Newspaper Clips
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Sam Pitroda inaugurates 5thAction For India Annual Forum at IIT Delhi

http://indiaeducationdiary.in/Shownews.asp?newsid=37495

New Delhi: Action For India (AFI), a not for profit organization designed to stimulate social enterprises in India, organized the 5thedition of its AFI Annual Forum at IIT-Delhi.The Forum witnessed presence of over 100 leading social entrepreneurs from around the nation interacting with 100 key influencers at the intersection of business, technology, entrepreneurship and social impact. The influencers included eminent personalities from diverse sectors including donors, investors, IAS officers, technology executives and policy analysts.

The Forum was kick started with an introduction of AFI by Sanjay Kadaveru, President-AFI followed by the inaugural ceremony chaired by Sam Pitroda, Honorary Chairman-AFI and including Dr. Vijay Bhatkar (Former Chairman, Board of Governors, IIT-Delhi), AashishDhawan (Founder & CEO, Central Square Foundation) and Shiv Khemka (Founder, Khemka Foundation).

Addressing the guests at the Forum, Mr. Sanjay Kadaveru said, "It gives us immense pleasure to host the 5th edition of AFI annual forum which brings social entrepreneurs together to focus on building a business that create jobs, community wealth and encourages innovation. With this initiative, we endeavor to expand the national network of regional social innovations hubs across the country. This will eventually help in job creation."

"AFI is contributing to India's growth by boosting social entrepreneurship and identifying social innovation hub champions. This Forum provides a platform to address the major challenges these entrepreneurs face which would include access to funds, technology and adequate funding. Given the above, a lot more needs to be done to facilitate scale-up of the social innovation movement in the country"said Sam Pitroda during his inaugural address.

With the launch of "StartUpIndia, StandUp India" by PM Modi, the focus is on rousing the entrepreneurial spirit among the country's youth. Start-ups are expected to be engines of job growth, wealth creation and socioeconomic change at the bottom of the pyramid. According to a NASSCOM report, over the past few years, the start-up movement has picked pace, as funding into the sector grew 125%, from $2.2 billion in 2014 to $4.9 billion in 2015.

The first day witnessed a panel discussion led by on the role of technology in scaling social impact. Among the panelists were Anand Deshpande (Founder & CEO, Persistent Systems), Prashant Mehra (Chief Architect, Social Inclusion, Mindtree) and Neil Patel (Founder, Awaaz.de).

Sharing views on how social entrepreneurs can leverage technology, the panel emphasized on the need for technology gurus and experts to reach out to socialinnovators struggling with ideas and seeking support to scale their product ventures.

The first day captured sector-specific, cross-sectorial intensive discussions along with speed dating sessions between social entrepreneurs and influencers. The interactions covered sectors like agriculture, education, livelihood, healthcare, energy while also discussing the investment woes of the young entrepreneurs. The outcome of these interactions garnered recommendations for the AFI's future actions to strengthen the ecosystem with reformed the policy framework.

The first day of the Forum concluded with a panel discussion on "Sustainability Development Goals" moderated by David Wilcox (ReachScale) in the presence of the panelists- Mairi Mackay (British Council), Neelam Chhiber (Mother Earth) and Dr. Ashwin Naik, (Vaatsalya). The session stressed on the need for changing the dynamics of the ecosystem and proposed that social enterprises be henceforth called 'sustainable development enterprises'.

Action ForIndia also announced the semifinalists for the Silicon Valley Challenge, a competition where burgeoning social entrepreneurs were rewarded with 2-week all-expense paid trip to Silicon Valley, California to interact with leading investors, executives and entrepreneurs of Silicon Valley.

The second day of the Forum began with another round of speed-dating between the enterprises and the influencers. The first panel for the day discussed the role of Governance and collaboration between public, private and development sectors to enhance the reach, impact of social enterprises. The panel moderatedby Pallavi Gupta (FifthEstate) included AmarjeetSinha (Addl. Secy, MoRD, GoI), GaruravDwivedi (CEO, MyGov), VenkiteshRamakrishnan (Sr. Assoc. Editor, Frontline) and AnoopKaul (BASIX).

A panel of 'regional social innovation hubs' discussed the impact that hubs such as EkalVidyalaya, Native Lead Foundation, eKutir and AFI and brought out aspects of such hubs that will be game-changers facilitating and supporting social enterprises at the grassroots. Moderated by Mahesh Kanumury (Arivali Partners), the panel included NagarajaPrakasam (Native Angels Network), K C Mishra (eKutir), Mallikarjun (EkalVidyalaya) and Sanjay Kadaveru (AFI).

The break-out sessions on 'Indian-Americans and Social Impact in India', 'building a high skill team for your social enterprise' and 'collaborations to effectively scale social enterprises' brought forward recommendations for both Govt. and AFI to strengthen the support ecosystem for social entrepreneurs.

The Forum hosted a unique Silicon Valley Challenge where 5 burgeoning social entrepreneurs were rewarded 2 week all-expense paid trip to Silicon Valley, California to interact with leading investors, executives and entrepreneurs of Silicon Valley. These entrepreneurs included Damini Mahajan (WeMakeScholars Edtech Pvt.), Saransh Vaswani (Saajha) and three others.

A CASE FOR GREATER FINANCIAL AUTONOMY

IIT Panel Suggests 200% Fee Increase, ₹2,000-crore NBFC

Institutes may get interest-free loans; announcements likely in Budget

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New Delhi: A committee of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) directors tasked with finding ways to achieve greater financial autonomy for the schools has suggested an over threefold hike in student fees and creation of a ₹2,000-crore non-banking financial company. The NBFC will offer interest-free loans for futuristic projects, research infrastructure and efficient use of space on campus.

The proposals are being considered and could be among the budgetary announcements this year, officials told **ET**. Finance Minister Arun Jaitley will present the Budget at the end of the month.

Salary, Maintenance Costs ►► 22

New Chapter

IIT FEE HIKE
₹3 L / YEAR,
UP FROM ₹90,000
THIS will cover salary and maintenance costs, estimated at ₹2,500 crore

PLAN is to offset the fee hike through a loan programme

STUDENT loans kick in at the time of admission

NBFC WITH ₹2,000-CR CORPUS

HALF of the amount will come from govt, rest from CSR initiatives

THIS will enable interest-free loans for futuristic projects, research infra and efficient use of space on campus

THE loans will be repaid from returns on research and consultancy

BROADER objective is to grant these 5-10-yr loans to all higher education institutes

Covering Salary, Maintenance Costs

►► From Page 1

The committee, which includes the directors of the Bombay, Madras, Kanpur and Hyderabad IITs, has drawn up a 'Roadmap to Financial Autonomy of IITs' in consultation with the human resource development (HRD) and finance ministries. The panel has suggested that the IITs be allowed to raise annual student fees to ₹3 lakh from ₹90,000.

This, the committee has observed, will be enough to cover costs incurred by way of salaries and maintenance, said the people cited above. The issue had first come up for discussion at the meeting of the IIT Council, which is chaired by the HRD minister, in October 2015 and was then referred to the committee.

Inter-ministerial meetings have already been held on the issue and the finance ministry is said to have been open to the idea of setting up an NBFC. The matter would, however, have to go to the Cabinet for formal approval at some stage. Of the ₹2,000-crore corpus, half will come from the government and the rest from corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives. The

GETTY IMAGES

broader objective is to be able to grant interest-free, 5-10 year loans to not just the 18 IITs but all higher education institutes.

The estimated salary and maintenance bill at the IITs, which have about 80,000 students, is ₹2,500 crore.

The plan is to offset the fee hike through a loan programme. "The student loan will come into effect the moment a candidate is offered an admission letter," said an IIT director with knowledge of the proposal.

"The idea is to rationalise fees in such a way that at least the salary and maintenance costs of an IIT are taken care of, else this becomes a very difficult situation. Almost

50% plan grants to an IIT are consumed by scholarships."

Another IIT director said he supported the plan.

"Innovative financial methods are necessary to fund infrastructure and research development at IITs," he said. "We cannot keep subsisting at sub-critical levels and also face all-round criticism for not making a mark globally. We need to grow as institutes and this NBFC-like system will allow us to borrow a kind of refunding loan for scaling up our infrastructure and research, building space for new faculty and more students."

The loan will be repaid from returns on research and consultancy, he said. There will be no additional burden and it will bring down the government's total expenditure on non-plan funding, he added.

The IITs have been mulling the need for greater financial autonomy for several years now. In 2012-13, the Anil Kakodkar committee had recommended a number of models, including zero government funding and fee hikes. The proposals didn't make much headway due to political considerations.

IIT में तीन गुनी होगी फीस, बिना ब्याज के लोन देगी NBFC !

IIT डायरेक्टर्स की कमेटी ने सालाना फीस को ₹ 90,000 से ₹3 लाख करने का सुझाव दिया

[अनुभूति विश्नोई | नई दिल्ली]

इंडियन इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ टेक्नोलॉजी को फाइनेंशियल मामलों में ज्यादा स्वायत्तता देने के तरीकों पर सुझाव देने वाली आईआईटी डायरेक्टरों की एक कमेटी ने इन संस्थानों में स्टूडेंट फीस में लगभग तीन गुनी बढ़ोतरी करने का सुझाव दिया है। साथ ही, इसने 2,000 करोड़ रुपये की एक नॉन-बैंकिंग फाइनेंशियल कंपनी बनाने की सिफारिश भी की है। यह एनबीएफसी भविष्य के प्रोजेक्ट्स, रिसर्च इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर और कैंपस में जगह के बेहतर उपयोग के लिए ब्याज मुक्त लोन देगी।

अधिकारियों ने ईटी को बताया कि इन प्रस्तावों पर विचार किया जा रहा है और इस साल की बजटीय घोषणाओं में इन्हें शामिल किया जा सकता है। इस कमेटी में बॉम्बे, मद्रास, कानपुर और हैदराबाद के आईआईटी के डायरेक्टर शामिल थे। इस कमेटी ने एचआरडी और फाइनेंस मिनिस्ट्रीज के साथ चर्चा कर 'रोडमैप टु फाइनेंशियल ऑटोनॉमी ऑफ आईआईटीज' तैयार किया है।

कमेटी ने सुझाव दिया है कि आईआईटी को स्टूडेंट्स से ली जाने वाली एनुअल फीस को 90,000 रुपये से बढ़ाकर 3 लाख रुपये करने की इजाजत दी जानी चाहिए। IIT डायरेक्टर्स की कमेटी ने कहा है कि सैलरी और मेंटेनेंस के मद में होने वाला खर्च कवर करने के लिए इतनी बढ़ोतरी पर्याप्त होगी।

फीस के लिए लोन

IIT की फीस 3 लाख करने की सिफारिश। यह सैलरी और मेंटेनेंस कॉस्ट को कवर करेगी

फीस में की जाने वाली बढ़ोतरी के असर को एक लोन प्रोग्राम के जरिए खत्म करने का प्लान

कैंडिडेट को एडमिशन लेटर मिलते ही स्टूडेंट लोन का मामला प्रभावी हो जाएगा

2,000 करोड़ रुपये की एक नॉन-बैंकिंग फाइनेंशियल कंपनी बनाने की सिफारिश

इस फंड में से आधा हिस्सा सरकार देगी और बाकी रकम CSR के जरिए आएगी

एनबीएफसी भविष्य के प्रोजेक्ट्स, रिसर्च इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर के लिए ब्याज मुक्त लोन देगी

रिसर्च और कंसल्टेंसी से मिलने वाले रिटर्न से इस लोन को चुकाया जाएगा

Govt ropes in 8 ministries for better coordination to clean up Ganga

IITs To Help Develop Pilot Projects

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New Delhi: Seeking to use different arms of the government in pursuing the gigantic task of Ganga cleaning, the Union water resources ministry has signed a joint MoU with seven ministries to carry forward multi-sectoral activities for a minimum of three years to rejuvenate the river.

Under the MoU, which was signed on Saturday, the HRD ministry will facilitate IITs to develop and undertake pilot projects for zero liquid discharge (ZLD) systems for four types of industrial pollution covering tanneries, chemical, pharma and textile industries. The ministry of Ayush will take up promotion of medicinal plants in the Ganga catchment areas and the ministry of youth affairs will involve sports persons in forming groups of youth who can take up activities related to Ganga cleaning.

Ministries of shipping, tourism, drinking water and rural development are also part of the joint MoU that will take up various Ganga cleaning activities under the Namami Gange programme which was allocated Rs 20,000 crore by the Centre for five years (2015-2020).

Besides this latest joint step taken last week, the water resources ministry had earlier signed MoU with ministry of railways in which both parties agreed to supply and use treated waste water from the sewage treatment plants (STPs) and effluent treatment plants (ETPs) located in Ganga and Yamuna river zones for non-potable purpose of railways.

Under the joint MoU, the water resources ministry will continue to work as a nodal ministry to coordinate with various implementing agencies and state governments. The HRD ministry, on the other hand, will support it in spreading necessary awareness to common masses .

The HRD ministry will also prepare preliminary project reports on the Ganga River Basin Management Plan.

The ministry of drinking water and sanitation will prioritise initiatives in establishing open defecation free (ODF) 'gram panchayats' along the banks of Ganga.

All the participating ministries will designate a senior officer of the rank of joint secretary or above to act as a nodal officer to represent the ministry and steer the fullfilment of the objectives.

For the full report, log on to www.timesofindia.com

ACTION PLAN

Eight ministries to work on specific issues for three years to carry forward these 21 action points under the 'Namami Gange' programme:

- Taking up comprehensive measures to determine and maintain **environmental flow** of Ganga round the year
- Rehabilitation and upgradation of existing **sewage treatment facilities** and taking up new projects of sewage infrastructure
- Treatment of sewage and other **effluents flowing directly** into the river through various drains by adoption of suitable technology and financial models
- Tackling **industrial pollution**
- Promoting sanitation in rural areas on the banks of the river Ganga and development of select village panchayats as model panchayats to be christened as 'Ganga grams'
- Tackling pollution coming from use of **chemical fertilisers and pesticides**
- Tackling **religious refuse** entering into the river, including cleaning of river surface and ghats
- Creating **model cremation ghats** on the banks of the river
- **River-front development and ghats** at selected seven places and also at other places of cultural significance
- Development of public amenities in **Char Dham Yatra** and at Ganga Sagar
- Engagement of **Ganga Task Force**
- Providing support to states for preparation of **Detailed Project Reports**
- Coordination between various ministries of the **central government and concerned state governments**; capacity building of state governments, urban local bodies and panchayati raj institutions
- GIS and **spatial mapping** of Ganga Basin
- **Research projects** including Ganga River Basin Management Plan
- Establishment of **National Ganga Monitoring Centre**
- Establishment of **Ganga Institute of River Sciences** at a suitable location along Ganga
- **Afforestation drive** for medicinal plants and native tree species
- Conserving diversity of Gangetic **aquatic life**
- Creation of **Ganga Vahini**
- Communication and **public outreach** activities

Meritocracy in Higher Education: A View from Afar

Anjani Jain

One of the remarkable traditions that elite Indian institutions have developed in their post-Independence history is a robust meritocracy, whose existence in a society still rife with corruption and graft is surprising and improbable. At the core of this tradition is an elaborate system of entrance examinations, a high score on which is a necessary condition for admission to these institutions.

These entrance exams draw very large numbers of aspiring students: over 5 lakh each year to the Joint Entrance Exam for the IITs, over 2 lakh to the Common Admission Test (CAT) for the IIMs, and about 2.5 lakh to the UPSC exam for civil services. The acceptance rates are consequently among the lowest in the world: 1% for the top five IITs put together; 0.5% for IIM-A, IIM-B, and IIM-C combined, and 0.4% for civil services. And these institutes seem generous compared to AIIMS, at which the acceptance rate of 0.06% is even more rarified.

This examination-based system of admission appears quaint and narrowly one-dimensional from an American perspective, where most universities apply a more holistic set of criteria to admission decisions. Indeed, it seems implausible that the ability to solve contrived mathematical or logical puzzles rapidly, for instance on the IIMs' CAT, predicts the candidate's future ability to manage large corporations, create new enterprises, or be an effective leader. But, despite its reliance on a narrow assessment of skills, the system has at least two compelling virtues, both unintended, and not fully appreciated.

The first is that the system's reliance on numerical and objective measurement makes it impervious to any influence of money or political power. Opening the door in India even slightly to American-style subjective assessments runs the risk of caving in to undue influences. Yes, elite Indian universities and civil services do use interviews and other subjective assessments in the final stages of selection. But the first screen is essentially completely quantitative.

The selection processes and their outcomes are also remarkably transparent. The numerical cut-offs are made public, as are the lists of those who make the cut. Faculty and administrators guard the tests like state secrets.

The second virtue is this: though the entrance exams patently don't measure leadership, entrepreneurial ability, or creative talent, many graduates of technical and professional institutes such as the IITs, IIMs and AIIMS, have nevertheless excelled in endeavours that lie beyond the institutes' respective professional realms.

A plausible explanation of this success is that while the ability to solve maths puzzles does not constitute visionary leadership, there is a common underlying personality trait that helps one succeed both in narrowly technical entrance examinations and in the wider domains of leadership. That trait is a combination of hard work, determination, and the will to overcome difficult odds or competition.

Moreover, being admitted to these institutions becomes a powerful affirmation of the student's talent, and society at large begins to offer opportunity in expectation of that talent. If the above holds true, then examination-based selection should produce results about as good as those produced by elaborate multi-attribute assessments.

There seems to be more agreement about the immeasurably powerful democratising influence of these institutions in a society still riddled with inequities. India's elite educational institutions have created considerable social mobility and opportunity for underprivileged students. Though parental wealth determines the student's access to good schooling and test preparation, raw talent can, and often does, prevail despite poor schooling.

There are drawbacks to the system as well, especially in the emotional toll it takes on kids who try hard but don't succeed. Test preparation can also become so ritualised that it supplants real education. These problems are caused by a shortage of high quality institutions rather than the processes they deploy for admission. The solution, therefore, requires the creation of more high quality institutions, not the re-engineering of admissions processes.

There is another implication. For perfectly understandable reasons, Indians nurture a healthy desire to make universities and public institutions more inclusive and accessible to underprivileged and under-represented peoples. The challenge is to ensure that the well-intentioned efforts to engineer the admission processes do not erode the very foundations of meritocracy. In my exposure to universities around the world, I have found this kind of meritocracy to be rare, and very much worth preserving.

The writer is Senior Associate Dean, MBA Program, School of Management, Yale University

Why qualifications don't count and skills do

NEW TREND Organisations say there is no simple correlation between having a degree and doing well at work

Gauri Kohli
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Penguin Random House made an interesting announcement recently. All applications from graduates and non-graduates alike are now being welcomed and assessed on a level-playing field. "We focus on an individual's potential, ideas and strengths. For each new role we work to understand which skills are needed, what it is that makes someone successful in the job, and then how we assess that," says Neil Morrison, group HR director, Penguin Random House, UK.

This means that having a degree will no longer be a minimum requirement for any job the company offers. "This is about taking meaningful action to make publishing in the UK far, far more inclusive than it has been to date, open up opportunities and attract a more varied candidate pool and future workforce. There is increasing evidence that there is no simple correlation between having a degree and ongoing performance in work. Last year, we ran an entry-level programme called The Scheme in which we moved away from traditional recruitment and CVs – asking for only an email address and responses to seven strength-based questions via Tumblr – to encourage people who might never have thought to apply for a role in publishing to think again. Those without a degree performed as well as those with a degree and half of the successful candidates who went onto join the company had not been through higher education. The Scheme showed us that we had unwittingly been missing out on talented individuals because of our focus on specific qualifications," adds Morrison.

So last week, Penguin Random House announced that it was removing any requirement to have a degree from all of its recruitment processes in the UK, shifting the focus of the interviews and job descriptions to give every applicant the opportunity to demonstrate his or her potential, creativity, strengths and ideas, and training its managers to ask different questions and understand how their own unconscious biases impact their selection decisions.

Penguin India's hiring policy is also similar to that of their UK business. According to Aditi Kumar, head (people), Penguin Random House India, "To a large extent, we are aligned to the UK in the context of hiring people regardless of their academic results and educational background. So it does not matter what discipline they come from, neither does a higher degree in a particular discipline command an edge over other applicants. We look at hiring talented staff who have the potential and are passionate about making a difference and this approach gives us an opportunity to look beyond scores and grades and hire a more diverse talent pool. This is further supplemented by having several internally validated assessment tools and methodologies that help us find just the right talent for the said job and not depend on academic evaluations at any level."

Penguin is not the only company to have changed its hiring strategy. Many organisations, Deloitte being one, are shifting focus on other skills and attributes and not following fixed norms when it comes to hiring.

The trend of companies stressing on a job seeker's educational/academic background has now given way to a fresh and pragmatic approach of finding talent that is not defined by one's academic qualifications.

"Some member firms of Deloitte which operate in more mature markets are practising the idea of not giving too much importance to a candidate's academic background selectively for certain businesses. However, there are some businesses where qualifications are very important. Indian companies have used education as a filter for identifying talent for a long time. However, in today's professional environment an approach of considering talent above qualification will work for selective businesses," says SV Nathan, chief talent officer and senior director, Deloitte in India.

> We look at hiring talented staff who have the potential and are passionate about making a difference and this approach gives us an opportunity to look beyond scores and grades

ADITI KUMAR, head (people), Penguin Random House India

Redefining criteria According to the 2015 Manpower Talent Shortage Survey, a number of firms are seeking to include individuals who lack required qualifications but have the potential to acquire skills

What companies want Organisations such as Cisco, Whirlpool and Vodafone prefer curiosity in a candidate, power to network, spirit of winning, ability to innovate and potential to grow into larger roles

You must have As per the India Hiring Intent survey 2016 conducted by PeopleStrong, almost 30% employers surveyed chose integrity and result orientation as the key qualities in a candidate along with interpersonal skills

IMAGESBAZAAR

"For me, IIT means the best of minds put together and bad infrastructure in hostels": Rahul Yadav

http://techstory.in/rahul-yadav-sachin-bansal-at-iit-bombay-1022016/

1 February, 2016, Mumbai: One of the most famous faces of the Indian startup industry, Rahul Yadav, made another bold statement during the IIT Bombay's 'The Entrepreneur Summit 2016'. While addressing a full house Yadav said, "For me, IIT means the best of minds put together and bad infrastructure in hostels." He was accompanied by another ecommerce personality Sachin Bansal, who needs no introduction. Yadav and Bansal visited IIT Bombay to be a part of 'The Entrepreneur Summit 2016'.

"I felt invincible thanks to being an IITian like we could create, design, sell anything without any outside help. We aced at everything, creating products and designing them etc. Going in, I thought, that was it, that's all we needed. Marketing, HR, and media relations were all BS. How I was proved wrong. Having a great product will not sell itself; marketing, field sales, communications and media are equally important, HR, administration are crucial, and you must build a team good at each if you want to succeed," adds Yadav.

Speaking to the young IITians, Sachin Bansal, shared his views, "Right from seven years ago to even a year ago, almost on a daily basis I had been doing something new. Change is the only constant. People who are nimble are the ones who will get ahead."

Commenting on the startup ecosystem, Bansal opined, "We had Flipkart's blueprint ready within 10 weeks of quitting our jobs, but the biggest challenge is that it still takes 45 days to make (officially register) a company. But even as I think those challenges continue, what's great is that there are people who are thinking fearlessly of starting up, people are willing to start up, and the investor-scene has changed drastically as entrepreneurs receive investments for their big ideas. Hiring has undergone change, and people are willing to join startups rather than the conventional big corporates, and with good reason, for startups are able to offer wealth creation opportunities."

"Set up research park at NIT-T"

International conferenceon Advances in Control and Optimization Of Dynamical Systems

http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Tiruchirapalli/set-up-research-park-at-nitt/article8182093.ece

S. Gopinath, Executive Director of BHEL, on Monday mooted the idea of setting up of Research Park at National Institute of Technology-T.

Inaugurating a three-day international conference on Advances in Control and Optimization Of Dynamical Systems (ACODS 2016) organised by the Department of Instrumentation and Control Engineering here, he said Research Park established at Indian Institute of Technology-M had become immense beneficial to the industries on many ways. Some companies had established their units in the park. The same concept could be replicated in NIT-T too. It would not only benefit the industry but also students and faculty members.

Mr. Gopinath said there was an understanding between the BHEL and NIT-T so as to utilise the services mutually. More importance should be given on strengthening industry-institute relationship to raise the production standards in the Indian industry.

Ian Petersen, Professor of University of New South Wales, Australia gave a brief introduction to the International Federation of Automatic Control and its activities. Radhakant Padhi spoke on the Indian Control Society – Automatic Control and Dynamic Optimization Society ACDOS, and its activities.

Deivamoney Selvam, Director-in-charge, NIT-T, various scholars including Liuping Wang, Professor, RMIT University Melbourne city campus, Australia, Biswajit Basu, School of Engineering, Ireland, Visakan Kadirkamanathan, Shiefield University, UK, Prof.Kamesh Subba Rao, University of Texas, Arlington, USA and others spoke.

Ramakalyan, Professor of Instrumentation & Control Engineering, welcomed.

Unimpressed with MHRD ideas

Hindustan Times (Delhi

At a Cabinet meeting last week, Prime Minister Narendra Modi was all praise for the 90-odd civil servants for coming up with transformative ideas in the sphere of governance. However, one sector that failed to impress him was education. Sources said that Modi was not happy with the ideas presented by the group of secretaries on improving the sector. VS Oberoi, secretary, department of higher education, came in for criticism for coming up with run-of-the-mill ideas.

IIT Kanpur alumnus given key World Bank position

http://www.hindustantimes.com/business/iit-kanpur-alumnus-given-key-world-bank-position/story-bJMywWbVEVoNUnkPWHfAZL.html

Saroj Kumar Jha is an alumnus of IIT Kanpur. (Photo courtesy: Jha's Twitter handle)

An Indian has been appointed to a key position in the World Bank with President Jim Young Kim assigning him a role to provide strategic leadership to address the challenge of fragility, conflict and violence.

Saroj Kumar Jha is an alumnus of Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur. Jha till last week was World Bank's Regional Director for Central Asia based in Almaty since February 2012.

Jha assumed the position of Senior Director for the Fragility, Conflict and Violence Group at the World Bank yesterday.

Jha has been tasked by World Bank President Jim Young Kim to provide strategic leadership to address the challenge of fragility, conflict and violence, working across the Bank Group and in close collaboration with partners.

An Indian national, Jha joined the World Bank in 2005 as a Senior Infrastructure Specialist in the Sustainable Development Network, after significant experience with the Indian Government and the United Nation's Development Program (UNDP) as a senior executive in the field of public sector management, infrastructure financing, natural resources management, natural disaster prevention and environmental sustainability.

He supported transformative innovations in regional cooperation, water and energy security, social safety nets, inclusive governance and grievance redress mechanisms in various regions of the world.

Earlier, Jha worked as the World Bank's Global Manager for Disaster Risk Management Practice.

He also served as head of the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery, now the world's largest global fund for disaster prevention and post-disaster recovery operations.

In addition, he has led international response efforts to many global catastrophic disasters, the bank said.