

Newspaper Clips February 16, 2016

IIT Delhi on Boil Over Film Screening Based on Kashmir

<http://www.jagranjosh.com/articles/iit-delhi-on-boil-over-film-screening-based-on-kashmir-1455538008-1>

Centre of Social Science and Humanities at the IIT, Delhi for the last six months watch films on weekends at 5 pm and hold discussions with the director. But recently the screening proceedings got disrupted and viewers were asked to explain whether the screening was in any sense 'anti-national'. The film that got screened was named Khooj Diy Baarav (On a Trail of Vanished Blood) directed by Iffat Fatima, shot in Kashmir.

According to students who have seen the screening of the film, "There was a heated exchange between those who watched and those protested the screening." The film society in the institute was formed to encourage student's engagement in meaningful cinema. The centre head, Ravinder Kaur said, "We should have the freedom to discuss a whole range of opinions, and centre such as IITs, should retain the right to discuss sensitive issues that cinema often raises in its audience." She further said that she is hopeful that the centre will continue to show meaningful cinema to its students for their overall holistic philosophical and social development.

According to the department sources, the students who disrupted the screening session were not against those who were watching the film but against the director. Though, the behavior of the disruptive students was unacceptable by the institute standards. The film society is screening meaningful and contemporary films to its students for the last six months and conducts lengthy discussions with the director of the films often. Institute director Mr. Thyagarajan will discuss the matter with the centre on Wednesday.

IITs look to nurture start-ups, host companies' R&D centres

Institutes look beyond incubation centres to bigger facilities that will operate as registered not-for-profit firms

<http://www.livemint.com/Politics/CnutyXqAGBjbYLRYNWr8oI/IITs-look-to-nurture-startups-host-companies-RD-centres.html>

Tanuj Jhunjhunwala, 24, quit his job in a multinational car maker to return to his alma mater, the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Madras, to start an underwater robotics company. A year on he is gung-ho about his decision.

"IIT Madras gave me space, helped in business strategy and provided mentoring. The brand IIT, and its alumni network helped me in networking and getting possible clients," said Jhunjhunwala, co-founder of Planystech.com. "Now, I have a couple of clients for whom we are doing underwater robotic inspections—and the credit goes to my IIT."

Planystech is one of around 40 start-ups working out of the IIT Madras research park. In the next six months, their numbers are slated to go up to 200. Along with the start-ups, IIT Madras will also host some 75 research and development centres of established companies—three times their current number.

IITs across India are focusing on nurturing start-ups and housing the R&D centres of established firms in order to forge closer industry-academic collaborations and promote the government's Make in India manufacturing campaign.

“There are two key purpose of this—better industry-academia relations in teaching and learning, and help start-ups and innovation,” said Krishnan Balasubramanian, dean of industrial consultancy and sponsored research at IIT Madras.

Balasubramanian said the second phase of the research park is almost over and that he is hopeful of building a better innovation ecosystem at IIT Madras. “Companies can do joint research, give consultancy work, make use of the labs if required and mentor young companies wherever there is a possibility,” he said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke about IIT Madras during the Start-up India event last month and promised to help set up seven such facilities across the country.

According to IIT Madras, several IITs and National Institutes of Technology (NITs) are in touch with them to develop similar facilities in their campuses.

Like IIT Madras, IIT Delhi too is setting up facilities worth over Rs.450 crore and authorities at the IIT said that other than housing dozens of R&D centres, it aims to house nearly 100 start-ups. “The HRD (human resource development) ministry is giving us some money and we are raising some more funds from companies and through sponsored research works,” said Suneet Tuli, dean of R&D at IIT Delhi.

Both IIT alumni and outsiders with a good business proposal can operate and obtain these facilities. “It just needs to be a good executable idea. For companies, we like those having a definite plan,” said Tuli.

The institutes say these are not simple incubation centres that are already in operation but much bigger facilities that will operate as not-for-profit registered firms. “Educational institutions’ research often don’t translate to commercial products. The effort now is to change that—if companies can coexist with an IIT, you will see more tangible products. We are very strong in sectors like aviation, telecom, semiconductors, etc., and after we put in place a facility like IIT Madras, we can hope to see more prototypes and products outside the lab,” said Kameshwari Mangalampalli, chief operating officer of IIT Bombay’s research park.

“By the next financial year (April 2016 to March 2017), we are hoping to start a centre that can house several companies. At least four have already signed expression of interest agreements with us. It will help in research, consultancy as well jobs for our student,” Mangalampalli said, adding that a permanent research park will be ready by 2018, which will house over 30 R&D centres in a 250,000 sq. ft area that will be scaled up to 1 million sq. ft over a period of time. “The aim is not to develop a rental model but innovation model that has multiple benefits,” she added.

Likewise, IIT Kharagpur and IIT Kanpur have also started the process of setting up similar facilities, and IIT Madras says NIT Tiruchirappalli too is interested in setting up one.

So are IITs only eyeing private companies for such collaborations? Not exactly, said Siddhartha Panda, associate dean (industrial collaboration) at IIT Kanpur. “We have a tie-up with BHEL (Bharat Heavy Electronics Ltd), ONGC (Oil and Natural Gas Corp. Ltd), Indian Railways, etc., among others,” said Panda.

Firms are certainly not complaining. “The Applied Materials-IIT Bombay partnership combines Applied’s leadership in materials engineering with IIT Bombay’s research expertise to create one of the most comprehensive industry-academia collaborations in the world. It serves as a great benchmark of how a global innovation-focused company and a leading research university can work together to provide foundational skills for a developing industry. We are proud to be at the forefront of creating a strong ecosystem in India to support the growth of domestic semiconductor manufacturing,” Om Nalamasu, senior vice-president and chief technology officer of Applied Materials Inc., said in a post on the IIT Bombay website. It has come as an anchor client for IIT Bombay’s research park initiative.

Similarly Titan, which makes watches, jewellery and lifestyle products, has opened an innovation hub at IIT Madras that it says “will have the opportunity to tap into the research wealth of one of the leading technology institutions in the country. The IITM Research Park will enable Titan to leverage the specialized expertise of the faculty and students and to utilize their facilities, labs, etc.”.

Jhunjhunwala of Planystech said the co-habitation has a multiplier effect. “While start-ups get to see bigger firms, students do go there for internships, part-time jobs and a bigger exposure. You also get to see internal industry stalwarts giving lectures, sharing success stories and sharing their thoughts on new ones. It’s a win-win for start-ups, IITs and companies.”

IIT (K), ICMR join hands for joint research

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/science/iit-k-icmr-join-hands-for-joint-research/articleshow/50993684.cms>

NEW DELHI: Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kharagpur and Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) are collaborating for joint research, exchange of faculty and students as well as tapping into international scientists and entrepreneurs under 'Global Initiative of Academic Networks' (GIAN).

The two institutes are also planning to jointly set up a research centre at IIT Kharagpur for long-term research, according to PP Chakrabarti, director of IIT Kharagpur.

But for now, the two institutes are collaborating to facilitate student exchange programmes for a short duration, such as summer/winter terms or short courses, or for a longer duration not exceeding two semesters. The tuition fee will also be waived off for students who participate in the exchange programme.

"This collaboration will facilitate doctors to study in an engineering and technology institution and engineers to study at ICMR, thus providing a platform for interdisciplinary academics and leading further to integrated research aimed towards promoting meeting the healthcare needs of the country", said Chakrabarti.

Under the IMPRINT programme, IIT KGP (as nodal centre for Healthcare for all IITs, NIITs and IISc) and ICMR will work together to identify research and technology requirements in the healthcare space.

The two institutes will also jointly chalk out academic activities such as short course, seminars, workshops or conferences based on mutual interests and available expertise in both the institutions. The two institutes are also exploring joint research in technology for distance and computer-based learning.

ICMR institutions and medical institutions identified by ICMR will explore participation in the National Digital Library project coordinated by IIT KGP. Both institutes will also look at collaborations with other science and technology departments/medical institutes/IITs/universities.

Hindu ND 16.02.2016 P-05

DU gets new V-C

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI: Professor Yogesh Tyagi, the Dean of Law Faculty at South Asian University, was formally announced as the new Vice-Chancellor of Delhi University on Monday.

The newly appointed V-C said that he will try to ensure that best quality education is made available to everyone at the university. Mr. Tyagi said that he is seeking suggestions from a wide section of people, including those who know about things “better” than him.

“The aim is to deliver the best for the society and create a platform that is open to all,” Mr. Tyagi told reporters. When asked about the controversies that surfaced during the tenure of his predecessor Dinesh Singh, he said: “We should look forward and focus our energies on tomorrow.”

Mr. Tyagi said he had received the order appointing him as the new Delhi University V-C and that he would take over after the process to relieve him from his present place of work is complete. He has been appointed by the HRD ministry for a term of five years after his name was chosen from a panel of four persons by President Pranab Muk-

Professor Yogesh Tyagi is currently the dean of Law Faculty at South Asian University

herjee, who is the Visitor of all Central universities.

Mr. Tyagi holds a Ph.D. in legal studies from JNU and LL.M. in legal studies from Columbia University. Other frontrunners for the coveted post were DU Professor Bidyut Chakrabarty, JNU professor Rameshwar Nath Kaul Bamezai and former IIT professor and UPSC member Hemchand Gupta.

The search-cum-selection committee, comprising UGC chairman Ved Prakash, former CAG Vinod Rai and former chairman of the Union Public Service Commission DP Agrawal had shortlisted the four names in December. The appointment of the DU V-C was pending for three months since Dinesh Singh demitted office on October 28.

Among the tasks cut out for the incumbent are a number of important appointments like that of the principals of Hindu College, Shri Ram College of Commerce and Hansraj College have to be decided soon.

डीयू कुलपति बने प्रो. योगेश त्यागी



राज्य ब्यूरो, नई दिल्ली : डीयू के नए कुलपति को लेकर कयासों का दौर सोमवार को समाप्त हो गया। विश्वविद्यालय के विजिटर व राष्ट्रपति प्रणब मुखर्जी

एवं मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय ने प्रो. योगेश त्यागी के नाम पर मंजूरी की मुहर लगा दी है। प्रो. त्यागी डीयू के 19 वें कुलपति होंगे। वह 17 फरवरी को कार्यभार संभाल सकते हैं। कुलपति की दौड़ में प्रो. त्यागी के साथ आइआइटी दिल्ली के प्रोफेसर व संघ लोक सेवा आयोग के सदस्य प्रो. हेमचंद्र गुप्ता, डीयू के राजनीति विज्ञान के प्रो. विद्युत चक्रवर्ती व जेएनयू के प्रोफेसर रामेश्वरनाथ कौल बामजई भी थे। मेरठ जिले (उत्तर प्रदेश) के कासमपुर माछरा गांव में जन्मे प्रो. त्यागी वर्तमान में दक्षिण एशियाई विश्वविद्यालय में लीगल स्टडीज डीन हैं।

चुनौती को अवसर समझता हूं : >> 4

‘चुनौती को अवसर समझता हूं’

डीयू के 19वें कुलपति बने प्रो. योगेश त्यागी, कल संभाल सकते हैं कार्यभार

शैलेन्द्र सिंह, नई दिल्ली

प्रो. दिनेश सिंह का कार्यकाल (अक्टूबर, 2015) समाप्त होने के बाद से इंतजार कर रहे दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय (डीयू) को देर से ही सही आखिरकार प्रो. योगेश त्यागी के तौर पर कुलपति मिल गया है। डीयू के 19वें कुलपति के तौर पर नियुक्ति किए गए प्रो. त्यागी दक्षिण एशियाई विश्वविद्यालय, दिल्ली में डीन लीगल स्टडीज के तौर पर बीते पांच सालों से कार्यरत हैं। प्रो. त्यागी का कहना है कि वे हमेशा से ही चुनौती को चुनौती नहीं बल्कि अवसर समझते रहे हैं। यकीनन आने वाले पांच सालों में भी वे इस नियम का अनुसरण कर विश्वविद्यालय को सभी के सहयोग से नई ऊंचाइयों पर ले जाएंगे। हालांकि, खास बात ये है कि विश्वविद्यालय में नए कुलपति के पदभार ग्रहण करने के साथ ही उनके समक्ष सबसे बड़ी चुनौती जहां कॉलेजों में लंबित पड़ी नियुक्ति प्रक्रिया को तेजी प्रदान करना होगी, वहीं दूसरी ओर उन्हें च्वाइस बेस्ड क्रेडिट सिस्टम (सीबीसीएस) के अन्तर्गत आए नतीजों को लेकर जारी विद्यार्थियों के विरोध का सामना करना पड़ेगा।

उत्तर प्रदेश के कासमपुर गांव से संबंध रखने वाले प्रो. त्यागी की पढ़ाई-लिखाई दिल्ली व राजस्थान में हुई है। उन्होंने जवाहरलाल नेहरू विश्वविद्यालय से लीगल

◆ कल, बेहतर
माहौल में छात्र,
शिक्षक व
कर्मचारियों को
मिलेगा विकास
का अवसर



स्टडी में पीएचडी की डिग्री प्राप्त की है और एलएलएम की डिग्री कोलंबिया विश्वविद्यालय से प्राप्त की है। प्रो. त्यागी मुख्य रूप से इंटरनेशनल लॉ पढ़ाते हैं और साउथ एशियन यूनिवर्सिटी से पहले वे जेएनयू में ही अध्यापन कार्य में जुटे थे। दैनिक जागरण से बातचीत में प्रो. त्यागी ने बताया कि डीयू कुलपति के तौर पर उनकी पहली प्राथमिकता विश्वविद्यालय को नई ऊंचाइयों तक ले जाना है। उन्होंने कहा कि डीयू एक बड़ा केंद्रीय विश्वविद्यालय है, इसलिए उनकी जिम्मेदारी भी बड़ी है। उन्होंने कहा कि मेरी कोशिश होगी कि शिक्षा को सामूहिक सहयोग व आंदोलन से आगे बढ़ाया जाए। अगले पांच वर्ष तक इन्होंने दो दिशा में आगे बढ़ा जाएगा, लेकिन कहीं भी टकराव की स्थिति नहीं होगी बल्कि हर मोर्चे पर आपसी सहयोग को महत्व दिया जाएगा।

प्रो. त्यागी से जब विश्वविद्यालय में व्याप्त मौजूदा

समस्या सीबीसीएस के अन्तर्गत आए खराब नतीजों के विषय में पूछा गया तो उनका कहना था कि इस विषय में अभी मेरा कुछ भी कहना जल्दबाजी होगा। पहले डीयू के सिस्टम को समझना होगा। प्रो. त्यागी से जब पूर्व कुलपति प्रो. दिनेश सिंह के दो अहम प्रयास ज्ञानोदय एक्सप्रेस व अंतरध्वनि के विषय में पूछा गया तो उन्होंने बेहद सजह अंदाज में बोला कि पहले मुझे पदभार तो संभाल लेने दीजिए फिर इन सब बातों पर कुछ कहूंगा। प्रो. त्यागी ने कहा कि वे हर वह काम करेंगे, जिससे की विश्वविद्यालय का माहौल बेहतर हो।

विद्यार्थियों के फायदे के लिए होगी योजनाएं

उनसे जब पूछा गया कि आपकी पहली प्राथमिकता क्या होगी? क्या कोई ऐजेंडा निर्धारित है? तो उन्होंने कहा कि अभी कुछ सोचा नहीं है। अभी तो बस कार्यमुक्त हो डीयू का रुख करने की तैयारी कर रहा हूं। हां, इतना जरूर सोचा है कि ऐसा काम किया जाए कि डीयू के हर क्षेत्र में विकास हो और ऐसी योजनाएं अमल में लाई जाएं, जिससे विद्यार्थियों को सीधे तौर पर फायदा पहुंचे।

जेएनयू मामले में नहीं की टिप्पणी

जेएनयू में जारी विवाद को लेकर उन्होंने कहा कि वहां का मामला बेहद संवेदनशील है। इस विषय में मुझ से कुछ न पूछें। विषय गंभीर है और ऐसे में मेरा इस बारे में कुछ भी कहना अनुचित होगा।

Hindustan ND 16/02/2016 P-17

आईआईटी-एनआईटी की रैंकिंग मार्च में होगी

नई दिल्ली | विशेष संवाददाता

मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय ने भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थानों (आईआईटी) एवं राष्ट्रीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थानों (एनआईटी) की रैंकिंग करने का निर्णय लिया है।

इसके लिए इन संस्थानों से जुड़े आंकड़े एकत्र करने का कार्य चल रहा है। एनआईटी एवं आईआईटी काउंसिल ने

इसके लिए विशेषज्ञों की टीम गठित की है, जो अगले महीने रैंकिंग जारी करेगी।

सूत्रों के अनुसार नेशनल रैंकिंग फेमवर्क आंकड़े एकत्र करने का कार्य अंतिम चरण में है। मार्च अंत तक इसके नतीजे घोषित कर दिए जाएंगे। इसमें जहां देश के बेहरीन संस्थानों की रैंकिंग होगी। वहीं आईआईटी एवं एनआईटी की अलग से भी रैंकिंग होगी। देश में 23 आईआईटी एवं 31 एनआईटी है। 18 आईआईटी में

फैसला

- फिलहाल संस्थानों से जुड़े आंकड़े एकत्र करने का काम चल रहा
- एनआईटी और आईआईटी काउंसिल ने टीम गठित की

शिक्षण कार्य चल रहा है, जबकि पांच इसी साल से शुरू होंगे। वहीं सभी एनआईटी में शिक्षण कार्य चल रहा है। मंत्रालय के

अनुसार आईआईटी एवं एनआईटी की रैंकिंग से छात्रों के लिए बेहतर संस्थान का चयन करना संभव होगा।

दूसरे, जो आईआईटी या एनआईटी गुणवत्ता में पीछे रहेंगे। उन्हें लक्ष्य देकर अपनी गुणवत्ता में सुधार के लिए दबाव डाला जाएगा। देसी रैंकिंग से आईआईटी एवं एनआईटी को अंतरराष्ट्रीय रैंकिंग कार्यक्रम में भी हिस्सा लेने के लिए प्रेरित किया जाएगा।

Business Line ND 16/02/2016 P-21

'Models of management education will evolve'

DEEPA NAIR

Mumbai, February 15

Garth Saloner, Dean of Stanford Graduate Business School, is in India to evaluate expanding its presence in South-East Asia, including India, for its flagship programme SEED. Saloner says the current model of offering a two-year MBA programme will evolve and business schools will respond by offering various formats. In an exclusive interview, he discussed the changing dynamics of management education, his school's plans for India and the trends in entrepreneurship. Excerpts:

What is the agenda of your India visit? Do you have plans to bring any new programmes to India?

We have had tremendous success with the Ignite programme that we have been offering in Bengaluru and we intend to continue it. At Stanford GSB, we have a programme called SEED which is focussed on innovation in developing economies. This programme is already active in West Africa and we plan to do something within the following year

somewhere in South East Asia. So part of what I am doing here is talking to people and getting a sense whether we want to bring it to India. It's really because of the success of the Ignite programme where we are getting the best of young entrepreneurs and entrepreneurs and our general interest in India that we think are actively considering India as a possible location for SEED.

We are also interested in bringing our online executive education programme called LEAD to India. While it doesn't involve an increased footprint on ground I do think it is a way to be able to increase our reach and impact in India.

In your view, how has management education evolved over the years? While conventionally, the two-year MBA programme has been the most common model, we are seeing many other models and formats emerge essentially because people want education delivered in different ways.

We will continue to see business schools responding with different offerings in response to

these needs. On the content of the programme itself, there is a lot of interest in innovation and entrepreneurship. For us, a lot of that has to do with our presence in Silicon Valley.

How has the ecommerce and technology boom impacted the course and placement at Stanford GSB?

Currently 18 per cent of our graduate students start their own companies straight out of school.

We have seen tremendous interest in subjects such as entrepreneurship, innovation, ecommerce and technology as we are located in Silicon Valley where all of this activity has taken place.

We bring in guest speakers, lecturers from those companies in the Valley and out to keep our students abreast of these changes. So, we are in somewhat of a unique position to constantly update the curriculum.

Our elective curriculum, which students choose in the second year changes very rapidly where about 28 per cent of the classes we offer are new every year.

Have you seen an increase in

students and alumni from Stanford GSB return to India for work opportunities?

Yes, we definitely have seen an increase over the years. Ten to 15 years ago, a lot of Indian students were attracted to not just to Stanford but to Silicon Valley.

But now with the incredible growth in India and increasing transformation of the country towards a digital economy and the emphasis on startups and ecommerce, our Indian students see enormous opportunities back home and most of them are coming back.

There have been considerable discussions on increasing the representation of women in B-schools. What steps have you taken at Stanford?

The role of women has been a

strong focus of ours and particularly mine as the dean. We now have within our MBA programme 42 per cent women, which is a significant increase from seven years ago.

This is important because it changes the character of the classes that students are in and that has been a goal of ours where we have made a lot of progress.

At the same time, we have made a lot of effort in increasing the proportion of our faculty, who are women because we think it is important that students in class see role models in front of the class that they can easily identify with.

Currently, women constitute 40 per cent of our junior fac-

ulty which is a significant increase from few years ago.

How have the scholarships process and funding process evolved for Indian students at Stanford GSB?

We work very hard in increasing scholarship for all students and more than half of our students are able to get financial support.

The Ambani scholarship has been there for a number of years and is well-known among Indian students who want to come to Stanford and has played an important role in attracting a diverse set of Indian students.

While conventionally, the two-year MBA programme has been the most common model, we are seeing many other models and formats emerge essentially because people want education delivered in different ways

GARTH SALONER
Dean, Stanford Graduate Business School



Top campus heads, IITs to IIMs, reaction is: Caution, silence

AIIMS wants punishment, TISS lone voice saying sedition arrest will further divide campus

RITIKA CHOPRA
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 15

THE ARREST of JNU Students Union president Kanhaiya Kumar on charges of sedition has attracted both criticism and support. Even as the controversy snowballs into a political free-for-all, surprisingly, it hasn't evoked a response from top educational institutions of the country.

The *Indian Express* contacted heads of well-known universities and institutes, including IITs, IIMs and AIIMS, to gauge how other campuses are reading the JNU incident. Most were wary and did not want to step in. Of the 13 contacted, only TISS director criticised the arrest. Many, including the heads of IIM-Calcutta, IIT-Bombay, IIT-Madras and School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi, said they would rather not comment. AIIMS director called for strong punishment for students who allegedly raised anti-India slogans.

Here is what each had to say when asked for their reaction to Kumar's arrest and the charge that the police have overreached by slapping sedition charge:



M JAGADESH KUMAR,
Vice-Chancellor, JNU

"I cannot comment on what happens outside the purview of the university. I can only say that our internal probe committee will examine the video and audio footage and has time till February 25 to submit its findings."



PROF S PARASURAMAN
Director, TISS, Mumbai

"The nation's interest is of utmost importance and we cannot compromise on that. I'm not sure how this (JNU incident) happened and if the slogans were raised by students or outsiders who entered the university campus. This should be investigated.

If such slogans were indeed used by the students then it's important that they are identified, isolated and counseled rather than slapping sedition charges against them. Invoking the sedition law will not leave any hope for constructive dialogue. It will only divide the campus further.

Moreover, the government and political parties should help create a conducive environment on campus and not exacerbate the situation. Politicising this incident is not going to help."

DR M C MISRA
Director, AIIMS, Delhi

"India is a soft state and hasn't been dealing with illegal activities as firmly as it should. This is why people are encouraged to say whatever they want. If you see the video footage, it's repulsive. What are we doing? We have taken the freedom of speech too far.

Those shouting anti-India slogans are trying to make a hero out of Afzal Guru. This, in my opinion, is worse than sedition. Those elements should be identified and dealt with

firmly. I would have said this even if my daughter was in that group shouting slogans. Which country outside of India will allow this?"

PROF TALAT AHMED
V-C, Jamia Millia Islamia, Delhi

"Raising anti-country slogans is worrying and should be condemned. But I don't want to comment on the student's arrest as the police may have a case to take such action. *Kisi ne apni samajh se complaint file ki hai* (someone thought it was okay to lodge a police complaint), how can I say whether the arrest was wrong or right?"



PROF R VENKATA RAO,
V-C, National Law
School of India
University, Bangalore

"Raising anti-national slogans ought not to be tolerated. There is a difference between peaceful protest march and raising anti-national slogans. While a peaceful protest march may come within the internal matters of the university, raising anti-national slogans is definitely not an internal matter.

If it is just a peaceful protest march, it needs to be tolerated and sedition charges are uncalled for. However, if there is clear and palpable evidence that anti-national slogans have been raised, then law must take its own course. In a liberal democracy, knee-jerk reactions should be avoided as far as possible. It should be noted that sedition has become an arcane offence. It is an irony that it still finds a place in our statute books, though it was abolished in Britain in 2009 through the Coroners and Justice Act, 2009."

PROF SAIBAL CHATTOPADHYAY
Director, IIM-Calcutta

"I don't want to comment on this issue as it could create further confusion. There are many political parties involved at this moment. Hopefully there will be a solution soon."

CHAITAN VAIDYA
Director, School of Planning and
Architecture, New Delhi

"I have no comments on this."

DEVANG V KHAKHAR
Director, IIT Bombay

"I have no comments to make. I am not familiar with the case."

BHASKAR RAMAMURTHI,
Director, IIT Madras

"I have no idea. I don't want to comment. I can't form an opinion unless I have full details (of the case)."

The following did not respond to calls, SMSes and emails sent by *The Indian Express*.

Ashish Nanda, Director, IIM Ahmedabad; Sushil Vachani, Director, IIM Bangalore; Partha Pratim Chakrabarti, Director, IIT Kharagpur; Sudhish Pachauri, Acting Vice-Chancellor, Delhi University and Waman Kendra, Director, National School of Drama.

Hindu ND 16.02.2016 P-11

What is a university?

Vice chancellors hold charge of the university in trust. To give the police a free hand militates against the very spirit of the university as a space for critical engagement

KALPANA KANNABIRAN



We live in strange and difficult times. The elected national government, holding office under an oath of allegiance to the Indian Constitution, proclaims commitment repeatedly, and without exception to "Bharat Ma", the Hindu scriptures and divine intervention. It governs in the name of Hindutva and criminalises all dissent using the slogan of "national interest", by which it means the interest of the Hindu Rashtra.

Freedom of speech, freedom of association and freedom to organise are guaranteed as fundamental rights under the Constitution. The right of dissent and agitation are ingrained in the fundamental rights. The Constitution sets out a plural framework and refuses any scope to define the country in religious terms. The national interest in this scheme is constitutional rule. To recall B.R. Ambedkar, it is only constitutional morality that must guide the government, not any whimsical invocation of narrow-minded, parochial figureheads and mythical characters.

It is time to remind the holders of public office that once they have formed government, whatever their personal politics might be, they are constrained to rule in strict accordance with the constitutional framework. Mere assumption of political power does not confer the power to propagate narrow party and supra party ideologies in derogation of constitutional principles. It is a matter of deep regret that today we have actually fallen to the level where even this simple fact needs to be stated.

Tolerance of intolerance

It is our right as citizens of this free country to question the government, to question arbitrary and capricious rule, and to organise against injustice and demand the supremacy of the Constitution above all else. For us to allow the untrammelled use of the charge of sedition to quell dissent and freedom of expression amounts, to reiterate Amartya Sen's words, to being too tolerant of intolerance. Indeed, I would even say that it amounts to us abdicating our collective responsibility to uphold the Indian Constitution. It is time to recall Mahatma Gandhi's historic defence of seditious speech: "...I have no desire whatsoever to conceal from this court the fact that to preach disaffection towards the existing system of government has become almost a passion with me... I hold it to be a virtue to be disaffected towards a Government which, in its totality, has done more harm to India than any previous system" (Mahatma Gandhi before Judge Broomfield, March 10, 1921).



"It is our right as citizens to question the government, to question arbitrary rule, and to organise against injustice." Picture shows JNU students demanding the release of JNU president Kanhaiya Kumar in New Delhi. — PHOTO: R. V. MOORTHY

We have come full circle.

The orchestrated trigger for the Bharatiya Janata Party parliamentarians and the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad in both the University of Hyderabad and in Jawaharlal Nehru University was student protest and debate against the death penalties awarded to Yakub Memon and Afzal Guru. These are issues that have already been subjected to public debate and they consist of two parts: first, whether the death penalty constitutes judicial murder; second, whether Memon and Guru were given a fair trial. The debate has involved a close study of jurisprudence, international human rights standards and the fair conduct of the trials. A sizeable section of intellectuals and human rights defenders from across the country expressed the view that the death penalty without exception violates the constitutional guarantee of the right to life. Others held the firm belief that both Guru and Memon were executed without a fair trial. This is a debate that must be carried out, not only in this case but in every case where the death penalty is ordered. There was even a debate on this very question following the December 16, 2012, gang rape in Delhi and before the Justice J.S. Verma Committee. While the victim's parents demanded the death penalty in the rape case, in the case of the assassination of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, Congress President Sonia Gandhi herself wrote to President K.R. Narayanan requesting clemency for those convicted for killing her husband. These are difficult, heart-wrenching, but neces-

No repressive clampdown can suppress the flow of ideas, questions and fundamental interrogations of the meaning of justice

sary debates and no repressive clampdown can suppress the flow of ideas, questions and fundamental interrogations of the meaning of justice.

Asking questions

An important part of education, particularly higher education, is to learn to ask questions and to develop the capacity for disobedience and reasoned arguments. What is the promise of the university? Let us forget: "Where the mind is without fear/ and the head is held high/ Where knowledge is free/ Where the world has not been broken up into fragments by narrow domestic walls/ Where words come out from the depth of truth/ Where tireless striving stretches its arms towards perfection/ Where the clear stream of reason has not lost its way/ Into the dreary desert sand of dead habit/ Where the mind is led forward by thee/ Into ever-widening thought and action/ Into that heaven of freedom, my Father, Let my country awake."

Vice chancellors (VC) hold charge of the university in trust — not of political powers but of the university community in which students are the core. To call in the police or act on their advice and abdicate

responsibility, or to give the police a free hand militates against the very spirit of the university as a space for critical engagement and free-flowing debate. The reduction of the position of VC to being a watchdog of the government is a danger of unimaginable magnitude and destructive of the fabric of higher education — the structure will determine form, content, possibilities and importantly, futures.

Finally, back to the question of national interest. The Akhil Bharatiya Hindu Mahasabha observed Republic Day as a "black day" in Meerut and has been consistently organising protests against the Constitution of India. The leaders of this group have also declared their intention to install a statue of Nathuram Godse. This was a public show of strength in the service of a Hindu Rashtra widely reported in national newspapers — but clearly none of our ministerial compatriots saw this either as an assault on national interest or as an incitement to violence. Yet, when Rohith Vemula organised a protest against the execution of Memon and JNU students' union president Kanhaiya Kumar spoke out in defence of the Constitution of India, our parliamentarians and ministers rose to defend "the nation".

Which nation is this? Whose country? To end with Faiz Ahmad Faiz: "Hum dekhenge, laazim hai ki hum bhi dekhenge..." (Kalpana Kannabiran is Professor and Director, Council for Social Development, Hyderabad. She is an alumna of the University of Hyderabad and of JNU.)

When not loving is seditious: Clampdown on JNU reveals hallmarks of a mai-baap government

Indrajit.Hazra@timesgroup.com



Why is the Indian state so petrified of people who may have a different point of view on issues pertaining to it? Do people holding diametrically opposite opinions scare the state into a stateless state? Does it think that criticising, say, the Afzal Guru verdict is like indulging in a 'gateway drug' that will lead to things far worse and destructive for the state?

The way the government has reacted to JNU students marking the perceived dubiousness with which Guru's trial was conducted is nothing short of sociopathic. And, as is the case with all pathologies, the reason for the state's paranoia has its origin in its childhood.

Like Shakespeare whose works so many educated Indians love quoting, 'sedition' is an Elizabethan English invention. The law was an 'off with his head!' item (literally so for Mary 'Queen of Scots' Stuart) to strike down any whiff of rebellion against queen and country. British India got its taste of anti-sedition measures

after the Mutiny, when it was imported into the Indian Penal Code in 1870 to outlaw speech that tried to "excite disaffection towards the government established by law in India".

Jogendra Chandra Bose became the first Indian to be charged with sedition in 1891. Not quite the Guy Fawkes, this editor of 'Bongobasi' was arrested for criticising the Age of Consent Bill, stating that it would be destroy India's religious values.

As is the case with all pathologies, the reason for the state's paranoia has its origin in its childhood

Things on the seditious front picked up with the freedom movement. But the tool would become a real item in the utility kit only after the colonised got to play colonisers with themselves.

JNU Students' Union president Kanhaiya Kumar was arrested on Friday for sedition because he was seen raising 'anti-national' slogans. Which, going by the rulebook of Sec-



tion 124-A of the Indian Penal Code defining the seditious as "whoever, by words, either spoken or written, or by signs, or by visible representation, or otherwise, brings or attempts to bring into hatred or contempt, or excites or attempts to excite disaffection towards the Government established by law in India ..." can mean anything one chooses to make it mean.

So it is 'disaffection' that is the key word here. "Affection cannot be manufactured or regulated by the law. If one has no affection for a person, one should be free to give the fullest expression to his disaffection, so long as he does not contemp-

late, promote or incite to violence," said the seditionist Mohandas Gandhi.

Many will find the action of JNU students to be a minor matter, a case of disaffected youngsters having their 15 minutes of infamy, buttressing their affection for Che by rallying around Guru. The government is certainly doing its bit to make these students look like Mangal Pandeys.

If home minister Rajnath Singh says, as he did on Friday, that the government "will not tolerate any anti-national activities in the country" – following it up by bragging that he had instructed the Delhi Police "to take

strongest possible action against those involved in the incident" – we are indeed dealing with a very sensitive government that conflates dissent with destruction, criticism with crime.

Pond politics, of course, is where such things always start. The FIRs against the students were filed following complaints by BJP MP Maheish Girri and ABVP. But spotting 'anti-nationals', whether those critical of the judicial treatment meted out to a 'bona fide' anti-national, or those sitting through the national anthem, or those drawing cartoons that mock Parliament, is a blood sport not just for the state but also for its obedient-to-a-fault children. It certainly is easier than getting Hafiz Saeeds.

Being seditious has become the slap-tag to describe an ungrateful child of the state, that mutant horror in a country where filial loyalty is blindly pledged and gotten. And where Cordelias, unwilling to 'heave one's heart into one's mouth', are made examples of. Not because they threaten the state with turmoil and impotence. But because their dissent is an act of disaffection, a withholding of love that the mai-baap state finds unbearable.

Jamia students oppose stir by counterparts in JNU

Shradha Chettri

shradha.chettri@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Some students of Jamia Millia Islamia staged a protest on Monday against their counterparts in Jawaharlal Nehru University who allegedly shouted anti-national slogans at an event marking the anniversary of the hanging of 2003 Parliament attack convict Afzal Guru.

Some students and members of the Jamia Students Forum (JSF) demonstrated in front of the central university's main gate after being denied permission to hold their protest on the campus.

"When the Rohith Vemula suicide case happened, the vice-chancellor allowed the students to protest. They burnt effigies of HRD minister Smriti Irani and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. But we were denied permission when we wanted to protest against anti-national activities," said Praveen Kumar, a student of social work at Jamia.

The JSF alleged that there were some students from Jamia at Afzal Guru functions, held after the JNU event. "We have submitted details to Parliament

they say

When the Rohith... suicide happened, the V-C allowed the students to protest... But we were denied permission when we wanted to protest... anti-national activities

PRAVEEN KUMAR, Jamia student

Two international seminars are on in the university (Jamia Millia Islamia). The request to hold a protest didn't come from the students

MUKESH RANJAN, media coordinator at Jamia Millia Islamia

Street police station. We want the Jamia administration to act against these students," Kumar said. The university reasoned that the protest would have disrupted classes. "Besides, two international seminars are on in the university. The request to hold a protest didn't come from the students," said Mukesh Ranjan, the Jamia media-coordinator.

The Jamia protest came amid a swirling political controversy fuelled by the JNU event and the subsequent arrest of the university's student union leader, Kanhaiya Kumar, under sedition charges following a police complaint from the Akhil

Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP), the student wing of the RSS.

The Congress and Left parties have been trading fire with the BJP-led government, accusing it of stifling free speech. The government has countered that anti-national activities won't be tolerated.

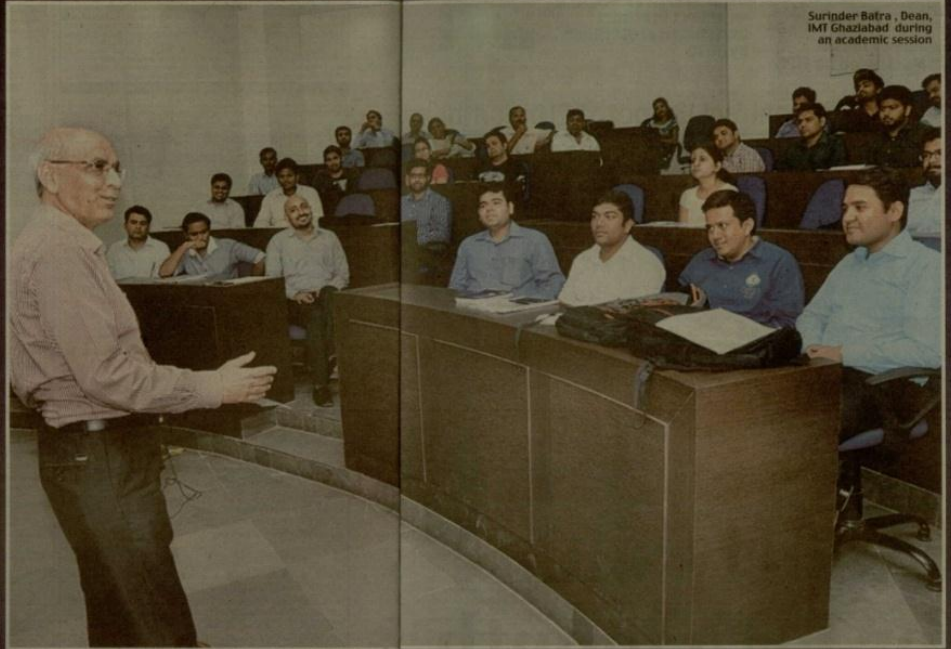
In January, the suicide of Dalit scholar Vemula at the University of Hyderabad, allegedly after a fight with right-wing activists, sparked countrywide protests. Left youth unions have accused the Narendra Modi government of emboldening right-wing student groups such as the ABVP.

NOT JUST ADVICE

Consulting now is more about working under tight deadlines and offering technological solutions to modern-day competition



A view of IMT Ghaziabad's new building. (below) students on the campus.



Surinder Batra, Dean, IMT Ghaziabad during an academic session

By Surinder Batra

THE business consulting industry today wants solutions that are grounded in the reality of complex problems. They want consultants to soil their hands in implementing solutions. Hiring young MBAs provide consulting firms with all the strengths that are required in this competitive business.

It is, therefore, not surprising to find leading strategy and IT consulting firms making a beeline to the IIMs (Indian Institutes of Management) and other top-ranking institutes to attract young talent. In any case, the line between strategy and technology firms is getting blurred as the clients increasingly seek end-to-end solutions from the consultants. The consulting firms of all hues have, therefore, similar appeal for young MBA graduates.

Some of the profiles for which young graduates are sought are



business analysts, consultants, business development executives and project managers. Graduating students with marketing and/or project management specialisation and with prior work experience of a few years in technology firms such as TCS or Infosys or Cognizant usually have an edge over their counterparts with lesser experience for profiles of business development managers or project managers.

However, a greater role is played by the academic rigour which the students go through in the domains of strategy, finance,

operations and marketing in their course curricula at the institutes. Some business schools also offer electives specifically related to the consulting business which prepare students thoroughly for the knowledge and skills in demand. For example, IMT Ghaziabad has been offering a composite course on 'Business and IT Consulting' which is popular due to the career opportunities it opens up for the students in high profile consulting firms such as Accenture, Cognizant, Deloitte, E&Y, HCL, Infosys,

PwC and Wipro, among others. The skills sought depend upon the profile for which he/she is hired for. For example, one of the most important business needs is to secure new business. No doubt, it comes from the image, track record and networking skills of people at the top in a consulting firm. Fresh graduates, however, can contribute to this by conceptualising the ingredients required for writing a winning proposal. They are expected to carry out industry analysis and competitor analysis to understand the context in which a

client has sought consulting support. Ability to do these kinds of analyses makes them the favourite of consulting firms.

The firms also seek from graduates the skills of proactive business development through relationship building. They look for the knack of 'elevator pitch' from aspirants applying for pre-sales profiles. (The term elevator pitch refers to the ability of a young professional to exploit the small window of opportunity which he/she gets with a high profile business executive or a client inside an elevator to successfully

Consulting firms expect an MBA graduate to understand the pulse of the market. They also expect them to be well-versed with technology.

— SURINDER BATRA, Dean Academics and Professor at IMT Ghaziabad

market the services of his/her firm). They expect a graduate to understand the pulse of the market. Many consulting profiles expect graduates to be well-versed with technology. They are expected to keep a watch on newly emerging technologies and how to leverage it for business. A typical business analyst role would require the ability to map current and future scenarios of a

knowledge of the various stages of the software life development cycle and alternative design and development methodologies. In today's tech savvy business, technical skills in setting up websites and developing mobile apps add to the allure of a graduate.

Proficiency in soft skills is yet another important expectation from consulting firms. These include excellent oral and written communication skills, team and inter-personal skills and analytical and problem solving skills among others. Many a consulting firm seeks unique attributes from their would-be young consultants and explicitly mention these in their job descriptions.

An analysis of the job profiles sought by a few consulting firms in management institutes done by this author revealed a few interesting attributes sought by them. These include: ability to do multi-tasking, stamina to work under tight deadlines, an eye for details, cross-cultural adaptability and being consistently energetic.

Surinder Batra is Dean Academics and Professor at IMT Ghaziabad

Proficiency in soft skills is important

business by meticulously understanding the existing processes, defining desired processes, identifying gaps and designing solution options for the client organisations who have sought consulting support from them. In profiles specific to IT Consulting, the young MBAs are usually expected to have adequate

FIVE ATTRIBUTES EMPLOYERS LOOK FOR

- Ability to work under tight deadlines
- Ability to write a winning business proposal
- Knack to deliver elevator pitch to a client
- Ability to map current and future scenarios
- Skills to set up websites and develop apps

SOUGHT-AFTER PROFILES

- Business analysts
- Consultants
- Business development executives
- Project managers

Gen X most stressed at work

BURDEN OF AGE Generation X feels maximum pressure at work, followed by millennials and baby boomers, reveals a Shine.com survey



HT ShineJobs Correspondent
 ■ yourviews@shine.com

The recent suicide of Chef Benoit Violier, reportedly as he buckled under extreme pressures of running a Swiss restaurant named the best in the world, highlights a huge problem in workplaces today. Competition, the desire to be good at what one does and lack of coping mechanism can drive a person to the brink. Stress has, and will, exist always in all professions. How a person deals with pressure or what a person perceives as stressful has to be identified first before the person's organisation or family and friends can offer support to him or her.

HT Shine.com's survey this month is on Stress at Work, for which about 200 mid-level executives from across the country were quizzed. Among them, 32.19% said stress and anxiety impacted their work performance; while 28.77% were concerned about their health being affected the most. About 26.03% said their personal lives were disrupted.

Interestingly, respondents also felt stress impacted each generation differently, with 40.97% pointing to Gen X as being the most stressed of the lot. While 25% felt older employees were the ones that

bore the brunt of a stressful situation; 18.75% said millennials and 15.29% said baby boomers were the ones who took on a lot of stress.

The main reason for stress for 42.36% workers was increasing competition at the workplace; 27.08% said deadlines, clients and target pressures were getting to be unbearable. About 17.36% got stressed out because of the inability to deal with issues at work and lack of resources to cope with stress and organisational changes. Participants said they had also worked out their own coping strategies - 31.72% said they discussed matters with colleagues, bosses and peers; 28.97% said they pursued hobbies, exercised and socialised. About 25.52% said they talked to family or friends.

Everyone agreed that stress affected people negatively. The majority 34.48% reported to having low confidence levels and virtually no interest in work. They were also not able to take the initiative in coming up with innovative ideas for projects. Many were inclined to brood - 32.41% said they avoided social situations and gatherings; 22.76% reported to losing tempers more frequently.

In responses that organisations could take cues from, the survey participants listed out a number of interesting coping mechanisms. The most important tip from 39.89% respondents was that they ensured they did not compromise on their sleep schedules. About 23.61% said they made sure they stayed healthy and ate healthy,

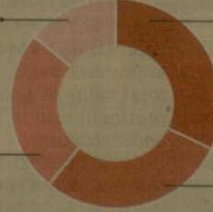
ARE YOU TAKING ON TOO MUCH?

Impossible deadlines and intense competition are taking their toll

WHAT DO YOU DO TO OVERCOME WORK-RELATED STRESS?

14% Don't do anything about it

25% Talk to family/friends



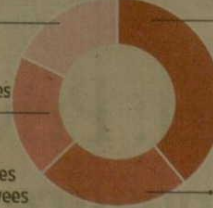
32% Discuss with colleagues/boss/peers

29% Unwind by pursuing your hobby/exercise/socialising

WHAT ARE THE THINGS THAT COMPANIES CAN DO TO HELP EMPLOYEES OVERCOME WORK STRESS?

18% Employee assistance programmes

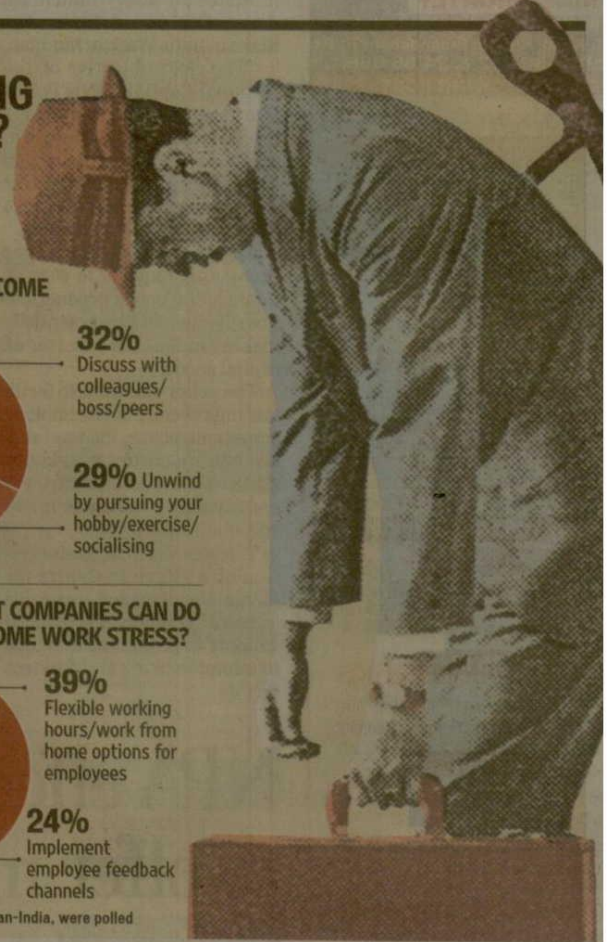
19% Wellness programmes for employees



39% Flexible working hours/work from home options for employees

24% Implement employee feedback channels

Methodology: 200 mid-level employees, pan-India, were polled



ISTOCK

home-cooked food and avoided eating out and oily, fatty food. Approximately 22.92% said they practised yoga/meditation and other techniques to relax and unwind and 14.58% said they exercised regularly to avoid lifestyle diseases.

The danger signals were evident in the responses of 38.78% executives to frequency of exercising. They said they did not exercise at all. About 29.93% said they exercised daily; 16.33% and 14.97% exercised four times and two times a week, respectively.

About 48.30% felt the key to being stress-free was being organised at work. Countering this, 6.12% felt being organised meant added pressure to keep things on track.

On how organisations could play a big part in ensuring employees remained stress-free, 38.62% felt flexible working hours or work-from-home options should be introduced for employees. For 24.14%, introduction of more employee feedback channels and implementing suggestions was important.

Wellness programmes, and employee assistance and counselling initiatives were also recommended by 19.31% and 17.93%, respectively.

A sector where people were most likely to be more stressed was corporate (72.1%). When asked if technology was adding to work stress, 37.50% said maybe it was, but if used wisely perhaps it could reduce work pressure. About 29% of the respondents were of the firm belief that technology made life easy.

'65% enrolments for IIM MOOCs are international'

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/bengaluru/65-enrolments-for-IIM-MOOCs-are-international/articleshow/50989678.cms>

Bengaluru: The IIM-Bangalore's tie-up with edX platform to offer students world-class education free of cost has many takers from foreign countries. Almost 65% of enrolments are international students while the rest are Indians. Of the 90,000 to 1 lakh foreign learners, 15% are from the US, 3% from Europe and 1.2% from African nations.

The Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) allows students to sit in the comfort of their homes and attend classes of faculty at top universities worldwide.

"MOOC is the new digital learning technology which can be used by young Indian professionals and students. It'll change the face of higher education in India. It can be made accessible to colleges in Tier 2 and Tier 3 colleges and in places where it's not available. Today, every student has a smart phone but she does not know about MOOCs or is not encouraged to take it up. In rural areas, there is tremendous young talent and a thirst to learn, but there's no internet connectivity. We'll collate the success stories of Indian students who attend MOOCs and share them to encourage others," IIM-B director Sushil Vachani said.

"We did a special session on MOOCs in some Hubballi colleges and educated them about it. Parents too should understand that MOOCs is not a substitute for education but a supplement," he added

Great! Hope this is going to help students. Each and every MP/MLA should take session from IIT's. Nazeer Khan

"There's a wide range of professionals from CEOs to engineers taking MOOCs. They also come from unconventional backgrounds like store owners in operations management," Ramya Srinivasan, manager, IIMBx, said.

IIM-B recently announced a one-day faculty development programme. This aims to enhance their skills in imparting management education in their business schools by blending MOOCs with in-class facilitation and teaching.

Campus revolution under Smriti Irani, BHU to hire experts to teach students about ill-effects of western culture

<http://www.jantakareporter.com/india/campus-revolution-under-smriti-irani-bhu-to-hire-experts-to-teach-students-about-ill-effects-of-western-culture/38025>

As part of the ongoing 'revolution' across campuses under Union HRD Minister, Smriti Irani, the Banaras Hindu University has come up with 'path-breaking' idea to arm its students with incredibly enlightening knowledge i.e. the evils of western culture.

If the Indian Express report is anything to go by, then the university, which has 33,000 students enrolled for various courses, is all set to include a special orientation campaign to make students aware of the "ill-effects of western culture" as part of its ongoing year-long centennial celebrations.

BHU's Public Relation Officer Rajesh Singh told the newspaper that the campaign's objective was "to make students aware of what is right and what is wrong."

The idea is a brainchild of the university Vice Chancellor, GC Tripathi, who blames the western phenomena such as the Valentine's Day celebrations for many prevalent evils in Indian society.

Tripathi said that Valentine's Day should not be celebrated on the BHU campus as it formed part of the western culture.

Teams of professors have been entrusted with the responsibilities to visit hostels classes and any areas on the campus, where students gather to lecture them on moral values ethics.

What's more, the university has sought the services of 'non-BHU intellectuals' , who will frequently dine with students in the hostels and visit them for orientation

Singh said that vulnerable students would also be urged to "remain alert" about the ill-effects of the western culture such as "live-in relationships" and "misuse of Internet."

"A skill development centre has also been established where students will be taught about Yoga, meditation and personality development," the university PRO was quoted by the paper.

IIT – B records 99 species during Campus Bird Count

<http://www.iamin.in/en/mumbai-north-east/news/iit-%E2%80%93-b-records-99-species-during-campus-bird-count-85312>



• Grey Headed Swamphen at IIT-B Pic Courtesy: Madhushri Mudke

99 species of birds were spotted at IIT-B by groups of bird watchers while participating in the second edition of Campus Bird Counts 2016 in collaboration with the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC).

The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT-B) has been a hotspot for spotting maximum number of different bird species during the annual bird count event. The bird count that started on February 12 will conclude on February 15.

A group of over 20 bird watchers participated in the bird count at IIT-B campus. 55 species of birds were documented near IIT-B Boat House Road. Few of the birds like, Lesser-whistling Duck, Flycatchers, Little Cormorant, Asian Pied Starling, Grey-headed Swamphen, Red-Vented Bulbul were spotted near IIT-B campus.



Indian Spot Billed Duck

The bird count was taken at three different locations in IIT including IIT-B campus (99 bird species), IIT-B Boat House Road (45 birds species) and Powai Lake (55 birds species).

As per the bird watchers, there has been an increase in the number of campus bird counts this year. From Mumbai, the bird count happened at various institutions like IIT-B, St. Xavier's College, Bhavan's College, Symphony at Chandivali and others.

According to the e-bird data, Maharashtra is at the fourth place for the bird count this year.

Talking about the bird count at IIT-B campus, Madhushri Mudke, who participated in the bird count event said, "The campus is connected to the Powai Lake and Sanjay Gandhi National Park because of which many different species of common as well as migratory birds are spotted in and around the campus. 20 to 25 people joined the group to spot birds in the IIT-B area during the weekend. Many migratory birds and flycatchers can be spotted near the IIT-B Boat House and Powai Lake area during the winter season."



Asian Pied Starling at IIT-B

"It is good to see many people coming forward and showing their interest in watching birds and helping to

document them. The event is a conservation model which is helpful in creating more awareness about the birds among the citizens. Earlier, the bird watchers used equipments like binocular for the bird count but now people come up with cameras too. It is good to see people coming together, form groups and socialize with each other while documenting the birds in our surrounding,” said Mudke, co-ordinator of Campus Bird Count.

Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC)

The other places in Mumbai where the bird counts were conducted apart from institutes include Bhandup Pumping Station (27 birds species), Lokhandwala Mangroves at Andheri West (34 birds species).