

# Newspaper Clips

## December 29-30, 2013

December 29

Times of India ND 29.12.2013 p-7

# UGC must look into faculty crunch: PM

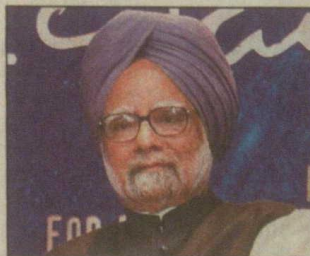
TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Saturday said University Grants Commission (UGC) has done very well so far but the regulator was told the “the tasks that lie ahead require fresh thinking and innovative ways of doing things.”

Singh asked the regulator to play the role of a national ‘think-tank’ and organize a professional and purposeful discourse about issues that have a close bearing on the sound management of higher education system.

Speaking at the diamond jubilee celebrations of UGC, which he had headed in the early 1990s, Singh said the shortage of faculty in higher educational institutes is a serious problem that is “likely to become even more acute with the expansion”. He asked UGC and other higher educational institutions to address the problem.

Singh said there is a need to add E of Employability to the triad of Expansion, Excellence & Equity. He lauded government’s initiative of Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) and said it will help strengthen state universities. “It aims to create 278 new universities and 388 new colleges and to convert 266 colleges to model degree colleges



**ROOTING FOR RESEARCH**

by the end of the 13<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan, besides providing infrastructure grants to 286 state universities and 8,500 state colleges,” he said.

The PM said there is need to put more emphasis on research, specifically on enhancing the number and quality of doctoral programmes. “It is important to note that inter-disciplinary perspectives are the cornerstone of research. We must reverse today’s situation where individual departments largely operate as islands, and there should be greater focus on problems that engage the faculty in inter-disciplinary research,” he said.

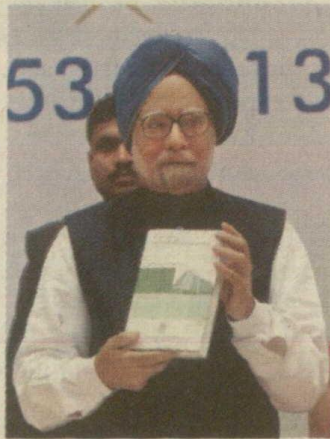
Singh called for strengthening the university – industry interface to give a boost to research and development. “Greater support from industry will not only lead to better research outcomes but also enable industry to utilize them for meaningful practical application,” he said.

# PM urges UGC to resolve staff crunch issue urgently

M POST BUREAU

**NEW DELHI:** Taking cognizance of the faculty crunch impacting quality of higher education in the country, prime minister Manmohan Singh on Saturday said that the UGC and other stakeholders should urgently consider the issue and find innovative methods to resolve it.

While addressing the diamond jubilee celebrations of the University Grand Commission (UGC) Manmohan Singh said, 'Premier institutions of the country do not figure among the best in the world and that quality in general remains a huge



prime minister Manmohan Singh release the book *Sixty Years of the University Grants Commission*

concern in the higher education sector'. 'I would urge UGC and other stakeholders in higher education sector to urgently consider the issue of quality and shortage

of faculty and find innovative methods of resolving them,' he stressed while delivering the key note speech.

As per statistics, the IITs alone face a faculty shortage of close to 32 per cent and almost all the central universities in the country are confronted with teaching staff shortage.

The prime minister said that the university system also needs to put much more emphasis on research and more specifically on enhancing the number and quality of doctoral programmes. 'It is important to note that inter-disciplinary perspectives are the cornerstone of present day research. We

must ensure that inter-disciplinary research takes firm roots in the culture of our universities. We must reverse to today's situation where individual department largely operates as islands,' he said.

The prime minister, who himself headed the Commission as an academician in 1991, said though its contribution to higher education has been widely acknowledged over the last 60 years, 'the best is yet to come'.

In the coming years, he said, the country needs to increasingly focus on employability along with three other Es such as expansion, excellence and equity.

National Duniya ND 29-12-2013 P-14

## शिक्षकों की कमी पर तत्काल गौर हो : प्रधानमंत्री

नई दिल्ली (भाषा)। प्रधानमंत्री मनमोहन सिंह ने देश में शिक्षकों की कमी से उच्च शिक्षा की गुणवत्ता के प्रभावित होने पर चिंता जताई है। उन्होंने कहा कि विश्वविद्यालय अनुदान आयोग (यूजीसी) और अन्य संबद्ध पक्षों को इस मुद्दे पर 'तत्परता से विचार' कर नए तरीकों से समाधान खोजना चाहिए।

प्रधानमंत्री ने इस संदर्भ में यह उल्लेख भी किया कि देश के प्रतिष्ठित शिक्षा संस्थानों की गिनती विश्व के श्रेष्ठ संस्थानों में नहीं होती है। गुणवत्ता उच्च शिक्षा क्षेत्र में बड़ी चिंता का विषय है। उन्होंने यूजीसी और अन्य संबद्ध पक्षों से आग्रह किया कि वे गुणवत्ता और शिक्षकों की कमी जैसे मुद्दों पर तत्काल विचार करें और इनका हल करने के लिए नए तरीके खोजें। आंकड़ों के मुताबिक अकेले भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थानों (आईआईटी) में 32 प्रतिशत शिक्षकों की कमी है और देश के लगभग सभी केंद्रीय विश्वविद्यालयों में शिक्षकों की कमी है। सिंह ने कहा कि विश्वविद्यालय पद्धति के तहत अनुसंधान पर अधिक जोर देने की जरूरत है विशेष रूप से पीएचडी पाठ्यक्रमों की संख्या और गुणवत्ता को बढ़ाने पर ध्यान देना चाहिए।

### चिंता

- यूजीसी तत्परता से इसका समाधान खोजे
- आईआईटी में 32 प्रतिशत शिक्षकों की कमी
- कहा, अनुसंधान पर अधिक जोर देने की जरूरत

उन्होंने कहा कि हमें सुनिश्चित करने की जरूरत है कि हमारे विश्वविद्यालयों की संस्कृति में अंतर-विषय अनुसंधान की जड़ें मजबूत हों। हमें आज के हालात को पलटने की जरूरत है, जहाँ विभाग आम तौर पर अलग धलग होकर काम करते हैं। सिंह ने विश्वविद्यालय पद्धति में शैक्षिक स्वतंत्रता का माहौल बनाने पर जोर दिया। साथ ही कहा कि शिक्षण और अनुसंधान में नवीनता और उत्कृष्टता को प्रोत्साहित करने के लिए जरूरी है कि उच्च शिक्षा संस्थानों को अपने पाठ्यक्रम खुद तैयार करने की आजादी हो।

प्रधानमंत्री ने कहा कि पिछले 60 साल के दौरान उच्च शिक्षा क्षेत्र में यूजीसी के योगदान को व्यापक तौर पर स्वीकार किया गया है लेकिन अभी सर्वश्रेष्ठ आना बाकी है। उल्लेखनीय



यूजीसी की पुस्तक का विमोचन करते हुए प्रधानमंत्री मनमोहन सिंह के साथ केंद्रीय मंत्री पल्लम राजू और शशि धरुर।

है कि शिक्षाविद् के रूप में सिंह स्वयं 1991 में यूजीसी के प्रमुख रह चुके हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि आने वाले वर्षों में देश को 'इंफ्लायबिलिटी' (नियोजनीयता) के अलावा तीन और 'ई' की आवश्यकता है। एक्सपेंशन (विस्तार), एक्सिलेंस (उत्कृष्टता) और इक्विटी (साम्यता) पर ध्यान केंद्रित करने की आवश्यकता है क्योंकि सरकार उच्च शिक्षा प्रणाली को मजबूत करने की दिशा में और अधिक ऊर्जा के साथ आगे बढ़ने को प्रतिबद्ध है।

सिंह ने कहा कि हाल ही में शुरू उच्चतर शिक्षा अभियान कार्यक्रम के तहत राज्य के उच्च शिक्षा संस्थानों के महत्त्व को माना गया है जो हमारे देश में उच्च शिक्षा प्राप्त करने वाले अधिक शिक्षार्थियों की जरूरत को पूरा करते हैं। इस कार्यक्रम के तहत 13वीं योजनावधि के अंत तक 278 नए विश्वविद्यालय और 388 नए कॉलेज बनाने का लक्ष्य है। इसके अलावा 266 कालेजों को माडेल डिग्री कालेज बनाने का लक्ष्य है। उच्च शिक्षा के वित्तपोषण की ओर ध्यान

आकर्षित करते हुए सिंह ने कहा कि उच्च शिक्षा के वित्तपोषण का नया माडल स्थापित नियमों पर आधारित है। केंद्र तथा राज्यों द्वारा मौजूदा पद्धति में सुधार गंभीर चिंता का विषय है क्योंकि वास्तविक अर्थों में सहयोग कम हुआ है। विशेष तौर पर राज्य स्तर के विश्वविद्यालयों को शिक्षण और अनुसंधान की गुणवत्ता सुधारने के लिए ध्यान केंद्रित करने और समर्थन देने की आवश्यकता है।

सिंह ने कहा कि विश्वविद्यालयों और उद्योग के बीच परस्पर संपर्क को

मजबूत करने की तत्काल आवश्यकता है ताकि अनुसंधान एवं विकास को बढ़ावा दिया जा सके क्योंकि इससे विश्वविद्यालय पद्धति और भारतीय उद्योग दोनों को ही काफी फायदा होगा। उन्होंने सुझाव दिया कि विश्वविद्यालयों और उद्योग के बीच अन्य देशों में किस तरह का संपर्क है, उसका विस्तृत अध्ययन करना चाहिए ताकि अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर के सर्वश्रेष्ठ प्रचलन को देश में लागू किया जा सके। सिंह ने कहा कि पिछले 10 साल में सरकार ने प्राथमिक, माध्यमिक और उच्च शिक्षा पर काफी अधिक ध्यान दिया है। इसका असर विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में दिखने लगा है जबकि सकल भर्ती अनुपात लगभग दोगुना यानी 19.4 प्रतिशत हो गया है।

उन्होंने कहा कि 10 साल में ही महिलाओं का सकल भर्ती अनुपात 9.4 प्रतिशत से बढ़ कर 17.9 फीसदी हो गया है। पिछले 10 साल में उठाए गए कदमों का जिक्र करते हुए प्रधानमंत्री ने कहा कि 23 नए केंद्रीय विधि, 7 आईआईएम, 9 आईआईटी, 10 एनआईटी, पांच भारतीय विज्ञान शिक्षा व अनुसंधान संस्थान, 4 आईआईआईटी और प्लानिंग एवं आर्किटेक्चर के दो स्कूल स्थापित किए गए।

# PM asks industry to invest in education, research

BS REPORTER

New Delhi, 28 December

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, on Saturday, urged the country's private sector and industry to invest in enhancing education and research in the country as India looks to increase its gross enrolment ratio from a meagre 18 per cent to 30 per cent by 2020.

"Today, our universities depend largely on grants for undertaking research. Greater support from industry will not only lead to better research outcomes but also enable industry to utilise these outcomes for meaningful practical application. It may be worthwhile on the part of our university academics to make a detailed study of how this interface works in other countries so that we can replicate

the international best practices", Singh said during the diamond jubilee celebrations of the University Grants Commission (UGC).

Singh's request for funding comes at a time when a number of bills proposed by the Human Resource and Development Ministry are pending in Parliament including the National Accreditation Regulatory Authority Bill and Foreign Educational Institutions Bill. In addition, proposals to amend the AICTE Act and setting up a regulator for distance education has been pending at various stages.

The Prime Minister also expressed concerns about the lack of quality of education at India's premier institutes and the shortage of faculty in the country. "This brings me to the related issue of shortage of fac-

ulty in our institutes of higher education. This problem is likely to become even more acute with the expansion that is planned in the coming years," PM added. The government is currently in the midst of rolling out the Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) which will create 278 new universities and 388 new colleges in addition to converting 266 colleges to model degree colleges by the end of the 13th Five-Year Plan.

Singh also hinted at the need to create new models of financing for the higher education sector as the funding from the central government has declined in real term over the past years. "Although the demand for higher education has increased enormously over the years, the central and state governments' financial sup-



Prime Minister Manmohan Singh (centre) with HRD Minister M M Pallam Raju (left) and MoS for HRD Shashi Tharoor releasing the book *Sixty Years of the University Grants Commission* during the diamond jubilee function of University Grants Commission in New Delhi on Saturday. PTI PHOTO

port to institutions of higher education has declined in real terms. New models of financing higher education, based on well established norms, and improvements in the existing system of funding by the central and state governments,

therefore, are critical concerns", the PM said.

Higher educational institutes in the country had come in the line of fire after none of them could figure themselves amongst the Top 200 institutes in the world.

Hindu ND 29-12-2013 P-20

# University system should dwell more on research, says Manmohan

“Adopt inter-disciplinary approach”

Special Correspondent

**NEW DELHI:** Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Saturday expressed concern about the quality of higher education; pointing out that even Indian premier institutions do not figure among the best in the world.

Addressing the Diamond Jubilee function of the University Grants Commission (UGC) here, he urged all stakeholders in the higher education system to urgently consider issues of quality.

Another issue the premier flagged as an area of concern pertained to shortage of faculty; more so since the problem was likely to become more acute with the expansion that is planned in the coming years. Further, according to him, the university system needs to dwell more on research and enhancing the number and quality of doctoral programmes.

Pointing out that inter-disciplinary perspectives are the cornerstone of present-day research, Dr. Singh said it should become part of the culture of Indian universities.

“We must reverse today’s situation where individual departments largely operate as islands, and there should be greater focus on problems that engage the faculty in inter-disciplinary research.”

Similarly, he stressed the need for strengthening the university-industry interface to give a fillip to Research and Development. Of the view that this would be beneficial to both the university system and the industry, he asked academics to make a detailed study of how this interface works in



**EDUCATION MATTERS** Prime Minister Manmohan Singh with Minister of State for Human Resource Development Shashi Tharoor during the Diamond Jubilee function of the University Grants Commission in New Delhi on Saturday.— PHOTO: PTI

other countries so that the best international practises can be replicated here.

Both Dr. Singh and Union Minister for Human Resource Development M.M. Pallam Raju listed the measures taken by the United Progressive Alliance government over the past decade to facilitate equitable access to higher education. This, Dr. Singh underscored, had resulted in the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education going up to 19.4 per cent in 2010-11 from 11 per cent in 2005-06. The GER for

women in higher education increased from 9.4 per cent to 17.9 per cent during the same period.

At the same time, Mr. Raju conceded that the GER was still below the world average and India had set for itself the target of 30 per cent by 2020.

Stating that a special drive would be undertaken to make teaching and research an attractive career option, he announced the setting up of chairs in various universities in the name of Indian Nobel laureates.

Statesman ND 29.12.2013 P-8

# UGC should urgently look into faculty crunch: PM

**statesman news service**

NEW DELHI, 28 DEC: Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said quality in higher education in general remains a huge concern as even India's premier institutions do not figure among the best in the world.

Addressing the diamond jubilee celebrations of the University Grants Commission (UGC) here today, Dr Singh said shortage of faculty and promotion of research, strengthening of the university-industry interface and higher allocation of resources are some of the major challenges in higher education that require attention.

The Prime Minister asked UGC to play the role of a national think tank for the promotion of higher education in the country.

Dr Singh appreciated the role of UGC as a principal regulator of higher education in the country.

He said the government has

placed unprecedented emphasis on education at all levels in the last 10 years.

Giving details of the expansion in higher education during UPA rule, the PM said gross enrolment ratio (GER) has gone up from 11 per cent in 2005-06 to 19.4 per cent in 2010-11. Twenty three Central universities, 7 IIMs, 9 IITs, 10 NITs and 4 IIITs have been set up by the Central government, he added.

Highlighting the role the recently launched Rashtriya Uchttar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) will play in promoting higher education in the country, Dr Singh said the scheme aims to create 278 new universities and 388 new colleges and to convert 266 colleges to model degree colleges by the end of the current five year plan ending 2017.

The scheme will also provide infrastructure grants to 286 state universities and 8500 state colleges

The Prime Minister also announced instituting of awards

in the name of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru for individual excellence in the areas of science, humanities and social sciences, technology, fine arts and culture.

The HRD Minister, Dr M M Pallam Raju, said UGC will launch Chairs in the name of the Indian Nobel Laureates, including C V Raman, Rabindranath Tagore and Mother Teresa.

He said the government has focused on access for the weaker sections of society and the minorities by giving scholarships and equal opportunities.

The government is keen to promote research and more funds are being earmarked for them, he added.

The chairman of UGC, Dr Ved Prakash, said the commission has been given additional charge of distance education.

It is also taking several steps to ease the constraints caused by the paucity of quality faculty by engaging recharge programmes and appointing contractual faculty, he added.

Amar Ujala ND 29-12-2013 P-10

# भूकंप से पहले ही थम सकेंगे ट्रेनों के पहिए

● अमर उजाला ब्यूरो

देहरादून। अब भूकंप के आने से पहले ही ट्रेन के पहिए थम सकेंगे। इसके अलावा न्यूक्लियर रिएक्टर को भी बंद किया जा सकेगा, ताकि बड़ा भूकंप उसे कोई नुकसान न पहुंचा सके। दरअसल आईआईटी, रुड़की के वैज्ञानिकों ने मल्टी पैरामीटर ईईडब्ल्यू एलगोरिदम विकसित किया है। इसके जरिए दून समेत उत्तरी भारत के शहरों दिल्ली, मेरठ, मुजफ्फरनगर, रुड़की, हरिद्वार में भूकंप आने से पहले उसकी चेतावनी संभव होगी।

दून यूनिवर्सिटी में शनिवार को संपन्न हुई उत्तराखंड राज्य विज्ञान कांग्रेस के दौरान एलगोरिदम आधारित इस अर्ली वार्निंग सिस्टम

● आईआईटी रुड़की के वैज्ञानिकों ने नई तकनीक विकसित की

से जुड़ा यह पेपर पढ़ा गया। एलगोरिदम विकसित करने में सहयोगी आईआईटी रुड़की के भूकंप अभियांत्रिकी विभाग की डॉ. राखी भारद्वाज ने बताया कि दून शहर के लिए समय 20 सेकंड, दिल्ली के लिए 1.3 मिनट रहेगा। अर्ली वार्निंग सिस्टम के लिए हिमालय में आने वाले भूकंपों के लिए अलग-अलग लीड टाइम की गणना की गई है। उनकी मानें तो इतने कम समय में भूकंप को लेकर मानवीय प्रतिक्रिया बेशक अधिक संभव न हो, लेकिन ट्रेनों के पहिए रोके जा सकेंगे।

## आईआईटी खड़गपुर में दिखी 'आम टोपी'

खड़गपुर (प. बंगाल)। आप नेता अरविंद केजरीवाल ने शनिवार को जब दिल्ली के मुख्यमंत्री पद की शपथ ली तो उनकी शिक्षण संस्था आईआईटी खड़गपुर के छात्रों ने 'आम आदमी' की टोपी पहनकर जश्न मनाया।

इंटरनेट पर भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान, खड़गपुर के दो पेजों पर डाले गए संदेश में लिखा है, 'आम आदमी की ताकत को कभी नजरअंदाज नहीं करना चाहिए। इस राजनीतिक क्रांति का छोटा हिस्सा होते हुए हमें गर्व है। खड़गपुर की समस्त जनता को बधाई।' संस्थान में करीब ढाई दशक पहले मेकेनिकल इंजीनियरिंग की पढ़ाई करने वाले केजरीवाल को उनके साथी 'केजरी' पुकारा करते थे। वैसे तो खड़गपुर आईआईटी के छात्रों के बीच राजनीति एक वर्जित विषय रहा है लेकिन दिल्ली के नए मुख्यमंत्री की राजनीतिक सफलता ने राजनीति को भी एक विषय बना दिया है।

कॉलेज के दिनों के केजरीवाल के साथ राजीव सराफ ने कहा, 'आईआईटी में राजनीति किसी के भी मन में सबसे आखिरी बात होती थी। हम कैरियर के अलावा फिल्में देखने, दोस्तों के साथ बाहर जाने और खेलने में दिलचस्पी रखते थे।' फिलहाल दिल्ली में एक सॉफ्टवेयर कंपनी चला रहे सराफ ने कहा कि जरूरी है कि राजनीति को आईआईटी संस्थानों में संवाद में शामिल किया जाना चाहिए।

केजरीवाल को पढ़ाने पर गौरवान्वित महसूस करने वाले शिक्षक और आईआईटी खड़गपुर के पूर्व निदेशक प्रोफेसर शंकर कुमार सोम ने कहा, 'हमारे छात्रों की अंतर्निहित प्रतिभा और केजरीवाल जैसे अनेक छात्रों को दी गई समग्र शिक्षा की वजह से ही सफलता मिली है।'

Hari Bhumi ND 29.12.2013 p-3

## मुख्यमंत्री बनने वाले दूसरे आईआईटी छात्र

नई दिल्ली। गोवा के अपने समकक्ष मनोहर पार्रिकर की तरह मुख्यमंत्री बनने वाले अरविंद केजरीवाल दूसरे आईआईटी छात्र हैं और दिल्ली की कमान संभालने के साथ ही वह केंद्रीय मंत्री अजित सिंह और जयराम रमेश जैसी हस्तियों की जमात में शामिल हो गए हैं जो देश के प्रतिष्ठित शैक्षणिक संस्थानों से ताल्लुक रखते हैं। भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (आईआईटी) खड़गपुर के पूर्व छात्र रहे 45 वर्षीय केजरीवाल ने मैकेनिकल इंजीनियरिंग की पढ़ाई की थी और आईआईटी से 1989 में पास हुए थे। पार्रिकर और केजरीवाल के अलावा आईआईटी से शिक्षित मुट्ठीभर राजनेताओं की जमात में केंद्रीय मंत्री अजित सिंह और जयराम रमेश शामिल हैं। पार्रिकर आईआईटी मुंबई से मैटालॉर्जिकल इंजीनियरिंग की पढ़ाई करके निकले थे। अजित सिंह पेशे से कम्प्यूटर इंजीनियर हैं और उन्होंने आईआईटी खड़गपुर से बी टेक किया था, जबकि रमेश ने बांबे आईआईटी से मैकेनिकल इंजीनियरिंग में बीटेक किया था।



## आईआईटी खड़गपुर में जश्न

खड़गपुर (प. बंगाल)। अरविंद केजरीवाल ने आज जब दिल्ली के मुख्यमंत्री पद की शपथ ली तो उनकी शिक्षण संस्था आईआईटी खड़गपुर के छात्रों ने 'आम आदमी' की टोपी पहनकर जश्न मनाया। इंटरनेट पर आईआईटी, खड़गपुर के दो पेजों पर डाले गये संदेश में लिखा है, आम आदमी की ताकत को कभी नजरअंदाज नहीं करना चाहिए। इस राजनीतिक क्रांति का छोटा हिस्सा होते हुए हमें गर्व है। संस्थान में करीब ढाई दशक पहले मैकेनिकल इंजीनियरिंग की पढ़ाई करने वाले केजरीवाल को उनके साथी 'केजरी' पुकारा करते थे। वैसे खड़गपुर आईआईटी के छात्रों के बीच राजनीति एक वर्जित विषय रहा है लेकिन दिल्ली के नये मुख्यमंत्री की राजनीतिक सफलता ने राजनीति को भी एक विषय बना दिया है।



Times of India ND 29-12-2013 P-9

Palash Sen's sexist remarks are in tune with jibes that the institutions' sparse female population endures daily from male classmates

Sharmila Ganesan-Ram | TNN

Five years ago, a poster in the hostels of IIT Madras read, 'Wanted: Guys with a good IQ and Girls with a good FQ'. FQ stood for Face Quotient. The vacancy was for volunteers for the college's technical festival. Angered, a bunch of third-year girls marched to the dean's office. It's just a joke, pleaded the culprit, a male junior. It's not funny, especially in public, argued the girls.

This was also the bent of singer Palash Sen's "satirical" remarks at the recent Mood Indigo festival in IIT-Mumbai. Here, when the Euphoria frontman asked if there were good-looking girls in IIT, he had re-instated a tired stereotype, reminding them of the boys they had learnt to avoid from year one. These boys would furtively refer to them as 'non-males' or 'she-males', attribute their marks to their gender and ask them what they were doing in robotics competitions. Had they lost their way to choreography?

Roughly, the ratio of male to female students on an IIT campus is 10:1. The disparity first hit an IIT Mumbai student at her orientation programme where students hoot when their respective hostel numbers are announced. "Out of 14 hostels, only one is occupied by girls. We only heard the girls hoot once," she recalls. In departments such as mechanical engineering, the imbalance is worse. Ishana Shekhawat, a third-year mechanical engineering student at IIT Delhi, is one of just two girls in a class of 110. "We can't

## IIT's a guy thing



**GENDER SKEW:** The ratio of male to female students on an IIT campus is roughly 10:1. This makes the classroom intimidating, especially for small-town girls

always seek help on assignments," says Shekhawat, adding that the boys tend to discuss assignments at their hostels and work on them overnight. She has also learnt to ignore the occasional comments by batchmates about it being easier for the girls to "score more in practicals".

The skewed ratio makes the classroom intimidating, especially for small-town girls. Once, Swapnil Verma of Kota, who graduated from IIT Madras in 2010, was at the dean's office selling festival tickets along with a few male volunteers when one boy moved close to her and asked, "Are you scared?" It was a nervous moment. "Boys would post vulgar comments anonymously on the batch's Orkut group about the 'non-males' in their class, a species they considered neither beautiful as girls nor as intellectual as boys," says Verma. An associate professor at Delhi's FIITJEE Ltd, she says that by her second year, female

students realized these comments were meant to capture their attention, and learnt to ignore them.

Being an IIT boy, the girls deduce, is a condition. The scarcity of women, they conclude, is frustrating for the testosterone-fuelled boys who tend to watch porn in groups and vent through multiplayer games like Counterstrike. Their frustration not only manifests in jokes but also makes the boys

expect us to dress up?"

These girls suffer no illusions about being pretty. Grooming simply isn't their priority. In fact, in a blog post titled 'Are IIT girls afraid of dark circles?', Preeti Bhonsle, an IIT-Delhi graduate, writes: "Parlours and boys do not consume our time. Split hair and spilled coffee do not bother us. That pimple we can put up with, the assignment deadline we cannot". It was a marketing job that

**Being an IIT boy, the girls deduce, is a condition. The scarcity of women is frustrating for the testosterone-fuelled boys who tend to watch porn in groups and vent through multiplayer games like Counterstrike. Their frustration not only manifests in jokes but also makes the boys behave strangely around girls visiting from other colleges**

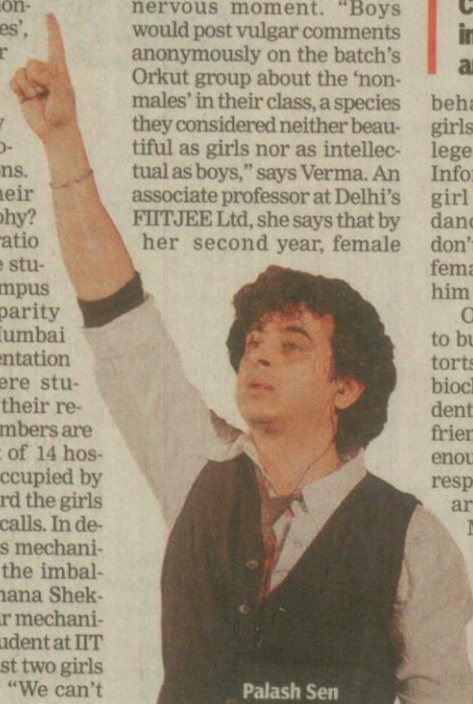
behave strangely around girls visiting from other colleges, claim girls. Once at Informals, when a non-IIT girl asked an IIT boy to dance, he said, "Real men don't dance", a statement his female classmates ridicule him for till date.

Over time, the girls learn to build a stock of ready retorts. Whenever third year biochemical engineering student Charul Agrawal's male friends say they do not have enough romantic options, she responds, "As if we do. You are all maggus (nerds)."

Mumbai-based Ahana Gupta, a finance manager who passed out of IIT Mumbai, recalls that the boys used to roam around the activity area in boxer shorts themselves. "Why ex-

"later forced me to focus on my appearance," says Bhonsle, who still recalls a day during her first year that she spent looking for a hair-dryer. "None of the girls had it. And this was in Delhi."

However, being part of the minority isn't all that bad. "You learn to break communication barriers," says Deepali Saxena, an IIT graduate who hails from Bareilly. Also, it means more attention. "It is a bit like being on a ship with a lot of sailors," says Mumbai's Arunabh Kumar, an IIT Kharagpur graduate and founder of a youth entertainment network. Kumar, who did not find Sen funny, is now writing a stand-up act for an upcoming IIT event. Here, a girl will go up on stage and address the crowd of 'non-females'.



Palash Sen

# B-schools to move SC against University Grants Commission

**At a meeting on Saturday, 100 B-schools, including XLRI Xavier School of Management, Jamshedpur, decided to approach the apex court**

**Kalpna Pathak | Mumbai December 28, 2013 Last Updated at 23:28 IST**



Over 300 business schools may knock the doors of the Supreme Court for a legal recourse against University Grants Commission's (UGC) move to take over technical education.

At a meeting on Saturday, 100 B-schools, including SP Jain Institute of Management; MDI, Gurgaon; Fore School of Management, Birla Institute of Management Technology, Noida; XLRI Xavier School of Management, Jamshedpur; and International Management Institute, Delhi; decided to approach the apex court. Other B-schools would later

join them in the process.

The B-schools said they would try to get a stay order on the UGC move.

The development is significant as the Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) would declare the Common Admission Test (CAT) results on January 14.

The institutes offering post-graduate diploma in management (PGDM), including the IIMs, use the CAT score to grant admissions to over 15,000 students. After the results, these B-schools will have to begin the process of group discussion and personal interviews.

"If this matter is not resolved by January, the admission process will be disturbed. Also, many B-schools don't know if they can add seats this year, as the All-India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has not opened its portals to begin the approval process after a Supreme Court order in April," said Harivansh Chaturvedi, director at Birla Institute of Management Technology, Noida, and alternate president of the Education Promotion Society of India (EPSI).

AICTE is the country's technical education regulator and B-schools need its permission to expand or add seats.

The B-schools said they would write to Human Resource Development Minister M M Pallam Raju next week, asking him to solve the issue. The ministry, say B-schools, could have avoided this situation by bringing in an ordinance or amending the AICTE Act. "But for its unwillingness, we have to go through all this now," said Chaturvedi, adding the Supreme Court was the only option before B-schools if the ministry did not resolve the matter.

This April, the apex court had allowed private colleges to conduct Masters of Business Administration (MBA) and Master of Computer Applications (MCA) programmes without AICTE's permission. Following the order, UGC takes over technical education, while AICTE is expected to play only an advisory role and prescribe uniform standards of education for affiliated members of a university.

Early this month, UGC, in confirmation with the Supreme Court's ruling, drafted guidelines for approval of new courses, setting up of new technical institutions and closure of the old ones and all other regulatory step

"We may have to approach the court as we do not want to lose our autonomy and go under the university system. Institutions granting PGDM cannot be handed over to UGC," a director at a Delhi-based Institute said, asking not to be named.

Under management education in India, there are two separate segments — masters and diploma. The master degree is awarded by universities or institutes affiliated to universities, while a diploma is awarded by AICTE- recognised autonomous and independent institutes.

PGDM institutions do not fall under the state's purview and need AICTE's permission to run programmes and expand.

B-schools, said given the state of public universities, which were unable to complete admissions or examinations on time, they did not want themselves to be managed by UGC.

Besides, with UGC in the picture, B-schools say there will be tremendous amount of exploitation and unstructured growth in technical education.

"Public universities are corrupt and inefficient. AICTE has brought in some transparency and reform in technical education through e-governance. We don't want all that work to go waste," said the director of a B-school from New Delhi.

On its website, UGC has made public the draft guidelines under the UGC (approval of colleges offering technical education by universities) Regulations, 2013.

The guidelines imply a technical institute would need permission from the affiliating university and not AICTE. It also lays down regulation for intake capacity of colleges, setting up of new institutions, adding integrated programmes, dual programmes, etc.

The UGC regulation lays down guidelines for all technical institutions offering courses in engineering and technology, management, pharmacy, architecture, hotel management and catering technology.

# **Chairs to be set up in varsities after Nobel laureates**

**Press Trust of India | New Delhi December 28, 2013** Last Updated at 17:00 IST

The government today announced creation of chairs in the name of Nobel laureates in universities in the country to inspire the younger generation excel in their area of work.

The chairs will be named after Rabindranath Tagore, C V Raman, Hargobind Khorana, Mother Teresa, C Chandrasekhar, Amartya Sen and V Ramakrishnan.

"The work done through these chairs in our universities will become a perpetual source of inspiration for the younger generation of scholars," HRD Minister M M Pallam Raju said at the diamond jubilee celebration of UGC here.

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, present on the occasion, hailed UGC's proposal to institute awards in the name of Jawaharlal Nehru for individual excellence in the areas of science, humanities and social sciences, technology, fine arts and culture.

"I hope these awards will contribute towards promotion of high quality research," he said.

2013

# YEAR OF THE PERSON



Avijit Ghosh | *Thu*

No, you're not reading the headline wrong. While 2013's POTY title had quite a few contenders who, in no small way, contributed to making the year interesting, the contest came down to Narendra Modi and Arvind Kejriwal. Both dominated the headlines as well as the national consciousness, but it was the aam aadmi who walked away with the title for changing the very idea of what a politician and a political party should be.

In a country of 1.2 billion, choosing Person of the Year can be as tough as getting Manmohan Singh to smile. But when you push Narendra Modi off the front pages and prime-time television, when you force Rahul Gandhi into hyperactive mode on the corruption issue, and when you shut up rivals who called you "monsoon pests" and "unelectable" by becoming chief minister after starting a party only a year ago, it's actually a no-contest.

But nothing stated above can really explain the enmity of Arvind Kejriwal's impact over the national landscape these days. Who would have thought that the fate of Delhi's election would be so closely followed by the rest of India? It was, as if, everyone was awaiting the outcome of a major laboratory experiment that

had the potential to alter everyone's fate. To his fans, and the tribe is growing every day, Kejriwal is the creator of a new matrix of clean politics, without the traditional baggage of caste, community religion and region. To them, he is a radical minus the slogans; someone who can battle and eliminate corruption, and improve everyday lives. Even his foes are realizing now that he is perhaps more than a cocky peddler of impossible dreams that they made him out to be; rather, he is emblematic of an idea whose time has come. As sociologist Dipankar Gupta says, "Kejriwal and his party have sought to curtail the society from corruption and help the disempowered exercise what they have been denied from."

Undeniably, the 45-year-old former IRS officer's public conduct has altered the very idea of what a politician and a political party

should be. At a time when red beacons typify the vulgarity of power and when Z-security is seen as a status symbol, he has refused both. The Aam Aadmi Party, which he leads, has set benchmarks for participative democracy, making common people feel valued. AAP volunteers have gone door to door asking people what they wanted to be included in the manifesto. "Political parties deal in creating distances. Kejriwal has reduced distances between the politician and the people," says columnist Santosh Desai. When the tricky question of forming a government with Congress support cropped up, the mechanical engineer from **IT** Khargapur wanted the people to decide by posing their response through SMS, website, phone calls and jan sabhas. Who could have even dreamt something like this would ever happen?

His methods have been astonishingly inventive. Social scientist Shiv Viswanathan says, "Right from the way he has handled cadres, used available finance and set up the campaign, he has displayed creative imagination." Adds Desai, "It's remarkable the way he has mobilized ordinary people to press for legislation, the way he has used traditional-Kejriwal's as well as social media and the way he shifted gears from activism to electoral politics in such a short period." That's why Kejriwal and AAP are setting the terms of the political debate and forcing rivals to change their behaviour. When BJP came out with posters with the catchline, "Sheesak nah, swak" (servants, not rulers) during the Delhi assembly polls, it was evident that AAP effect was at work.

Risk-taking seems part of Kejriwal's DNA. The story goes that his father wanted him to apply to all engineering colleges but he took the gamble of only applying to **IT**. When he decided to face off with Sheila Dixit in the polls, everybody thought he was taking a huge risk. But in the end, Kejriwal's daring paid off; he polled more votes than both Dixit and BJP's Vijender Gupta together.

Senior AAP leader and long-time associate Manish Sisodia, narrates an incident which occurred around 2000 to give an insight into Kejriwal's mind. "Those days we used to distribute pamphlets outside the office of Delhi Jal Board. One day, DJB officials asked us to move our table away from the main gate. Most of us were willing to comply. But Arvind stood his ground. He just said, 'If we are not doing anything wrong, why should we move elsewhere?' Ultimately, we won."

Part of Kejriwal's appeal lies in his street-fighting approach, directness and "an anti-VIP swagger." As a public speaker, the Hissar-born Kejriwal has a relaxed, conversational style though he holds no punches. At a recent award ceremony, he was blunt enough to say, "The Congress is our B team now and we will make BJP our C team."

Fashionistas may frown at his (lack of sartorial) sense, including the way he wraps the muffler over his head, but it drives home the message, "I am one of you." As Gupta says, "He is being seen as a symbol of ordinary middle-class India. His style, dress and language are indicative of them. He has the looks of the neighbourhood kid who can be trusted."

"There is no talk about changing the world; only altering your life and your neighbourhood. His promises are straight: lower power, free 700 litres of water and a Jan Lokpal Bill tough enough to give sleepless nights to every corrupt politician and official. Desai says, "He dismantles actions. He doesn't deal with grand visions, but specific issues with a high degree of commitment. Like a woodpecker, he keeps chipping away at the edifice."

"There is no single turning point in Arvind's career," says Sisodia. He took long leave from IRS to work on **Parti**, which he founded in 2000. Quitting IRS, the Magsaysay Award winner, the Jan Lokpal agitation, the formation of AAP, these were all important landmarks. But he always had total clarity in whatever he did. "Many party workers had doubts over the formation of AAP in 2012. But Arvind was absolutely clear all

along. We have to do it and we must do it, he said," Sisodia reveals. An eminent civil society activist, who preferred not to be named, points out that while Kejriwal is great at motivating party workers, he isn't as adept at functioning with other civil society groups and being part of a larger team. "He has firm belief in his own methods and style and sticks to them. It is good to be stubborn but you should never stop listening to others. Otherwise, it becomes my way or highway kind of approach," the activist says.

However, talking to ordinary people in towns such as Ranchi, Guwahati, Lucknow, Thiruvananthapuram and Jaipur, one gets the impression that most have immense faith in Kejriwal's ability and sincerity. Not everybody though, believes he can deliver on his poll promises under the circumstances. They see him as a man who has "redefined politics" as Sahir Hussain, a Guwahati lawyer, says, or "a progenitor of change" as MR Ajith of Thiruvananthapuram puts it.

The Kejriwal narrative is still a work in progress. Desai says, political commentators and social scientists are yet to fully comprehend the phenomenon because they haven't come across anyone like him before. He has the right. After all, how many of us know of a middle-aged diabetic who fasts 15 days in an act of civil disobedience?

(With inputs from bureaus in New Delhi, Jaipur, Lucknow, Kochi, Ranchi, Guwahati)

## 2 NARENDRA MODI THE NAME'S M

Narendra Modi's brief, devoid of any trace of modesty, for the BJP media team during a strategy session was simple enough: Their sales pitch, he said, should present him as a no-nonsense, business-like leader.

The Gujarat chief minister is not known to lack self-belief. But even keeping in mind his audacious record, Modi has set himself a tough task of powering BJP to a winning position in the 2014 Lok Sabha poll.

To ensure that the BJP crosses a 180-seat threshold and attracts regional allies, Modi and his party must beat geographical and political barriers and shake off an inertia that has gripped the party at the central level after it lost power in 2004.

He needs to convince skeptics that he is not complicit in the 1,044 deaths officially recorded in the 2002 riots and his emotive expression of "grief" and "agony" 11 years later is not a canny makeover.

The trial court's rejection of a plea to reopen investigations against him in a riot case spells huge relief for BJP's PM candidate. On the back of the party's thumping wins in MP, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh, it sets the stage for his final charge.

Since his candidature was announced on September 13, amid a furore led by L.K. Advani, the hype around Modi has certainly intensified, aided by his gamble of extensively campaigning for the assembly polls.

Suddenly, the man who was India's least wanted seems to have lost much of his pariah status as diplomats and industrialists line up at his doorstep and eager, responsive crowds throng his rallies in thousands.

Brushing aside the charge of being historically incorrect in his speeches, Modi has thrived on being politically incorrect, targeting Congress's first family with barbs.

Looking to fan public anger over corruption scandals, inflation and stultif government, Modi is the outsider eyeing a vulnerable "Delhi Sultanate". Ending second best in



## 3 VIRAT KOHLI COMING TO THE FOUR

In a year in which he smashed one ODI record after another, Virat Kohli made his most significant statement in a Test match. As India braced for the daunting task of going up against world No.1 South Africa in their backyard, Kohli was asked to bat at No.4 - a slot previously occupied by a man many consider the greatest cricketer of all time.

If that wasn't a big enough challenge, Kohli also had to contend with the most hostile pace attack now operating in cricket, on a pitch very different from the batsman-friendly Indian tracks on which he had just slaughtered an Australian attack rendered impotent by fielding restrictions in ODIs. Was he nervous? Far from it. He claims to have been "desperate to bat at No.4 following the retirement of Sachin Tendulkar."

Five riveting days later, Kohli had walked the talk - and how. He got his highest Test score so far - 119 - in the first innings, and followed it up with 96 in the next. He thus came within four runs of getting two tons in a Test at No.4, something no Indian has ever managed - not even Sachin. And he did it in his very first Test at a position in which many greats have never managed a century in their entire career.

Fittingly, Kohli was adjudged man of a match that is already being dubbed the greatest draw in the history of cricket. India, written off before the

game, had shown they have what it takes to compete abroad - and a big reason for that is the emergence of Virat Kohli as a batsman for all seasons and conditions.

In 2013, Kohli took giant strides towards fulfilling his massive potential. Away from the glare of flashbulbs, he systematically worked on ironing out his flaws. On the most public of stages - a cricket field, with millions watching and nowhere to hide - he visibly grew manhood, both as a cricketer and as a person. At times, we saw him tempering his instincts and curbing his impetuosity.

When he reached his century at Wanderers, it was noticeable that he didn't launch into his usual burst of profanities; a new, wiser Kohli seems to be emerging.

There is a bit of Javed Miandad's street-fighter in Kohli, a bit of Tendulkar's grit and a bit of MS Dhoni's penchant for the perfect finish. Tipped as a future captain, Kohli showed he is on the right track by enthusiastically embracing responsibility. This was, without a doubt, Virat Kohli's year. Expect many more to follow.

- Partha Bhaduri

	M	I	NO	RUNS	HS	AVG	100	50	SR
TESTS	7	10	1	559	119	62.11	2	3	85.18
ODIs	34	30	6	1,268	115*	52.83	4	7	97.53
T20Is	1	1	-	29	29	29.00	-	-	131.81
TOTAL	42	41	7	1,856	119	54.58	6	10	79.48

2013

Top-scorer for India in ODIs this year. Second-highest in the world. Only Pakistan's Misbah-ul-Haq (1,322) has scored more.

## 4 RAGHURAM RAJAN GUV TO LUV

Dark clouds had gathered over the once lofty Indian economy earlier this year. The rupee was falling, inflation was skyrocketing, and nervous foreign investors were pulling out money from the stock market. It was in these trying circumstances that Raghuram Rajan, the chief economic adviser in the finance ministry, took over as the 23rd Governor of the Reserve Bank of India.

But the IMF-trained economist hit the ground running, launching off a series of measures to steady the ship. Among the steps he has taken are a comprehensive set of guidelines to tackle the thorny issue of bad loans, freeing branch licensing for banks, setting up panels to rework the monetary policy framework, and priority sector loans for banks. He has also hinted at allowing foreign invest-

ors more freedom in hedging against currency risks.

The measured steps used in hope for the third-largest economy, helping lift the gloom and doom.

The ease with which Rajan, 50, settled into the job also demolished the criticism that he lacked administrative experience and was an outsider to the system at the central bank, used to civil servants as governors.

In nearly four months that he has been in office at Mumbai's Mint street, where the central bank is headquartered, Rajan has earned several social laurels from "The Guv", "Bond" to "Thalivar" (The boss). Some have swooned over his good looks while others have been awestruck by his 'beautiful mind.'

"He has done very well but he has to steer the monetary and bank ship at a time when waters though not stormy, remain choppy and winds could change. Nevertheless I think most people would sleep more soundly knowing Raghuram on the bridge," Manoj Singh Ahluwalia, deputy chair man Planning Commission, told TOI.

- Sanjay Gupta and Mayur Shetty



## 5 AAM AURAT THE RISING

This wasn't just the year of the aam aadmi, the aam aurat had plenty to say. A young law intern took on a powerful retired Supreme Court judge, refusing to back down in the face of skepticism. The clear-eyed arguments of a young Telhika reporter raved in a life allegedly by her boss were not shaken by innuendo and conspiracy theories. In Mumbai, a young photo-journalist decided not to keep quiet about her gangrape even though the trauma of reliving the incident caused her to faint in court.

"Till the terrible rape of December 28 last year, the ordinary Indian woman would put up with a lot before she protested. After that, she refused to back down in the face of pick your battles everyday and there were so many of them. But today she will not tolerate the silly sexist joke, the passing gape, and definitely not rape. The boys will be boys line has never sounded so feeble.

"Women don't think it is their kismet to deal with rubbish anymore and that applies to every kind of woman," says Kamla Bhasin of Jagori. She points out that men have simply not awakened to this heightened sense of self worth in women. This collective howl of outrage when Farooq Abdullah said that he is now afraid to employ a woman secretary or when indie rocker Palash Sen indulged in blather about women and beau-



December 30

Deccan Herald ND 12/30/2013 P-7

# Alumni to turn IIT-Delhi into world class institution

**NEW DELHI, DHNS:** The Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, has proposed to create an endowment pool with support from its alumni to fund research projects and faculty development programmes.

Addressing the first-ever alumni meet on the institute premises here on Sunday, IIT-Delhi Director RK Shevgaonkar also used the opportunity to urge the institute's ex-students to help in developing a modern curriculum to bring it in sync with the "dynamically changing professional landscape".

"We require repositioning of our institute in order to

make it a world-class research institute and for that the institute has taken several innovative measures and to take it forward the role of the alumni is critical," he said.

He informed the alumni that IIT-Delhi was setting up a centre for cyber security at its campus here and a science and technology park at its Sonapat campus.

"Everything is online and control is remote. It was felt that IIT-Delhi is the most suitable to have a capacity building for cyber security in the country. The center which shall start in the next session shall also undertake cutting-edge re-

search in this field," he said.

The institute's alumni expressed their concern over the declining global ranking of IITs and evinced their desire to contribute to the development of the institute and its faculty.

"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 society. The Alumni Day meet has opened up various avenues and directions for them to contribute and fulfill their cherished dreams," president of IIT Delhi Alumni Association Pravin Purang said.

Times of India 12/30/2013 P-6

# IIT-D alumni decide on Dec rendezvous

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** IIT Delhi is a 'world class institution' and its alumni want to ensure it stays that way even 50 years later. Conceived by the director, R K Shevgaonkar, IIT-D held its first 'Alumni Day' on Sunday. It'll be held on the last Sunday of every December to encourage greater participation of alumni in steering the institution ahead.

A new 'development office' will take care of these transactions and alumni will be requested for endowments, to hold visiting positions, help with curriculum development, mentor students and improve its rankings.

The first meet drew over a 1,000 alumni including Fortis Healthcare president Daljit Singh, principal secretary to Gujarat government Sanjay Nandan and Princeton University head of electrical engineering department Sharad Mallik. IIT-D, according to its dean of

## 1,000 AT FIRST MEET

alumni affairs, Ambuj Sagar, has over 35,000 alumni spread all over the world. Till now, there was no event that different batches of alumni could attend together. Alumni Day was organized with the assistance of its alumni association headed by Praveen Purang.

"It is time for IIT-Delhi to reposition itself as a research institution and not produce more graduates," observes Shevgaonkar. The first step toward that was to create the position of deputy director, strategy and planning, to do the "futuristic thinking" and chart the institute's course for the next half-century. Alumni are expected to participate. A provision for making endowments is also being made. "We are straitjacketed by rules and procedures of government," says Shevgaonkar. This fund will help with initiatives—sending a PhD fellow abroad, getting a researcher from outside and matching their salary—the government does not support.

Pol &amp; Buss Daily ND 12/30/2013 P-3

# IIT Delhi to set up centre for cyber security, science & technology park

PBD BUREAU

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 29

**INDIAN** Institute Technology (IIT)-Delhi has proposed to create a unique Endowment pool with support from its alumni to fund world-class faculty development and to finance its research students for international exposure.

IIT Delhi Director also called upon alumni in the industry to engage in developing a 21st Century modern curriculum which is in sync with the dynamically

changing professional landscape. The institute is also setting up a Centre for Cyber Security at Delhi and a Science & Technology Park at its Sonapat campus.

Delivering the keynote address at its first-ever Alumni Meet at institute premises on Sunday, IIT-D Director Prof RK Shevgaonkar said, "We require repositioning of our institute in order to make it world-class research institute and for that institute has taken several innovative measures and to take it forward role of the Alumni is

critical." Prof Shevgaonkar said the institute was committed to work on three critical areas including faculty, infrastructure development and funding to catapult IIT D into a new league.

The Director added, "Everything is online and control is remote. It was felt that IIT D is the most suitable to have a capacity building for cyber security in the country.

The center which shall start in the next session shall also undertake cutting-edge research in this field." The first-ever Alumni Day was

organized with the theme 'Envisioning the Future. Together.'

The unique event saw the gathering of large number of alumni, who have made it big in their lives including NIIT CEO and co-founder Vijay K Thadani, Fortis Healthcare president Daljit Singh, IAS and principal secretary to Gujarat Government Sanjay Nandan, Princeton University HoD of Electrical Engineering Department Sharad Mallik, Angel investor, Deepak Mirza among others.

## IIT-D for an endowment pool

**NEW DELHI:** Indian Institute Technology - Delhi on Sunday proposed creation of an endowment pool with support from its alumni to fund world-class faculty development and to finance its research students for international exposure.

Institute Director R.K. Shevgaonkar also asked the alumni in the industry to engage in developing a 21st century modern curriculum which is in sync with the changing professional landscape. The institute, he said, is also setting up a Centre for Cyber Security at Delhi and a Science and Technology Park at its Sonapat campus.

"Everything is online and control is remote. It was felt that IIT-D is the most suitable to have a capacity building for cyber security in the country.

"The centre which shall start in the next session shall also undertake cutting-edge research in this field, he said, addressing the first-ever alumni day. - PTI

## IIT-DELHI PROPOSES POOL TO FUND RESEARCH

**HT Correspondent**

htreporters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** The Indian Institute Technology-Delhi has proposed to create a unique Endowment pool with support from its alumni to fund faculty development and to finance its research students for international exposure.

The proposal was floated at the first-ever Alumni Meet of the institute on Sunday.

IIT-D Director, R.K. Shevgaonkar also called upon alumni in the industry to engage in developing a modern curriculum which is in sync with the changing professional landscape. "We require repositioning of our institute in order to make it world-class research institute and for that the institute has taken several innovative measures. The role of the alumni is very critical to take it forward," he said.

The event saw the gathering of large a number of alumni, some of who expressed concern about the dipping ranking of the institute.

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

**THE ENDOWMENT POOL WILL BE CREATED WITH SUPPORT FROM IIT-DELHI ALUMNI. IT WILL BE USED TO FUND FACULTY DEVELOPMENT AND FINANCE RESEARCH**



Statesman ND 12/30/2013 P-2

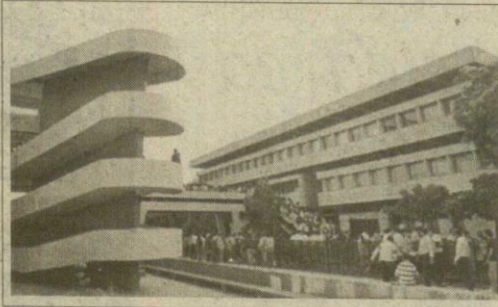
# Alumni urged to help IIT-D turn world class

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
New Delhi, 29 December

Indian Institute Technology-Delhi (IIT-D) has proposed to create a unique endowment pool with support from its alumni to fund world-class faculty development and to finance its research students for international exposure.

IIT Delhi Director also called upon alumni in the industry to engage in developing a 21st century modern curriculum which is in sync with the dynamically changing professional landscape. The institute is also setting up a Centre for Cyber Security at Delhi and a Science and Technology Park at its Sonapat campus.

Delivering the keynote address at its first-ever Alumni Meet at institute premises on



*'We require repositioning of our institute in order to make it world-class research institute and for that institute has taken several innovative measures and to take it forward role of the Alumni is critical.'*

Sunday, IIT-D Director Prof RK Shevgaonkar said, "We require repositioning of our institute in order to make it world-class research institute and for that institute has taken several innovative measures and to take it for-

ward role of the Alumni is critical." He added, the institute was committed to work on three critical areas including faculty, infrastructure development and funding to catapult IIT D into a new league.

The first-ever Alumni Day was organised with the theme 'Envisioning the Future Together'. The event saw the gathering of large number of alumni, who have made it big in their lives including NIT CEO and co-founder Mr Vijay

K Thadani, Fortis Healthcare president Mr Daljit Singh, IAS and principal secretary to Gujarat Government Mr Sanjay Nandan, Princeton University HoD of Electrical Engineering Department Mr Sharad Mallik, Angel investor, Mr Deepak Mirza among others.

According to Prof 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." Mr Mallik said, "For any institution to become world-class, it must strive to have a big impact on the society and IIT Delhi should gear up towards that."

"A large number of alumni having excelled in the Corporate, Business, Govern-

ment, and Education fields, have wanted to give back to the institute as well as to the society. The Alumni Day meet opened up various avenues and directions for them to contribute and fulfill their cherished dreams," said Mr Pravin Purang, President, IIT Delhi Alumni Association.

While welcoming the delegates, Mr Ashok Kumar, a senior Indian Police Service 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. Today, we committed ourselves to alter this. Many top brains that have changed the contours of the world in many ways have come with a blueprint for the future and lend themselves to this task."

## Amar Ujala ND 12/30/2013 P-7

### आईआईटी दिल्ली में मना एल्युमिनी डे

नई दिल्ली (ब्यूरो)। भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (आईआईटी) दिल्ली ने रविवार को अपना पहला एल्युमिनी डे धूमधाम से मनाया। कार्यक्रम में वर्ष 1966 से 2013 तक पासआउट सैकड़ों छात्र पहुंचे। दिल्ली आईआईटी एल्युमिनी मीट संघ के अध्यक्ष प्रवीण पुरंग ने कहा कि पुराने छात्रों के मिलन सम्मेलन ने नए छात्रों के लिए नए आयाम खोले हैं। कार्यक्रम में गायक अभिजीत सिंह, कॉमेडियन व पूर्व छात्र अमित टंडन के अलावा अदिति सिंह ने पफॉर्मेंस दी, जिसे दर्शकों ने बेहद सराहा।

Virat Vaibhav ND 12/30/2013 P-3

# IIT दिल्ली द्वारा 'प्रतिभा समूह' का प्रस्ताव

एजेंसी

नई दिल्ली। दिल्ली स्थित भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (आईआईटी) ने अपने पूर्व छात्रों की मदद से प्रतिभाओं का समूह तैयार करने का प्रस्ताव किया है ताकि विश्वस्तरीय शिक्षकों का विकास करने के लिए कोष और शोध के लिए छात्रों को अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर पर अवसर प्रदान करने के लिए वित्त पोषण किया जा सके। संस्थान के निदेशक आर के शेवगांवकर ने उद्योगों से जुड़े पूर्व छात्रों से बदलती पेशेवर स्थितियों के अनुरूप आधुनिक पाठ्यक्रम तैयार करने से जुड़ने को कहा। उन्होंने कहा कि संस्थान दिल्ली में साइबर सुरक्षा केंद्र और सोनीपत में एक विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी पार्क स्थापित कर रहा है। उन्होंने कहा कि सभी चीज ऑनलाइन है और रिमोट संचालित है। ऐसा महसूस किया गया कि आईआईटी दिल्ली देश में साइबर सुरक्षा क्षमता निर्माण के लिए सबसे उपयुक्त है। निदेशक ने कहा कि

केंद्र अगले सत्र तक स्थापित हो जाएगा जो इस क्षेत्र में शोध को बढ़ावा देने का काम करेगा। आईआईटी, दिल्ली के समारोह में एनआईआईटी के सीईओ और सह संस्थापक विजय के ठडानी, फोर्टिस हेल्थकेयर के अध्यक्ष दलजीत सिंह, गुजरात सरकार के मुख्य सचिव संजय नंदन, प्रिंस्टन विश्वविद्यालय के इलेक्ट्रिकल इंजीनियरिंग विभाग के प्रमुख शरद मलिक और एंजेल इन्वेस्टर के दीपक मिर्जा समेत विभिन्न क्षेत्रों से जुड़े पूर्व छात्रों ने हिस्सा लिया। शेवगांवकर ने कहा कि इस समारोह ने संस्थान के पूर्व छात्रों और वर्तमान छात्रों को भविष्य के लिए रह तय करने और योगदान देने का मौका देने में नया अध्याय जोड़ा है।

प्रिंस्टन विश्वविद्यालय के इलेक्ट्रिकल इंजीनियरिंग विभाग के प्रमुख शरद मलिक ने कहा कि किसी भी संस्थान को विश्वस्तरीय बनाने के लिए यह जरूरी होता है कि उसका समाज पर व्यापक प्रभाव पड़े। ■

Hindustan ND 12/30/2013 P-5

# पेशेवर बनाएंगे आईआईटी पाठ्यक्रम

नई दिल्ली | कार्यालय संवाददाता

आईआईटी दिल्ली के पूर्व छात्र बाजार की बदलती परिस्थितियों के मुताबिक आईआईटी के लिए पाठ्यक्रम तैयार करेंगे। इसका मकसद छात्रों व शिक्षकों को पेशेवर बनाना होगा। इतना ही नहीं, प्रतिभाओं का एक समूह भी तैयार किया जाएगा। इस समूह में शिक्षक और छात्रों को जोड़ा जाएगा। इसकी मदद से शोध को बढ़ावा दिया जाएगा।

आईआईटी दिल्ली के निदेशक आर.के. शेवगांवकर ने बताया कि जो छात्र दिल्ली के संस्थान से डिग्री हासिल कर उद्योग जगत में बेहतर कर रहे हैं, उनसे पाठ्यक्रम बनवाया जाएगा। इससे छात्र जान सकेंगे कि बाजार में काम करते समय किन-किन चुनौतियों से कैसे निपटा जा सकता है।

इस बाबत तमाम पूर्व छात्रों से जुड़ने के लिए कहा गया है। इसके अलावा उन्होंने प्रतिभा समूह के बारे में बताया कि

समारोह में जुटे पूर्व छात्र व उद्योग जगत के दिग्गज

आईआईटी दिल्ली में समारोह आयोजित किया गया। इसमें एनआईआईटी के सीईओ और सह संस्थापक विजय के ठडानी, फोर्टिस हेल्थकेयर के अध्यक्ष दलजीत सिंह, गुजरात सरकार के मुख्य सचिव संजय नंदन, प्रिंस्टन विश्वविद्यालय के इलेक्ट्रिकल इंजीनियरिंग विभाग के प्रमुख शरद मलिक और एंजेल इन्वेस्टर के दीपक मिर्जा समेत विभिन्न क्षेत्रों से जुड़े पूर्व छात्रों ने हिस्सा लिया। इस दौरान निदेशक शेवगांवकर ने कहा कि इस समारोह ने संस्थान के पूर्व छात्रों और वर्तमान छात्रों को भविष्य के लिए राह तय करने और योगदान देने का मौका देने में नया अध्याय जोड़ा है। वहीं प्रिंस्टन विश्वविद्यालय के इलेक्ट्रिकल इंजीनियरिंग विभाग के प्रमुख शरद मलिक ने कहा कि किसी भी संस्थान को विश्वस्तरीय बनाने के लिए यह जरूरी होता है कि उसका समाज पर व्यापक प्रभाव पड़े। आईआईटी दिल्ली को इस दिशा में पहल करनी चाहिए।

## साइबर सुरक्षा केंद्र बनेगा

आईआईटी दिल्ली कई योजनाओं पर काम कर रहा है। संस्थान दिल्ली में साइबर सुरक्षा केंद्र और हरियाणा के सोनीपत में विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी केंद्र पार्क स्थापित कर रहा है। बता दें कि इनमें सभी चीजें ऑनलाइन होंगी और रिमोट से संचालित होंगी। निदेशक के अनुसार, ये केंद्र अगले सत्र तक स्थापित हो जाएंगे।

समूह दो तरह से काम करेगा। पहला, पूर्व छात्रों की मदद से अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर के लिए छात्रों को तैयार किया जाएगा।

साथ ही इसके जरिए छात्रों को

वित्तीय सहयोग किया जाएगा। दूसरा, समूह से जुड़ने वाले शिक्षकों को विश्वस्तरीय बनाने के लिए कोष तैयार किया जाएगा।

Veer Arjun ND 12/30/2013 P-5

# शिक्षकों को जोड़ने की योजना के वित्तपोषण के लिए आईआईटी दिल्ली का 'प्रतिभा समूह' का प्रस्ताव

वीर अर्जुन संवाददाता

नई दिल्ली। दिल्ली स्थित भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान आईआईटी ने अपने पूर्व छात्रों की मदद से प्रतिभाओं का समूह तैयार करने का प्रस्ताव किया है ताकि विश्वस्तरीय शिक्षकों का विकास करने के लिए कोष और शोध के लिए छात्रों को अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर पर अवसर प्रदान करने के लिए वित्त पोषण किया जा सके। संस्थान के निदेशक आर के शेवगांवकर ने उद्योगों से जुड़े पूर्व छात्रों से बदलती पेशेवर स्थितियों के अनुरूप आधुनिक पाठ्यक्रम तैयार करने से जुड़ने को कहा। उन्होंने कहा कि संस्थान दिल्ली में साइबर सुरक्षा केंद्र और सोनीपत में एक विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी

पार्क स्थापित कर रहा है। उन्होंने कहा, "सभी चीज ऑनलाइन हैं और रिमोट संचालित हैं। ऐसा महसूस किया गया कि आईआईटी दिल्ली देश में साइबर सुरक्षा क्षमता निर्माण के लिए सबसे उपयुक्त है।" निदेशक ने कहा, "केंद्र अगले सत्र तक स्थापित हो जायेगा जो इस क्षेत्र में शोध को बढ़ावा देने का काम करेगा।" आईआईटी, दिल्ली के समारोह में एनआईआईटी के सीईओ और सह संस्थापक विजय के ठडानी, फोर्टिस हेल्थकेयर के अध्यक्ष दलजीत सिंह, गुजरात सरकार के मुख्य सचिव संजय नंदन, प्रिंस्टन विश्वविद्यालय के इलेक्ट्रिकल इंजीनियरिंग विभाग के प्रमुख शरद मलिक और एंजेल इवेस्टर के दीपक मिर्जा समेत विभिन्न

क्षेत्रों से जुड़े पूर्व छात्रों ने हिस्सा लिया। शेवगांवकर ने कहा, "इस समारोह ने संस्थान के पूर्व छात्रों और वर्तमान छात्रों को भविष्य के लिए राह तय करने और योगदान देने का मौका देने में नया अध्याय जोड़ा है।" प्रिंस्टन विश्वविद्यालय के इलेक्ट्रिकल इंजीनियरिंग विभाग के प्रमुख शरद मलिक ने कहा कि किसी भी संस्थान को विश्वस्तरीय बनाने के लिए यह जरूरी होता है कि उसका समाज पर व्यापक प्रभाव पड़े। आईआईटी दिल्ली को इस दिशा में पहल करनी चाहिए। आईआईटी के पूर्व छात्रों के संघ के अध्यक्ष प्रवीण पुरंग ने कहा, "पूर्व छात्रों के सम्मेलन ने विभिन्न आयाम खोले हैं ताकि सपने पूरे किये जा सकें।"

# दिल्ली आईआईटी तैयार करेगा 'प्रतिभा समूह'

नई दिल्ली (एजेंसियां)। दिल्ली स्थित भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (आईआईटी) ने अपने पूर्व छात्रों की मदद से प्रतिभाओं का समूह तैयार करने का प्रस्ताव किया है ताकि विश्वस्तरीय शिक्षकों का विकास करने के लिए कोष और शोध के लिए छात्रों को अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर पर अवसर प्रदान करने के लिए वित्त पोषण किया जा सके। संस्थान के निदेशक आर के शेवगांवकर ने उद्योगों से जुड़े पूर्व छात्रों से बदलती पेशेवर स्थितियों के अनुरूप आधुनिक पाठ्यक्रम तैयार करने से जुड़ने को कहा। उन्होंने कहा कि संस्थान दिल्ली में साइबर सुरक्षा केंद्र और सोनीपत में एक विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी पार्क स्थापित कर रहा है। उन्होंने कहा, 'सभी चीज ऑनलाइन है और रिमोट संचालित है। ऐसा महसूस किया गया कि आईआईटी दिल्ली देश में साइबर सुरक्षा क्षमता निर्माण के लिए सबसे उपयुक्त है।' निदेशक ने कहा, 'केंद्र अगले सत्र तक स्थापित हो जायेगा जो इस क्षेत्र में शोध को बढ़ावा देने का काम करेगा।' आईआईटी, दिल्ली के समारोह में एनआईआईटी के सीईओ और सह संस्थापक विजय के ठडानी, फोर्टिस हेल्थकेयर के अध्यक्ष दलजीत सिंह समेत विभिन्न क्षेत्रों से जुड़े पूर्व छात्रों ने हिस्सा लिया।

Pioneer ND 12/30/2013 P-1

## Politics no longer a taboo at IIT-Kgp, thanks to Kejri

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Admiration for Arvind Kejriwal is pouring in at his alma mater IIT Kharagpur. The Delhi Chief Minister has suddenly earned a new appellation who has taught the technical minds to go social.

Kejri, as he was commonly known by his mechanical engineering pals in the mid-80s, has at once 'beaten back' all those career-minded engineering students. At the campus politics is no more a pile of 'manure', fit to be evaded contemptuously.

In fact with Kejriwal's emergence, the "Kharagpur janta" (read engineering students) have suddenly metamorphosed from a clan of snooty elite into a veritable Aam Aadmi of sorts. "I am in two minds: Between a plum placement and a political career. True Arvindji has shown

that you have life beyond the machineries," says Ashis of Civil Engineering.

Another student Arnab has decided to call it quits to what he calls "run-of-the-mill" career. "I think engineering students' choice is not my choice," he says insisting, "Arvind da has infected me and many like me with a different virus. We want to do something like him for the teeming millions. Now I feel ashamed of even thinking of being so selfish as to mind my own business when the country burns."

The students got more emotional after a message devoted to the Kharagpur IIT posted on two Aam Aadmi Party pages read "never underestimate the power of common man. Congrats to all the Kgp janta."

Maybe all students do not



Kejriwalji is showing us the way to usher in a new India of which we will become a proud citizen

— An IITian

feel ideologically one with the Delhi Chief Minister. Maybe some of them still question the "lack of political philosophy" in Kejriwal's ism which tends to break the system but accept the ideology on which it stands since the Independence.

"What he preaches is only a patch work and does not address the root cause of the anomaly" says Prasun, a recent pass-out, adding "however,

Arvindji has shown all of us a point from where we have to start. He has at least started. It depends how and when the others take things over for a bigger ideological restructuring of the polity." Now well-placed with a plum ₹8-lakh-plus job, Prasun is planning to try civil services. Amit, another IITian, recalls how politics used to be a taboo at the campus even a few years ago when even those who came

from politically inclined families preferred to keep things within themselves "as everyone was so academic, so elitist and so career minded. If you talked politics you were contemptuously ignored as a lesser being: As though you were an ant."

Anand Reddy says how "Kejriwalji is showing us the way to usher in a new India of which we will become a proud citizen."

The IITian who burst crackers on Saturday with some friends, hopes, like Oxford or Harvard one day IIT Kharagpur will be counted among the elite institutions giving India its first Prime Minister.

On whether he was sounding too ambitious, the engineer-to-be asks: "Did anyone think of Arvindji becoming a Chief Minister even a few years ago? Hats off to him because he had

the gall to quit his job and take a plunge to change India."

Meanwhile, AAP victory in Delhi tended to pump up Kolkata where scores of aam aadmi on Sunday responded to AAP's membership drive.

Ranjana Singh, a local AAP leader, said the party saw several hundred people queuing up to enrol as members at the party's membership camp at Metro Channel at Esplanade.

"The people are coming in good number, asking questions," she said adding the party was taking ₹10 and a small bio-data to enrol them as members. "We hope the number to go up in coming days and particularly if Arvindji comes here," she said.

The party's Bengal unit is currently running an ad hoc committee and would soon form a State committee, insiders said.

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# Now, PCs that learn from mistakes

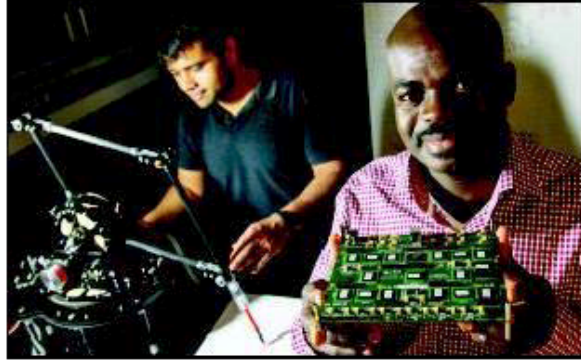
## New Tech Based On Our Nervous System Could Lead To Thinking Machines

John Markoff

Computers have entered the age when they are able to learn from their own mistakes, a development that is about to turn the digital world on its head.

The first commercial version of the new kind of computer chip is scheduled to be released in 2014. Not only can it automate tasks that now require painstaking programming — for example, moving a robot's arm smoothly and efficiently — but it can also sidestep and tolerate errors, potentially making the term “computer crash” obsolete.

The approach, already in use by some technology companies, is based on the biological nervous system, specifically on how neurons react to



**INSPIRED DESIGN:** Stanford University scientist Kwabena Boahen (R) holds a biologically inspired processor attached to a robotic arm

stimuli and connect with other neurons to interpret information. It allows computers to absorb new information while carrying out a task, and adjust what they do based on

the changing signals.

In coming years, the approach will make possible a generation of artificial intelligence systems that will perform functions that humans

do with ease: see, speak, listen, navigate and control. That can hold enormous consequences for tasks like facial and speech recognition, navigation and planning, which are in elementary stages and rely heavily on human programming. Designers say the computing style can clear the way for robots that can walk and drive in the physical world, though a thinking computer, a staple of science fiction, is still far off.

“We’re moving from engineering computing systems to something that has many of the characteristics of biological computing,” said Larry Smarr, who heads the California Institute for Telecommunications and Information Technology. Conventional computers are lim-

ited by what they have been programmed to do. Computer vision systems, for example, only “recognize” objects that can be identified by the statistics-oriented algorithms programmed into them. An algorithm is a set of step-by-step instructions to perform a calculation.

Last year, Google was able to get a machine-learning algorithm, known as a neural network, to perform an identification task without supervision. In June, the company said it had used those neural network techniques to develop a new search service to help customers find specific photos more accurately. These new approaches are being driven by the explosion of scientific knowledge about the brain. **NYT NEWS SERVICE**

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# A device that allows scientists to operate on living cells

**London:** Scientists have developed a device that can take a “biopsy” of a living cell, sampling minute volumes of its contents without killing it. The tool, called a nanobiopsy, uses a robotic glass nanopipette to pierce the cell membrane and extract a volume of around 50 femtolitres, around 1% of the cell's contents.

It will allow scientists to take samples repeatedly, to study the progression of disease at a molecular level in an individual cell. It can be

used to deliver material into cells, opening up ways to re-programme diseased cells.

“This is like doing surgery on individual cells,” said Dr Paolo Actis from the department of medicine at

## **SMALL WONDER**

Imperial College London, who developed the technology with colleagues at the University of California, Santa Cruz. “This technology will be extremely useful for research in many areas. You

could use it to dynamically study how cancer cells are different from healthy cells, or look at how brain cells are affected by Alzheimer's disease. The possibilities are immense,” Actis said.

To get inside the cell, the nanopipette is plunged downwards about one micrometre to pierce the cell membrane. Applying a voltage across the tip makes fluid flow into the pipette. When the pipette is removed from the cell, the membrane remains intact. **AGENCIES**

## College heads unhappy with UGC rules

Staff Reporter

*The draft regulations on approval of colleges offering technical courses has unreasonable conditions, the educationists said*

Heads of deemed and private universities, under the banner of the Education Promotion Society for India (EPSI), condemned the new regulations issued by the University Grants Commission (UGC) recently concerning engineering colleges. In May this year, after a Supreme Court order rendered AICTE (the regulatory body that governed all technical institutes) defunct, UGC was given charge of all technical institutions in the country.

The new regulatory body recently issued a draft regarding approval of colleges offering technical education and has sought feedback from vice-chancellors. The feedback is to be submitted by the end of this month.

“Universities and colleges were not consulted by UGC when it was framing the draft. No action was taken over the last seven months and suddenly, there is a lot of haste,” said G. Viswanathan, President, EPSI, at a meeting here on Friday. The new regulations included some unreasonable conditions, said members of the group. “For instance, they say they will close the institute or course if the library has fewer books than recommended or inadequate facilities,” said Dr. Viswanathan.

He said institutes with poor facilities will anyway not be able to face competition and fade away, and that the government should intervene to improvise quality education, not burden it with regulations. “There are many government institutes and even IITs with no facilities. Why are there no rules to regulate them,” he asked.

Educational institutions that have been running for more than 10 years should be granted autonomy, and not subjected to the mandatory yearly reviews. “For each committee that comes to review the courses, an institute spends over Rs. 5 lakh,” Dr. Viswanathan said. More accreditation bodies than regulatory bodies would do good as parents and students can choose the institute depending on professional reviews, he added.

A. Gnanam, former vice-chancellor, University of Madras, said educational institutions were suffering from over-regulation and under-funding. “Even to close a course, an institute has to pay at least Rs. 1 lakh,” he pointed out.

Keywords: [University Grants Commission](#), [UGC](#), [Education Promotion Society for India](#), [technical education](#), [educational institutions](#)

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## Innovation need of the hour to bridge rural-urban divide, says IIT Director

Staff Reporter



IIT Hyderabad Director Uday B. Desai at the 3rd Convocation Procession at K.L. University on Saturday. PHOTO: V. RAJU

The Hindu

*Uday B. Desai, director of IIT Hyderabad, participated as the chief guest in the third convocation of the K.L. University (KLU) in Vijayawada*

India is in need of innovations that will bridge the rural-urban divide and the country offers tremendous scope to harness the power of technology. For the talented, there can be no better place than India to innovate as it has many opportunities in the form of challenges to be tackled.

Power generation, storage and distribution, water harnessing, affordable desalination for overcoming the problem of drinking water shortage and vaccines for diseases are just a few areas having immense potential for innovations, said Uday B. Desai, Director of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Hyderabad.

### **3rd convocation of KLU**

Participating as the chief guest in the third convocation of the K.L. University (KLU) here on Saturday, Mr. Desai said a lot of work has been done on innovations required for bridging the gap between rural and urban areas but much more remained to be done for making the desired headway.

Emphasis should be on providing the same amenities available in urban India in the rural areas also for improving the standards of living.

As the former President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam had envisaged, the focus should be on innovations that would accomplish Provision of Urban Amenities in Rural Areas (PURA).

Mr. Desai went on to stress the need for students passing out of colleges and universities to become contributors to innovations rather than be mere consumers of the advances taking place rapidly.

### **Vehicle for change**

He asserted that technological entrepreneurship would be the vehicle for social change and innovators should play



their role as the agents of that change.

Later, Mr. Desai was conferred honorary doctorate by KLU Chancellor G.L. Datta in recognition of his achievements in different capacities in varied fields and original degrees presented to more than 1,000 B.Tech, M.Tech and MBA students by the dignitaries.

Varsity Vice-Chancellor R. Sreehari Rao presented the Convocation Report at the function.

Koneru Lakshmaiah Education Foundation president Koneru Satyanarayana, KLU Registrar N. Rangaiah and others were present on the occasion.

Keywords: [K.L. University Vijayawada](#), [KLU convocation](#), [Uday B. Desai](#), [director of IIT Hyderabad](#)

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## **BU is most googled**



Nationally, searches for Bollywood hits and the Indian Premier League topped the trending charts.

### ***Bangalore University topped the list of the most searched educational university.***

Any publicity is good publicity and Bangalore University (BU) has emerged as the top-searched place as well as educational institution in 2013 as Google India announced its annual 'Year-end Zeitgeist'.

While nationally, searches for Bollywood hits and the Indian Premier League topped the trending charts, Bangalore 'googled' Bangalore University the most, followed by Annamalai University, Sathyam Cinemas, Mysore University, Sikkim Manipal University, Ags Cinemas, Cinepolis Bangalore and Fun Cinemas. BU managed to pip the city's love for cinema to top the list.

Not surprisingly, BU also topped the list of top searched educational universities and was ahead of Calicut University, Anna University, Christ University, Manipal University, Kuvempu University and Kerala University.

### **Delighted**

Expressing 'delight' about being the top searched varsity, BU Vice-Chancellor B. Thimme Gowda said often, BU's "bad aspects are highlighted and good aspects are masked."

"We want to make our courses more on par with global standards. We are more strategically located compared to say the University of Mysore as we are situated in the capital. It's only the infrastructure needs improvement as our faculty is much better than in most universities. We are also planning to restructure our undergraduate courses. We hope that the student population becomes more multi-lingual and multi-cultural and even multinational," Prof. Gowda added.

However, Bangalore University failed to get a mention in the national trends as far as top searched universities went. Only Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU) – Belgaum made it to the list.

Here, the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) led the scoreboard, followed by Annamalai University, University of Rajasthan, Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University – Hyderabad, Gujarat Technical University, Delhi University, VTU, M D University – Rohtak, Mumbai University, Chaudhary Charan Singh University (formerly Meerut University), Calicut University, Banaras Hindu University and Pune University.

As for entrance exams, not a single exam conducted by or in the State was on the list.

The Staff Selection Commission exam was the most-searched, followed by the Institute of Banking Personnel Selection (IBPS) exam, Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering (GATE), University

Grants Commission National Eligibility Test (UGC-NET), Uttar Pradesh Teacher Eligibility Test and Indian Institute of Technology Joint Entrance Examination (IIT-JEE).

National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) and Common Management Admission Test (CMAT) were also among the list.

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## IIT-Bombay plans new hostels for growing student population

TNN | Dec 30, 2013, 03.31 AM IST

MUMBAI: To accommodate the expanding [student capacity](#), [IIT-Bombay](#) plans to build hostels and residential facilities for undergraduate, married and post-doctoral students. IIT-B will also soon set up a [National Centre for Mathematics](#) with [Tata Institute of Fundamental Research](#).

These announcements were made during the annual Alumni Day on Sunday, when the class of 1988 also celebrated its silver jubilee reunion this year, as a part of the function. "Today, IIT-B is the preferred destination for IIT-JEE toppers. The student strength at the institute has grown over the years; we now have about 3,700 undergraduate, 2,800 masters and 2,300 PhD students," said Devang Khakhar, director, IIT-B. "The work to establish a technology park at IIT-B will commence early next year."

As part of the legacy project, the alumni have pledged a sum of Rs 2 crore towards three existing initiatives. They include the retired faculty wellness fund, which includes medical coverage for faculty members who retired prior to 2003 and their spouses; financial aid for needy students, which gives unsecured loans for needy students at low interest rates for tuition and hostel and mess expenses, and to buy a laptop, travel for conferences etc; young faculty award or new faculty sign-on bonuses and faculty development fund, all instituted to attract and support new faculty members at IIT-B. The project gives a joining bonus of Rs 4 lakh over a period of three years to new faculty hired at IIT-B and financial aid in the subsequent years.

Kiran Shesh, a representative of the silver jubilee batch, said, "We felt that it is important to support the retired faculty members, who have played a great role in shaping many careers, as well as to attract talented young minds to take up teaching at IIT-B. Hence, we have decided to contribute towards the existing projects that are supporting the same goal. Also, given the fact that the cost of education and living has increased substantially, we would like to offer more financial aid to the deserving and needy students at IIT Bombay."

This year, the distinguished service awards were bestowed on six alumni-Dhananjay Saheba, Sameer Katdare, Ruyintan E Mehta, Ajay Bhagwat, Amol A. Gokhale and Paresh Vora-who have besides being achievers in their chosen domains have contributed to the progress of the institute. The award, instituted in the year 1999, consists of a certificate, memento and an Uttaria. This year, the award was conferred on Dhananjay Saheba, Sameer Katdare, Ruyintan E Mehta, Ajay Bhagwat, Amol A. Gokhale and Paresh Vora.

## Interview: Bharat Ratna winner CNR Rao talks about science in India and his immediate interest, artificial photosynthesis

Sunday, Dec 29, 2013, 8:01 IST | Agency: DNA



While India is doing well in scientific research “others are doing better and more”, says Dr Chintamani Nagesa Ramachandra Rao, better known as CNR Rao or simply Dr Science, who has just been honoured with the country’s highest civilian honour, the Bharat Ratna. The 79-year-old scientist, who is known for his work in solid state and structural chemistry and heads the Scientific Advisory Council to the prime minister, hopes that industry will also support science in the years to come. Vishal Manve caught up with the visionary who wants to see India technologically at par with the West.

Excerpts:

**You have been honoured with the Bharat Ratna. How does it feel to receive India’s highest civilian honour?**

I am most grateful that my country has considered me worthy of receiving the Bharat Ratna award. I am really overwhelmed with this honour.

**What is your advice to young scientists and enthusiasts who want to research and establish a career in science and technology?**

Those who are interested in science should not give up whatever comes in the way. Determination to succeed is essential if one has to pursue science in India. Perseverance and doggedness are essential qualities. I believe that there are great opportunities for young people in science and technology.

**You are known to have nurtured many students and taken scientific institutions to new heights. What is your biggest goal in life?**

A large number of students have obtained PhD degrees and post-doctoral training with me and it has been a pleasure to work with these young people. My only hope is that I can do even better in the next few years since

there is no limit to excellence. Furthermore, I would like India to be a global leader in science.

**What are India's biggest achievements in the field of chemical engineering? What does the future hold for research and scientific innovations in this field?**

Of the various science subjects, chemistry seems to have done well. My recent experience with nano science and technology has shown that whenever we do targeted funding and provide the right facilities to institutions and individuals, it will be possible to get good results. In nano science, we were doing very little ten years ago. Today, I believe that India is ranked third or fourth in the world. What is also interesting is that of all the industrial ventures, chemical and pharmaceutical industries have done well in India by supporting research and development. I feel basic science is getting its due now.

I heard about the award when I was at the Thiruvananthapuram airport in Kerala. I spoke to the prime minister (Manmohan Singh) and thanked him for the honour.

**You have worked on two dimensional oxides, nano-metals and graphene and were quoted as saying that these would keep you busy for next few years. What is your take on the way the Indian scientific scenario is progressing?**

Our scientists have to pick the right problems — which will have an impact on the science concerned and get noticed in the world. This is something that all of us have to learn so that India makes a greater impact. In graphene and many other contemporary areas of importance, there are very few people working in India. Graphene and carbon nano-tubes are considered to be top areas of world science today, but not so in India.

**There is lot of research and achievement... and India has always been well known in this field. Do you think if the government focuses more on science and research there are chances of India becoming a pioneer in this field?**

Some of the research done in India has been recognised, but we have to do much more. While we may be doing well, others are doing better. We have to be able to compete with our neighbouring countries, and this is not an easy thing to do.

**Tell us a bit about graphene and the artificial photosynthesis method that you are working on?**

As you know, graphene is a thin layered material which is only one atom thick. This material has created a big sensation. I am working nowadays not only on graphene but also on graphene mimics which involve graphene-like materials produced of other layered inorganic materials. Since I started working in this area in the last four-five years, there is a great boom. Artificial photosynthesis is another area of immediate interest to me because this is one way of producing hydrogen. If we can do in the laboratory what plants do so easily, it will be fantastic.

**You are in the prime minister's scientific advisory council. Do you think scientists need more resources for research to achieve an impetus and breakthrough?**

The Science Advisory Council to the prime minister has done many useful things and it can do many more. It is not only the government that has to support science. I hope that in the years to come, industry will also support science. Although there is a peculiar negative atmosphere everywhere, I must point out that in the last eight-nine years, a number of good things have happened in areas related to science. This includes increased funding, greater support to scientists, creation of new institutions and so on.

**What is your routine for the day? What kind of lifestyle do you believe in?**

My routine for the day is to get up early in the morning at 4.30am, do some exercise and then think about my work. Afterwards, I listen to some music and have coffee with my wife at around 6 in the morning. I then get ready to go to work.

**What does science mean to you? At what age did you realise you wanted to get into this field and how has been the experience been so far?**

I considered seriously about becoming a scientist when I was about 17 years, (when I just completed my bachelor's degree). This feeling got confirmed by the time I finished my master's degree in Varanasi. By that time, a famous book of Linus Pauling on the nature of the chemical bond had really ignited my interest in chemistry.

## NASA's laser Moon mission to boost space communication

PTI Dec 29, 2013, 12.31PM IST



(The possibility of expanding...)

WASHINGTON: [NASA](#) has completed its 30-day lunar laser mission which confirmed that the possibility of expanding broadband capabilities in space using laser communications is as bright as expected.

Hosted aboard the Lunar Atmosphere and Dust Environment Explorer (LADEE), for its ride to lunar orbit, the Lunar Laser Communication Demonstration (LLCD) mission was designed to confirm laser communication capabilities from a distance of almost a quarter-of-a-million miles, NASA said.

The Telegraph

## UGC and Ignou in PhD tussle

BASANT KUMAR MOHANTY

**New Delhi, Dec. 29:** A four-year tussle between the University Grants Commission (UGC) and the Indira Gandhi National Open University (Ignou) over research degrees in distance mode appears to have intensified.

The trigger is a UGC draft regulation brought out last week that allows research degrees through correspondence, but only with prior permission of the higher education regulator. Ignou, the premier university in distance education, has challenged the norm.

Ignou vice-chancellor M. Aslam said the varsity had powers to devise any course in distance mode and would never seek permission from the UGC to offer research programmes such as MPhils and PhDs.

He stressed that Ignou had been set up through an act of Parliament. "I have no reason to seek permission from the UGC to offer research degrees unless Parliament amends or repeals the Ignou Act," Aslam said.

Both have been at loggerheads on the issue since 2009 when the UGC set rules barring research courses through correspondence. The UGC argued that such courses were of poor quality.

But Ignou, which has been offering PhD programmes for over 10 years, objected to the rules, sources said.

This year, the Union HRD ministry amended rules and entrusted the responsibility of regulating distance education to the UGC, after which the regulator issued the draft rules last week.

But Aslam suggested the Ignou courses would continue. “We will continue our courses in distance mode without seeking permission.”

UGC chairperson Ved Prakash declined comment. But a senior UGC official said: “I do not know whether Ignou can defy the UGC, which is mandated to regulate higher education.” Nearly 8,000 students are enrolled in MPhil and PhD courses in distant mode in universities across the country.

## IIT-M students kick off 'computer literacy for all'

DC | N. Arun Kumar | 29th Dec 2013



**Chennai:** With the objective to give back to society, students from the Indian Institute of Technology, (IIT) Madras have started a social initiative, “computer literacy for all,” where students will salvage old computers given by residents of the institute and donate it to government schools.

The students’ initiative is part of Shastra, IIT-M’s annual tech festival which receives a footfall of over 20,000 people around the country. “This year’s Shastra computer literacy for all, aims to strengthen computer infrastructure of institutions that serve the needy by salvaging old computers donated by residents of the institute, also simultaneously effecting a reduction in the amount of e-waste generated by IIT-Madras,” Gayathri Meka, public relations and media team, Shastra 2014 said.

Pointing out that NSS volunteers at IIT-M would provide teaching support in association with an NGO, Ms Meka said that this year they would donate computers to Dr P.V. Rao High School at Raja Annamalaipuram in the city.



The four-day Shaastra begins on January 4, 2014, with the theme “Breaking Boundaries”. In addition to mainstream crowd pullers like airshow, robowars, symposium and hackfest, this year’s Shaastra will host the pan IIT research expo, a path-breaking platform to showcase research being done across all IITs.

Envisage, the student organised techno-entertainment show returns this Shaastra, bigger and better than last year.

In addition to the stringless instruments showcased last year, many audio-visual treats await the audience. A total of 17 eminent speakers from India and abroad are expected to deliver lectures during the four-day showcase event of IIT-Madras.

HT Mumbai

# IIT-B alumni pledge ₹2 cr for teachers, needy students

**HT Correspondent**

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**MUMBAI:** Celebrating its silver jubilee reunion, the batch of 1988 of The Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay, decided to fund three existing initiatives as a part of their Legacy Project and pledged Rs2 crore towards it.

A Legacy Project is a project adopted by the batch celebrating its Silver Jubilee, for the betterment of the institute and of the people associated with it. It is a way of giving back to the alma mater and to leave behind a lasting legacy and remembrance of their reunion.

The reunion was a part of the institutes' annual alumni day. The projects the alumni have decided to fund include a retired faculty wellness fund, which covers medical coverage for the faculty members who retired prior to 2003, as well as for their spouses.

There is financial aid programme for students, which provides unsecured loan program for needy students at low interest rates (to be repaid after graduation) and Young faculty award to attract and support new faculty members at IIT-B.

The project gives a joining bonus of Rs4 lakh over a period of three years to every new faculty hired at IIT Bombay and some financial aid in the subsequent years as well.

## GIVING BACK

- Projects which the alumni will fund include a retired faculty wellness fund, which covers medical coverage for the faculty members who retired prior to 2003, and their spouses
- An aid programme provides unsecured loan to financially weak students at low interest rates
- The young faculty award project gives a joining bonus of Rs4 lakh over a period of three years to every new faculty hired at IIT Bombay.

"We felt that it is important to support the retired faculty members, who have played a great role in shaping many careers, as well as to attract talented young minds to take up teaching at IIT Bombay. Hence, we have decided to contribute towards the existing projects that are supporting the same goal. Also, given the fact that the cost of education and living has increased substantially, we would like to offer more financial aid to the deserving and needy students at IIT Bombay," said Kiran Shesh, a representative of the Silver Jubilee Batch.