

## Newspaper Clips February 24, 2016

### **IIT Delhi Ties Up With UK Varsity**

Hindustan Times (Delhi)

Newcastle University, UK, a research-intensive university, has tied-up with IIT-Delhi on various research and education programmes. Several areas of mutual interest and research synergy have been identified and discussed by the two institutes. These include water resources, cyber security, transport and environment, antibiotic resistance, quality and innovation and knowledge transfer, smart grids and telecommunications. The two institutions are also looking at further cooperation in nanotechnology.

**Hindustan Times ND 24/02/2016 P-07**

## Stand up against pressure: Harvard prof to JNU V-C

**PTI**

■ htreporters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** Harvard University Professor Arthur Kleinman has advised JNU Vice Chancellor M Jagadesh Kumar to stand up against government pressure, warning him failure to do so will "redound" on JNU in the most negative way.

"I am deeply sad and shocked

about the gross infringement of freedom of speech among your students. The charge of sedition lodged with a student leader and the police action at JNU are violations of basic academic rights, freedoms which I have always associated with JNU," Arthur Kleinman said in an email to the VC.

"You must stand up to governmental and public pressure

and protect the sacred academic right of students to speak out critically in protest. Failure to do so will redound on JNU in the most negative way internationally. Now is the time to act," he added.

Jawaharlal Nehru University is caught in a row over an event in the campus against the hanging of parliament attack convict Afzal

Guru, where "anti-national" slogans were alleged to have been raised. The varsity's students union president Kanhaiya Kumar, is in judicial custody in a sedition case in connection with the February 9 event.

Various foreign scholars have been conveying to the VC their disappointment at shock at the turn of events at the varsity.

# Institutions aren't war zones: IIT-M

AGE CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, FEB. 23

Wading into the JNU row, a group of IIT-Madras faculty has expressed concern on institutions of higher learning being converted into "war zones", saying that calling for the country's "dismemberment and ruin" in the name of dissent is not acceptable. In a letter to President Pranab Mukherjee, the 56 faculty members said there is a need to save educational institutions from the scholarship of abuse and hate and sought his intervention.

The faculty said they felt concerned about the situation in the country where institutions of higher learning were being converted into war zones by some academicians, politicians and sections of the media. In their letter, the faculty members said: "We support intellectual freedom, and alternative views are a must for democracy and creativity. However, there is a deep distortion of the meaning of academic freedom which is leading to a vitiated atmosphere in the campuses."

One of the signatories,

**There is a deep distortion of the meaning of academic freedom which is leading to a vitiated atmosphere in the campuses**

**— IIT MADRAS  
FACULTY IN ITS  
LETTER**



Shreepad Karmalkar, said they requested the President to take steps for saving educational institutions from the "scholarship of abuse, hate and discord" and restoring the atmosphere of sobriety, reflection and harmony necessary for genuine scholarship.

In a statement, Prof. Karmalkar said that in the name of academic autonomy, angry academics should not wage their ideological wars, nor can an institute campus be beyond the norms of the society outside in matters of abusive and hateful expressions. The latter said: "Calling for dismemberment and ruin of our country in the name of dissent is not acceptable, even in a university."

**Hindu ND  
24.02.2016 P-12**

## IIT-M students, teachers march in support

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

**CHENNAI:** Expressing their support to the students of Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), over 200 students and a few faculty members of the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras (IIT-M) staged a protest walk on their campus on Tuesday evening. Many of the teaching staff who took part in the protest are said to have studied at JNU.

Meanwhile, a "letter of solidarity for JNU from members of the IIT Madras faculty", with over 50 signatories, has been sent to the President, who is also the Visitor of the JNU.

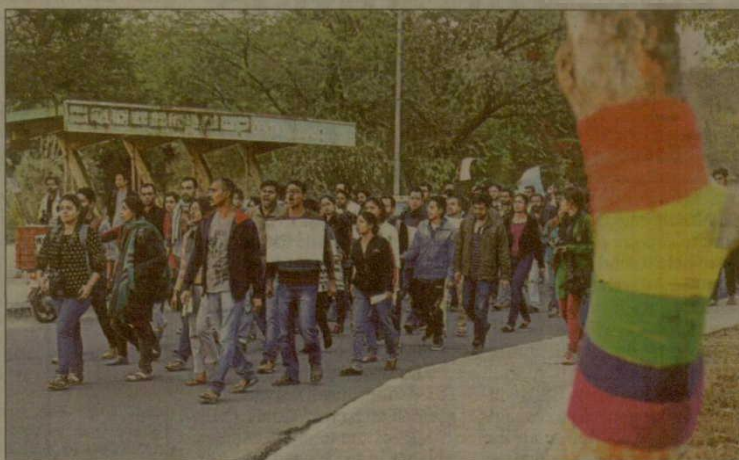
In the letter, the IIT Madras faculty expressed serious concern over the recent events at JNU and in the national capital over the past week.

"These events indicate the imposition of a narrow definition of nationalism by the state that excludes the possibility of dissent. A democracy is nothing without the ability to both question and disagree. Our university spaces have always fostered this space for debate and disagreement, and always in a fashion that encourages respectful co-existence through difference. As we view these spaces being criminalised and violently curbed, we are concerned that we are no longer able to foster spaces for open democracy," the letter said.

Hindustan Times ND 24/02/2016 P-16

# Argumentation is JNU's power

Nationalism is not jingoism but love for your country, a commitment to it and willingness to fight for your ideals for it, writes YOGINDER K ALAGH



■ Tens of thousands apply to Jawaharlal Nehru University and only a thousand are admitted. These students are the first among equals, idealistic and intellectually inquisitive. Intensely patriotic, they are angry with those who play with its ideals  
VIRENDRA SINGH GOSAIN/HT

I took the morning flight from Ahmedabad to Delhi on December 5, 1992, and landed at the vice-chancellor's lodge at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU). There were some policemen and security staff there. All the doors and windows were closed. The policemen were sent back to the police station and the security men to look after the university's main gate. The doors and windows were opened, so fresh air could come into the V-C's small bungalow.

From day one I let it be known that the V-C is available to each JNU student, if need be, the same day. Many nights this meant after 10pm. Every day, I would get a list of students who had completed their M Phil or PhD. I wrote a handwritten letter to each student who scored an A grade and all PhD students, saying how proud we were of their performance and how the university looked forward to their contributions to their profession and to the country. From Egypt to Canada, from Paris to Brasilia, somebody will tap my shoulder and would say, "Sir, you were my V-C, I treasure the letter you wrote to me."

A teacher has many rewards. But we also had our share of problems. Protesting against proposals to raise resources from non-government sources, the students were not allowing the Academic Council to meet on the campus. The university V-C is about moral authority and I was not giving up that space. It was suggested that we call in the police. To me that was equally unacceptable as that, too, would mean ceding authority. For once the police came in, they would be the authority in charge, and if a boy threw a stone, the police would retaliate with force. These were our students and I told the student union activists stopping me that I was going on satyagraha until they let us in. I wrote a letter to the chancellor, PN Haksar, reporting the events and that I was instructing the finance officer to deduct my salary for the days I was

on satyagraha. Haksar wrote an open letter to the community on 'bended knees', asking them to sort out the matters within the rules. Within two hours more than 50 teachers were standing with me in solidarity. Within two days the students gave in.

On another occasion some of them demonstrated at Jantar Mantar and were dutifully arrested. I spoke to the additional secretary (home) and the deputy superintendent of police in charge of Parliament Street police station, and got an assurance that they would be released in a few hours.

V-Cs were not allowed to go to the hostels. Not knowing this, when I joined, I went to a hostel to eat my lunch and such visits became a common feature. If I did not go to a hostel in a particular semester, it became a matter of concern. The V-C ignores our hostel. Each hostel mess would invite me to all their celebrations, including Eid and Diwali.

A visiting Japanese scholar from Nagoya University had described the hostels in JNU as some of the most democratic societies anywhere. Every evening, out-of-the-box thinkers and leaders were invited to speak on problems and issues of the day: LK Advani on Opposition perspectives, comrade Vinod Mishra of the CPI (ML), and leaders, thinkers and alumni alike. The session would end only after 'all the problems are solved', which meant that the last question had to be answered before the meeting dispersed. This is the reason that JNU students do so well in the UPSC exams for the higher civil services. I found out when I chaired a committee set up to develop the recruitment and training policies for the higher civil services. They are all trained in disciplined argumentation and would breeze through any discussion.

And, it is humbug to say that they are all of one ideological hue. The late Manohar Lal Sondhi, a proud JNUite, a member of the National Executive of the BJP, appointed

by then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee as chairman of the Indian Council for Social Science Research, was a favourite teacher and respected colleague. Like others he revelled in debate and the fiercely independent academic culture of a great university.

Now the HRD ministry is concentrating on flag hoisting in universities. Flag hoisting was a great event at JNU. The flag was raised at each hostel and in the Plaza on August 15 and January 26. Chandra Shekhar, (CPI-ML), who was president of the JNU students' union, after the official flag hoisting, asked me to attend his flag hoisting at the Ganga Hostel, where a small tricolour was unfurled on a small bamboo pole, by the oldest Dalit Class IV lady employee.

Nationalism is not jingoism but love for your country in a quiet unstated manner, a commitment to it and willingness to fight for your ideals for it. I was teaching economics at the University of Pennsylvania and Swarthmore College and had decided to come back to India. When some of the world's top economists asked me why I did so, I said these, sirs, were matters of the heart and not money and global prestige.

Tens of thousands apply to JNU and only a thousand are admitted. These students are the first among equals, idealistic and intellectually inquisitive. Intensely patriotic, they are angry with those who play with its ideals.

JNU does not just teach skills in the way the IIMs or IITs do. It creates the skills to change the world. If Nalanda, Al Azhar, Berkeley and Oxford only taught skills there would be no progress because skills work the existing systems. JNU pursues the holy grail of knowledge in its complete form. As we say: Satyamev Jayate.

YK Alagh is a former Union minister and former vice-chancellor, JNU  
The views expressed are personal

# JNU row: 56 IIT faculty members write to prez, seek intervention 'Varsities are turning into war zones'

**NEW DELHI:** Wading into the JNU row, a group of IIT-Madras faculty has expressed concern on institutions of higher learning being converted into "war zones", saying that calling for the country's "dismemberment and ruin" in the name of dissent is not acceptable.

In a letter to President Pranab Mukherjee, the 56 faculty members said there is a need to save educational institutions from the scholarship of abuse and hate and sought his intervention. "We feel concerned about the situation in the country where institutions of higher learning are being converted into war zones by some academicians, politicians and sections of media. We support intellectual freedom, and alternative views are a must for democracy and creativity. However, there is a deep distortion of the meaning of academic freedom which is leading to a vitiated atmosphere in the campuses," they said.

They have requested the president to restore the atmosphere of sobriety, reflection and harmony necessary for genuine scholarship, Shreepad Karmalkar, a professor and one of the signatories, said in a statement.

"In the name of academic autonomy, angry academics should not wage their ideological wars, nor can an institute campus be beyond the norms of the society outside in matters of abusive and hateful expressions. Calling for dismemberment and ruin of our country in the name of dissent is not acceptable, even in a university," the letter said.

PTI

## JNU a hub of 'sex, drugs': BJP MLA

Amid the raging JNU row, a BJP MLA has stoked a fresh controversy saying that the premier university is a hub of sex and drugs where over 3,000 used condoms and 2,000 liquor bottles are daily found, PTI reports from Alwar. Gyandev Ahuja, BJP MLA from Ramgarh in Rajasthan's Alwar district, said that those studying in JNU were indulging in all these "illicit" activities.

## Kanhaiya's bail plea opposed

In a complete U-turn, the police on Tuesday opposed in the Delhi High Court the bail plea of JNUSU President Kanhaiya Kumar, arrested in a sedition case, in which the court has asked for a status report by Wednesday. PTI reports from New Delhi. When the matter came up for hearing as directed by the Supreme Court last week, Additional Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the police, told Justice Pratibha Rani that they were opposing the bail plea of Kanhaiya, who was arrested 11 days ago. Delhi Police Commissioner B S Bassi, who had last week said the police would not object if Kanhaiya applied for bail, on Tuesday justified the change in their stand saying that the circumstances have changed.



## Situation very serious: Noam Chomsky

**NEW DELHI:** Noted linguist and academician Noam Chomsky said he was yet to receive a response from JNU vice-chancellor to whom the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) professor wrote a few days ago, asking why the police were allowed inside the campus.

"I haven't heard anything from the vice-chancellor. I feel that situation (in JNU) is very serious and ominous," Chomsky told *Deccan Herald* in an e-mail response when asked if the JNU vice-chancellor M Jagadesh Kumar had replied to his question.

The renowned American philosopher, who recently extended his support to the raging protest over slapping of sedition charge by police

## RS to discuss JNU, Rohith issues today

The Rajya Sabha will take up the Jawaharlal Nehru University standoff and the suicide of a Dalit student Rohith Vemula in the University of Hyderabad on Wednesday, *DHNS* reports from New Delhi. Rajya Sabha Chairman Hamid Ansari has admitted a Short Duration Discussion on the situation arising in the Central institutions of higher education with specific reference to the two universities. The Lok Sabha is also expected to take up discussion on the issues on Thursday after the presentation of the Railway Budget.

against JNU's Left-backed student union leaders and members as well as the arrest of the JNUSU president Kanhaiya Kumar.

"Many of us remain very concerned about the crisis in JNU, which was apparently created and precipitated by the government and university ad-

ministration with no credible evidence of any seditious activities on campus. Why did you allow the police on campus when it is clear that this was not legally required?" Chomsky had asked the vice-chancellor in an e-mail on Sunday

Though the JNU vice-chancellor is yet to respond to the

concerns and questions raised in his e-mail to Kumar, Chomsky said he was in touch with his "friends and colleagues" from JNU and getting updates.

Chomsky joined the JNU protest along with Nobel laureate Orhan Pamuk and 84 other eminent academicians and scientists from across the world last week, condemning the pressing of sedition charges against the university students and arrest of Kanhaiya.

In a joint statement, they said the police action against JNU students had brought "great dishonour" to the Modi government, charging that the "the present government of India" has generated "the culture of authoritarian menace."

DH News Service

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# Redefining Indian nationhood



ZOYA  
HASAN

The stand-off at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) after some students earlier this month organised a meeting to discuss recent instances of capital punishment has occupied centre stage. The high-handed police action, the arrest of the elected president of the students' union, Kanhaiya Kumar, on charges of sedition, and the battering of students, faculty and the media by a mob of lawyers in Delhi's Patiala House courts, some with professed sympathies for the Bharatiya Janata Party, represents a new escalation of government overreach and meddling that has undermined the autonomy of institutions of higher education. It also indicates that violence in the name of nationalism is acceptable.

## A crackdown on critical thinking

The shocking events that have gripped the nation are significantly different from the routine controversies surrounding campus politics in India. This was a deliberate and calculated attack on the democratic culture of JNU — synonymous with sharp critical thinking and vibrant debate.

JNU is India's finest university. Its contribution to scholarship is well known and widely recognised; its importance to national intellectual life is undeniable. It has produced social scientists who are highly rated the world over. Its former students have been and are in the higher echelons of the government, bureaucracy, policy institutions and media; many vice chancellors, directors of research institutes and chairpersons of important academic institutions are drawn from JNU. The latest in this long list is the newly appointed vice chancellor of Delhi University. Importantly, many of JNU's students now teaching in hundreds of universities and colleges have made a significant contribution to curricular reform and modern thinking in these institutions. The JNU course structure has served as a model for syllabi of several Central and State universities. So, why this attempt to destroy one of the finest universities at a time when most public universities are not exactly in the best of health and private universities are yet to take off?

That the attack on JNU was part of a larger design by right-wing forces to capture universities to impose a singular political discourse in institutions of higher learning is now obvious. This systematic pattern is clearly visible in the unrest in the Film and Television Institute of India, University of Hyderabad leading

The crackdown on JNU is in keeping with the right-wing project to ensure its world view becomes India's as well. Constructing the premier university as a space for anti-national thinking is crucial, for it gives this project a famous address and a justification to step in

to the tragic suicide of Rohith Vemula, the controversy over the Ambedkar-Periyar Study Circle in the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Madras, the furore over a film screening in IIT-Delhi, and now the protests in Jadavpur University. The Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) has become the instrument for political deradicalisation of various campuses which are fast emerging as major sites of conflict between the broadly secular left and the Hindu nationalists. This is a plausible explanation of the disquieting developments in JNU in the last two weeks. But the events also indicate that there is a larger agenda at work.

## State power to silence dissent

So, what is really the issue here? The key issue is the use of state power to silence dissent and using a narrow nationalist discourse to

found to be doctored and on the basis of a video supplied by a television channel. Commenting on the crackdown, Pratap Bhanu Mehta notes that the government is using "legal tyranny to crush dissent" and "the arrest was an open declaration by government that it will not tolerate any dissent." JNU, famous for its culture of radical dissent, was purposely chosen to send a message to all those who disagree with this regime that dissent is unwelcome. This institution had to be contained specifically because it was producing a critique that does not always conform to the national consensus about major issues, be it capitalism, nationalism, caste, class, community or gender.

## Pushing its nationalist project

The crackdown on JNU and the arrest of Mr. Kumar on sedition charges is not surprising; it

The original concept of India as a nation based on civic rather than ethnic identity is being redefined sharply by the BJP's rise, with much greater political space for the affirmation of Hindu identity.

put all critics of the government on the defensive. The immediate provocation for the police action and the sedition charge was the alleged shouting of anti-India slogans at a public meeting on February 9. The JNU students' union (JNUSU) has categorically denied any involvement with the controversial event. The identity of those who allegedly chanted the slogans is still unknown. And yet, on February 12, the JNUSU president was picked up by the police for "anti-national" behaviour and for violating the sedition laws without ascertaining specific factual details about who shouted the slogans. This was a political decision taken at the highest levels of government except that in taking this decision, the Home Minister and the Delhi Police seem to have gone by evidence that was later

is in keeping with the hyper-nationalism promoted by the right wing. It testifies to the Right's insistence on changing the public discourse in the country and ensuring its world view becomes India's as well. It betrays an intention to create an atmosphere of general fear among students and teachers and scare those who do not agree with the government's cultural project. At a time when the Modi government has not been able to deliver on the economic front, it is consistently finding ways to aggravate polarisation. For now, it is doing this by branding everyone who disagrees with it as anti-national. However, the issue here is not nationalism or patriotism, or who is or is not anti-national.

Rather, the BJP is using the crisis produced by its botched-up handling of the JNU events

to widen and polarise public opinion across the country around its nationalist project. Modern India was formed in 1947 on the basis of a broader concept of non-ethnic, civic nationalism. By adopting this nationalism, India intended to set itself apart from Pakistan — which effectively committed itself to being a state for Muslims. The original concept of India as a nation based on civic rather than ethnic identity is being redefined sharply by the BJP's rise, with much greater political space for the affirmation of Hindu identity, which according to its advocates cannot be separated from Indian nationhood even as this undermines secularism, one of the pillars of Indian democracy since Independence.

Constructing JNU as a space for anti-national thinking is crucial for it gives this project a famous address and a justification to step in to show its constituency that it can eradicate such anti-national people. They are also trying to use it as a springboard for the campaign to redefine nationalism. The rhetoric of ultranationalism, they believe, resonates strongly with its core base even though there is little evidence to suggest that it has a wider appeal. Comparing the impact of the notion of the national/anti-national during the Emergency and now, historian Gyan Prakash points out: "Like now, the Emergency regime also labelled dissent as anti-national, but it carried no weight with the public at large." Nonetheless, sections of the media have been giving a helping hand to this phoney enterprise by letting the question of nationalism frame the terms of debate to polarise and confuse the population by constantly debating nationalism when the issue is the foundational right to dissent in a democracy. Smriti Irani, Minister of Human Resource Development, introduced Bharat Mata into this discourse. Thereafter, if this is a debate about nationalism, then the issue is not just any nationalism but one specifically of the right-wing kind, by which we mean a narrow nationalism rather than an inclusive and capacious one — a category of exclusion that regularly suspects a section of its own citizens.

Mr. Kumar had reminded his audience in his speech a day before his arrest that the forces of "Hindu India" now most vociferous in laying claim to true patriotism were not only absent in the freedom struggle but were often collaborating with the British. This puts in perspective the shape of the struggle between those who would lay claim to India as a democratic, heterogeneous, inclusive and potentially egalitarian national project, and those for whom nationalism is principally an aggressive religious assertion and unbridled pursuit of growth, where neither violence nor widening inequality matters.

Following the arrest of Mr. Kumar, the Modi government finds itself facing huge protests from the liberal-left and progressive opinion within and outside JNU. The police crackdown has drawn criticism worldwide from universities and academics. It has succeeded in bringing together a range of intellectual and political forces which fear threats to the exercise of their democratic rights. In particular, JNU has shown that it has the ability and the willingness to put up stiff and broad-based resistance to the extraordinary attack on the university. This has set off the largest nationwide protests by students in decades and provoked an equally unrelenting response from supporters of the Modi government who say the actions against students are justified. This face-off between state repression and intellectual freedom may well turn out to be a watershed moment for the country and for this anti-intellectual government too. Far from containing JNU, the debate over dissent and tolerance has got a new lease of life and is likely to overshadow everything else.

*(Zoya Hasan is Emeritus Professor, Centre for Political Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University and currently ICSSR National Fellow, Council for Social Development, New Delhi.)*

# Confusion as hallmark of AICTE & UGC actions

**I**NSTEAD of focusing on quality education, the two national regulatory bodies for technical and higher education, the All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE) and the University Grants Commission (UGC), have developed individualistic approaches to decision-making, jeopardising the careers of hundreds of thousands of students across the country. On the other hand, the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (Naac) and the National Board of Accreditation (NBA) use well-defined uniform standards for assessment and accreditation of the quality of education imparted by colleges and universities. For the past two decades, Naac and NBA have developed complimentary approaches, though academicians often push their own agendas in pushing course material and titles. On the other hand, the UGC and AICTE are often at loggerhead over the degree titles across universities, even though it is well accepted that their similarity across campuses alone can determine their true value in the job market.

In the early 1980s, professional programmes, particularly engineering and management degrees, were determined by the AICTE, just as the Medical Council of India (MCI) and the Dental Council of India (DCI) have the last word on medical education, with only a handful of medical experts determining the approval of medical and dental colleges. Now, a decade and a half into the 21st century, engineering as well as the management colleges have reached the saturation level, even as the corporate sector has been insisting that their graduates with deep foundation in core subjects, must also have either competence in the pro-

Arun Nigavekar



**TIME TO PROSPER:** MHRD must address UGC, AICTE and other councils and bring cohesiveness in their functioning

duction process or understanding of financial value of products or knowledge of social and customer behaviour, besides a grip on local languages. Unfortunately, on more than one occasion, the AICTE has been caught completely unaware of these requirements.

On its part, the UGC has recently initiated positive steps on choice-based credit system and uniformity in the nomenclatures of degrees across the country, having taken note of the different degrees across campuses despite almost identical curriculums. While campuses might consider it an attractive business proposi-

tion to sell the same product under different titles, such practices nevertheless tantamount to breach of academic ethics and amount to cheating unsuspecting students. Starting academic year 2016-17, universities and other institutions have been directed to adhere to the nomenclatures specified by the UGC gazette. This is not yet the case with AICTE, which recently released its handbook that is completely out of sync with the UGC's various steps and circulars. The AICTE handbook mentions various courses, particularly in the management domain, that have already

been cancelled by the UGC in July 2014. The ministry of human resource development (MHRD) must necessarily look at how the two organisations have, over a span of two years, issued gazette circulars and/or handbooks that are completely out of place.

We are also heading for such a difficult scenario in the IT domain. ICT industries started growing in cities like Bangalore, Chennai, Hyderabad and Pune though the 1990s, with a huge appetite for recruiting mathematics graduates who also understood the basics of computer software development. At that time,

none of the universities or even the IITs were ready for such demanding expectations of the ICT sector. Only the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government, in the light of decision taken by MHRD minister Murali Manohar Joshi, established five Indian Institute of Information and Technology (IIITs) at Kolkata, Allahabad, Hyderabad, Bengaluru and Chennai. These institutes have been doing a good job at providing the ICT sector with highly skilled manpower. Today, several engineering colleges are running courses developed by the IIITs. Now, the government has decided to establish 20 new IIITs.

While this is a good step, MHRD should ensure that we do not repeat the mistakes committed earlier at the time of setting up 15 new IITs. While that decision has been in force for almost eight years and several vice chancellors who were appointed have since retired, the state governments reluctantly allotted land for setting up the campuses after a gap of nearly two to three years, while the funds flow has remained extremely slow. The net result is that the 15 new IITs are still struggling, and are beginning to get some 'academic boost' only after linking with the older reputed IITs.

MHRD must address all such issues concerning academic bodies like UGC, AICTE and others similar councils working at cross-purposes and bring cohesiveness in their functioning. Otherwise, the ambition to making India 'great' would remain a pipedream.

*(The author is a former chairman of UGC, former vice chancellor of SP Pune University & founder director of NAAC)*

# Consultancy firms dominate hiring at IIMs



■ Ecommerce firms which featured among top recruiters over the past three years have extended fewer offers to graduates during the current placement season at most IIMs.

HT FILE PHOTO

Rozelle Laha

rozelle.laha@hindustantimes.com

The consultancy sector dominated final placements at IIM Bangalore and Calcutta, making over 30% and 20% of the total offers, respectively to students on both campuses. At 28%, IIM Kozhikode recorded a 16.5% rise in consultancy offers compared to last year. At IIM Ahmedabad, which concluded its placement process in three clusters comprising sectoral cohorts, consulting firms, offering management consulting roles, continued to hire in large numbers.

Accenture Strategy made as many as 18 offers (including pre-placement offers) in Cluster 1 of placements at IIM Ahmedabad. At IIM Bangalore, top consultancy recruiters included Bain & Company (17 offers), Accenture Strategy (16 offers), Deloitte (14 offers), The Boston Consulting Group (13 offers), AT Kearney (11 offers) and McKinsey & Co (8 offers). At IIM Kozhikode, Accenture Management Consulting, Avalon Consulting, Boston Consulting Group, CBC, Deloitte, EY, Frost and Sullivan, KPMG, McKinsey, PwC shared a total of 99 offers.

At IIM Lucknow, the top recruiters based on job roles offered by them were sales and marketing (25%), finance (22%), consulting (21%), ecommerce (15%), systems/IT (10%) and

general management (7%).

Ecommerce firms, which featured among top recruiters over the past three years, have extended fewer offers to graduates this placement season at most IIMs.

"They really hired very high numbers in the previous years. The number of offers being made by dotcoms was slightly lower this year, when compared to the preceding years. Some students this year were looking for more stable options. The general euphoria among some of our best students over joining e-commerce firms because of huge packages and high positions that the recruiters were offering was low this year, triggered probably by the huge layoffs this financial year, at some well-funded startups," says Sapna Agarwal, head - career development services, IIM Bangalore.

Placement committee members are guessing that the dotcoms are hiring less in bid to re-structure this year. However, Amazon, a major dotcom recruiter at IIMs, sounded optimistic this year too. "Our campus hiring has seen a 15-20% increase year on year. We are seeing continuous growth in hiring and expect to see an upward trend in this area. Hiring for 2016 is still not over hence we would refrain on commenting on specifics," says Raj Raghavan, director - human resources, Amazon India.

# A cure needed for unfit colleges

**LIVES AT RISK** Why is the Medical Council of India granting licences to MBBS students graduating from institutes it had once declared 'unfit' for medical education?

Jeevan Prakash Sharma  
jeevan.sharma@hindustantimes.com

Shortage of resident doctors: 99%; deficiency of faculty: 57%, major operation on the day of assessment: Nil, bed occupancy: 10.36%, number of patients in ICU: Nil....

Believe it or not, but this is a report of the Medical Council of India (MCI) on the inspection of a medical college, the NRI Institute of Medical Sciences, Visakhapatnam.

The MCI checks were being conducted to renew permission to the institute to admit MBBS students for the fourth year. The system to recognise medical colleges is very skewed. Recognition is granted to a newly opened institute after it has been inspected by MCI for the fourth time, if its facilities are found up to the mark even if it has failed the first, second and third inspections. Now, even if it passes the fourth inspection, shouldn't the quality of medical education and training imparted by the institute

to its students be questioned? Legal provisions in India make the opening and running of such medical colleges possible. The nexus between many promoters of private colleges and some state governments adds to the problem.

An important question is: what happens to an institute which is declared unfit for the fourth year? The state government, as per legal provisions, should take over the institute. It should either create facilities for students or ensure that they are shifted to other recognised colleges. However, though the MCI has always recommended to the Central government to not allow admissions to such colleges and despite the Centre accepting their suggestions, state governments are slow to act and shut down the institutes.

Because of this impasse, about 10,000 students are still continuing their MBBS studies in colleges declared unfit by MCI. "The medical education regulator, ie MCI, is fully aware of the deficiencies in the

colleges. Not only that, it officially informs The Central and state governments that a particular college is completely unfit for medical education. Despite that, lack of timely action in the matter is not only producing 'half-baked' doctors for the society but also causing grave injustice to the students," says a medical expert.

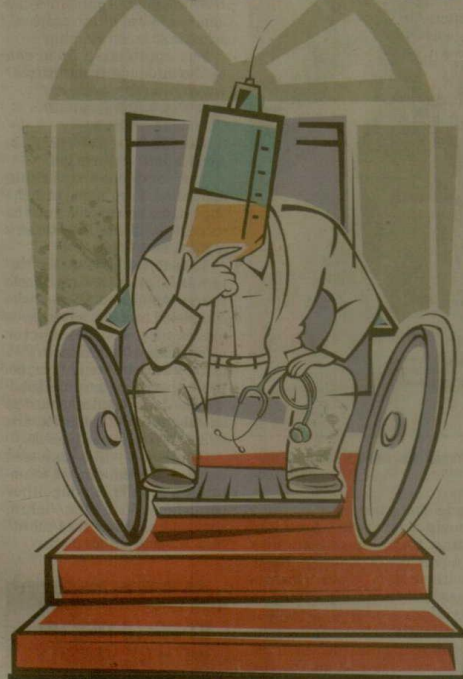
MCI provisions that an 'unfit' college be closed down before the students be shifted to other colleges has further complicated matters.

More than 40 to 50 batches of students are studying medicine in colleges which have failed to get the MCI nod for admitting students for the second, third and fourth batches.

According to a figure, officially provided by MCI to HT Education, 29 medical colleges were refused renewal of permission to admit fresh batches in 2015-2016. Some of them have only one batch of students while others have two or three batches.

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PRIVATE MEDICAL COLL



## SHORTAGE OF RESIDENT DOCTORS

Kalinga Institute of Medical Sciences, Odisha	96.33%
Aryabhata Knowledge University, Bihar	89%
Fathima Institute of Medical Sciences, Andhra Pradesh	93.20%
Govt Medical College, Kerala	92.19%
NRI Institute of Medical Sciences, Visakhapatnam	99%

As per MCI's inspection report

ILLUSTRATION: ABHIMANYU SINHA

## Doctors from...

For instance, Government Medical College, Bettiah, West Champaran, Bihar, which already has three batches of students (100 in each batch), was not granted permission to admit students for the next batch in 2015-16 due to severe lack of bare minimum requirements of infrastructure and facilities.

Some other colleges are Viswabarathi Medical College (Kurnool), Lord Buddha Koshi Medical College and Hospital (Saharsa), Gold Field Institute of Medical Sciences & Research, (Faridabad), Srinivas Institute of Medical Research Centre (Srinivasnagar), The Oxford Medical College, Hospital & Research Centre, (Bangalore) etc.

In 2014-15, the number of such colleges which were not allowed to admit fresh batches was 21. All these are non-recognised colleges which have to complete five-years to get formal recognition.

The situation is equally grim in many recognised colleges in which extension of seats was allowed for initial batches, but the institutes failed to create faculty, residents and clinical materials for the successive years as the batch progressed. The MCI has refused to allow them to increase their intake. However, the MCI will have to register all the candidates who will pass out these colleges.

According to a rough estimate, there are around 10,000 such students pursuing MBBS course in such medical colleges.



# IISc offers longer life for landfills, scientifically

<http://www.bangaloremirror.com/bangalore/others/IISc-offers-longer-life-for-landfills-scientifically/articleshow/51113348.cms>

By Mihika Basu, Bangalore Mirror Bureau | Feb 24, 2016, 04.00 AM IST

*City's landfills can be used for more years if waste is analysed properly*

With the city bursting at its seams, Bengaluru's civic authorities like many others need long-term solutions to trash disposal. Now, researchers from the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore, have shown that the same landfill — where trash that cannot be recycled or that survives composting, is dumped — can be reused for a couple of more years instead of closing it and finding new sites for dumping waste. This, according to the study, can be achieved if 'waste characteristics are analysed properly'. Computational results from their study shows that landfill pits filled with city's garbage can undergo large volumes of reduction over time if bio-degradables or compost rejects are present.

## 'Stability increases with time'

The researchers evaluated properties of Bengaluru's landfill waste. Calculations reveal that if scientific management of the city's landfills is adopted, the life of the landfills during filling can be prolonged so that there is no pressure on space for landfilling. "Our study shows that as time increases, the stability of landfills increase. The effect of different mechanisms governing the behaviour of municipal solid waste (MSW) such as primary compression, creep and bio-degradation are to increase the overall stability of landfills.

Deformation and volume change analysis showed that at the end of one year, the change in the volume of landfill is about 44 per cent, which increases to 60 per cent at the end of 10 years. Hence the knowledge of such characteristics may help in optimising the use of a landfill.

This implies that by knowing the changes in volume, additional volume of MSW can be accommodated in the same landfill before closing it," Pinom Ering, co-author of the study and PhD student from the institute's Department of civil Engineering told Bangalore Mirror. The findings have been published in the *International Journal of Geomechanics* from the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE).

## The hitch of solid waste

The main challenge faced, according to the researchers, during the field work was modelling the behaviour of municipal solid waste as the material is very complex in nature and consists of time-dependent mechanisms such as creep and bio-degradation.

"The problem in the world today is the efficient management of waste and its disposal. As population increases, so does the generation of waste. Although there are many suggested conventional ways to reduce the waste generation at the source, the solutions offered by these guidelines have not been able to address the huge problem of waste disposal in cities like Bengaluru," Ering said.

With the huge amount of waste generation, the authorities find it difficult to locate new sites for dumping waste. "In cities, land management is also difficult and even more difficult when choosing a land as a landfill site because people do

not want their area to be near the landfilling site.

The study conducted has attempted to address these issues by analysing the changes in volume of landfill system with time, the knowledge of which may help in reusing the same landfill for couple of more years," she added.

## **US VARSITY RETURNS \$3 MILLION GRANT FOR HINDU STUDIES CHAIR**

Hindustan Times (Indore)

A top US university is “walking away” from the \$3 million grants it received to establish endowed chairs in Hindu and India studies after faculty members and students alleged that the donors were “extremely ideologically driven” and have “extreme right-wing notions”, a media report has said. As a result, question hangs on the future of proposed chairs at the University of California Irwin (UCI), for which it received \$3 million from California-based Dharma Civilisation Foundation. The university has also decided to review another \$3 million in gifts it received for another two chairs.