

# Newspaper Clips

## December 31, 2010

Times of India ND 31/12/2010 P-19

# 10 ways to get most out of technology

*A user's guide that tells you how to get your online world, and your phones and TVs in order*

Sam Grobart

**Y**our gadgets and computers, your software and sites — they are not working as well as they should. You need to make some tweaks. But the tech industry has given you the impression that making adjustments is difficult and time-consuming. It is not. And so below are 10 things to do to improve your technological life. They are easy and (mostly) free.

#### ▶ GET A SMARTPHONE

**Why:** Because having immediate access to your e-mail, photos, calendars and address books, not to mention vast swaths of the internet, makes life a little easier.

**How:** This does not have to be complicated. Upgrade your phone with your existing carrier; later, when you are an advanced beginner, you can start weighing the pluses and minuses of your carrier versus another.



#### ▶ STOP USING INTERNET EXPLORER

**Why:** Because, while the latest version has some real improvements, Internet Explorer is large, bloated with features and an example of old-style Microsoft excess.

**How:** Switch to either Mozilla Firefox or Google Chrome. Both are first-rate, speedy browsers, and both are free. It remains a tight race between the two, but Chrome has had the lead lately in features and performance. Both browsers include useful things like bookmark syncing. That means that your bookmarks folder will be the same on every computer using Chrome or Firefox, and will update if you change anything.

#### ▶ UPLOAD PHOTOS TO THE CLOUD

**Why:** Because you'll be really sorry if an errant cup of coffee makes its way onto your PC, wiping away years of photographic memories. Creating copies of your digital photos on an online service is a painless way to ensure they'll be around no matter what happens to your PC. It is also an easy way to share the photos with friends and family.

**How:** There are many good, free choices. To keep things simple, use Picasa, Google's service. After your initial upload — which may take a while, so set it up before you go to sleep — you will have a full backup of your photo library. And by inviting people to view it, privately, with passwords, you will not have to e-

mail photos anymore. Anytime you have new pictures, upload them to Picasa, send a message to your subscribers, and they can view your gallery at their leisure.

#### ▶ GET MUSIC OFF YOUR COMPUTER



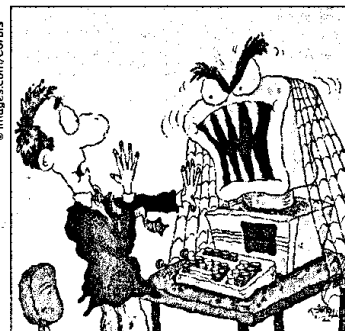
**Why:** Because music bought digitally wants to be freed, not imprisoned in your portable player or laptop. It wants to be sent around the home, filling rooms like good old-fashioned hi-fi.

**How:** Have an iPhone, iPod Touch or iPad? Download Apple's free Remote app and you will be able to control your music from anywhere in the house.

#### ▶ BACK UP YOUR DATA

**Why:** Because photos are not the only important things on your computer. With online backup services, you do not have to buy any equipment; you just install software, which sits on secure servers and runs in the background, regularly updating a mirror image of all your files while you spend time on more important things, like confirming that Ben Gazzara really was the bad guy in "Road House" (he was).

**How:** Go to sosbackup.com. Install the software. Sleep easy. Only hitch: It's not free.



#### ▶ GET FREE ANTIVIRUS SOFTWARE

**Why:** Because attacks on unwitting users are more widespread and tactics are growing more advanced.

**How:** Windows users can download Avast Free Antivirus (or Avira or AVG). Mac users can download iAntiVirus Free Edition. Both ap-

plications will provide a basic level of security against a variety of so-called malware. And they cost zero.

#### ▶ SET UP A FILE-SHARING SERVICE

**Why:** Because while e-mailing yourself files is a perfectly decent workaround, there are easier, more elegant ways to move files around — and they don't cost anything, either.

**How:** Go to dropbox.com and set up a free account. You will then get an icon that sits on your desktop. Drag and drop files onto that icon, and they are immediately copied to the cloud. The free account gives you up to two gigabytes of disk space. Set up your account on all your other computers, and they all have the access to the same files.

#### ▶ GET A BETTER DEAL FROM YOUR CABLE, PHONE AND NET PROVIDER

**Why:** Because it does not take much to get them to give you free (or cheaper) services. These companies are generally indifferent to customer needs.

**How:** Just call and ask — they will probably give you something. Other tactics: Measure your internet/broadband speed, using dsreports.com/speedtest; if it is less than what you are paying for, ask for an upgrade.



#### ▶ CALIBRATE YOUR HDTV

**Why:** Because that awesome 1080p plasma or LCD TV you bought has factory settings for color, brightness, contrast and that are likely to be out of whack. They need to be adjusted.

**How:** Buy a High Definition Benchmark: Blu-ray Edition test, a DVD. Its regimen of tests and patterns will help you adjust your TV's settings to more natural levels.

#### ▶ BUY A LOT OF CHARGING CABLES

**Why:** Because you should never have a gadget's battery die on you, and they are cheap. Smartphone user? Have a charging cable at the office, one in the car, and a couple at home. Laptops? Have enough chargers in the house, so you are not tethered to the den when the power runs low.

**How:** eBay Search for what you need with terms like "original" or "oem" (original equipment manufacturer). You will often see accessories on sale for as little as one-tenth their normal retail price. Buy them by the GROSS. NYT NEWS SERVICE

Times of India ND P-19  
31/12/2010

# Anaesthesia is closer to coma than sleep

**Chicago:** Instead of a deep sleep, general anaesthesia is more like a reversible drug-induced coma, US researchers said on Wednesday, in findings that could lead to better treatments for coma and better anaesthesia.

"General anaesthesia is pharmacological coma, not sleep," said Dr Nicholas Schiff of Weill Cornell Medical College in New York, who worked on the study with Dr Emery Brown of Massachusetts General Hospital and Dr Ralph Lydic of the University of Michigan.

Their findings, published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, represent a three-year exploration of the similarities and differences of sleep, anaesthesia and coma.

They said while doctors and patients commonly describe general anaesthesia as going to sleep, there are significant differences between the states, with only a bit of overlap between the deepest states of sleep and the very lightest phases of anaesthesia. While sleeping usually involves moving through a series of phases, in general anaesthesia, patients are typically taken to a specific phase or state and kept there during the surgery. This phase most closely resembles a coma.

"The brain is becoming very, very quiet. The activity of the neurons is being dampened dramatically," Schiff



© Jack Hollingsworth/Corbis

## GOING UNDER

said in a telephone interview. "That is also true in coma."

Schiff, an expert in coma recovery, said while no two brain injuries are alike, studying the way people come out of anaesthesia could be used as a model for predicting the stages of emerging from a coma.

"Although recovery from anaesthesia is much faster, there are hints that some of the circuit mechanisms have some overlap," he said.

That could lead to monitoring tools and diagnostics to assess what stage of recovery a person with a coma is in, and it could be used to develop new strategies to help doctors bring patients back to consciousness.

Knowing more about the brain circuit mechanisms may also help researchers develop drugs to tweak specific brain circuits, Schiff said.

And the study should lend new insight into understanding general anaesthesia, Brown, an expert in general anaesthesia, said. REUTERS

# IIT-JEE coaching pioneer to down shutters after 57 years

Hemali Chhopia | TNN

**Mumbai:** A city-based institution has decided to slip quietly into history. Agrawal Classes, that large blue neon-lit sign seen from the Dadar flyover, will turn its lights off as the coaching institute has decided to down its shutters after sharpening a million minds for 57 years.

G D Agrawal, who started tutoring children in maths at his Matunga home, is today in his eighth decade, with none of his heirs ready to carry on with his dream of teaching science. "We are no longer taking students. We have decided to shut down the class. It's the final decision that the owner has taken," the woman at the admissions counter said on Wednesday.

So, many of its alumni, including Nadir B Godrej (1969) of Godrej Industries, Reliance Industries Mukesh Ambani (1975), Mahendra Choksi (1960) and Ashwin Dani (1961) of Asian Paints and Phaneesh Murthy (1980) of IGate Global



Phaneesh Murthy, Mukesh Ambani are among Agrawal's alumni

Solutions, will, while passing through Dadar, be greeted by the blank facade of Harganga Mahal the building they once went to every morning to learn the fundamentals of science.

After the initial eight years, Agrawal moved out of his home to a place in Dadar TT, then the heart of Bombay, and soon expanded his menu of courses to include physics, chemistry and English.

In 1962, its first year of coaching students preparing to get into the IITs, V D Hat-tangadi bagged the all India

rank 1, the news making Agrawal Classes the top destination for engineering aspirants in the country. The tagline, 'Ideal for scholars' said it all — the class admitted only top rankers and promised to make them even better. "Go-getters would come to the city just to be coached at Agrawal. If you made it to Agrawal, you knew you had made it," said an old student.

While the number of students it admitted went up every year, the values that Agrawal started will never change.

# Rot deepens: Fake institute had backers among IIT-Kgp professors

Akshaya Mukul | TNN

**New Delhi:** As the HRD ministry continues to dither on the kind of inquiry needed to investigate the fake institute scam in IIT-Kharagpur, fresh evidence gives further proof of how faculty members were hand-in-glove with the fake Institution of Electrical Engineers (I).

Documents show that the current chief vigilance officer B K Mathur was a member of the board of governors of IEE (I) in 2001. Mathur was made CVO just a few months ago, after his predecessor Prof A K

**Documents show that the current chief vigilance officer B K Mathur was a member of the board of governors of IEE(I) in 2001**

Ghosh's involvement with IEE (I) was found.

Mathur is also head of the department of physics and meteorology. Documents show that board of governors of IEE (I) was headed by R N Tiwari of department of mathemat-

ics and consisted of V G Rao of department of electrical engineering as vice-president of IEE (I). S L Maskara of department of electronics and electrical communication was another member of the IEE (I)'s board of governors.

Tiwari, the brain behind the institute, was the director-general and secretary of the institute and two of his relatives Sadhana Tiwari and R K Tiwari were treasurer and assistant secretary of the institute, respectively. J K Tiwari is absconding ever since the news of fake institute broke out. R N

Tiwari and Maskara have retired and Rao took voluntary retirement from the institute.

The board of governors, headed by R N Tiwari, approved the byelaws of the fake institute on the basis of which Licentiate Diploma of one year and three years was conducted by IEE. Mathur denies any involvement with the fake institute. "I have nothing to do with the institute. I was not associated in any way," he told TOI from Kharagpur. He said he is not responsible if his name was used without seeking his permission.

Times of India ND 31/12/2010 P-12

# In coaching heartland Kota, the competition's for faculty

Anahita Mukherji | TNN

**Mumbai:** Over 20 years ago, V K Bansal, an engineer who suffered from muscular dystrophy, began the first IIT-JEE coaching institution in Kota, pioneering the coaching class boom in this sleepy town in Rajasthan. Virtually all coaching classes in Kota, including the popular Resonance, were started by former faculty at Bansal Classes.

And now, seven teachers from Resonance, including three heads of department (HoDs), have formed a brand new coaching class called Rise. A number of students enrolled in Resonance have shifted to Rise. There has been a great deal of bad blood with each institution accusing the other of treachery.

Two months ago, the three HoDs, who are now with Rise, informed the management at Resonance of their intention to start their own coaching institution after the current academic session got over in February as they didn't want



SPOILT FOR CHOICE

students to suffer from the split. Suddenly, at a meeting on Saturday, faculty at Resonance was informed that these three HoDs were no longer with the institution.

"We were all really shocked by the move. All seven of us (three HODs and four teachers) quit and formed Rise the very next day," said Amay Pandey, a former chemistry teacher at Resonance, who is now with Rise.

According to Pandey, the moment students got to know of this, there was an uproar

at Resonance, with 1,000 students making the switch from Resonance to Rise within a few hours.

"We closed admission to Rise on Monday night," said Pandey. Manoj Sharma, vice-president, operations and business development at Resonance, has a completely different version of the events that unfolded over the Christmas weekend. For starters, he disputes the figures. Only 100-150 students have left us for the new class. "We have seen a mere 2-3% drop in attendance," said Sharma.

As for sacking the faculty mid-session, Sharma said this was because they were openly recruiting both students and staff from Resonance for the new coaching class while on the rolls of Resonance. He vehemently denied. "They are at liberty to start their own class, but they should not do this at our expense. There was no need to discuss their plans with students and teachers," said Sharma.

Times of India ND  
31/12/2010 P-12

## **HRD sets up core group for tech institute in Singapore**

**New Delhi:** In a big step forward towards setting up of an international technical institute in Singapore, the HRD ministry has set up its core group that will prepare the detailed project report and interact with Indo-Singapore Project Agency, which has been entrusted with implementing the idea.

The core group will be headed by Sanjay Dhande, director, IIT-Kanpur. Others in the committee are S Shankar Shastry of College of Engineering, University of California, Berkeley; Satis Tripathi, provost, State University of New York, Buffalo; Renu Khator, chancellor, University of Houston. A senior official of the HRD ministry is also be part of team.

The institute will provide B-Tech programmes in streams like energy, environment, communication & computing. TNN

Times of India ND 31/12/2010 P-12

# Radiology MD seat costs ₹1.5cr, yet not available for next 3 yrs

Stanley G Pinto | TNN

**Mangalore:** An MD radiology seat under management and NRI quota in medical colleges costs Rs 1.25-1.5 crore. And despite this pulse-stopping figure, seats have been sold out for the next two to three years.

This is the where the gravy train starts, an explanation why consulting specialists and treatment in specialty hospitals cost the earth. No doubt modern equipment is expensive and adds to the cost of treatment, but the fee that an MBBS graduate pays is the main factor.

It's an open secret: the fee charged by some deemed university medical colleges, as well as those affiliated to RGUHS, range from Rs 60 lakh to Rs 1.5 crore. A few years ago, orthopedics was the hot favourite.

## CASH NO CRUNCH

Now it is radiology which commands Rs 1.25-Rs 1.5 crore. If graduates don't book their seats now, they should be prepared to add 10-20% premium the next year. Early booking ensures the rate is frozen.

So what could be the rea-

son that radiology costs so much? Believe it or not, it's insurance companies plus the fear of litigation, say doctors.

"No hospital wants to get mired in litigation, so the first things recommended are exhaustive investigations, ranging from common blood tests to MRI. This has generated demand for specialists," says a doctor. "The first thing a patient is asked on arrival in hospital is whether he/she has a mediclaim policy. If the patient has one, a battery of tests is ordered, whether required or not," the doctor noted.

Hindustan Times ND 31/12/2010 p-7

# Special committee proposes four dean posts at AIIMS

**Jaya Shroff Bhalla**

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**NEW DELHI:** A special committee formed under the Union health ministry has proposed the creation of four posts for deans at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS).

This, the committee says, will streamline the functioning of country's premier medical institute.

A high-powered committee — comprising of three directors of the Indian Institute of Technology (IITs), director Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad—under the chairmanship of the Union health secretary have recommended the existing single dean post be replaced by

four dean positions to displace power so far vested in the hands of a single person.

So far, AIIMS has a single dean post chaired by Dr Rani Kumar.

The special committee was formed to look into the recommendations of the Valiathan committee recommendations of 2006.

The Valiathan committee had made recommendations to turn the premier institution into a centre of excellence and a leader in public health.

If the proposal to create four dean posts is cleared, then AIIMS will have separate deans for exam, student welfare, administration and research.

"This is a good idea as there

is a lot of power vested in the hands of a single person at this time. Distributing power will only help improve the functioning of various department, each of which is important and needs a lot of attention," said a health ministry official, willing to be quoted as he is unauthorised to speak to the media.

While some faculty members are happy with the proposal some think this will not work.

"Even Dr P Venugopal, former AIIMS director had used discretionary powers to create three dean positions but they were diluted post his retirement. This will only give rise to more confusion," said a doctor at AIIMS.



Hindustan Times ND  
31/12/2010 p-1

## TECH INSTITUTES TO HAVE 5% FREE QUOTA FOR POOR

HT Correspondent

■ letters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** All technical education institutes will have to reserve 5% of seats for economically weak students, who must not be charged tuition fees. Those that ignore the directive will be de-recognised by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), HRD minister Kapil Sibal said on Thursday.

Sibal unveiled a bouquet of technical education reforms aimed at supporting the economically weak while also giving institutes leeway to expand as well as making it easier for corporate firms to start or fund technical education schools.

"The idea is to improve access to technical education, and to make it easier for companies to enter the sector," Sibal said.

Among the reforms announced is one that effectively bars some top private B-schools from conducting their own admission tests. Institutes offering post-graduate management diplomas will have to subscribe to scores in the Common Admission Test, Management Aptitude Test or tests conducted by state governments.

This means, for instance, that Jamshedpur-based XLRI — rated among the country's top non-IIM B-schools — will no longer be able to conduct its own entrance test, the XAT.

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 17**

## TECH INSTITUTES

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**

AICTE at present allows institutes whose courses it recognizes to add 10% extra seats above their permitted capacity to accommodate economically weak students who don't have to pay. "But hardly any institution implements the scheme," said AICTE chairman SS Mantha. The new rule makes the 5% quota mandatory.

Companies registered under section 25 of the Companies Act can now also run AICTE-approved courses.

The changed rules relax land requirements for engineering courses in metros from 3.5 acres to 2.5 acres. Institutes can raise student intake per course from 40 to 60. This could potentially lead to an increase of several lakhs of available seats in engineering or management.

India, however, doesn't suffer from any shortfall in absolute numbers in technical education seats. Indeed, many seats stay vacant.

MINT ND 31/12/2010 p3

## AICTE MEET

# Opening institutes made easier for firms

BY PRASHANT K. NANDA

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NEW DELHI

The government has made it easier for private companies to open and run higher education institutes. It has also reduced the land requirement for setting up new institutes in cities to increase the number of technical institutes, particularly in areas where they are still not present.

Higher education institutes have been typically opened by societies or trusts until now.

"We are allowing companies registered as non-profit entities under Section 25 of Company's Act, 1956, to establish technical institutions. It will allow good corporates to set up technical institutions," human resource development (HRD) minister Kapil Sibal said on Thursday.

Opening an institute as a Section 25 company allows an entity to bring in domestic and overseas investment and open branches in other states, said Narayanan Ramaswamy, executive director of the consulting firm KPMG. In comparison, educational trusts can only take donations, not investments, and they have to register themselves in every state they want to open branches.

Despite the change in rule, companies can still not get for-



New norms: Kapil Sibal.

eign funds to set up technical institutes in India as a Bill on the matter is pending in Parliament.

Sibal said private firms can join hands with Union or state governments to set up higher education institutes, operate them, recover their cost, and hand them over to the government.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the All-India Council of Technical Education, or AICTE, the technical education regulator.

"This PPP (public-private-partnership) and BOT (build-operate and transfer) model will be applied in 241 districts where there is no AICTE recognized institute," the minister added.

The land required to open engineering, management and architecture institutes in cities

has been reduced to 2.5 acres from 3.5 acres. Management and architecture institutes have also been allowed to add more storeys to their buildings to meet the requirement.

"It is tough to find land in cities, hence we have made the changes," the minister said.

An institute's administration can now also open two colleges on the same campus.

The decisions come just days after the HRD ministry allowed existing technical institutes to add an estimated 200,000 seats, as *Mint* reported on 21 December. There are more than 3 million students enrolled in technical education in India, mostly in engineering colleges.

"Around 220 million students are in schools but less than 15 million pursue higher education in India. The government's effort to increase the number of institutes and make it industry friendly will provide access to a large number of students who these days don't enjoy that benefit," said Ramaswamy. "However, faculty crunch is a major issue that needs to be addressed."

The AICTE meet also decided not to recognize one-year master of business administration (MBA) programmes. "No MBA course less than 24 months will be recognized," Sibal said.

The minister also said that technical institutes approved by AICTE have to reserve up to 5% of seats for poor students.

Changes in rules governing the entry of students from one institute to another and skill development were also announced.

Mail Today ND 31/12/2010 p-1

Minister's plan to relax norms for more engineering and MBA seats will bring down standards and stretch resources

# SIBAL DUMPS QUALITY TECH EDUCATION

By Kavita Chowdhury  
In New Delhi

**EDUCATION**  
minister Kapil Sibal may have brought good cheer for technical and management aspirants



by announcing an increase in the number of available seats in technical institutes by as much as 50 per cent, but his plans could result in compromising quality standards.

On Thursday, Sibal unveiled new norms revised by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) for setting up technical, management and architecture institutes across the country.

The new norms, allowing for an increase in the number of institutes and seats in various courses, will come into effect immediately. "Overall, we are trying to put in place incentives for the expansion of the education sector," Sibal said, adding, "We have moved to the era of self-disclosure from the institutes as far as infrastructure and facilities are concerned."

The reforms include sharply raising the number of seats in each class from 40 to 60.

Turn to Page 2

Continued from Page 1

which is expected to adversely impact the teacher-student ratio. Under the new norms announced by Sibal, all institutions completing more than one batch will be eligible to get two courses and programmes.

One course would mean the addition of 60 students. The earlier ceiling, which did not permit any increase after an intake of 340 students, has now been removed.

All these steps envisage an increase in the number of total available seats by 50 per cent and a sharp increase in the workload of the faculty members. The same teacher will now have to teach a larger group of students and check more assignments. This is certain to bring down the quality of teaching and oversight.

Devraj Khakkar, director of IIT Bombay, said the expansion of the technical education sector was a welcome step but asserted that quality of these courses would depend primarily on the kind of teachers the institutes appoint. "There is a need for easing tangles for professional institutions. More than buildings and the number of students, the quality of the courses offered depend on the kind of teachers appointed by such colleges," Khakkar said.

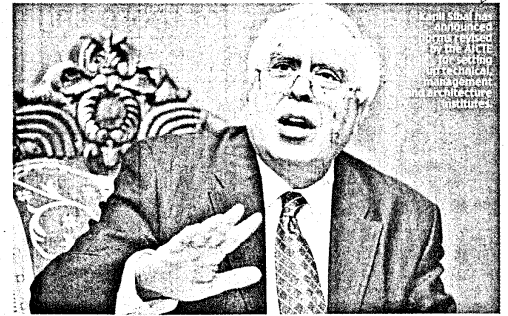
The reforms also include relaxing land requirement for setting up institutions from 3.5 acres to 2.5 acres in urban areas and introducing section 25 of the Companies Act to allow 'good corporates' to set up technical institutions. No joint ventures can apply for this.

Until recently, postgraduate programmes could be started only where an undergraduate programme existed. But now, the AICTE will permit stand-alone postgraduate institutions to be started.

The whole basis of the reforms is pinned on "e-governance" and "self-disclosure". However, the biggest anomaly is that if there are any violations by the institutes that offer courses on the basis of the new norms, there will be no way to check them. The procedure for monitoring and adjudication has not been put in place to deal with these situations.

The AICTE acknowledged that it could not be expected to scrutinise all the 10,300 courses offered at 9,000 technical and management institutes recognised by it.

"We are depending on the media to highlight any cases of wrongdoing on the part of the institutes. We are in an era of self-disclosure. It is not possible for us to go ahead and check on these institutes," said a senior AICTE official who did not want



## Quality comes second for Sibal

to be named.

Asserted an official of the ministry of human resource development. "In the event that any institute is found not to be complying with the details that it has declared on its website, it will have to be penalised."

However, the official could not explain how this would take place in the absence of the prerequisite laws.

The Educational Tribunals bill is still in the pipeline and the Educational Malpractices bill is also pending before Parliament.

The technical and management institutes recognised by AICTE offer a variety of courses like engineering, management, architecture, hospitality, pharmacy and town planning.

Sibal insisted that the institutes concerned will be required to have adequate infrastructure and teachers in place. But, the situation on the ground is certain to make this difficult. Premier technical and manage-

**“The incentives are for the expansion of the education sector because the demand is huge and supply is less”**  
— Kapil Sibal, HRD minister

IIT Madras with 138 vacancies and IIT Delhi with 78 vacancies. There are 69 faculty vacancies at IIT Kanpur, 65 at IIT Guwahati and 48 faculty vacancies at IIT Ropar.

Explained Gautam Barua, director of IIT Guwahati, "This could have an implication on quality as practical classes are an important part of engineering courses. Not only are more labs needed but more equipment and facilities such as computers need to be in place. The class size also matters because eye contact with students is important for the teacher."

In management courses, while practicals might not be included, the course is based on interactive sessions which include group discussions. So space and class strength make a difference.

"When you are increasing the number of students, the infrastructure has to be adequately balanced," said an IIT professor.

ment institutes, like the IITs and the IMs are finding it tough to fill in the vacancies in their faculty. Nearly a third of the faculty positions are vacant in the IITs. IIT Kharagpur leads the list with 299 vacancies followed by IIT Bombay with 223 vacancies, IIT Roorkee with 194 vacancies,

Pioneer, ND 31-Dec-10 p-1

# Sibal okays corporatisation of technical education

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Unveiling a revised set of approval norms for institutes regulated by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), HRD Minister Kapil Sibal has paved the way for "corporatisation" of technical education. He has also declared a massive increase in the number of seats in technical institutions for the 2011-12 session.

Sibal told newsmen on Thursday that doors had been opened for the corporate sector for setting up technical institutions under Section 25 of the Companies Act. Earlier, it was mandatory to form a trust or society, but the new norm would make the process flexible. However, no joint ventures would be allowed in this regard.

Pointing out that 241 institutes did not have AICTE approval, Sibal made a strong case for facilitating spread of technical education in under-represented areas. "In such insti-



tutes, public-private partnership and build-operate-transfer model will be allowed," he said.

A landmark announcement was the increase in number of seats in technical institutions from 40 to 60. This would optimise resources without having to set up new institutions.

Norms for land requirement for engineering colleges have also been liberalised, with the Minister saying lesser space would be needed for technical institutes. While an engineering college in rural India would need 10 acres, 2.5 acre would be

required in urban areas.

Up to 2010, programmes like engineering, architecture, pharmacy, management, hotel management and catering technology were each allowed to be integrated into a single campus. Now this facility has been extended to more than one programmes, ie, two or more engineering or management colleges and so on can be integrated if conditions are fulfilled.

Expecting to provide a fillip to skill development for vocational courses, additional evening courses in engineering, technology, architecture, town planning, among others, would be allowed in AICTE-approved institutions. These are expected to form clusters and collaborate with local industries in running these skill-based programmes. Five per cent supernumerary seats under tuition fee waiver scheme to EWS has been made mandatory.

This was expected to be ₹25,000 to ₹1 lakh.



Land & Ownership Norms Changed, Student Intake Per Course Increased, 5% Seats Reserved For Economically Weaker Sections

# Tech education made more accessible

Our Political Bureau  
NEW DELHI

THE government on Thursday announced a slew of measures for "liberalising" technical education to increase access to programmes like engineering, management and architecture. This includes changes in the land norms for colleges, increase in the permissible student intake, as well as ownership norms. At the same time, to ensure that children from economically weaker sections have a fair chance, the government has made it compulsory for all technical colleges to earmark 5% seats over and above their regular intake for such students.

Opening up the doors to the corporate sector, HRD minister Kapil Sibal said companies can now set up technical institutes, provided they set up entities registered as a non-profit entity under Section 25 of the Company's Act to run such institutes. The government hopes that the move would encourage investment in technical education. No joint ventures can opt for this route. At present, only trusts and societies can set up educational institutions. Section 25 companies are required to invest their profits in the enterprise for which they are set up. This would, the government hopes, result in increased private sector investment to improve access to

technical education.

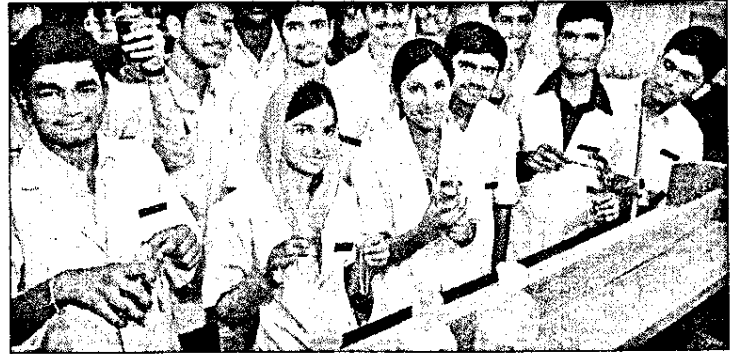
Similarly, in 241 districts which do not have any AICTE-approved institution, the government has proposed the public-private-partnership model and 'build, operate, transfer' (BOT) options to improve access. Under the BOT option, the private player can transfer the institution to the public sector after recovering its investment.

Also, the stringent land requirement norms for setting up technical colleges have been rationalised in keeping with ground realities. There will be only two classifications for land — rural and urban. Engineering colleges in the rural areas will require to have 10 acres while in urban areas the norm would be 2.5 acres. Management and architecture colleges will be allowed to undertake vertical expansion.

"This flexibility is being introduced to encourage setting up of institutes. Land is difficult to get and the cost is high. The price of 3-4 acres of land is phenomenal. To ensure that the cost of technical education is affordable, we need to rationalise land cost as well as ensure that other inputs are not compromised," Sibal said.

The student intake norms have also been raised. Technical institutes can now increase intake capacity per programme from 40 to 60 seats.

The government will now allow



AICTE-approved institutions to offer skill-development programmes in related areas. Several institutions can come together and offer skill-development programmes. "This will give a fillip to skill development and vocational education," Sibal said.

"These all are incentives for expansion of the education sector because the demand is huge and supply is less, and the problems of fees, etc. So, when the sector expands and meets demand, the pressure on the system will be much less. It will be easier for students," Sibal said.

Sibal said students from economically weaker sections would not be left out from this expansion. The tuition waiver scheme of the government, which was optional

for technical education institutions, has now been made mandatory. Under the scheme, participating colleges reserved 10% of seats over and above its intake for students from economically weaker sections. Now, the government has made it mandatory for all technical colleges to set aside 5% of its intake for poor students. The waiver of tuition fees is anywhere between ₹25,000 and ₹1 lakh.

With an eye on promoting higher education, Sibal said the new AICTE norms would allow institutes to offer stand-alone post-graduate programmes. The current norms mandate that PG courses can only be offered in institutions that have an undergraduate programme.

Tribune ND 31/12/2010 P-2

# Cabinet doubles eligibility ceiling for SC post-matric scholarships

## TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 30**

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs today revised the financial assistance norms for post-matric scholarships to Scheduled Caste students. Now, children of parents with an income of less than Rs 2 lakh will be eligible for such scholarships.

The increase in income ceiling from Rs 1 lakh is likely to increase the number of beneficiaries. The announcement is particularly vital for government employees post the Sixth Pay Commission as many had become ineligible for the benefit.

Politically, the announcement is seen as a sop in the backdrop of Rahul Gandhi's attempts to woo Dalits, who have preferred BSP supremo Mayawati and regional leaders like Nitish Kumar, Lalu Yadav and Ram Vilas Paswan. The move will cost the exchequer Rs 7,136 crore, almost Rs 3,054 crore more than the current allocated outlay of Rs 4,082 crore.

Making its sop "tamper proof" from states not wanting to implement it, the Centre has said that the additional liability on account of revision of aid will not be passed on to the states till March 2017.

The Cabinet also revised

maintenance and other allowances for SC students and increased the same for dayscholars and hostellers. The aid for Group I students will now be Rs 550 and Rs 1,200, respectively, up from the existing Rs 330 and Rs 740. Similar hikes have been effected for students categorised under three other groups.

Revision of maintenance and other allowances aims to provide enhanced financial assistance to SC students to meet costs of board, lodging and out of pocket expenses. Financial aid for study tour, thesis typing and book grant for correspondence courses has also been increased.

Hindu, ND 31-Dec-10 p-14

# Centre relaxes norms for setting up technical institutions

Aarti Dhar

**NEW DELHI:** The Centre on Thursday permitted companies registered as non-profit entities to establish technical institutions and reduced the land requirement for non-rural areas to 2.5 acres from the existing 3.5 acres, in addition to allowing vertical expansion barring engineering colleges.

In a move that could enhance the intake of students in technical colleges, including the engineering colleges substantially, the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has allowed an increase in the number of seats from 40-60 to provide for larger number of seats and optimisation of resources without having to set up new institutions in the area. Up to now, different programmes - one each - were allowed to be integrated into a single campus so that resources could be shared. Now, this facility has been extended to accommo-

date more than one college in same stream on a single campus.

All companies or corporate houses registered as non-profit entities under section 25 of the Company's Act, 1956 can set up technical institutions but no joint ventures would be allowed in such cases.

As of now, only registered trusts and societies could set up educational institutions.

Public-private partnership will be permitted for setting up technical institutions or institutions can be established under the build-operate-transfer (BOT) system. These schemes will be allowed in 241 districts where currently no AICTE-approved institution exists, Union Human Resource Development Minister Kapil Sibal told journalists here.

To make technical education more inclusive, the AICTE has made the tuition fee waiver scheme mandatory up to 5 per cent for all in-

stitutions as against 10 per cent earlier which was voluntary. Under the scheme, 10 per cent additional seats were meant for economically weaker sections where only tuition fee was waived.

However, the Floor Space Index (FSI) and the Floor Area Ratio (FAR) would be considered for vertical expansion. "The AICTE has been making a conscious effort to facilitate the stakeholders on establishing good technical institutions. In order that a planned and coordinated development is ensured in technical education, the AICTE will implement these relaxed norms from the coming academic year," Mr. Sibal added.

The new norms also allow institutions to start stand-alone post graduate courses and granting Indian degrees in campuses of Indian institutions abroad subject to local laws. Overseas campus can be set up subject to local laws and clearance by the In-

dian side, Mr. Sibal explained.

All post graduate diploma courses will have to be of two years duration except for the executives where the duration has been fixed at 15 months. Any course less than 24 months will be treated as a certificate course.

"Students of Class XII vocational or technical board of any State will be allowed lateral entry to Second Year diploma programme, while students of B.Sc will be admitted to Second Year to a Degree programme," the Minister said.

As part of social responsibility, the AICTE-approved institutions will also be permitted to conduct evening courses for skill development based on expertise areas possessed by the respective institutions. These institutions are expected to form clusters with other institutions in the neighbourhood and collaborate with the industries in the areas in running these skill-based programmes.

Financial Express ND 31-Dec-10 p-2

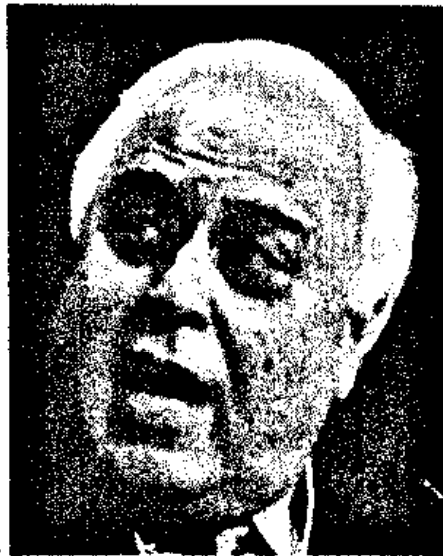
# Non-profit entities allowed to establish technical institutions

## fe Bureau

**New Delhi, Dec 30:** Companies registered as non-profit entities under section 25 of the Companies Act will now be able to establish technical institutions in the country but joint ventures will not be allowed. Besides, 241 districts of the country where no All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) approved institutes exist, it will be possible to set up such institutes in the public-private partnership and build operate transfer modes.

Further, the benefits of mega cities will be extended to other regions also for setting up technical institutes that is rural and other areas where the land requirement will be 10 acre and 2.5 acre, respectively.

These are some of the efforts made by the government to make technical education flexible and transparent and



**Kapil Sibal,**  
HRD minister

the ministry of human resource development (MHRD) has initiated a slew of measures to clean up the AICTE—the statutory body governing technical education in the country.

Significantly, the government has also increased the number of seats from 40 to 60 in these institutes and allowed more than one programme to

be integrated. This means that two or more engineering colleges or more management colleges can be integrated as technical or integrated campus to optimise resources. Currently, there are 8,000 AICTE-approved technical institutes in the country.

“We need to expand the education system and make it transparent. For this, we are making it mandatory for all institutes to accept the AICTE’s tuition fee waiver scheme to provide 5% supernumerary seats to be given to students of economically backward category,” HRD minister Kapil Sibal said.

To incentivise the institutes, MHRD has said all institutions completing more than one batch will be eligible to get two programmes. Moreover, Indian degrees can now be given in campuses of Indian institutions abroad and overseas campus can be set up subject to local laws.



# IITs facing severe faculty crunch

*December 28th, 2010*

The Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) are facing severe faculty crunch. There are almost 33 percent of faculty vacancies in 15 IITs across the country. There are only 3,148 faculty members as oppose to the sanctioned strength of 4,712.

The older IITs located in Kharagpur, Delhi, Bombay, Kanpur, Madras, Guwahati and Roorkee have 29 percent vacancies while the new IITs located in Bhubaneswar, Patna, Gandhinagar, Hyderabad, Ropar, Jodhpur, Mandi and Indore, the figure is as high as 58 per cent.

The teacher-student ratio at the institutes — where nearly 40,000 students are pursuing BTech and MTech courses — stands at 1:13 against the norm of 1:10. Such a discrepancy reflects that teachers are overloaded with work which has also affected the research.

“As there are not enough teachers, the existing group has to take extra load. They are devoting more time to teaching as a result of which research remains neglected,” a senior faculty member at IIT Delhi said.

Although seven old IITs brought out 27,123 research papers in the past three years but only 23 international patents have been granted to them for the technologies they have developed. Now, the premier technology institutions have started scouting for well experienced NRIs and foreign faculty to meet the demand back home.

“The IIT Council has allowed recruitment of foreign faculty up to 10 per cent of the total strength (each institute). Our teachers are in touch with their friends in foreign universities to see if any of them want to join us,” said IIT Madras director M.S. Ananth, whose institute is planning to put job ads in international journals.

Although, the main hurdle in getting foreign faculty to teach in IITs is ‘The Citizenship Act’ that allows only Indian citizens to take up a permanent job in public institutions of the country.

“The only problem is that at present, foreign citizens are not allowed to take any permanent job in any public institution in India. The Citizenship Act says that only Indian citizen can take up permanent jobs in public institutions. This act will have to be amended also,” said Gautam Baruah, Director, IIT Guwahati.

HRD ministry sources said they were consulting the home ministry to see if the amendments could be made.

Recently, some of the IITs have decided to send copies of job ads to Indian Embassies and High Commissions abroad. The Indian missions have been requested to facilitate the issue of visas to foreign teachers keen on IITs.

Source: The Telegraph

# Desh Bandhu

## ND 31.12.10 p-1

### इंजीनियरिंग की 2 लाख सीटें : सिब्बल

नई दिल्ली। छात्रों के लिए खुशखबरी। केंद्रीय मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री कपिल सिब्बल ने गुरुवार को देश में इंजीनियरिंग पाठ्यक्रम में दो लाख सीटें बढ़ाने की घोषणा की है। अखिल भारतीय तकनीकी शिक्षा परिषद (एआईसीटीई) के नियमों में संशोधन के हिस्से के तौर पर मंत्री ने प्रबंधन में भी 80,000 अतिरिक्त सीटों तथा वास्तुकला (आर्किटेक्चर) में 2,200 सीटों की घोषणा की। सिब्बल ने कहा कि इंजीनियरिंग कॉलेजों के लिए भूमि अधिग्रहण के नियमों को भी सरलीकृत किया गया है। उन्होंने कहा कि प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थानों की स्थापना के लिए कम जगह की जरूरत है।