

## Newspaper Clips

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Pol & Buss Daily ND 12/28/2013 P-3

# IIT-D Alumni Day tomorrow

**PBD BUREAU**

NEW DELHI, DEC 27

IT's a time when people across the globe are in celebration mode, and so is Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, which is holding its Alumni Day, first in 50 years, to bring leaders together on Sunday, December 29, 2013.

More than 2,000 alumni are getting together for the first Alumni Day of the institute. The theme for this inaugural Alumni Day is 'Envisioning the Future. Together.'

The day-long conclave aims to bring alumni from all batches together on the campus and give them a chance to learn more about the academic and other developments at IIT Delhi. There will be discussions on how to



strengthen the institute to make it one of the world's best technology institutions. According to the IIT Delhi Director, Prof R K Shevgaonkar, "This alumni gathering opens a new chapter in the engagement of the alumni with the institute and its students, giving them greater opportunities to contribute to their Alma Mater's future."

"A large number of alumni having excelled in the Corporate, Business, Government, and Education fields have wanted to give back to the institute as well as to the

society. The Alumni Day deliberations shall open up various avenues and directions for them to contribute and fulfil their cherished dreams," said Pravin Purang, President, IIT Delhi Alumni Association.

New projects such as the Innovation Centre and Innovation Awards (gifts of the '87 and '89 batches, respectively) are encouraging students to engage in practical problem-solving. The institute is also expanding its physical footprint with the establishment of extension campuses in Haryana," Purang added.

Hari Bhumi ND 12/28/2013 P-5

# आईआईटी में पहली बार एलुमिनीमीट का आयोजन

हरिभूमि न्यूज. नई दिल्ली

भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (आईआईटी) दिल्ली की स्थापना के 50 सालों में पहली बार एलुमिनी मीट का आयोजन किया जा रहा है। रविवार को कैम्पस में आयोजित होने वाले एलुमनाई मीट की तैयारियों को अंतिम रूप दिया जा रहा है। इस मौके पर अपने-अपने कार्यक्षेत्रों में अग्रणी इस संस्थान के पूर्व छात्र एकजुट होंगे। जानकारी के अनुसार इसमें 2000 से ज्यादा पूर्व छात्र भाग लेंगे। पहली बार आयोजित किए जा रहे एलुमनाई मीट की थीम है- ऐनविजनिंग द फ्यूचर. टुगैदर रखा गया है।

इस एक दिवसीय सम्मेलन का लक्ष्य सभी बैच के पूर्व छात्रों को कैम्पस में एकसाथ लाना और यह मौका देना है कि वे आईआईटी दिल्ली में हुए अकादमिक व अन्य प्रगति के बारे में जान सकें। साथ ही इस अवसर पर संस्थान को किस प्रकार

■ रविवार को आयोजन, दो हजार से ज्यादा पूर्व छात्र होंगे एकत्रित

मजबूत करते हुए दुनिया के सर्वश्रेष्ठ संस्थानों में शामिल किया जाए, इस विषय पर चर्चा भी की जाएगी। आईआईटी दिल्ली के निदेशक प्रो.आर.के.शेगांवकर के अनुसार पूर्व छात्रों की यह मुलाकात संस्थान एवं इसमें अध्ययनरत छात्रों के साथ संवाद का एक नया अध्याय लिखेगी तथा उन्हें (पूर्व छात्रों को) अपने शिक्षण संस्थान के भविष्य में योगदान करने के बेहतर अवसर प्राप्त होंगे। आईआईटी दिल्ली एलुमनाई एसोसिएशन के अध्यक्ष प्रवीण पुरंग ने बताया कि हमारे संस्थान के बहुत सारे छात्रों ने कारपोरेट, व्यापार, शिक्षा एवं सरकारी क्षेत्र में उल्लेखनीय कार्य किया है और उन्होंने अपने संस्थान एवं समाज से जो पाया है, उसे लौटाना चाहते हैं।

Veer Arjun ND 12/28/2013 P-3

## आईआईटी दिल्ली साझे उद्देश्य के लिए विचार-विमर्श करेगी

हमारे संवाददाता नई दिल्ली। यह वह वक्त है जब दुनियाभर में लोग जश्न मना रहे हैं। ऐसे में भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान, दिल्ली भी अलम्माई डे मना रहा है। 50 सालों में पहली बार मनाया जाने वाला यह दिन रविवार 29 दिसम्बर 2013 को मनाया जाएगा और इस मौके पर अपने-अपने कार्यक्षेत्रों में अग्रणी इस संस्थान के पूर्व विद्यार्थी एकजुट होंगे।

दो हजार से ज्यादा पूर्व विद्यार्थी अपने संस्थान के प्रथम अलम्माई डे (पूर्व विद्यार्थी दिवस) के लिए एकत्रित होने जा रहे हैं। इस सर्वप्रथम अलम्माई डे की थीम है— 'ऐनविजनिंग द फ्यूचर टुगेदर' इस एकदिवसीय सम्मेलन

का लक्ष्य सभी बच्चों के पूर्व विद्यार्थियों को कैम्पस में एक साथ लाना और यह मौका देना है कि वे आईआईटी दिल्ली में हुए अकादमिक व अन्य प्रगति के बारे में जान सकें।

इस विषय पर एक चर्चा भी होगी कि संस्थान को किस प्रकार मजबूत करते हुए दुनिया के सर्वश्रेष्ठ संस्थानों में शामिल किया जाएगा। आईआईटी दिल्ली के निदेशक प्रो. आरके शोंगांवकर के अनुसार पूर्व विद्यार्थियों को यह मुलाकात संस्थान एवं इसमें अध्ययनरत विद्यार्थियों के साथ संवाद का एक नया अध्याय लिखेगी तथा उन्हें (पूर्व विद्यार्थियों को) अपने शिक्षण संस्थान के भविष्य में योगदान करने के बेहतर अवसर प्राप्त होंगे। आईआईटी दिल्ली

अलम्माई एसोसिएशन के अध्यक्ष श्री प्रवीण पुरंग ने कहा कि हमारे संस्थान के बहुत सारे विद्यार्थियों ने कारपोरेट, व्यापार, शिक्षा एवं सरकारी क्षेत्र में उल्लेखनीय कार्य किया है और उन्होंने अपने संस्थान एवं समाज से जो पाया है उसे लौटाना चाहते हैं। अलम्माई डे पर होने वाले विचार-विमर्श से विभिन्न रास्ते व दिशाएं खुलेंगी तथा पूर्व विद्यार्थियों को अपना योगदान देने और अपने संजोये सपने पूरे करने का मौका मिलेगा।

आईआईटी दिल्ली के पूर्व विद्यार्थी तो कई क्षेत्रों में सुर्खियां बना ही रहे हैं परन्तु उनका शिक्षण संस्थान भी कई मोर्चों पर प्रगति कर रहा है। इंजीनियरिंग पेशे की निरंतर विकसित होती प्रकृति एवं विद्यार्थियों

की आकांक्षाओं को ध्यान में रखते हुए अंडरप्रेज्युएट पाठ्यक्रम को हाल ही में संशोधित किया गया है। अनुसंधान हेतु आधारभूत सुविधाओं को बढ़ाया जा रहा है, शिक्षक संकाय अपनी अनुसंधानात्मक गतिविधियों को मजबूत कर रहा है और उद्योग जगत के साथ गठबंधन कर रहा है। 1987 एवं 1989 के बैचों द्वारा दिए गए तोहफे क्रमशः इन्नोवेशन सेंटर और इन्नोवेशन अवाइर्स आदि जैसे नए प्रोजेक्ट विद्यार्थियों को प्रोत्साहन दे रहे हैं कि वे समस्या हल करने के व्यावहारिक काम में दिलचस्पी लें। जमीनी स्तर पर भी संस्थान अपने कदमों का विस्तार कर रहा है जैसे हरियाणा में एक्सटेंशन कैम्पसों की स्थापना, श्री पुरंग ने बताया।

## Science streams score low in IIT placements

Ishan Srivastava, TNN | Dec 28, 2013, 12:52 AM IST

CHENNAI: The first phase of [placements](#) at [IIT Madras](#) is drawing to a close and while the numbers are encouraging for [engineering streams](#), very few from [science streams](#) have managed to get jobs. This may not necessarily be due to fewer opportunities for science students, as many of them opt for higher studies, but the numbers are far too small to demonstrate any clear industry interest either.

So far, 884 job offers have been made to 809 students with some receiving multiple offers. A total of 1,425 students had registered for placements, but 29 opted out during the first phase. As of December 23, 67.1% of B.Tech students, 74.9% of dual degree students and 49.8% of M.Tech students have been placed. The placement process that began on December 1 saw 230 companies visiting the campus.

The 809 [jobs](#) include 38 pre-placement offers that were accepted. All such offers were made to B.Tech and dual degree students with 34 of them going to students in — computer science, electrical, chemical and mechanical engineering.

Among the B.Tech and dual degree students, 103 out of 117 computer science students and 143 out of 202 electrical engineering students got jobs in the first phase. Mechanical, metallurgy, engineering design, engineering physics, civil and aerospace departments also saw around 60% of their students getting placed. Overall, there were 67 students who got double offers and eight who got triple offers.

In case of PhD students, 13 out of 70 who had registered for placements got jobs. Among science streams, only two out of 21 M.Sc Chemistry students were offered jobs. In maths, one out of 21 students secured jobs while in physics, none of 11 registered M.Sc students managed to get an offer. Overall, only three out of 53 M.Sc students were placed.

Pioneer ND 12/28/2013 P-7

# 'UPA Govt has destroyed higher education sector'

**KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■**  
CHENNAI

Future generation will remember the tenure of the UPA Government as the darkest era of the country's higher education sector, according to South India's leading educationists, intellectuals and educational entrepreneurs. "The callousness and apathy of the Manmohan Singh Government has destroyed the country's higher education sector," charged G Viswanathan, president, Education Promotion Society of India, an apex body of the country's educationists and intellectuals.

Addressing reporters at the end of a one-day conclave organised by EPSI in Chennai on Friday, Viswanathan, who is also the chancellor of the Vellore Institute of Technology said there was total uncertainty and chaos in the field of higher education. "The education system in the country is facing all round uncertainty. The present situation has come

only because of the indifferent and irresponsible behaviour of the Union Government," Viswanathan said.

"A Supreme Court order has made All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE) redundant. It was the AICTE which was acting as a regulator of the country's engineering and management degree courses. As on date there is a big vacuum in the area of engineering and management education," he said.

Though the University Grants Commission has come out with the draft of a series of regulations, the educationists felt it was retrograde in nature, Viswanathan said. "According to the UGC proposal, all controlling authorities would be left with the universities to which the engineering and management colleges are affiliated. No other stake holders were consulted by the UGC while preparing the draft regulations," he said.

He pointed out that educationists were unanimous in

their view that the affiliation system itself destroys the quality of higher education. "There are more than 1,000 colleges affiliated to Usmania University while there are more than 500 colleges affiliated to Anna University in Chennai. How is it possible for a single university to regulate and monitor the quality of technical education in the country," he asked.

The system of affiliation to universities was prevalent only in India, Bangladesh and Pakistan. "All over the world, it is autonomous colleges and universities which determine the quality of education and teaching. We are still hanging around with the colonial mindset," said Viswanathan.

The EPSI wants to make higher education, especially engineering and management education, accessible to all the needy and deserving sections at affordable costs. "The regulatory regime is making the sector inaccessible to the common man," said A Gnanam, former AICTE member.

# Building better universities

The regulatory mechanism for higher education should aim to ensure quality and accountability, rather than leave institutions constrained by rules

C. Raj Kumar

As the University Grants Commission (UGC), the apex body regulating higher education in India, marks its 60th anniversary — it was inaugurated on December 28, 1953 — some introspection is in order. The democratisation of the higher education system and improved and expanded access and opportunities are some of the milestones of the last half-a-century. However, there are concerns expressed by all stakeholders that the current models of governance of universities do not inspire confidence about an appropriate framework to regulate them. Several issues need to be examined in the context of the existing framework for regulating universities.

The existing model is based on deep and pervasive distrust among regulators over the possibility of universities doing things on their own, and doing it well. The current framework that require universities to be constantly regulated by laws, rules, regulations, guidelines and policies set by the government and the regulatory bodies have not produced the best results.

There are at least five factors that increasingly govern such regulation. The first relates to Central laws and rules concerning universities and higher education. A second concerns laws and rules of State governments. A third relates to rules, regulations and guidelines formulated by the UGC. A fourth one concerns rules, regulations and guidelines formulated by regulatory bodies such as the Medical Council of India and the Bar Council of India. A fifth concerns orders and directions passed by courts.

If there is one lesson we can learn from the last 60 years of regulating universities, it is the need to reduce the burden. But regulation in general and the governance of universities in particular have certain important social objectives.

There are issues relating to quality and accountability that need to be ensured, and regulatory bodies should assume that role and responsibility. That role needs to significantly change from the existing model to a more progressive approach where universities are allowed to take greater responsibility on their own. There is a need to develop a framework of Earned Autonomy for universities where new forms of regulatory models are created. This model can have a system in

which universities could be identified on the basis of indicators and assessment criteria so that a number of them, public and private, could be allowed to function more autonomously than others. This framework should allow upward mobility; universities should be able to fulfil a specific set of goals to develop and reach different stages of autonomy.

There is a case for changing the existing regulatory framework that has a disparaging attitude towards private universities. The model of distinguishing public and private universities in terms of the original source of funding — whether it was created by the state or through private initiatives — is archaic and has to be reexamined. They have to be assessed on the basis of their contribution, looking at what they are doing as opposed to who created them.

The regulatory model of governance needs to focus on empowering public and private universities with a view to achieving excellence. A large number of universities will have to cater to the growing demands and aspirations of Indian youth to be educated and, in that process, employed. However, the regulatory bodies have a critical responsibility to identify a select group of public and private universities to empower them to achieve global research excellence.

These objectives should go hand in hand; there is no need to trump one over the other. There is a need to promote non-profit private university education; philanthropy of private individuals and corporate philanthropy have to be encouraged. The question of accountability is relevant both for public and private Indian universities.

Not one Indian university figures today as one of the top 200 in any of the major rankings of universities in the world. In fact, the debate relating to global rankings of universities in India has matured into a constructive dialogue initiated by the UGC, the Ministry of Human Resource Development, the Government of India and the Planning Commission. Serious, transparent and candid discussions are being held about rankings and how to improve the quality of universities. There cannot be a better occasion than the 60th year of the UGC for it to work towards a specific set of targeted goals in a time-bound manner that will bring some Indian universities to the top 200 list.

It is worth examining the achieve-

	QS World University Rankings (Top 200)			Times Higher Education World University Rankings (Top 200)			The Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU)/ Shanghai Jiao Tong University (Top 200)		
	2013	2012	2011	2013-14	2012-13	2011-12	2013	2012	2011
China	7	7	7	2	2	3	5	4	1
Hong Kong	5	5	5	3	4	4	1	4	1
India	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Japan	9	9	11	5	5	5	9	9	9
Malaysia	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Singapore	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1
South Korea	6	6	5	4	4	3	1	1	1
Taiwan	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

Source: Original databases

ments in establishing and developing universities of global excellence in Asian countries, particularly in China, Hong Kong, Japan, Singapore, South Korea, and Taiwan. This will reveal that an extraordinary impetus to seek the transformation of universities has been undertaken in the last two decades for universities in Asia to be among the top 200. India will do well to draw inspiration from some of these experiences from Asian neighbours.

The heart of university education is research and knowledge-creation. But teaching informs research and research contributes to better teaching. India needs a lot more colleges, particularly undergraduate institutions that will fulfil the dreams and aspirations of young India.

India's Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) is a matter of concern and the demographic dividend we hope to achieve will be possible only if we provide opportunities for quality education to young people. The regulatory framework ought to make an important distinction between the role of colleges in promoting access to higher education on the one hand and the larger focus of universities in India, which should be to create knowledge and promote research and scholarship leading to publications.

One of the reasons for Indian universities not figuring among the top 200 is that since Independence our focus on expanding the higher education sector to provide access has led to a situation where research and scholarship have been neglected. We need to strike a balance.

Over 60 per cent of the criteria used to assess the quality of universities are

based on research, publications and citations. We can make amends for this by recognising that different universities are situated to achieve different sets of important educational goals and objectives. Not all universities need to be research-oriented. Nowhere in the world is that the case. A systematic, coherent, and transparent approach is needed to determine the suitability of universities to pursue objectives of excellence.

## The way forward

If we accept the proposed theory of regulation, there should be a greater focus on the establishment of universities and the need to maintain higher standards and sharper scrutiny at the time of establishment.

Gradually, the scrutiny of universities before starting programmes or schools should come down, as they are expected to assume greater responsibility in having self-regulating mechanisms and internal quality assurance systems. The role of regulators should change, as the purpose after the establishment of the universities would be to empower and enable them to perform better. But for this to be effective, tools of assessment that are credible and internationally benchmarked should be developed.

The vision, nature, and scope of regulation of universities will determine the ability of higher education institutions to fulfil their goals of academic excellence and research achievements with a view to helping India establish a knowledge society.

(The writer is the Founding Vice-Chancellor of O.P. Jindal Global University. Email: vc@jgu.edu.in)

**Credible and internationally benchmarked tools of assessment need to be developed to empower varsities**

Deccan Herald ND 12/28/2013 P-6

# Make accreditation mandatory for open varsities: UGC

## Advisory council to approve research proposals

**NEW DELHI:** The University Grants Commission (UGC) has proposed bringing in a system of mandatory accreditation and periodic assessment of performance of all the higher educational institutions offering distance learning programmes, seeking to ensure that courses match the quality of those offered at class-room teaching mode.

In its draft regulation for open and distance learning programmes, it also sought to bring in a provision for external audit of all the self-study materials by "eminent" experts before they are launched by an institution.

The commission, which will now be regulating all the higher educational institutions offering courses in distance mode, also sought to tighten the norms for institutions offering post-graduate research programmes including M Phil and PhD.

The draft regulations of the commission make it mandatory for all the institutions to set up a research ad-

**The draft regulations make it mandatory for all the institutions to set up a research advisory council consisting of at least three external experts of eminence in the broad area of research.**

visory council consisting of at least three external experts of eminence in the broad area of research.

All the research proposals will have to be approved by the research advisory council before candidates are enrolled as a research student of the institution offering post graduate research programmes in distance learning mode.

"No higher educational institution offering open and distance learning programmes will enrol any research candidate in any broad area of research programme unless it has adequate number of eligible guides as per

the commission's norms," the commission stipulates.

### Permanent members

These research guides should be permanent members of the faculty of such institutions in the broad area of studies to be offered by it to students, it adds.

Institutions will be recognized by the UGC for offering open and distance learning programme only for five years, which will be extended only after review of their performance.

Institutions offering distance learning programme will have to establish a Centre for Internal Quality Assurance (CIQA) within one year from the date of Regulations coming into force.

Though the commission seeks to allow the institutions enjoy their administrative and academic autonomy, it reserves its powers to carry out periodic inspection and take action for violation of the regulations, the norms and its guidelines, either on its own or on receiving such complaints.

**DH News Service**

Economic Times ND 12/28/2013 P-11

# UGC Sets Rules for Open Learning

**URMI A GOSWAMI**

NEW DELHI

The University Grants Commission, the higher education regulator, has proposed minimum requirements for institutions offering open and distance degree programmes to ensure that courses maintain a certain standard.

The government is focusing on this route to widen access to college and university degrees, given that there aren't enough places in regular courses to meet demand. UGC issued the draft Open and Distance Learning Institutions and Programmes of Study regulations last week, inviting comments from stakeholders before they are finalised. Only higher education institutions with a minimum 10 years of classroom teaching experience will be allowed to provide open and distance courses, according to the draft rules. No standalone institutions will be allowed to run open and distance learning programmes, though those already running will continue.

Deemed universities that offer only distance learning won't be allowed. Programmes being offered through the distance education route will have to be assessed by an internal quality assurance centre every year. Independent third-party audi-

ts will have to be made once in three years and programmes will be assessed and accredited through an authorised body once in five years. Permission to run the programmes will need to be granted every five years.

UGC will have the power to inspect the infrastructure and other facilities provided by the institution for open and distance learning. Any institution wanting to set up a learning centre outside the jurisdiction of the parent institution will have to get permission from the state where the centre is to be opened.

The higher education institutions will have to make publicly available all information on facilities and programmes offered under open and distance learning. Any false claims can result in UGC withdrawing permission to run such courses. The regulations are based on the recommendations of NR Madhava Menon committee that suggested measures to regulate standards of education imparted through distance courses. The draft regulations form part of the process that will lead to the setting up of a separate regulatory authority as suggested by the Menon committee. The proposed Distance Education Council of India will have to be set up through a central legislation.

Hindu ND 12/28/2013 P-12

## UGC extends deadline on accreditation

Special Correspondent

**NEW DELHI:** The University Grants Commission (UGC) on Friday decided to extend the deadline for funded institutions to get themselves assessed and accredited as per the UGC (Mandatory Assessment and Accreditation of Higher Educational Institutions) Regulations, 2012.

According to the Regulations - notified in January this year and effective from the date of notification - UGC funding would be given only to those institutions which have undergone the assessment and accreditation process as prescribed.

Now, the UGC has decided to give universities and institutions more time to fall in line; provided they apply to the recognised Accreditation Agency by June 1, 2014. If they fail to do so, this could lead to discontinuation of financial assistance by the UGC from the 2015 fiscal.

Every UGC funded institution must get itself accredited after passing out two batches or six years, whichever is earlier.



# Stings, scams and science

► **Publishing fake research papers is a flourishing business in India and China.**

Dinesh C. Sharma

The global landscape for scientific research is fast changing. Going by criteria such as national spending on research and development (R&D) and scientific publishing, the axis appears to be shifting from America and Europe to Asia and elsewhere. India, China, Brazil and Korea have significantly stepped up their efforts in the scientific arena in the past decade or so.

China and India are among the top 10 countries in terms of the number of research papers published annually. China has surpassed the UK and other European countries to emerge as the second most prolific publisher of research papers, next only to the US. India ranks seventh in this list.

## IT'S A RACKET

The overall quality of research papers published by academics in India and China, however, leaves much to be desired. Two separate sting or undercover operations have recently revealed that scientific publications are virtually on sale in India and China.

One can get published any fake research paper with astounding findings such as new cures for cancer in several Indian journals by making a cash payment, while in China scientific authorship or data can be bought with money without any need to do research, sting operations carried out by the journal *Science* have revealed.

The first sting exposed fraud in scientific publishing globally, and it seems India leads in this business. Thousands of scientific journals are published from India covering practically every field of science. Most of them fall in the category of 'open access', meaning they can be accessed online by anyone without paying any fee. Open



This is not how science 'research' is always done. — G.P. Sampath Kumar

access journals are sustained by the processing or publication fee paid by the authors or institutions they belong to, while subscription-based journals are not available for free online.

The system of open access journals came into vogue a decade ago with the legitimate objective of making scientific research accessible to academics in poor countries. It was felt that subscription-based journals such as *Nature* or *The Lancet* were unaffordable to academics and researchers in poor countries.

Both open access and subscription-based journals are supposed to rigorously examine a research paper through a system of peer-review before they publish it. But, as the expose shows, some publishers have reduced open access publishing to a racket.

In an operation that lasted 10 months, science journalist John Bohannon concocted a research paper describing the anti-cancer properties of a chemical extracted from a lichen. He sent 304 versions of this paper with fake and utterly flawed data to open access journals.

Names of scientists and institutions were all fake (such as Dr Onohaw D. Induah from

Iyeparoo Doctor's College, Malawi or Dr Ocorrafoo Cobange from Wasee Institute of Medicine). The spoof paper sounded credible but contained grave errors. Surprisingly, more than half of the journals accepted the paper and a bulk of them were based in India (at locations such as Bijapur, Jaipur, Chidambaram, Udaipur, Srinagar, Chennai, Mumbai, etc). As email trails show, journal editors were quick to accept papers and send invoices along with bank account details.

About a third of the journals were based in India — visibly or as revealed by the location of editors and bank accounts — making it the world's largest base for open access publishing, says Bohannon in the expose published in *Science*.

As many as 64 India-based journals accepted the flawed paper and just 15 rejected it. The US emerged as the next largest base with 29 acceptances and 26 rejections. Even journals hosted by top publishers — Elsevier, Wolters Kluwer, Sage — reportedly accepted the bogus paper.

## THRIVING BLACK MARKET

The second investigation — also carried out by *Science* — shows that even mainline journals are

after a paper has gone through peer review with a journal. Some journals allow authors to be added at a late stage in the review process. Chinese researchers are ready to buy authorships in journals with a high impact factor because they are critical for getting promotions.

The two stings clearly show that scientific publishing, particularly open access, has been reduced to a scam in many countries. It is child's play to get fake or flawed research papers published in journals without any peer review and scrutiny.

Scientists are using these journals to increase the number of research papers published by them since it is directly linked to promotions, incentives and other rewards in the academic system.

## COMMON MAN CONNED

Unethical practices in scientific publishing are not new. Plagiarism, ghost writing, conflict of interest have plagued mainline research publications as well for a long time.

There have been several instances of drug and chemical companies surreptitiously getting favourable mention for their products or procedures in research papers. Leading publishers have hosted sponsored journals without disclosing the source of income to readers.

The two scandals indicate that the scale of fraud has been institutionalised and has become an industry in which culpable scientists are becoming partners. Even peer-reviewed journals are not above board, as indicated in the Chinese scam.

Fraudulent research publishing has severe implications for the common man, as most medical and science stories in media are based on what appears in scientific journals. Clinical practices of doctors are influenced by research findings that appear in technical journals.

If research published in journals itself is compromised so will be the news reported in media. It is time researchers and science academies woke up and took corrective measures to put an end to fraud in scientific publishing.

(The writer is a science journalist and author based in New Delhi)

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# IIM-B will help CBI revamp appraisal system

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**New Delhi:** The Central Bureau of Investigation will soon become the first police organization in the country to adopt modern performance appraisal system for its personnel, on the lines of the corporate sector being designed in consultation with experts from Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore.

The agency on Friday signed a memorandum of understanding with IIM, Bangalore, and one of the aspects is to understand and suggest changes in the performance appraisal system of the CBI which at present is driven by statistics. "For instance, one of the issues we need to examine is to redefine the existing ways of measuring our work output. Whether one RC (regular case) or PE (preliminary enquiry) should constitute one unit of work," joint director R S Bhatti said.

As of now, a major parameter for the appraisal of a CBI officer is number of cases successfully investigated and disposed. The agency will use the relationship with the premier management institute to bring a host of changes including introduction of Management Information System which will help senior officers across the country monitor the work being done by subordinates in distant locations. Although the work was going on for the last six years



**The CBI on Friday signed an MoU with IIM, Bangalore, and one of the aspects is to understand and suggest changes in the performance appraisal system of the CBI which at present is driven by statistics**

but it was the efforts of director Ranjit Sinha and former special director Saleem Ali which saw the MoU being signed.

"The objectives are wide in scope and broad in range to cover all aspects of the working of CBI, right from human resource management to performance management, which are priority areas for the CBI," Sinha said. The director asked officers concerned to approach IIM, Bangalore, to undertake study and analysis of core issues that affect the competence of the CBI and come up with scientific and rational solutions to achieve excellence.

HT Mumbai

# Google, Microsoft backing IIT-B's tech festival

HT Correspondent

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**MUMBAI:** Come January and the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay, will have its campus filled with humanoid robots, F1 car simulators, 3D mapping and other gizmos, with the beginning of Techfest, Asia's largest science and technology festival.

Started way back in 1998, the festival has grown every year, and now attracts students from more than 2,300 colleges across the country. With such response and hype, the marketing team of the festival has roped in big names as sponsors for this year, ranging from Facebook, Microsoft, GE and Reliance.

THE MARKETING TEAM WAS IN TALKS WITH SPONSORS SINCE APRIL. WE HAVE SOME BIG NAMES WITH US AND HAVE MADE USE OF ONLINE ADVERTISING.

DIVYAM BANSAL, one of the organisers of Techfest

With a budget of almost Rs1.6 crore, the college will play host to various academicians and achievers, the most notable of which are Bharat Ratna awardee CNR Rao, entrepreneur Kanwal Rekhi and Pranav Mistry, best known for his work on the gestural interface device SixthSense.

"The marketing team was in talks with sponsors since April. We have some big names with

us and have made use of online advertising," said Divyam Bansal, one of the organisers.

Facebook, incidentally has been roped in with a barter deal where it has advertised the Techfest through its website and hoardings.

"This year, we focused on barter deals and online advertising which helped us save up a lot. The Techfest advertising by

Facebook has already received over one lakh likes," said one of the organisers from the marketing team.

According to sources, Intel has emerged as one of the largest sponsors with Rs4 lakh while Microsoft has come up with around Rs3 lakh.

The upcoming general elections made it hard for the students to find domestic sponsors. Also, they do not have as many options as the cultural fest, Mood Indigo. "For Mood Indigo, sponsors from sectors such as apparels also chip in. However, most electronic, telecom and other digital sectors prefer to be associated with the tech fest," said a student.

## State of AICTE

There are numerous issues that plague the higher education system, the most important being the myriad private institutions coming up without adequate checks and balances (Dec. 27). These institutions act as a ticket to MNC jobs and have in a way eroded the sanctity of knowledge-based education. The role of the state becomes even more crucial in creating a nimble-footed and dynamic system to sustain the growth story of India. Without an education system that is ethical, India faces the danger of losing its competitive advantage not only to China and Brazil, but also to smaller developing nations like Malaysia and the Philippines.

**Shashank Shekhar Pandey,**

*Jaipur*

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## Illegal construction at IIT-M?

Staff Reporter

IIT-Madras has cleared more than 52 acres of forest, including 8,000 trees, between 2001 and 2013, for 39 renovation projects and new constructions within the eco-sensitive campus, activists have charged.

Addressing a press conference here on Friday, member of CMDA monitoring committee M.G. Devasahayam said, “We are facing grave danger. According to the understanding with the State government, IIT-M will not build on more than 15 per cent of the land. Starting from 2001, there has been rapid increase in construction. That is a violation of the basic understanding.. IIT-M is supposed to set an example. But they are setting a negative example.”

Activists at the press meet called for a halt on all construction activity inside IIT-M, pending an independent investigation into the allegations.

“We are shocked by IIT’s disregard for the environment,” said Nityanand Jayaraman of Chennai Solidarity Group, that released a report titled ‘City in the Forest: The birth and growth of IIT-Madras.’ The research used Google Earth satellite images to identify construction and estimate loss of forest cover.

The IIT-M campus was carved out of the Guindy forests in 1958, he said, and contains some of the last remnants of the Southern thorn forests and is home to the endangered blackbuck, pangolin, monitor lizard and star tortoise.

Construction projects inside institutional areas require CMDA approval. Major construction projects also require environmental clearance. When such projects fall within 10 km of a national park, they require additional approvals — from the Supreme Court and the National Board of Wildlife, according to Mr. Jayaraman.

According to the report, the natural environment in the campus will not be able to withstand noise pollution caused by cultural events such as Saarang that bring in more than 50,000 visitors and 13,000 vehicles for five nights of loud music, dance and cultural programmes.

Responding to queries from *The Hindu*, Bhaskar Ramamurthi, director of IIT-M, said he had not received a copy of the report. The IIT-M administration is very conscious of protecting the green cover on campus, he said.

“The number of students has increased from 2,500 in 1985 to 8,000 in 2013, so we have no option but to cut trees. However, we have made use of construction techniques to ensure fewer trees are cut, and have planted trees every time. We have documents for every tree cut (with permission from the forest department) and planted,” said Dr. Ramamurthi. In fact, the tree cover has only increased in the past 10 years, he said.

Keywords: [IIT-Madras](#), [illegal constructions](#)

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## अयोग्य शिक्षित

शिक्षा एक ऐसा कठिन तप माना जाता है, जिसका फल हमेशा मीठा होता है। कठिन तप तो हो सकता है कि यह अब भी हो, लेकिन इसका फल हमेशा मीठा ही होगा, अब यह पूरे भरोसे के साथ नहीं कहा जा सकता। एस्पाइरिंग माईंड्स नाम की संस्था का ताजा अध्ययन तो कम से कम यही बताता है। इसी साल किए गए इस अध्ययन की रिपोर्ट बताती है कि देश के 47 फीसदी स्नातक इस योग्य नहीं हैं कि उन्हें कहीं रोजगार मिल सके। रिपोर्ट में इसके कई कारण भी बताए गए हैं। रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, इन लोगों को न तो अंग्रेजी भाषा का ठीक से ज्ञान है, कंप्यूटर पर काम करने की उनकी कुशलता भी बहुत खराब है, साथ ही वे स्नातक जरूर हो गए हैं, लेकिन उन्हें बहुत सारी अवधारणाओं की जानकारी नहीं है। इस अध्ययन में यह भी पाया गया कि देश भर में तैयार हो रही स्नातकों की भारी फौज में महज 2.59 फीसदी नौजवान ही ऐसे हैं, जिन्हें एकाउंटिंग यानी हिसाब-किताब के काम में लगाया जा सकता है। 15.88 फीसदी नौजवान ही ऐसे हैं, जिन्हें सेल्स या बिक्री से संबंधित कामों में लगाया जा सकता है। इसके अलावा 21.37 फीसदी नौजवान ही ऐसे हैं, जिनका इस्तेमाल बिजनेस प्रोसेस आउटसोर्सिंग जैसे कामों में किया जा सकता है। रिपोर्ट यह भी बताती है कि हमारे कॉलेजों और विश्वविद्यालयों से

निकलने वाले एक चौथाई नौजवान ही ऐसे हैं, जो कारोबार और उद्योग की वास्तविक समस्याओं का हल निकालने में सक्षम हैं। इस रिपोर्ट में ऐसे कई और भी आंकड़े हैं, जो कुल मिलाकर यही बताते हैं कि देश में जो शिक्षा दी जा रही है, वह तकरीबन आधे नौजवानों को देश की किसी जरूरत को पूरा करने के योग्य नहीं बना रही।

यह रिपोर्ट हमारी शिक्षा व्यवस्था की तो पोल खोलती ही है, साथ ही यह भी बताती है कि हम किस तरह के

भविष्य का निर्माण कर रहे हैं। यह तस्वीर उस भारत की है, जिसकी सबसे बड़ी उम्मीद देश के नौजवान हैं। अर्थशास्त्री न जाने कब से यह कह रहे हैं कि हमारा देश दुनिया का सबसे नौजवान देश है और आने वाले कई वर्षों तक यह दुनिया का सबसे नौजवान देश बना रहेगा। नौजवानों की यह फौज भारत को विकासशील देश से विकसित देश में बदल सकती है, बशर्ते कि उसकी उत्पादन क्षमताओं और रचनात्मकता का पूरा इस्तेमाल किया जाए। लेकिन वास्तविक हालात बताते हैं कि न इसके लिए हमारी योजनाएं और नीतियां तैयार हैं और न ही हमारी शिक्षा व्यवस्था। पहले यह आरोप लगाया जाता था कि हमारी शिक्षा व्यवस्था पढ़े-लिखे बेरोजगारों की फौज तैयार कर रही है, लेकिन अब लगता है कि यह पढ़े-लिखे नकारा लोगों की ऐसी फौज तैयार कर रही है, जो किसी काम के योग्य नहीं हैं। यह बात हम बरसों से सुनते आए हैं कि शिक्षा को रोजगार परक बनाया जाना चाहिए। लेकिन शिक्षा अब भी हम वही दे रहे हैं, जो ज्यादातर लोगों को किसी काम के योग्य तो नहीं बनाती, बल्कि परीक्षा पास करके डिग्री हासिल करना जरूर सिखा देती है।

ऐसा नहीं है कि समस्या सिर्फ डिग्री स्तर पर है। पिछले दिनों प्रथम नाम की संस्था ने जब स्कूलों में पढ़ रहे बच्चों का अध्ययन किया, तो पाया कि बच्चों की सीखने और उन्हें सिखाने का काम ही ठीक से नहीं हो रहा। यहां तक कि कक्षा पांच में पढ़ने वाले बच्चे उतना भी नहीं जानते, जितना कि कक्षा दो में पढ़ने वाले बच्चे के लिए जानना जरूरी होता है। इन्हीं में से कई बच्चे जब आगे पहुंचेंगे, तो क्या होगा, इसका अंदाज लगाया जा सकता है। शिक्षा की सबसे जरूरी शर्त है कि वह कुछ सिखाए और योग्य बनाए, यही काम है, जो फिलहाल हमारी शिक्षा व्यवस्था नहीं कर रही।

देश भर के कॉलेजों और विश्वविद्यालयों में हम जो स्नातक तैयार कर रहे हैं, उनमें से ज्यादातर समाज की जरूरतें पूरी करने की योग्यता नहीं रखते।

HT Kolkata

## India to be world's third largest economy by 2028

**LONDON:** India will beat Japan to grab the position of the world's third-largest economy in 2028, according to London-based think-tank Centre for Economics and Business Research (CEBR), which also forecast China to overtake the US for the top position. **PT**

Indian Express

## Tharoor PETA's 'person of the year'

PTI Posted online: Fri Dec 27 2013, 17:58 hrs

**Thiruvananthapuram :** Union Minister of State for HRD Shashi Tharoor has been chosen as "Person of the Year" by animal rights campaigner PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) for initiating steps for animal protection.

Tharoor used the power and prestige of his office to advocate for the protection of animals, a PETA release said.

He had encouraged the National Council of Educational Research and Training to examine PETA's Central Board of Secondary Education approved-'Compassionate Citizen humane'-education programme for incorporation into its textbooks.

Tharoor, representing Thiruvananthapuram in the Lok Sabha, is also supporting the use of non-animal methods for teaching students and training teachers, it said.

"We are thankful to Tharoor for his work and for recognising that animals deserve kindness and consideration", says PETA India CEO Poorva Joshipura.

Tharoor's other efforts to help animals include writing a letter to Health Minister Gulam Nabi Azad urging him to implement non-animal methods of teaching in medical courses.

"In addition, he urged the National Council for Teacher Education to ban the use of animals, such as for dissection, in training teachers," it said.

Actors Hema Malini and R Madhavan were previous recipients of PETA India's Person of the Year Award, the release added.

## Activists allege loss of forest cover at IIT-Madras

Divya Chandrababu,TNN | Dec 28, 2013, 12:32 AM IST

CHENNAI: Indian Institute of Technology-Madras' need for expansion in order to accommodate the growing number of students should be met by an alternate campus, say activists, demanding a halt to new constructions and preservation of forest cover.

A report, 'City in the Forest: The Birth and Growth of IIT-M,' released by the Chennai Solidarity Group on Friday, claimed that the institution cleared more than 52 acres of forest by axing about 8,000 trees between 2001 and 2013, to facilitate about 41 projects, four of which are proposed. IIT-M has said the allegations are incorrect as most buildings were constructed on existing footprint by adding more levels and reconstructing old buildings.

Speaking to reporters, **activists** alleged that IIT-M had neither sought necessary clearances from the Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority (CMDA) nor obtained environment clearances. They have demanded an independent committee to probe into the allegations and penalize the institution if it

was found to have flouted norms.

"Being a government institution, IIT-M has a wrong notion that they need not apply for clearances. Had they applied they would have never got CMDA's permission," said former CMDA monitoring committee member **M G Devasahayam**. The campus, carved out of the 'Deer Park', was allotted by the state government in 1959. A senior official of the CMDA told TOI, "We have not given any clearances or planning permission to IIT-M so far. But we have one file pending for building permission- I don't know if it is for a new proposal or an existing building."

IIT-M needs to expand its infrastructure to accommodate a 54% increase in student strength as mandated by the Centre in 2008. "All the buildings are built as per the building code applicable as well as CMDA norms. We work closely with regulatory agencies, and everything is being done to comply with the rules," said Bhaskar Ramamurthi, director, IIT-M.