

## Newspaper Clips February 18, 2016

Navbharat Times ND 18/02/2016 P-14

# मोदी ने देखा प्रजेन्टेशन, कब बनेंगे IIT-IIM ?

■ विशेष संवाददाता, नई दिल्ली

प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी बुधवार को अपनी सरकार के सभी मंत्रियों के साथ इस साल दूसरी बार मिले। बैठक में मोदी ने सभी मंत्रियों को आक्रामक मोर्चे पर काम करने को कहा। उन्होंने मंत्रियों से कहा, 'सही को सही बोलिए। मजबूती से बोलिए। दबेंगे तो लोग आपकी कमजोरी समझेंगे।' सूत्रों के अनुसार मौजूदा राजनीतिक हालात के हिसाब से मोदी ने अपने मंत्रियों को संकेत दिया कि विपक्ष के दबाव में नहीं आना है। बजट सत्र में सरकार का आक्रामक रूख देखने को मिल सकता है। वहीं पीएम गुरुवार को अपनी 4 रैलियों के कार्यक्रम की शुरुआत करेंगे, जिसमें वह फसल बीमा योजना के बारे में लोगों को बताएंगे।

**हर महीने लेंगे बैठक :** मोदी इस तरह की बैठक अब हर महीने लेंगे। इस तरह की दूसरी बैठक में मुख्य रूप से शिक्षा, सोशल और हेल्थ सेक्टर में लिए गए फैसले और क्रियान्वयन की समीक्षा की गई। विदेश मंत्रालय की ओर से प्रेजेंटेशन दिये गये। बैठक के लिए 23 बिंदु बनाए गए थे। दरअसल सरकार के सामने रूरल इकॉनमी और कृषि के क्षेत्र में कम विकास चिंता की बात बनी हुई है।

**कितने फैसले हुए ? :** बैठक में संबंधित मंत्रियों ने प्रेजेंटेशन दिया कि मोदी सरकार में उनके मंत्रालयों में अब तक कितने फैसले हुए हैं। इन फैसलों को अमल में लाने के लिए क्या कदम उठाए गए और कितनी सफलता मिली। इस बैठक में अगले कुछ सालों में देश में कहां-कहां



आईआईटी और आईआईएम खोले जाएंगे और इस दिशा में कितनी पहल हुई है इस बारे में प्रेजेंटेशन दिया गया। लगभग दो घंटे तक चली मीटिंग में सात प्रेजेंटेशन हुए। इसमें सभी मंत्री शामिल हुए।

पीएम मोदी ने मंत्रियों से शिकायत के लहजे में कहा कि जब उन्हें ही उनके कामकाज और उपलब्धि के बारे में पता नहीं होता है तो फिर वह क्यों अपेक्षा करते हैं कि पब्लिक को उनके कामकाज के बारे में पता होगा। सूत्रों के अनुसार मीटिंग में मंत्रियों ने पीएम से कहा कि तत्कालीन यूपीए सरकार ने अपनी योजनाओं के प्रचार पर बहुत खर्च किया। इसपर मोदी ने कहा कि खर्च कीजिए लेकिन लोगों तक इसकी जानकारी पहुंचे इसके लिए बेहतर संवाद भी करें। हर गांव बिजली योजना को पीएम मोदी ने सबसे बड़ी योजना बताया तो कुछ मंत्रियों ने कहा कि इस योजना में संबंधित राज्य सरकारें क्रेडिट ले लेती हैं। सूत्रों के अनुसार मीटिंग में पीएम कुछ मंत्रियों से नाराज भी दिखे। उन्होंने एक मंत्री से कहा-जब आपको खुद अपने काम के बारे में नहीं पता तो दूसरे को क्या बताएंगे।

Times Of India ND 18/02/2016 P-13

# Veggie vendor now star at IITian factory

## Failing To Crack JEE, He Becomes Memory Coach

Shoebkhan@timesgroup.com

**Jaipur:** Jaipur-resident Suresh Kumar Sharma, 21, a vegetable vendor, failed to crack IIT-JEE three years ago. But this has not stopped him from becoming the most sought-after memory trainer at IIT-JEE coaching institutes in Jaipur and Kota. Sharma helps enhance memory of teachers, many of whom are IITians, and best performing students.

Sharma, a first year engineering student, achieved the rare distinction of memorising 70,030 digits of the value of Pi before his newfound fame. This got him an entry in the Limca Book of Records recently. It took him 17.30 hours to recall all the values, which is equivalent to remembering 7,000 cell phone numbers.

He said his training module helps teachers and students memorise hundreds of chemical reactions, periodic tables, physical and mathematical formulas, paragraphs and points learning.

"I do not train them in rote learning. I push them to

**Suresh Kumar Sharma realised IIT was not his cup of tea. The only option he was left with was to start selling vegetables again or do something that could provide a remedy to thousands of students who struggled to memorise stuff**

follow the old Vedic system of learning by connecting everything with an image."

Sharma, who is from Jaipur's Mansarampura village, has been an average student who managed to get 60% marks in Class X. In class XII, he scored 71%, the highest ever score in his school and village.

He studied at a Hindi-medium government school before going to Kota for IIT-JEE coaching at an institute which had the lowest fee.

A student's suicide at his hostel changed his life. "That suicide was third in 15 days and shocked entire Kota. I was heartbroken to see an aggrieved family come for the body," he said.

"He took the extreme step as he failed to score well in exams. That moment I thought of quitting my

coaching and leaving Kota, but by then my family had borrowed lots of money for me," he said.

He appeared for the exam but was nowhere close to an IIT score. "I realised that this is not my cup of tea. During those depressing days the only option I had was to start selling vegetables again or do something that could provide a remedy to thousands of students who struggle to memorise like I did," he said.

"A ray of hope came from my grandfather, a scholar in Sanskrit, who used to share how people in Vedic period used to enhance their memory," Suresh Kumar Sharma said.

Sharma did independent research on Vedas and modern memory enhancing tools to devise his system to increase memorising power.

# Test to check if students fit for IIT-JEE likely to be tried in Oct

**Brajesh Kumar**

■ brajesh.kumar@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** The government is preparing to hold an aptitude test that will ascertain if students aspiring for prestigious IITs have it in them to crack the tough IIT JEE examination on a pilot basis this October.

The HRD ministry sources said has convened a meeting of IITs, CBSE, AICTE, the National Testing Service (NTS) and other stakeholders later this month to discuss the modalities of the test that will make way for full fledged aptitude test from next academic

**AN OFFICIAL SAID THE MINISTRY HAS ALSO FORMED A COMMITTEE TO FORMULATE A PROTOTYPE FOR CONDUCTING THE PILOT TEST**

year. An official said the ministry has also formed a committee called committee for the prototype test that will be responsible for conducting the pilot test.

"A two-day brainstorming ses-

sion will be held at the end of the month to discuss if the test could be held on a pilot basis this year and how will the test compliment the two phased IIT entrance test from next year," an official said.

Apart from IIT directors, the ministry has also called the members of US-based ETS, the largest educational testing and assessment organisation that conducts various tests like GRE and TOEFL in US and abroad. The ministry formed the National Testing service on the line of ETS to conduct the test that will be similar to SAT which would include questions on numerical and diagrammatic reasoning.

Times Of India ND 18/02/2016 P-8

# Academics unhappy with VC

## UNANSWERED QUESTIONS

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** Some of India's eminent scientists, technocrats, social scientists and economists from IITs, scientific research institutions and foreign universities have written to JNU VC M Jagadesh Kumar expressing "disappointment" with his "actions in the events leading up to the arrest and detention of several students last week".

The statement with 379 signatories, including John Dreze, Reetika Khera, Carol Upadhyay and many others, said the arrest of the JNUSU president is "especially troublesome since he was not even an organizer of the rally but merely present to express

his solidarity". "Expressing controversial views in a peaceful forum cannot be equated with sedition," they said. The academics said many people "believe that Afzal Guru was let down by a lack of appropriate legal representation in his trial, and that his execution was therefore a grave miscarriage of justice".

The representation said one may agree or disagree with the above viewpoint on Afzal Guru "and, indeed, signatories to this letter hold different positions but we are unanimous that students should have the right to freely discuss this issue." They expressed dismay at JNU registrar Bupinder Zutshi's statement in which he said since

**Kanhaiya's arrest, the statement says, is especially troublesome as he was not even an organiser of the rally but merely present to express his solidarity**

the government hanged him (Guru) after declaring him a terrorist, how could the university allow such an anti-Indian programme. "This indicates a complete lack of appreciation of the concept of academic freedom."

The academics said that in a country as vast as India, no one group can define what

it means to be "nationalist" or "anti-national". "The country's fabric is strong enough to accommodate a plurality of views. It is the attempt to suppress differing viewpoints that is genuinely damaging for the country's democratic ethos. Further, we believe that creativity in all branches of knowledge finds highest expression in a milieu that does not put constraints on the freedom of thought," the statement said.

The universities are sites where "contesting ideas are explored and where students should be able to freely debate and discuss various views, including controversial ones, without the threat of state action", it added.

■ Why did police not have an action plan in place?

■ Why were the lawyers resorting to violence not lathicharged?

■ Why was Kanhaiya Kumar brought to court despite threat to his life?

■ Why was a separate passage not prepared for him in court to ensure safety?

■ Why did the cops not act when the lawyers wielded sticks with the Tricolour wrapped around them?

■ Why did the police chief not go to the spot despite enough warning from Monday's incident?

■ Why did Bassi deny that Kanhaiya was beaten up despite his injuries?

## Harvard joins hands with IIT-Delhi, Tatas to help startups

<http://telecom.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/harvard-joins-hands-with-iit-delhi-tatas-to-help-startups/51019375>

This approach combined with Tata Trusts' philanthropic vision will help narrow down the existing gap between the demand and supply of skilled labour." [Saumya Bhattacharya&Varuni Khosla](#) | ET Bureau | 17 February 2016, 9:18 AM IST

**NEW DELHI:** Harvard University's South Asia Institute has joined hands with the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, and Tata Trusts in a first initiative of its kind to mentor 25 social entrepreneurship startups in science and technology. The project, led by the institute director Tarun Khanna, aims to create jobs by helping these startups with mentoring, workshops and providing grants to select ventures.

The institute, a research and idea generation centre at Harvard University, requested and received a grant from Tata Trusts to experiment with ways to translate knowledge that was generated in the university setting into livelihood creation.

"India needs 100 million net new jobs in the next decade to absorb the demographic dividend," said Khanna. "I don't know of any system in the world that has generated that many jobs in a short period of time without a significant dose of new enterprise creation and entrepreneurship," said Khanna, who chaired the Government of India Niti Aayog Commission on Entrepreneurship and Innovation.

Emphasising the relevance of this collaboration, R Venkataramanan, executive trustee at Tata Trusts said: "Under this collaboration with Harvard University's South Asia Institute, we will develop entrepreneurship opportunities that will help provide sustainable prosperity to the local communities.

This approach combined with Tata Trusts' philanthropic vision will help narrow down the existing gap between the demand and supply of skilled labour."

The grant from Tata Trusts is for 18 months. "The challenge and plan is to demonstrate using research and knowledge assets to work with these social enterprises to point them in the right direction and create a system of peer support. This will be done through workshops, on an ongoing basis," said Khanna.

One of the glaring issues is that it is a very lonely job being an entrepreneur, said Khanna. The idea then, he said, is to use knowledge assets to bring people together, get a peer group in place without overstating the importance of the facilitator.

It's a learning experience for IIT Delhi as well. "There is an explosion in learning, including social entrepreneurship. We can take some of these experiences to our workshops. Many of these people were students about a year ago. These are young startups and not all are IITians. They are people from Delhi, Kanpur, Utkal University, small colleges in Punjab," said IIT professor Professor Ambuj Sagar, who along with Professor PVM Rao is part of this project.

The project aims to mentor and guide people after the duration of the grant, "One of the tasks that we have is to think of ways to continue with this programme, with our partners, the Trusts, IIT-D and other institutions, including the government machinery. The more people talk about it, the better," said Khanna. Shashank Shah, project director at the South Asia Institute said: "There will be hand-holding for all the grantees from now till September across tracks in terms of Harvard, partner institutions such as IIT-D and others."

The project also plans to run a small competition among selected entrepreneurs and give them small grants. An amount of Rs 50 lakh has been set aside for grant across three tracks.

## **IIT-B 'Make in India' hackathon winners announced**

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/tech/tech-news/IIT-B-Make-in-India-hackathon-winners-announced/articleshow/51025251.cms>

Putting 4.5% minority sub-quota on hold till legal challenges are resolved, IITs have sought to allay students... Read More

NEW DELHI: Six teams from different engineering institutes won a week long '[Make in India](#)' hackathon held at [IIT-Bombay](#). The hackathon, which saw participation from coders, engineers and designers, was aimed at finding solutions to urban design problems of water, energy and transportation.

"India cannot be a great manufacturing nation till we don't invent and innovate and design in India and our belief is that we had lost our close relationship between academia and industry. Our IITs and engineering institutes will play an important role to take it forward," said Amitabh Kant, secretary, Department of Industrial Promotion and Policy, Govt of India, while announcing the names of the winners.

In the energy category, IIT-Kanpur held the top spot. Vellore Institute of Technology, Chennai and Karpagam College of Engineering, Coimbatore shared the honours for the second spot.

Vivekanand College of Engineering, Mumbai won the top spot in the water category, while National Law University, Assam and Jodhpur Institute of Engineering and Technology shared the second position.

In the transportation segment, Krishna Institute of Engineering and Technology, Ghaziabad came first followed by Centre for Environmental Planning & Technology, Ahmedabad.

These ideas were evaluated by venture capitalists and government representatives.

## **IIM's Director's appointment: HC seeks Centre's reply**

<http://indianexpress.com/article/education/iims-directors-appointment-hc-seeks-centres-reply/>

**The court notice was issued on a plea which alleged that the advertisement dated January 12, 2016, issued in respect of the appointment of directors of various IIMs, for the first time demands first class at graduation and post-graduation level to qualify as a candidate for the said post.**

Delhi High Court today sought the Centre's response on a petition seeking setting aside of advertisements issued for appointing directors at various IIMs across the country and asked whether there was a change in the appointment policy.

A bench of Chief Justice G Rohini and Justice Jayant Nath issued notice to Ministry of Human Resource & Development asking them to "get instruction on or before February 24 whether there is any change in policy on the appointments of Directors at Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs)."

The court notice was issued on a plea which alleged that the advertisement dated January 12, 2016, issued in respect of the appointment of directors of various IIMs, for the first time demands first class at graduation and post-graduation level to qualify as a candidate for the said post.

Pritam Singh, who claims to be an academic administrator and Subrat Kumar, a researcher and trainer in the higher education sector, stated in their plea that the government wants to "oust certain candidates and at the same time ensure eligibility for a few".

"The central government in order to enforce its own agenda/or in order to oust certain candidates from being considered for the post of Director in particular IIM and at the same time to ensure the eligibility of its chosen candidates in certain IIMs," senior advocate Parag Tripathi and advocate Rajesh Ranjan submitted.

## **New Institute Chair Set up at IIT-M**

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/cities/chennai/New-Institute-Chair-Set-up-at-IIT-M/2016/02/18/article3282579.ece>

CHENNAI: The 'Institute Chair' at the Department of Management Studies at IIT Madras was launched recently by Professor Sridhar Tayur, an IIT Madras alumnus.

Tayur is the Ford Distinguished Research Chair and Professor of Operations Management at Carnegie Mellon University's Tepper School of Business. The Chair is endowed with an amount of `50 lakh, and is set-up in the name of 'RAGS Family Foundation' that has also made other philanthropic gifts in higher education, entrepreneurship, independent films, microfinance, children's health, development and safety. Professor R Nagarajan, Dean of International & Alumni Relations at IIT Madras, welcomed the setting up of the Chair and

said, “This is another sign of the continuing support that IIT Madras enjoys from our alumni. They contribute time, talent and treasure, and we value them all equally”.

The board of governors has also created ‘Institute Chair Professorships’ to be occupied by Professors who have distinguished themselves.