice-chancellor of SASTRA University)***

Keywords: [AICTE](#), [HRD Ministry](#), [higher education](#)

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## **I don't wish to join politics: CNR Rao**

TNN Dec 27, 2013, 03.03AM IST

BANGALORE: Bharat Ratna CNR Rao said he had no interest in joining politics and was happy doing research in science.

He was speaking at his felicitation ceremony by the Indian Institute of Science Employees (IISc) Association here on Thursday. The employees said they hoped to see him become President of India.

"Even if I get some top position in the government I will refuse it. I don't want money, power and position, because there are many other things which keep us happy in life," he said.

Rao said he was once offered a minister's post by a prime minister but he declined it. "The prime minister told me that he was shocked when I declined the offer," he added.

"I have an over 60-year-old relationship with IISc, Bangalore," the eminent scientist said, adding that it is the best institution in the country. "During my two tenures as director of the institute, the quality of my research work was affected, but I still continued enjoying working here."

"Even now karmacharis (non-teaching staffs) of IISc wish me with immense love and affection, but professors only nod their heads," he said in a lighter vein.

"I started doing good research after I turned 70," said the 79-year-old scientist.

He advised scholars and teaching faculties to do as much service as possible to society apart from research work.

## **Superwheels, robots to steal the show at IIT Techfest**

TNN Dec 27, 2013, 02.30AM IST

MUMBAI: BINA 48, the world's most advanced social robot to talk to, super wheels worshipped by many, F1 simulators for entertainment and the city of Mumbai created through 3D mapping in Powai. This and much more will be a part of the 17th edition of Techfest, the annual festival that celebrates technology and innovation at the Indian Institute of Technology-Bombay.

From January 3-5, over 1 lakh visitors will descend on the IIT-B campus to witness the mind's imagination put to work. Apart from the robots, Bharat Ratna awardee CNR Rao will speak on the scientific progress of the nation. Serial entrepreneur Kanwal Rekhi will inspire engineers to turn entrepreneurs.

June, a 3D projection mapping musical show, will generate, destroy and change the sets behind a movie scene. It will also be a platform for the Indian film industry to explore and incorporate this technology in our films. The technology is already being exploited in Hollywood and other foreign film industries.

"All through the campus, street shows like juggling, miming and beatboxing mixed with a dash of comedy, magic and mentalism from versatile entertainers, will keep everyone busy," said Divyam Bansal, media manager at Techfest. Teams from 12 countries, including from Pakistan, will prove their mettle when their metals are tested in the robotics challenge.

# WHAT'S ON SHOW



**FUMANOIDS** are Robocup soccer robots. They show behaviour like dribbling while avoiding obstacles, walking, kicking, waving & dancing

**BINA 48** (Breakthrough Intelligence via Neural Architecture) is the world's most sentient robot. It can interact on the basis of information, memories, values, and beliefs collected about an actual person



## TECHNOHOLIX

Siro-A (a mix of live entertainment, fusing mime, groundbreaking visual effects and an electro soundtrack), Wheel Sensation (aerial arts and acrobatics on Cyr and German Wheels), Cait Lin (Zambian exhilarating, airborne, daring dynamic musician), Tararam (inspiring theatrical, Israeli musical and dance experience) and Charles Peachock (Two time gold medalist and world champion juggler)

## LECTURES

Gordon Day, president of The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, will speak about the past, present and future of engineering. Other speakers include Kiran Bedi, Pranav Mistry, Shailesh Rao, Rajendra Pachauri, Stephen Wolfram, Seetharaman Narayanan, Christopher Charles Benninger, Henri Boris Kagan, Antonio Paolozzi, Jim Davies and Walter Bender

## EXHIBITIONS

Get to see Solowheel, the smallest, greenest, single-wheeled, battery operated, self-balancing vehicle. Cars like Ferrari F430, Porsche 911 and Mercedes E Cabriolet and some electric cars will also be on show

## COMPETITIONS

Participants from different countries will be at Techfest to compete in the brutal, viscous and most celebrated war of bots. Ozone will have some fun activities like Lazertag, Paintball, Zorbing, bungee-running, etc

**F1 CAR SIMULATOR** gives the closest to real life experience of racing on F1 tracks without the risk of colliding head on into a wall at 200 MPH



## Mood-I ends on a high note

TNN | Dec 27, 2013, 12.00 AM IST

*Last weekend, the Indian Institute of Technology-Bombay's (IIT-B) Powai campus buzzed with energy and enthusiasm. The venue for the institute's annual culture fest, Mood Indigo 2013, in association with the TOI, saw a footfall of more than one lakh students from over 3000 colleges. Spanning four days — December 20 to 23 — and packed with more than 180 events including music gigs as well as on-the-spot activities, every nook and corner of the vast campus had something to offer to its patrons.*

From street dance to theatre, one-act play, debate, band event, fine arts and literary arts, the competitions encompassed all genres and even garnered registrations from cities like Kolkata and Guwahati. And if you thought IIT was only about gadgets and technology, think again. This year, IIT-ians also got a chance to display their culinary skills through a cooking competition, 'Chef's Corner'.

Interestingly, the organisers had also planned a plethora of treats for those who weren't participating in any of the events. Walking through the bylanes in the campus, you could enjoy Fringefest, a street festival where artists from around the world entertained the audience with juggling, magic tricks, sword swallowing and mime. Various quirky workshops like eating with chopsticks, learning nunchaku and food tasting as well as activities like drum rolling and water zorbing also attracted the crowds. And for all the art junkies, the campus had set up art exhibitions at several spots, one of which was conceptualised around 'art from waste' and had a 15-foot igloo made only from plastic bottles.

The evenings saw the crowds throng for music concerts at the open air theatre. From Neal Morse band featuring popular drummer Mike Portnoy to Papon — who brought in Assamese flavour to the city — to the Indian rock band Euphoria to the Bollywood sensation Mohit Chauhan, the fest had them all. Among international artistes, band Flagas'k (from France) and the Irish band, Ana Gog also performed at the fest.

Keeping true to their theme, 'Oriental Quest', the campus was adorned with Korean lanterns, Laughing Buddha installations and dragon statues. The festgoers were also treated with a Korean Bongsantal masked dance and a traditional Chinese dragon dance.

## UGC told to set up interim regulator for distance education

**The sector is often criticised for its outdated curriculum and inadequate technology to address student concerns.**

**BS Reporter | New Delhi**

**December 27, 2013** Last Updated at 00:09 IST

A committee set up by the human resource development (HRD) ministry has instructed the University Grants Commission ([UGC](#)) to set up an interim regulator and monitor the country's distance education sector, as Parliament is not likely to pass a Bill on putting in a regulatory authority anytime soon.

Distance education, currently being offered by institutes like Indira Gandhi National Open University ([IGNOU](#)) and a few private universities in the country contribute to 22 per cent of the country's [gross enrolment ratio](#) (GER), but is often criticised for its outdated curriculum and inadequate technology to address student concerns.

The committee has also proposed the establishment of a distance education council of India (DECI), which will monitor and regulate the content, examination and the institutes offering distance education. But, with a number of key [HRD ministry](#) bills awaiting clearance, the Bill may not be cleared soon, say officials. DECI is to be set up on the lines of AICTE,

## UGC and NCTE.

“The committee recommends the establishment of an independent and effective regulatory authority on distance education, equipped with necessary powers and resources, through an Act of Parliament to determine and regulate the standards of higher education, including technical education through ODL and to promote and co-ordinate amongst the stakeholders for dissemination of quality higher education relevant to the need of the individual and society. This independent regulatory authority may be called distance education council of India. Eventually, when the National Council for Higher Education and Research (NCHER) Bill is passed, DECI will get subsumed into the proposed overarching regulator along with other existing regulators, viz. UGC, AICTE, NCTE, etc,” the draft regulation said.

The government was looking to pass the National Council for NCHER, which will merge the existing UGC, AICTE, and other regulatory bodies into a single regulator. While the ministry has taken steps to pass the key Bill, other Bills, including an amendment to the existing AICTE Bill, is also waiting to be cleared by Parliament.

Distance education was conceived as a means to provide higher education for students who are unable to study due to the lack of education infrastructure in the country. India’s GER currently stands at 18 per cent and the government is looking to raise it to 30 per cent by 2020 by rolling out the Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan to improve the country’s higher education sector.

The HRD ministry is also planning to set up 200 community colleges in the country and rolling out a programme to extend technical education in the secondary and higher secondary education segment to curb dropout rates at school levels.

## UGC must reflect on 60th anniversary, not celebrate: Ex-chief

[Akshaya Mukul](#), TNN Dec 27, 2013, 05.53AM IST

NEW DELHI: As the University Grants Commission (UGC) gears to prepare for the 60th anniversary to be presided by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Saturday, a former UGC chairperson who headed it during the 90s has a piece of advice for the regulator, "if anything, the Commission should introspect rather than celebrate."

The former chairperson, who refuses to be quoted on record, says, "Pick up the Radhakrishnan Commission Report of 1950 and read it in 2013. You will be filled with a sense of deja vu. Actually, all that the scholar-politician wrote continues to be the problem of higher education. We have more universities and colleges and only few islands of excellence. A civilizational difference exists between central universities and state universities. Since PM was also chairperson of UGC for a brief period he should stress on reinvigoration."

The former chairperson says he can reel off innumerable reasons for the failure of the UGC but will restrict himself to one that he feels subsumes all other factors. "After initial few years, UGC instead of a body that was created to think about pedagogy, expansion and inclusion of more and more children within the ambit of higher education reduced itself to a grant giving body," he says, adding that at the end of 60 years malaise is all too visible. He also pooh-poohs allegations that the HRD ministry is responsible for turning the Commission into an ineffective body. "Look at regulators in all sectors. Those who performed have managed to retain their autonomy and effectiveness. UGC has enough power within the act to retain its individuality. But UGC outsourced the job of thinking to the ministry and reduced itself to its current state," he says.

Within UGC there is a mixed feeling about 60 years. A senior staff, who has witnessed the Commission's heydays dating back to Prof Yashpal, Manmohan Singh and now, says, "UGC lost the plot when it got busy playing powerful by doling out deemed university status to innocuous private institutions. In one shot, UGC lost prestige and power. All that it can call its achievement is a paltry gross enrolment ratio of 20% which is even lesser for marginalized classes.

## Wait gets longer for mandatory vocational education plan in colleges

**Institutes say there are a lot of areas that need to be clarified before it could be made compulsory**

**M Saraswathy | Mumbai**

**December 25, 2013** Last Updated at 20:56 IST

The National [Vocational Education](#) Qualification Framework (NVEQF) -launched by the All India Council of Technical Education ([AICTE](#)) to be implemented in polytechnics, engineering colleges and other colleges in the university systems from 2012-13 - will take more time to be implemented.

The scheme envisages seven certificate levels with each level with about 1,000 hours, with each 1,000 hours being made of certain number of hours for vocational competency based skill modules and the rest for general learning simultaneously integrated and providing a diploma for vocational education after the certificate level five or leading to a degree after level seven in the university system, subject to their statutory approval. The programmes are sector-specific and sectors such as information technology (IT), media, entertainment, telecommunications, mobile communications, automobile, construction, retail, hotels, and fashion design, among others have been identified for implementation.

On making NVEQF mandatory in all [educational institutes](#), Shankar S Mantha, chairman of AICTE recently told Business Standard: "I wish that this is so. There is no point in converting an existing division in a school or a polytechnic or a college to run NVEQF. What should happen is all these should create a new division of maybe 100 students that conducts NVEQF in different sectors and becomes the feeder mechanism."

However, institutes said there were a lot of areas that needed to be clarified before it could be made compulsory.

Academicians said while the ministry's efforts to boost vocational education should be lauded, the industry was not ready for offering these programmes on a large scale. According to the admissions head of a Pune-based technical institute, top-end corporate jobs are still a far cry for graduates in vocational education. "While there is a need to promote these courses, not many of the educational institutions will immediately adopt it since they are not many takers," he said.

AICTE officials said more than 350 colleges have registered for the programme. However, they are not looking at a mandatory scheme. "We need the necessary infrastructure to prepare the courses and get students enrolled. We need at least three-four years before it is made compulsory," said the associate dean of a New Delhi-based college specialising in arts and commerce programmes.

Although AICTE has made preparations to provide the requisite statutory approvals to any institutions planning to conduct these programmes from the academic year 2012-13, institutes would wait for a few more months before approaching the regulators.



## Indian students spend more than Rs 10,000 crore on foreign education every year - ASSOCHAM study

Wednesday, December 25, 2013: Lack of quality higher education opportunities in India, has made nearly eight lakh Indian students spend over Rs. 10,000 crore in 2012-13 on studies abroad emphasising the need for completely deregulating the education sector and opting in a big way for public private partnerships (PPP), according to a recent study by the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM).

A recent assessment by ASSOCHAM called "Funds flows out of India for Higher Education-2013" reveals that the country needs quality institutes at par with the [Indian Institutes of Technology](#) (IITs) and [Indian Institutes of Management](#) (IIMs) for students wanting to pursue careers in management, accounting, engineering and chartered accountancy. This would not only limit the outgo of foreign exchange but also spread global standards within the country [increasing employability of the students](#) in the industry and research institutions.

Establishing a series of quality institutions with public private partnership by completely deregulating the higher education would be of help, said ASSOCHAM Secretary General, Mr. D S Rawat while commenting on the paper.

On an average, an IIT student pays only US\$ 150 per month as fees while those opting to go abroad have to shell out US\$ 2000 to US\$ 6,000 fee per month in equivalent institutions in countries like [USA](#), [Canada](#), [Australia](#), and UK, adds ASSOCHAM assessment.

The Chamber is of the view that if higher education is deregulated, India can not only save foreign exchange but can also be a leading destination for students coming from other developing countries. This can create several lakhs of additional jobs in the field of education alone.

In India, a meagre 12% of enrolment takes place in higher education, [USA](#) tops the list with 82% of enrolments in higher education, where as those with low enrolment constitute, Pakistan (5%), India (12%), [China](#) (20%) and Brazil (24%), adds the ASSOCHAM findings.

This trend can be upturned with opening up of series of quality institutions with public private partnership by completely deregulating the higher education", said Mr. Rawat

The paper also adds, about 95% of all entrance examination participants in the IITs and IIMs do not make it due capacity constraints in these universities. A good chunk of those left out seek admissions abroad. With the precious foreign exchange saved, the country can build scores of top class institutions.

As a result of highly regulated higher education, human development index is very low in India leading to multiple problems such as corruption, population, poverty, unemployment, productivity, environment, primary health, tourism etc.

Currently, there are about 900 million jobs in India. As much as 90% of the available jobs are skill-based, requiring vocational training, 9% jobs are knowledge based and 1% jobs are both knowledge and skill based.

The US remains the most popular destination for post-graduate management and engineering degrees, [Australia](#) for vocational training, UK for one year degree courses, Russia and [China](#) being favoured for medical education, even though the graduates from [China](#) cannot practise in India as doctors unless they clear the domestic exams. This shows that India is losing out many of its valuable resources due to insufficient scope in higher education sector.

Therefore, foreign university partnerships with Indian universities offer an effective way to share resources and improve their offering while catering to the growing need of quality education in India. Higher education and vocational training can provide attractive investment returns and are scalable opportunities.

([http://indiaedunews.net/International/Indian\\_students\\_spend\\_more\\_than\\_Rs\\_10,000\\_crore\\_on\\_foreign\\_education\\_every\\_year\\_-\\_ASSOCHAM\\_study\\_16610/](http://indiaedunews.net/International/Indian_students_spend_more_than_Rs_10,000_crore_on_foreign_education_every_year_-_ASSOCHAM_study_16610/))

HT Kolkata

# Presidency may get a foreign V-C soon

**NEXT STEP** Mentor group chief Amartya Sen and chairman Sugata Bose to meet on this issue on December 30

**HT Correspondent**

■ letters@hindustantimes.com

**KOLKATA:** Presidency University may soon get its first permanent vice-chancellor, who might be a foreign citizen, says the education minister:

"We will find a new vice-chancellor for Presidency University before the term of the interim V-C Malabika Sarkar ends," state education minister Bratya Basu told reporters outside the Raj Bhavan after meeting Governor MK Narayanan on Thursday.

The term of Sarkar ends on February 14, 2014.

Mentor group of the Presidency University had proposed to Bratya Basu to make a foreign citizen as permanent V-C.

State education minister on Thursday met the governor who is also the chancellor of all state universities including the Presidency to discuss the issue.

"The chancellor and I have principally agreed to the proposal of appointing a foreign citizen as the first permanent V-C of Presidency University as had been proposed to me by the mentor group," Bratya told the media after coming out from Raj Bhavan.

Mentor group chief Amartya Sen and mentor group chairman Sugata Bose will be holding a meet on this issue on December 30.

The mentor group will submit the Presidency statute to chief minister Mamata Banerjee on December 31.

After the submission, the government can form the three-member search committee to look for the first permanent V-C for Presidency University.

Earlier, too, the mentor group had wanted to appoint foreign citizens as faculties to the university, but could not do so because Union home ministry rule says that if any foreign citi-



■ Winds of change are blowing through Presidency University.

HT PHOTO

## MAKING WAVES

- Education minister Bratya Basu told reporters that a new Presidency vice-chancellor would be found before the term of interim V-C ends
- The term of Malabika Sarkar ends on February 14, 2014
- The mentor group had proposed to Bratya Basu to make a foreign citizen as perma-

nent V-C

- Bratya and the Governor have principally agreed to the proposal of appointing a foreign citizen
- The mentor group will submit the Presidency University statute to chief minister Mamata Banerjee on December 31

zen is appointed as faculty in any Indian university then he or she should be paid a minimum of 25,000 US dollar annually.

And such a rule makes huge difference of pay with faculties of Indian citizenship, which had disallowed such foreign appointments in Presidency University.

However, the rule would not affect or make any hindrance to the appointment of foreign citizen as the V-C as his or her pay would be much more than the specified rule.

In 2011, Bratya Basu had suggested that a mentor group, along the lines of the Nalanda mentor group, would be formed to oversee the work of the university. At the beginning of June 2011, the

chief minister announced that a committee would be formed with Prof. Amartya Sen as its chief mentor, and Harvard-based Prof. Sugata Bose as its chairman to oversee the running of the college and perform the task of appointing all its officials and faculty members.

The Presidency Mentor group also includes as its members Prof. Abhijit Banerjee, Prof. Ashoke Sen, Prof. Sabyasachi Bhattacharya, Prof. Nayanjot Lahiri, Prof. Himadri Pakrashi, Prof. Rahul Mukerjee and Dr. Isher Judge Ahluwalia, Prof. Swapan Kumar Chakravorty, Prof. Sukanta Chaudhuri resigned from the committee in 2012.

HT Indore

# Scientists identify potential drug to block AIDS

**WASHINGTON:** Scientists have identified an existing anti-inflammatory drug that in laboratory tests blocked the death of immune system's cells which occurs as an HIV infection leads to AIDS.

Researchers are planning a Phase 2 clinical trial to determine if this drug or a similar drug can prevent HIV-infected people from developing AIDS and related conditions. Scientists at the Gladstone Institutes identified the precise chain of molecular events in the human body that drives the death of most of the immune system's CD4 T cells as an HIV infection leads to AIDS.

Two separate journal articles, published simultaneously in Nature and Science, detailed the research from the laboratory of Warner C Greene, who directs virology and immunology research at Gladstone, an independent biomedical-research nonprofit based in San Francisco.

His lab's Science paper revealed how, during an HIV infection, a protein known as IFI16 senses fragments of HIV DNA in abortively infected immune cells. This triggers the activation of the human enzyme-caspase-1 and leads to pyroptosis, a fiery and highly inflammatory form of cell death. **PTI**

# Kejriwal second IIT alumnus to become CM

PTI | Dec 28, 2013, 02.31 PM IST

NEW DELHI: [Arvind Kejriwal](#) is the second chief minister to have been an IITian after his Goa counterpart [Manohar Parrikar](#) and joins a select group of ministers like Ajit Singh and Jairam Ramesh whose alma mater is the crown jewel of the country's higher education.

A product of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Khargapur, 45-year-old Kejriwal studied mechanical engineering and passed out in 1989.

Besides Parrikar and Kejriwal, the other IIT alumni who are among the handful of highly-qualified technocrat politicians include Union ministers Ajit Singh and Jairam Ramesh.

Parrikar passed out as a metallurgical engineer from IIT, Mumbai.

Like Kejriwal, Ajit Singh, a computer engineer by profession, is a B Tech from IIT, Kharagpur while Ramesh graduated from IIT Bombay with a B.Tech. in mechanical engineering.

Ramesh's fellow IITian Nandan Nilekani may be following his footsteps in the wake of speculation of IT bellweather [Infosys](#) co-founder's likely leap into the hurly-burly of politics during the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.

Speculation is rife that Nilekani, currently Head of Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), could be the Congress candidate from Bangalore South.

Interestingly, both Ramesh and Nilekani were both excellent quizzers and were part of the 1975 Mood Indigo team at IIT Bombay.

And the silver-haired and articulate minister with a reputation as a blunt policy-maker could be the man whom Nilekani may turn to for tips, albeit in a different scenario, and he may well oblige.

Ramesh was the man Nilekani tapped when the Infosys IPO was under-subscribed in 1993. It is stated that Nilekani asked Ramesh, three years his senior in IIT, to put Rs 10,000 in the company. Ramesh didn't and calls the move "the single biggest mistake of my life".

Saurabh Bharadwaj and Manish Sisodia, Kejriwal's ministerial colleagues, have an engineering background though not from IIT.

Bhardwaj is a B.Tech in computer science from Bharatiya Vidyapeeth College of Engineering under IP University while Sisodia did his mechanical engineering from Jammu.

Ironically, despite being an IITian, Ramesh, who is now the minister for rural development, had kicked up a controversy claiming the faculty of the premier IITs and IIMs are 'not world class' but are 'excellent' because of the quality of students.

Armed with a BSc degree from Lucknow University, a B Tech from IIT, Kharagpur, and an MS from the Illinois Institute of

Technology, USA, Ajit Singh worked in the US computer industry for 15 years before returning to India in 1986 to enter politics. Singh is the current Civil Aviation Minister.

Prem Das Rai, the lone MP from Sikkim, has the unique distinction of being the first ever IIT-IIMer in the Lok Sabha.

He is an alumnus of IIT Kanpur (chemical engineering) and IIM Ahmedabad. RBI governor Raghuram Rajan is another IITian who is currently holding top public post. He is a gold medalist in electrical engineering from IIT-Delhi and IIM-Ahmedabad.

Kejriwal also has a fellow IITian for company in the Delhi cabinet. Somnath Bharti, who did his MSc from IIT Delhi, won the Malviya Nagar assembly seat under which the campus of the prestigious institute falls.

On one occasion, six IITians, all in their 20s, as a group ventured into politics and also floated an outfit in 2005.

The engineers from IIT Mumbai and IIT Kanpur, all in their 20s, gave up bright careers and handsome pay packages, to launch 'Lok Paritran Party (LPP) in Jodhpur. This party contested in 2006 Tamil Nadu Assembly elections in 7 constituencies, but failed to pull the crowd and drew a blank.

It later witnessed a vertical split and a Bharat Punarnirman Dal (BPD) was formed by a splinter group and came face-to-face in the 2007 Uttar Pradesh assembly elections.

LPP office bearers termed the formation of BPD as "unfortunate and a part of political conspiracy".