

Newspaper Clips

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Can they carry the flame forward?

Six of eight new IITs churned out their first batch this year from makeshift campuses. *Business Standard* visited five of these to see if they are still catching up

ILLUSTRATION: AJAY MOHANTY

NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK

	Mandi (HP)	Indore (MP)	Jodhpur (Rajasthan)
Inception	2009	2009	2008
Campus (All make-shift)	Students shifting to permanent campus	To shift this year	Will shift to Nagaur campus
No. of students	516	635	635
Faculty	NA	NA	NA
Placements	NA	NA	80 of 100 Students in class of 2013 placed

Source: Institute websites

	Patna (Bihar)	Gandhinagar (Gujarat)	Hyderabad (Andhra Pradesh)	Ropar (Punjab)	Bhubaneswar (Odisha)
Inception	6th August, 2008	August 2008	2008	2008	2008
Campus (All make-shift)	500 acres; campus being built	Temporary campus, own campus to be ready by 2014-15 on an area of 70,000 sq mtrs	570 acres. Phase I: 700,000 sq metres built-up area being constructed for ₹642 crore	Being built, funds released ₹105 crore	Campus coming up over 935 acres at Angul
No. of students	565	616	1068	500	568
Faculty	54	50	94	48 with 12 more to join shortly	90 plus one chair professor
Placements (for the class of 2012)	100% (₹16.5 lakh highest offer)	The highest, average and lowest packages offered were ₹10.2 lakh, ₹5.2 lakh, and ₹3.5 lakh, respectively	90%. Highest salary by a foreign company: ₹35 lakh. Highest by a domestic company: ₹20 lakh. Salary offered ₹50 lakh for one off-campus placement	87% US-based IT services provider Epic offered a salary of \$105,000 to two students	93 of 95 B-Tech students of the first batch placed with an average pay package of ₹6 lakh
Class of 2013	Expects 100% placements	Recruiters fishing: Flipkart and BPCL	Of 168 students, 50 have job offers	Of 100, 12 have pre-placement offers	40% of 107 shortlisted

योजना पर ठीक अमल से ही योजनाकार होता सफल

शिक्षित शहरी भारतीयों के लिए ई श्रीधरन एक नायक की तरह हैं जबकि दिनेश मोहन के साथ ऐसी बात नहीं है। फिर भी दोनों ही शहरी परिवहन प्रणालियों से जुड़े हैं जिनका आम लोगों की जिंदगी पर गहरा असर होता है। तो फिर ऐसा क्यों है कि दिल्ली मेट्रो रेल निगम के पहले प्रबंध निदेशक के तौर पर सेवानिवृत्त होने वाले प्रतिभाशाली टेक्नोक्रेट श्रीधरन की भूरी-भूरी प्रशंसा की जाती है जबकि आईआईटी दिल्ली के एक सम्मानित परिवहन अर्थशास्त्री प्रोफेसर मोहन, जिन्होंने बस रैपिड ट्रांजिट (बीआरटी) कॉरिडोर की अवधारणा पेश की, उनकी मीडिया व्यापक आलोचना करता है? आलोचक इसे महज बेहतर जनसंपर्क का खेल बता सकते हैं, मगर यह वास्तविकता का महज एक छोटा सा हिस्सा भर है। इनकी छवि को लेकर अगर इतना अंतर है तो इसकी मुख्य वजह इन दोनों द्वारा परियोजनाओं का क्रियान्वयन है।

दिल्ली मेट्रो हर दिल्लीवासी की शान है। यह एक विश्वस्तरीय परियोजना है, जिसका क्रियान्वयन और परिचालन बेहद सुचारु ढंग से होता है। यह अत्यंत प्रभावी और समय पर चलने वाली परियोजना है। जब दिल्ली मेट्रो का काम चल रहा था तो इसमें कुछ रुकावटें भी पैदा हुई थीं। मेट्रो बनाने के लिए जो सड़कें खोदी जा रही थीं तो वास्तव में कुछ जगहों पर यातायात व्यवस्था सुधर गई। साथ ही श्रीधरन ने कुछ छोटी बातों का भी ध्यान रखा— जैसे कि खोदी की गई जमीन के चारों ओर लगाए गए धातु के बैरियर की योजना सफाई और यातायात को निर्देश देने के लिए खुद के गाइड नियुक्त करना। ऐसे में शक की कोई वजह नहीं है कि मेट्रो ने अपनी साख को इतना मजबूत कर लिया था कि कुछ खंभों के गिरने की वजह से मजदूरों की मौत हुई तो उससे श्रीधरन को छवि को कोई खास नुकसान नहीं पहुंचा।

वहीं इससे उलट बीआरटी कॉरिडोर एक निराश करने वाली परियोजना बन गया क्योंकि इसका क्रियान्वयन बेहद ही कमजोर था। इसकी वजह से यातायात बुरी तरह से प्रभावित हुआ। बीआरटी के निर्माण के दौरान दिल्ली की यातायात व्यवस्था पहले से ज्यादा गड़बड़ा गई। बीआरटी का परिचालन शुरू होने के बाद भी हालात कुछ खास नहीं सुधरे। संकेतों का इस्तेमाल इतने बेतरतीब



जिंदगीनामा

कनिका दत्ता

तरीके से किया गया कि एक ओर जहां कारों संकरी सड़कों पर भारी जाम में फंसने लगें वहीं इनसे काफी कम संख्या होने के बाद भी बसों के लिए चौड़ी खाली सड़कें थीं।

अब चूंकि शहरी समाज में कार मालिकों की आवाज बुलंद होती है, बस इस्तेमाल करने वालों की नहीं, यही वजह है कि यह परियोजना तत्काल आलोचनाओं से घिर गई। भारत में सार्वजनिक बहस का अंदाज ही कुछ अलग होता है और यही वजह है कि यह मसला तत्काल बीआरटी बनाम मेट्रो (हालांकि इनके बीच प्रतिस्पर्धा की कोई वजह नहीं है) और श्रीधरन बनाम मोहन (यहां मोहन विलेन बना दिए गए) का हो गया। मेट्रो का दिल्ली के दूसरे इलाकों और दूसरे शहरों में भी विजय मार्च जारी है। बीआरटी की अवधारणा कानूनी पचड़ों में फंस कर रह गई और यह प्रयोग अधूरा रह गया, हालांकि राज्य सरकार का कहना है कि वह शहर के दूसरे हिस्सों में भी इसी अवधारणा से जुड़ी रहेगी।

मैं इन दोनों ही अधिकारियों का साक्षात्कार ले चुकी हूँ और इस वजह से मैं यह कह सकती हूँ कि प्रोफेसर मोहन भी श्रीधरन के बराबर ही सम्मान और प्रतिष्ठा के हकदार हैं। दरअसल वह शहरी परिवहन की दुनिया में एक विचारवान नेता हैं। उन्होंने अपनी टीम के साथ मिलकर एक ऐसी अवधारणा पर शोध किया और उसका प्रस्ताव रखा, जिसे ठीक तरह से अमल में लाया जाता तो इससे आम आदमी के लिए शहरी परिवहन का कार्याकल्प हो जाता। मूल रूप से बीआरटी निर्माण, इसका रखरखाव और इसे चलाना मेट्रो रेल प्रणाली की तुलना में काफी किफायती होता है। साथ ही तुलनात्मक रूप से बीआरटी अधिक पर्यावरण अनुकूल और अपनी साइकिल ट्रेकों और चौड़े फुटपाथों की वजह से पैदल चलने वाले लोगों के लिए ज्यादा सुविधाजनक होता

है। इसमें बसों के चलने के लिए अधिक जगह होती है, इस वजह से ज्यादा से ज्यादा लोग परिवहन के इस सस्ते माध्यम की ओर आकर्षित होते हैं। मगर समस्या यही थी कि इस परियोजना पर ठेठ पीडब्ल्यूडी अंदाज में काम किया गया। इस प्रक्रिया में प्रोफेसर मोहन की भूमिका बेहद कम थी मगर जब बीआरटी की खामियों को गिनाने की बात आई तो सारा ठीकरा उन्हीं के सिर पर फूटा।

वहीं श्रीधरन से बात करना तो बेहद दिलचस्प होता है, मगर उन्हें वैचारिक नेता नहीं कहा जा सकता। उन्होंने न तो दिल्ली मेट्रो की योजना तैयार की थी और न ही इसका प्रस्ताव रखा था, हालांकि फिर भी वह दिल्ली मेट्रो एक जीते जागते मिसाल बन गए। निर्माण के रास्ते में कई तरह की चुनौतियों के बावजूद कॉकण रेलवे में श्रीधरन के शानदार रिकॉर्ड को देखते हुए दिल्ली के मुख्य सचिव ने नब्बे के अंतिम दशक में इस परियोजना का क्रियान्वयन उन्हें सौंपा। श्रीधरन लिखित में यह सहमति हासिल करने में कामयाब रहे कि उनका काम में कोई राजनीतिक हस्तक्षेप नहीं किया जाएगा।

उन्होंने समय से अपना काम पूरा किया और वह भी करीब-करीब बिना किसी गलती के। उनके इसी काम ने उन्हें हीरो बना दिया। यह ठीक वैसा ही था जैसे डीआरडीओ में उत्कृष्ट परियोजना प्रबंधन गुणों (हालांकि ऐसे कई आलोचक हैं जिनका यह मानना है कि वह अपनी इस साख के हकदार नहीं हैं) को दर्शाने वाले ए पी जे अब्दुल कलाम को राष्ट्रपति भवन में बिठाया गया।

इसी तरह क्रियान्वयन कौशल के लिए मुकेश अंबानी की भी प्रशंसा होती है, मगर उन्हें भी वैचारिक नेता कहना मुश्किल होगा। यही बात नरेंद्र मोदी के लिए भी लागू होती है। वहीं दूसरी ओर रतन टाटा ने लीक से अलग सोचते हुए नैनो का विचार पेश किया, मगर कमजोर क्रियान्वयन की वजह से एक महान अवधारणा का मजाक बन कर रह गया। इससे भारतीय मानसिकता का पता चलता है। किसी भी परियोजना का क्रियान्वयन इतनी बड़ी चुनौती बन चुकी है कि कार्यकुशलता अपने आप में एक उपलब्धि बन चुकी है। 21वीं सदी में यह भारत की सबसे बड़ी चुनौती बनी रह सकती है— ठीक ऐसे समय में जबकि वैचारिक नेतृत्व की सबसे सख्त आवश्यकता है।

Good growth but brand IIT also helps

KALPANA PATHAK

Mumbai, 31 January

When the ministry of human resource development proposed eight new Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) in 2007, directors of some of the IITs urged the government to give the institutes some other name, as calling them "IITs" would dilute the brand image of the existing institutes.

"I am surely in favour of the government's idea of creating new quality institutes like the IITs but they should be given a different name so that a different branding can be created," Ashok Mishra, former director of IIT Bombay, had told *Business Standard*.

The older IITs, he said, were in a global league and on the rising curve in terms of research and development. "They are a different brand altogether," he said.

Four years down the line, the fledgling IITs have impressed their mentors with their growth. Though the pace is slow, the mentors reckon, the path being followed will lead to success.

"The new IITs have all done well so far. They are well on their way to becoming Centres of Excellence in education and research. I have no doubt that given time, most of them will be regarded with the same respect," says Surendra Prasad, former director, IIT Delhi.

Prasad recounts that in 2008, it was a Herculean task to set up an entire new system for IIT Ropar, which IIT Delhi mentored.

The physical infrastructure was the first challenge: IIT Delhi hosted IIT Ropar students.

"Needless to say, everything — our time, energy and infrastructure — got divided between the needs of growth of IIT Delhi (which was happening simultaneously) and setting up of IIT Ropar. Although funds were never a problem, putting all these facilities in place in a short time frame, did generate enormous pressures," says Prasad. He is also on the board of governors of IIT Gandhinagar.

All the IITs mentored the new IITs, along with their own expansion plans, which, by the government diktat, was to increase the overall higher education capacity by 54 per cent in line with the new reservation policy.

IIT Bombay, which mentored IIT Gandhinagar, is still providing small administrative support to it. IIT Gandhinagar functions from a makeshift campus within the Vishwakarma Engineering College in Ahmedabad.

"Right now, they (new IITs) are still small. By far, their progress has been impressive," says

Devang Khakhar, director, IIT Bombay.

"Getting faculty is a challenge for a place like Ropar but still we have been able to manage well so far," said M K Surana, director, IIT Ropar. IIT Ropar, like its peers — IIT Patna, IIT Hyderabad, IIT Bhubaneswar, IIT Gandhinagar, IIT Jodhpur, IIT Mandi and IIT Indore — operates from a makeshift campus.

Brand IIT

Despite operating from a makeshift campus or sans enough faculty members, industry players say Brand IIT will keep attracting aspirants.

"What matters at the end of the day is the IIT brand name. When our seniors go out in the job market, no one asks them which IIT are they from. Being an IITian is a matter of pride. New or old is out of the question," said a student from IIT Patna on condition of anonymity.

In 2012, 520,000 students sat for the IIT JEE for about 10,000 engineering seats across India

Navin Tuli, an IIT aspirant in Mumbai, says his only goal is to seek admission into one of the IITs.

"I have been keeping myself updated on the new IITs. While many B.Tech students have got good internship offers and placements, many interested in post graduate studies have got good opportunities with international universities," said Tuli.

This attitude comes through when companies flock to campuses to dole out internships and jobs. State-run Bharat Petroleum Corporation says being IITs, it is certain these institutes would follow a certain standard of education and faculty and thus, are being looked at for hiring.

Ganesh Natarajan, Global CEO of Zensar Technologies, says though the company at present primarily recruits from the older IITs, in future it plans to recruit from the new IITs as well.

"We consider the new IITs on par with the top end of the second-tier engineering institutes. In future, we may recruit from the new IITs for B.Tech," said Natarajan.

Morgan Stanley, Microsoft, and HCL — recruiters that have visited the new campuses — for recruitment, did not reply to an email questionnaire.

Ashank Desai, who co-founded Mastek Limited, an information technology solutions and services company, says "I know of a few IITs which have done very well. IIT Jodhpur for instance, has innovative ideas in terms of content and is experimenting with a multi-disciplinary approach. Am sure the other IITs are also doing well." Desai is a member of the IIT Council at IIT Jodhpur.

THE OTHER 8

IIT	Year established
Kharagpur	1951
Bombay	1958
Kanpur	1959
Madras	1959
Delhi	1963*
Guwahati	1994
Roorkee	2001*
Varanasi	2012*

*Year of upgradation to IIT

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IIT, IIM GRADS DUMP BIG FIRMS FOR E-COMMERCE START-UPS

Manoj Gairola

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NEW DELHI: When Harish Rawat joined Jabong, an e-commerce start-up in April 2012, it was a tough decision. The 31-year-old alumni from IIT Kanpur and IIM Ahmedabad was in a comfortable position at Nokia, one of the world's largest telecom manufacturers. While, Jabong was in operations for only three months.

"I wanted to work in an environment where I could implement my ideas and could do new experiments," said Rawat, associate director, offline marketing and brand management, Jabong. "In a large company there are hierarchies and one does not get this kind of liberty."

He is not alone.

"There are 80-100 people from institutes like IITs, IIMs, Harvard Business School Wharton, Oxford and ISB," said Mukul Bafna, co-founder and CEO, Jabong. "Some of them are lateral entrants from top firms like McKinsey, BCG, and AT Kearney."

Flipkart has about 50 employees from IIMs and close to 250 from IITs. Snapdeal.com, another leading e-commerce company has more than 100 IIT and IIM alumni.

Most e-tailers have not yet started making profits. Does it mean the return of the Dotcom culture when people joined start-ups for employee stock option schemes (Esops) in the hope of making good fortune when the company goes public or is sold out?

"We do not offer Esops," said Bafna. "We are very competitive in terms of salary and provide a healthy environment. We have a flat structure."

Young graduates from premier institutes are joining the start-ups for bigger responsibilities, wide experience and good growth prospects not possible in big companies. "I joined the company at a package of ₹10 lakh in the product development team. Within six months I shifted to marketing," said a employee who was recruited from IIT through campus interview last year.

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E-COMMERCE...

CONTINUED FROM P21

"Even if the company does not do well in the long term, I will get good opportunity outside with the kind of experience I am getting here," he said.

"There is a big difference between Dotcom and e-commerce companies," said Aditya Narayan Mishra, president, staffing business at Randstad, an HR firm. "Dotcom was based on optimism. E-commerce is a reality and is set to grow in view of increasing Internet penetration and consumerism."

While these firms have strong business models, some may not survive long. "E-tailing is going through churn. In next three to four years many of them will not survive," said Ankur Bisen, vice-president, Technopak Advisors, a management consultancy firm. "However those with strong business models will survive."

Though the future of some of these firms may be doubtful, young employees are, however, getting good exposures.

IIT-HYDERABAD

Seeking entrepreneurs

PRASHANTH REDDY CHINTALA

The Indian Institute of Technology, Hyderabad (IIT-H), had no faculty of its own when it started in August 2008. It was dependent on IIT, Madras, for its premises and the teaching of its first batch of 167 students. The first faculty member, U B Desai, now director of IIT-H, joined the institute a year later.

IIT-H still works from a temporary campus but now has 94 faculty members and 1,068 students, nearly half of whom are pursuing post-graduate courses.

New courses

"We are ahead of others (new IITs) in terms of academics," Desai said. He said IIT-H had courses not offered by any other IIT, such as engineering science, wireless sensor networks and cognitive radio. It also offers a B.Tech Minor in entrepreneurship. "We want our students to think like entrepreneurs. We want them to become employment generators not employment seekers," says KVL Subramaniam, professor and head of the department of civil engineering.

This intention, though, is not being fulfilled just yet. About 90 per cent of students of the first batch, who graduated this year, took up jobs through campus placement, joining a growing mass of young job seekers in India — but distinguished by their IIT edge.

Placement officials said 50 companies, including Microsoft, Amazon, TCS, HP, ONGC and Mahindra & Mahindra,

visited the campus. While Works Applications of Japan offered the highest annual pay packet of ₹35 lakh, the highest salary offered by a domestic company was ₹20 lakh. A student who applied on his own to Google for a job in California was recruited at a salary of ₹50 lakh (all salaries are cost to company and include allowances). The campus placement for the class of 2013, with 168 students, has started and 50 of them received offers to join from companies like Morgan Stanley, PayPal, Dell, Mercedes Benz, Google and Flipkart. So far, the highest salary offered is ₹35 lakh a year.

IIT-Hyderabad functions from the refurbished premises of an ordinance factory under the ministry of defence.

The state government allotted 570 acres of land to IIT-H to build a campus. The first phase of construction is expected to be complete by 2014.

IT hub

Prince Gupta, a student from Lucknow, secured a rank of 2,800 in the 2009 IIT JEE. "Among the new IITs at that time, the one at Gandhinagar and Hyderabad had a better reputation. These two IITs are preferred," he said. He is set to join Flipkart in June.

Academics Dean, Faiz Ahmed Khan, said IIT-H was a favoured destination even for faculty. "One of the reasons could be the chance of getting employment for their spouses", he said.

Business Standard ND 1/02/2013

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IIT-PATNA**Enough faculty for all****SATYAVRAT MISHRA**

Since its establishment in 2008, the Indian Institute of Technology-Patna has had a good run but it still has a lot of catching up with its richer and older cousins. It houses 10 departments and a little more than 500 students.

Expectation

"It is an IIT. So, everything we offer must be world class," said the spokesperson, "We are trying live up to that expectation."

The administration proudly points out to a 1:10 faculty-student ratio. One of the officials at IIT-P said, "We still have a lot to do but we are evolving in our own way. IIT-P may have a smaller campus and smaller number of students, but we take it as our advantage. The smaller campus ensures the optimal utilisation of space; every teacher personally knows every student."

IIT-Patna has 60 faculty members,

including six visiting professors. The average age of faculty members at IIT-P is 30-35 years, which helps them connect with their protégés.

IIT-Patna has been able to score jobs for its first batch which graduated this year. Almost 30 companies participated, led by big names such as Microsoft and Infosys. The preferred choice for recruiters was the computer engineering department — a student here bagged a salary of ₹1.65 million from Microsoft. For the batch about to graduate, the institute expects 100 per cent placement. It is not so optimistic about a hike in pay packages.

IIT-Patna runs from a transit campus at a polytechnic run by the state government. Its own campus is being built at Bihta, an hour's drive from Patna.

The institute is also running on almost half of its approved faculty strength due to limited response in hiring new members.

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IIT-GANDHINAGAR

Looking to expand

VINAY YALAGURRAJ UMARI

Despite functioning from a makeshift campus within the Vishwakarma Engineering College (VEC) in Ahmedabad, the Indian Institute of Technology-Gandhinagar (IIT-Gn) seems to be rubbing shoulders with its older peers.

"The only drawback in a makeshift campus is restriction in expansion. Yet, from day one we have kept telling ourselves — a temporary campus should not be an excuse for us," says its director, Sudhir K Jain, who was part of the civil engineering faculty at IIT Kanpur from 1984 to June 2009.

The new IIT, which began functioning from August 2008 under the mentorship of IIT Bombay (IIT-B), is one of the very few IITs — old or new — to have installed a 'Rapid Prototyping Machine' that creates 3D product prototypes using liquid ABS plastic based on data inputs from a student or researcher.

"I am not certain but only IIT Bombay and Kanpur would have this machine. Among the new IITs, we are the first. The machine has helped us tremendously in our research projects, as well as understanding of engineering behind products in the market," says Akshay Jain, 21, a B.Tech mechanical engineering student

at IIT-Gn.

Spread across an area of 15,000 square metres within VEC, IIT-Gn's makeshift campus has laboratories and workshops for chemical, mechanical and civil engineering disciplines, classrooms, offices and hostel facilities for 360 students — 300 for men and 60 for female students. The institute has got ₹10 crore, ₹12.5 crore, ₹23 crore, ₹35 crore and ₹32 crore for the last five years, respectively, as a grant from the government.

A new campus, to be ready within two years, will house 270 apartments for faculty and staff as well as 2,400 hostel rooms.

IIT-Gn has also inducted some retired faculty from older IITs, apart from bringing in several young faculty.

Girish Mudgal, CEO of Timetooth Technologies, which has recruited at IIT-Gn for the last two years, said, "Our requirement of manpower is of students, especially from IITs, who are interested in core engineering and have acquired strong fundamentals. This has been present at IIT-Gn in plenty." The Noida-based firm, which has been recruiting from IIT Delhi, Kharagpur and Madras, recruited a couple of students from IIT-Gn for a CTC of ₹6.5 lakh per annum.



"From day one, we have kept telling ourselves a temporary campus should not be an excuse"

SUDHIR K JAIN

Director,
IIT-Gandhinagar

IIT-BHUBANESWAR

Eight campuses try to make a mark

NIRMALYA BEHERA

IIT-Bhubaneswar (IIT-BBS) functions from eight campuses scattered across the city, while the permanent campus is coming up at Arugul. But Sumant Laxmeshwar, 21, an undergraduate, does not regret his decision to join the institute that is still an infant and has just concluded its first convocation.

Laxmeshwar, from Karnataka, got 44th rank in the state list of successful candidates in the IIT examination and was also eligible for getting into National Institute of Technology, Surathkal. He had opted IIT-BBS as his first choice for admission and is glad he did so.

"I am happy that I got the opportunity to study at this new IIT," said Laxmeshwar, who has bagged an offer from a reputed core industry

company with a lucrative pay package in the campus placement.

Satisfied with the faculty-student ratio at the new institute, which had started its journey in 2008 from the campus of IIT Kharagpur, the mentor institute, he says, it's been a good journey so far and the labs here are good enough compared to the older ones.

The Arugul campus will be spread over 935 acres, about 25 km from Bhubaneswar, with an investment of around ₹1,000 crore after cost escalation. The Centre provided a budget of ₹388 crore in 2008 for setting up the new campus.

The institute plans to move to its permanent campus by the beginning of 2014.

"Though the institute runs on temporary premises, we are running

like a full-fledged institute," said M Chakraborty, director, IIT-BBS.

It has invested around ₹50 crore to set up the facilities and tied up with Central Tool Room and Training Centre (CTTC) and Institute of Minerals and Materials Technology for laboratory and workshop facilities.

"The absence of a permanent campus is compensated with the quality of academic facilities provided here," explained B K Ray, registrar, IIT-BBS.



"Though the institute runs on temporary premises, we are like any full-fledged institute"

M CHAKRABORTY

Director,
IIT-Bhubaneswar

IIT-BBS has produced 93 B Tech students from three undergraduate programmes with an intake of 40 each and two Ph.D scholars.

So far, about 40 per cent of students of the current graduating batch of 107 have got shortlisted by globally renowned companies such as Malaysia-based Finisar, Flipkart (online trading company), Bharat Petro Chemicals Ltd, Tata Steel, Samsung, Avitec, etc with lucrative pay packages and many more companies are in the queue. These companies are

hiring students in the pay range of ₹4 lakh to ₹10 lakh per annum.

This compares well with the ₹5 lakh average annual salary offered last year. "As the placement season is going to continue till March, we are hopeful that all the students will be placed with handsome pay packages", said TVSSekhar, professor-in-charge of career development cell.

As part of its growth plan, the institute will introduce joint M.Sc-Ph.D programme in chemistry, earth science, physics and mathematics from the next academic session. In addition, IIT-BBS plans to set up an innovation centre for climate change for its School of Earth, Ocean and Science spread over 75 acres along the Puri-Konark marine road, to study the impact of climate changes.

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Avoiding magic pills at IIMs

Industry and academia are up in arms against the government's carrot-and-stick strategy of luring the Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) with the promise of giving them the power to award degrees if they allow a pan-IIM council to monitor all the 13 IIMs and submit reports to the ministry of human resource development, ostensibly with a view to reforming higher education.

Many industry captains, most

of whom have studied at IIMs, and the institute faculty argue that the idea of creating a pan-IIM council—which was rejected even when it was first mooted four years ago by the R.C. Bhargava committee—will rob them of their autonomy.

Older IIMs, each of which has a unique tradition, have boards to govern them. An overarching IIM council will only create an additional layer and undermine the board's powers and prove counter-productive. It's not that

the IIMs are beyond reproach. There's a danger of them degenerating into profit-making organizations if they keep on raising tuition fees to retain their financial autonomy. On the flip side, they do offer scholarships to poor students.

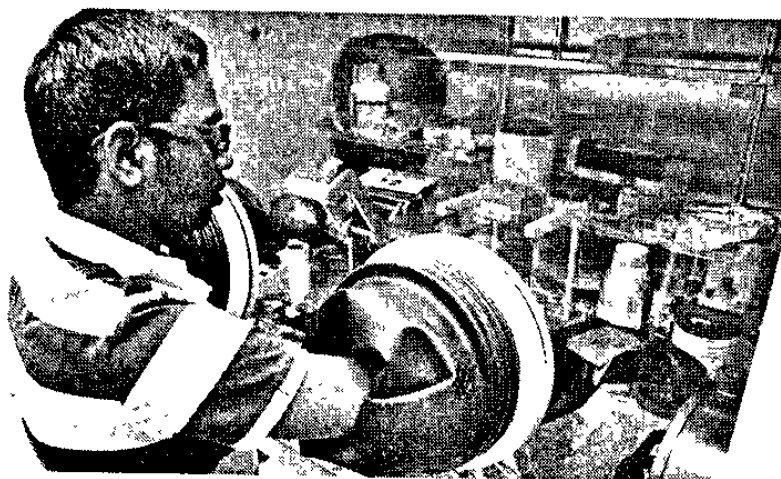
There's also the concern that the IIM faculty spend a lot more time on management and executive development programmes at the cost of compromising teaching hours for the postgraduate

programmes or doing research work that can enhance the reputation of the institutions. Besides, there's always the concern that management courses are not tweaked sufficiently to keep pace with industry trends.

The concerns deepen when one sees the rankings of these premier institutions slip. The Hyderabad-based Indian School of Business (ISB) and IIM-Ahmedabad slipped again in the Global Top MBA Rankings 2013 of the *Financial Times*, London. ISB slipped 14 notches to rank 34 while IIM-A slipped 15 places to rank 26 this year. Regardless

of these concerns, it is not clear how the IIM brand stands to gain if institutes get permission to grant MBA and PhD degrees instead of diplomas and fellowships, other than figuring in more rankings because of a university status. Besides, even if the government prevails and creates a pan-IIM council, it will only introduce a unicameral approach as opposed to a decentralized one that has helped IIMs become one of the world's best management institutes.

Will a pan-IIM council erode the autonomy of IIMs? Tell us at views@livemint.com



IIT-ROPAR Roping in attractive recruiters

KOMAL AMIT GERA/VIKAS SHARMA

In a city which has no fast food chains such as Pizza Hut or McDonald's, US-based Epic offered \$105,000 to two students of IIT Ropar's class of 2012.

The institute, with close to 500 students, functions out of Ropar's defunct women's polytechnic, converted into a transit campus.

With students in B. Tech and Ph.D, the Ropar IIT offers courses in computer science and engineering, mechanical engineering and electrical engineering. The director, MK Surappa, says an interdisciplinary approach is encouraged.

"The institute has tied up with the PGIMER (Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research) to pursue research in mechanism of bone fraction and healing and to develop prosthetic devices," he said.

A new set-up

The new institutes have an advantage of flexible minds as the young faculty has quick adaptability, and the small scale makes decision-making easy. But there are hiccups like limited senior faculty to mentor research. The administrative staff needs to learn the functioning of IITs.

The IIT campus would come up in an area of 500 acres in Ropar and should be ready in two years. Student

strength could go up by four times to 2000 with a faculty of 200. The faculty numbers 48 now with 12 more to join shortly.

Training and Placement Officer Prabh Sharan Singh says compared to last year, placement this year has been a little easier and better (in terms of salary package offered and more students getting placed). It is mainly because the recruiters' size this year has been more compared to last year. Last year, when the first batch graduated from IIT Ropar (classes commenced in 2008), the placement stood at 87 per cent.

The number of companies has increased with new ones coming to the campus. Of 100 students studying in IIT Ropar in the final year, 12 have pre-placement job offers.

Students

Siddarth, an electrical engineering student, recruited by Flipkart, says he chose IIT Ropar over BITS Pilani.

Shashank and Navneet, waiting to be interviewed by recruiters, say choosing a new IIT works as an average student has a chance of proving himself since the pressure is less.

"Studying in an established IIT doesn't let an average student make a mark but new IITs give an average student a chance to make a identity for himself."

Millennium Post ND 01/02/2013 P-4

Science Expo 2013 kicks off, focus on disaster management

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: For the first time, the National Science Centre, New Delhi has planned to showcase the latest research and development activities of different Indian scientific institutions in various fields. In order to popularise disaster management education and awareness, National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) will take part in this expo, along with 12 more premier organisations of the country.

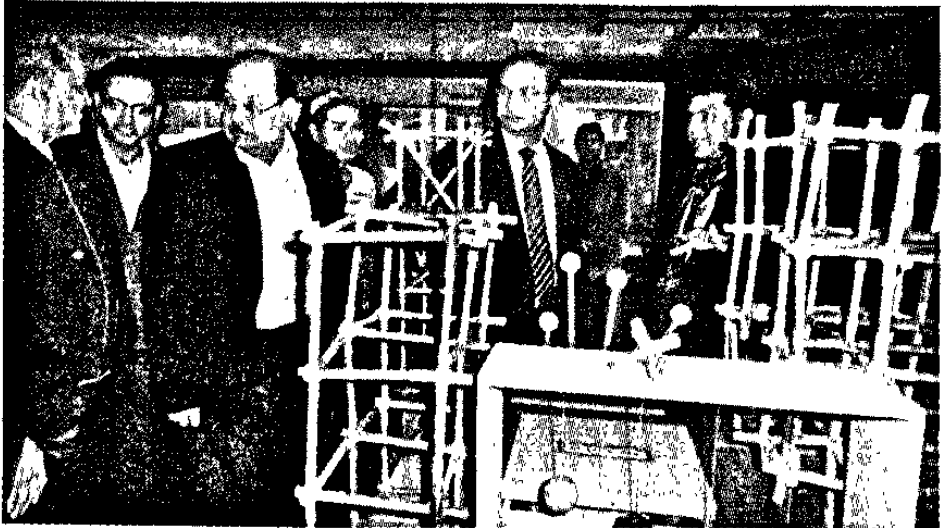
During this exhibition period, NIDM will showcase disaster management scenarios through demonstration of physical models with particular reference to earthquake and buildings, live videos and display materials.

IEC materials developed by NIDM, especially for awareness and increasing knowledge of the students about disaster management will be distributed among the visitors.

The main IEC material developed includes leaflets for school safety planning, fire prevention, do's and don'ts for common disasters, earthquake awareness, ludo game kit, wall and desk calendars showing major safety tips and so on.

Documentaries on disaster risk reduction will also be screened during the exhibition.

By participating in the event, NIDM plans to spread awareness and orient thousands of students regarding disaster management and



Science Expo 2013 in New Delhi on Thursday

thus capacitate them not only to face disastrous situations but also to help community.

In this expo, popular science lectures, interactive sessions on careers

in the area of R&D, demonstration of instruments, gadgets and contests for students are going to be arranged. Around 25,000 students are expected to visit the expo.

Publication: The Times Of India Delhi; Date: Feb 1, 2013; Section: Times City; Page: 5;

Varsity panel to probe deans

Both Accused Of Plagiarism

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University has set up an inquiry committee to probe into allegations of plagiarism against two deans. A three-member panel will look into the complaint filed by the teachers' association claiming dean, school of law, Prof. Suman Gupta, and dean, school of education, Prof. Saroj Sharma, have published articles under their

own names which are not their original work. N Raghuram, president of the teachers' association, said, "Gupta blatantly plagiarized three of her published articles (including two on intellectual property rights) on which we have lodged complaints with the vice-chancellor of GGSIPU as well as with the VC of Delhi University as she was a reader in DU school of law when she committed these acts of plagiarism."

Sharma in the January 2012 edition of U-Focus

(GGSIPU's official publication) wrote an article "Co-existence of private and public education system". The allegation against her is that she plagiarized the "Where private and public coexist" by Parth J Shah which was published by Pragati-The Indian National Interest Review on March 2010. The teachers' association also claimed that Sharma published an article in University News with major portions lifted

IP UNIVERSITY ROW

from multiple sources, as per the report of anti-plagiarism software, Turnitin.

When contacted, Sharma stated that all the allegations are false and refused to comment further. "I tried to bring in some discipline and punctuality in classroom and teachers attendance which is why they are making such baseless, false and defamatory allegations," Gupta said.

"The university has instituted an independent inquiry. All allegations will be probed," VC Dilip K Bandyopadhyay said.

Publication: The Times Of India Delhi; Date: Feb 1, 2013; Section: Times Nation; Page: 19;

20% rise in number of Indian students applying for UK visa

Kounteya Sinha | TNN

London: There has already been a 20% increase in the number of Indian students who have applied to study in the United Kingdom in 2013 as against 2012 — the third highest among all countries, after Malaysia and Italy, which have recorded a nearly 25% and 22% increase respectively.

In absolute numbers, however, it is China with 6,903 applications (a 9.9% increase) which tops the list. The number of Indian students that have applied stands at 2,610 in 2013 as against 2,188 in 2012. The number is expected to swell further as students can apply until 30 June.

New figures released by UCAS (University and Colleges Admissions Services) on Thursday shows that the number of students from outside European Union who want to come to the UK to study in 2012/13

BRITAIN BECKONS

► The number of Indian students that have applied stands at **2,610** in 2013 as against **2,188** in 2012

► It is China with 6,903 applications (a 9.9% increase) which tops the list



The number is expected to swell further as students can still apply until 30 June

has risen by 9.6% year on year.

Immigration minister Mark Harper said there has been an increase in Chinese and Indian students applying for courses at British universities and colleges. Harper said, "In particular, numbers from India and China have seen big increases. This shows that, despite stories to the contrary, students continue to want to come to

the UK to study at our world class universities. We have tackled abuse of the student route head on — without affecting genuine students. By protecting the reputation of the British education system we will be able to compete in a global race."

According to latest data available with TOI, British colleges have received the maximum number of applications from Chinese students at 6,903 (9.9% increase over 2012) followed by 5,452 Irish (0.3% increase), 5,046 from Hong Kong (1% increase), 3,457 Singaporean (6.8% increase), 3,382 French (6.2% increase) and 3,233 Malaysian (24.8% increase over 2012). Germany is the only country from where there has been a fall of applications — from 2,943 applications in 2012 to 2,753 applications in 2013 (a fall of 6.5%).

Around 2713 American students have also applied for admissions, a 14% increase over last year.

Publication: The Times Of India Delhi;Date: Feb 1, 2013;Section: Times Global;Page: 26;

'Indian men consider UK student visas as dowries'

Ashis Ray | TNN

London: British home office's migration policy head Glyn Williams has said that UK student visas possessed by Indian women were looked upon as "marriage dowries" by men desiring to marry them.

"In India, UK student visas became known as the 'marriage dowry' because female Indian students were able to bring over their partners to work in the UK," the UK's Times Higher Education supplement quoted Williams as saying. This was allegedly one of several other abuses for entering Britain for studies.

Williams further said that the prospect of working in Britain was a far bigger attraction for Indian students than their Chinese counterparts.

At a recent conference on improving international student experience held in London, Williams said Indians widely use student visas to obtain the right to work in the UK. He argued that such visas had become a "vehicle for abuse" before the present government tightened the rules.

Following the tightening of visa rules, the inflow of Indian students in the 2011-12 dropped by 24% over the previous year, Higher Education Statistics Agency figures revealed earlier this month. But the overall overseas student numbers grew primarily