

Newspaper Clips **February 11, 2015**

IIT, IISER to start functioning from July

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/iit-iiser-to-start-functioning-from-july/article6880289.ece>

The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) and Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) proposed in Tirupati will start its 2015-16 academic year from July or August this year.

At a meeting with the representatives of IIT, Madras and IISER, Pune here on Tuesday, Chittoor Collector Siddharth Jain and Technical Education Commissioner Udaya Lakshmi announced that the institutes would start functioning from temporary campuses, while permanent structures would be completed in the next four years. “The students of IIT and IISER will receive their certificates from their permanent campuses,” Mr. Jain said.

A local area committee formed to monitor the development will seek the help of R&B, electricity, water supply and municipal departments in expediting the work.

Pioneer ND 11/02/2015 P-13

Tech fest at IIT Roorkee

The Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT) Roorkee is organising its 13th annual tech fest — Cognizance 2015 from March 27 to 29, 2015. Cognizance is a conflation of over 180 events that would include technical competitions, theme events, guest lectures, workshops, exhibitions, techtainment shows and much more.

Maintaining the uniqueness of the fest, Cognizance 2015 is organising zonal rounds of the events in various cities. Eight volunteers from IIT Roorkee will travel to each city wherever the events are happening and the rest of the volunteers are from the hosting college.

Pratik Toshniwal, Convener events said: "The basic idea is to maximize the outreach and impact of Cognizance and hence that of IIT Roorkee as well. Every year we have thousands of participants pouring in from various cities, this time we wanted to travel to various cities to empower students. By this exercise of zonal events this year, we want to spread a word about technological knowhow and the innovative excellence of Cognizance and create a lasting impression in young minds of students."

Know the significance of science

Having completed more than a hundred sessions, the Indian Science Congress could not present any research paper of repute. The problem with the scientific community is that it is shackled by vested interests



KUMAR CHELLAPPAN

A month after the 102nd Indian Science Congress session was hosted by the University of Mumbai, this columnist asked Professor Ashok Saxena, the General President-Elect of the Indian Science Congress Association, about the most important outcomes of the conference.

He was asked to name at least one scientific paper, presented at the five-day meet, which could help address some major problems being faced in India. Mr Saxena could not give a proper answer.

The Indian Science Congress is the country's largest annual congregation of scientific researchers. Every year, on January 3, the inaugural address is given by the Prime Minister, who always makes it a point to travel to the venue.

The only memorable event at the Mumbai confer-

ence was the speech delivered by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Not a single scientific paper of international standard was presented.

What one expects from the annual meet of the country's scientific community is some encouraging news from their laboratories which can light up the hearts of billions of poor people in the country. Even after 102 jamborees, a research paper of that standard hasn't seen the light of day in recent years.

The theme of the 102nd edition of the ISC was 'Science and Technology for Human Development'. What was the congress doing all these 102 years? After completing a century of its existence, has the ISC only just realised that science and technology have some role to play in human development?

Forget about the number of Nobel Prizes won by scien-

tists in India. What is the quality of research papers presented by scientists from Kanyakumari to Kashmir who constitute the official delegates of the event?

Has any of these papers (thousands of them) been cited or cross-referred to by scientists in other countries? Has any solution been provided by our scientists and technologists for the economic, social and scientific growth of the country during the last 100 sessions of the ISC?

The ISC session that was held in Chennai in 2011 saw a Tamil Nadu delegate presenting a paper titled "Impact of internet usage on self-esteem of the IT students". This delegate had presented the same paper in 2010. At that time, it was titled "Internet usage and mental health". After this was pointed out to Prof K Sarat

Chandra Singh, the then head of the anthropological and behavioural science session of the 2011 edition at Chennai, the erring delegate was issued a stern warning and allowed to go scot-free.

Instances such as these have plagued the ISC throughout its existence. The ₹30 crore annual jamboree has not benefited Indian science in any meaningful way. The craze for financially rewarding IT courses has made basic sciences irrelevant, with the best brains opting for careers in engineering and the computer science.

It is the shortage of scholars in the basic sciences which is delaying the country's progress in many fields, like space science and nuclear engineering. There are no good teachers for the basic sciences in universities. Sure, there are some exceptions but a vast majority of the univer-

sities and colleges in India face a severe crunch of good science teachers.

The same is the case with persons heading various scientific bodies in the country. The Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India, Mr Rajagopalan Chidambaram, contributions to the field of science and technology needs an auditing or close scrutiny. Mr CNR Rao, the Scientific Advisor to the Prime Minister of India, claims to have authored more than 1,500 research papers and 80 scientific books. Both men are well decorated with all the honours and awards available in the country. I asked many top-notch Indian scientists about the scientific contributions of these veterans. "Please do not put us in trouble. Please do not ask such questions," they were unanimous in their reply.

Why is India lagging behind in nano-science and nano-technology, even as markets in Japan and Korea sell fabrics coated with nano materials? They need not wash the clothes because of nano materials which resist dirt and dust. Why we are yet to perfect nano drugs though the same is being used in other countries?

The answer is that we do not have the right people for the right work. The world is agog with the news of "desktop nuclear reactors" which generates power without any kind of radiation. India is yet to take up research in this field because of the personal prejudices of top-notch scientists. Scientists are afraid to take up independent research in this field, lest they lose membership in various academies of science, of which there is no dearth.

Times of India ND 11/02/2015 P-27

Found: Apollo 11 artifacts in Neil's closet

Washington: Neil Armstrong, the first man to set foot on the Moon, had kept a secret stash of personal mementos — hardware items from the 1969 Apollo 11 mission — which were supposed to be left behind on the Moon.

The artifacts discovered by Armstrong's widow, Carol, after his death in 2012, were objects flown in the Lunar Module Eagle during the Apollo 11 mission in 1969. These include a camera that recorded the first Moon landing, a waist tether that Armstrong used to support his feet during a rest period on the Moon, utility lights and their brackets, equipment netting and an emergency wrench.

"I received an email from Carol Armstrong that she had located in

one of Neil's closets a white cloth bag filled with assorted small items that looked like they may have come from a spacecraft," Allan Needell, the Apollo curator at the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum in Washington, DC, said in a blog post.

After sharing information about the cloth bag in 2013, Carol snapped a picture of the items and sent it to Needell. Needell then took help from experts who have put together the Apollo Lunar Surface Journal (ALSJ) website, which gives information about all aspects of the Apollo programme.

The team recognized the bag as something the astronauts referred to as a McDivitt Purse. The



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The items discovered include a camera that recorded the first lunar landing, a waist tether that Neil Armstrong used to support his feet during a rest period on the Moon, utility lights, equipment netting and an emergency wrench

purse was a special container (officially called a Temporary Stowage Bag or TSB) stowed in the Lu-

nar Module during launch.

After a close examination of the objects when they were shipped for cataloging and research to the National Air and Space Museum, ALSJ experts were able to determine with almost complete certainty that all of the items were indeed from the Eagle.

Although they were formally scheduled to be left behind — they were assembled in the Temporary Stowage Bag and saved from the fate that awaited Eagle's ascent stage and all of its contents: crashing into the lunar surface, Needell said.

Evidence that the items were intentionally preserved is found in the mission transcripts themselves, Needell said. PH

Core within core: Earth's deep secrets unveiled

Kounteya.Sinha
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London: Scientists have used seismic waves to make a startling discovery: the Earth's inner core has an inner core of its own. A research team at the University of Illinois (UI) and at the Nanjing University in China made the discovery.

Xiaodong Song, a professor of geology at the UI said, "Even though the inner core is small — smaller than the Moon — it has some really interesting features. It may tell us about how our planet formed, its history, and other dynamic processes of the Earth. It shapes our understanding of what's going on deep inside the Earth."

Researchers used seismic waves from earthquakes to scan below the planet's surface, much like doctors use ultrasound to see inside patients' bodies. The team used a technology that gathers data not from the initial shock of an earthquake, but from the waves that resonate in the earthquake's aftermath.

The team found a distinct inner-inner core, about half the diameter of the whole inner core. The iron crystals in the outer layer of the inner core are aligned directionally, north-south. However, in the inner-inner core, the iron crystals point roughly east-west. Not only are the iron crystals in the inner-inner core aligned differently, they behave differently from their counterparts



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LUNAR PHASES

Nasa unveils 'dark side' of the Moon

Nasa has released an incredibly detailed video of what the Moon looks on the side that is never visible from the Earth. As the Earth spins around and around, it only ever faces one side of our orbiting Moon. Just like the near side, the far side goes through a complete cycle of phases. But the terrain of the far side is quite different, Nasa said. It lacks the large dark spots, called maria, that make up the familiar 'Man in the Moon' on the near side. Instead, craters of all sizes crowd together over the entire far side. The far side is also home to one of the largest and oldest impact features in the solar system, the South Pole-Aitken basin. PTI

in the outer-inner core. This means that the inner-inner core could be made of a different type of crystal, or a different phase, researchers said.

Dainik Bhaskar ND 11/02/2015 P-11

विधानसभा में दो दर्जन से ज्यादा प्रोफेशनल

आईआईटीयन, कर्नल, इंजीनियर से लेकर वकीलों की फौज ने हासिल की जीत

बलिराम सिंह | नई दिल्ली

दिल्ली विधानसभा में इस बार सब कुछ बदला बदला नजर आया। सदन में जहां पहली बार विपक्ष के नाम पर मात्र तीन सदस्य दिखेंगे वहीं इस बार दो दर्जन से ज्यादा प्रोफेशनल नजर आएंगे। इनमें वकील, इंजीनियर, कर्नल, कमांडो और डॉक्टर सहित विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में नाम कमाने वाले 'सूरमा' शामिल हैं। जीतने वाले प्रत्याशियों में सर्वाधिक वकील अथवा एलएलबी की डिग्री हासिल करने वाले शामिल हैं।

देश के प्रमुख इंजीनियरिंग संस्थान आईआईटी से पास आउट उम्मीदवारों ने भी चुनावी बाजी जीती है। पार्टी के मुख्यमंत्री के उम्मीदवार अरविंद केजरीवाल खुद आईआईटी खड़गपुर से पासआउट हैं और इंडियन रेवेन्यू सर्विस के पूर्व अधिकारी रहे हैं। इनके अलावा मालवीय नगर से आप के विजयी प्रत्याशी सोमनाथ भारती भी आईआईटी पास हैं और वकील भी हैं। राष्ट्रपति की बेटा शर्मिष्ठा मुखर्जी को ग्रेटर कैलाश से भारी शिकस्त देने वाले सौरभ भारद्वाज भी इंजीनियरिंग होल्डर हैं। इनके अलावा द्वारका से जीते पूर्व प्रधानमंत्री लाल बहादुर शास्त्री के पोते आदर्श शास्त्री पोस्ट ग्रेजुएट डिप्लोमा इन मैनेजमेंट हैं। इसी क्रम में लक्ष्मी नगर से आप विधायक नितिन त्यागी बिजनेस मैनेजमेंट में पोस्ट ग्रेजुएट हैं। किराड़ी के विधायक रितुराज आस्ट्रेलिया से होटल मैनेजमेंट में डिप्लोमा होल्डर हैं। शेष पेज|11

पंचर बनाने वाले का बेटा बना विधायक

सौरभ खंडेलवाल | भोपाल

dainikbhaskar.com

दिल्ली की जंगपुरा विधानसभा सीट से आम आदमी पार्टी



(आप) से विधायक बने प्रवीण कुमार देशमुख मूलतः

भोपाल के रहने वाले हैं। उन्होंने पूर्व विधानसभा अध्यक्ष एमएस धीर को हराया। प्रवीण अन्ना आंदोलन के वक्त नौकरी छोड़कर दिल्ली में अरविंद केजरीवाल के साथ जुड़ गए थे।

प्रवीण ने टीआईटी कॉलेज से वर्ष 2006-08 में एमबीए किया है। अयोध्या बायपास स्थित प्रकाश नगर में उनका घर है। पिता पीएन देशमुख की भोपाल में पुलबोगदा के पास ज्योति टायर वर्क्स के नाम से टायर सुधारने व पंचर बनाने की दुकान है। वह कहते हैं कि उन्होंने कभी सपने में भी नहीं सोचा था कि उनका बेटा एक दिन विधायक बन जाएगा।

देशमुख ने दैनिक भास्कर डॉट कॉम से हुई विशेष बातचीत में प्रवीण देशमुख ने बताया कि वे 2009 में नौकरी की तलाश में दिल्ली गए थे। बहुराष्ट्रीय कंपनी में नौकरी की। शेष पेज|11

विधानसभा में...

जंगपुरा के प्रवीण कुमार एमबीए पास हैं। बवाना के विधायक वेद प्रकाश मास कम्यूनिकेशन में ग्रेजुएट हैं। अंबेडकर नगर के विधायक अजय दत्त एमबीए पास हैं। तिमारपुर से जीतने वाले पंकज पुष्कर लेक्चरर हैं।

पूर्व सैन्य अधिकारी-बिजवासन से जीतने वाले सेवानिवृत्त कर्नल देवेन्द्र सिंह सहरावत के अलावा दिल्ली कैट से सेवानिवृत्त कमांडो सुरेन्द्र सिंह ने जीत हासिल की है।

पत्रकार- दिल्ली के दंगल में पत्रकारों ने भी विरोधियों को भारी शिकस्त दी है। इनमें से पटपडगंज से पूर्व पत्रकार मनीष सिसोदिया, मंगोलपुरी से राखी बिड़लान, राजौरी गार्डन से जरनैल सिंह को जीत हासिल हुई है।

वकीलों की फौज- चुनावी मैदान में एलएलबी की डिग्री हासिल करने वाले आप के प्रत्याशियों ने भी थोक के भाव जीत हासिल की है। इनमें मालवीय नगर के सोमनाथ भारद्वाज, ग्रेटर कैलाश से सौरभ भारद्वाज और कस्तूरबा नगर से मदन लाल, कृष्णा नगर से एडवोकेट एसके बग्गा, महारौली से नरेश यादव, सीमापुरी से राजेन्द्र गौतम इत्यादि शामिल हैं।

HT.Com ND 11.02.2015 P-6

XLRI Management school achieved 100% placement

Press Trust of India

The XLRI (Xavier School of Management) has achieved 100 per cent placement for its current outgoing batch of 2013-15.

This was the largest batch to ever sit for final placements in the history of XLRI, an XLRI release said.

The Final Recruitment process saw participation from 108 candidates, inclusive of 45 new recruiters, and 321 offers were made for a batch of 300 students over a period of 3.5 days, the release said.

The median salary offered to the batch is ₹17 lakh per annum while the minimum is ₹12 lakh per annum.

The BFSI and consulting firms recruited in large numbers. Around 40 per cent of the Business Management students were offered roles in the domain of Finance and Consulting.

XLRI's unrivalled reputation for its Human Resources Programme was clearly visible as the HR students secured excellent job offers across sectors viz. Consulting, FMCG, General Management and other sectors in large numbers.

Times of India ND 11/02/2015 P-27

Dinosaurs may have been high on LSD 100m years ago

Kounteya.Sinha@timesgroup.com

London: LSD, commonly known as acid, has a relatively short history as a psychedelic drug consumed by humans. It was first synthesized in 1938 from ergot, a grain fungus that typically grows on rye. But, scientists have now discovered that animals may have been consuming it for over 100 million years. A perfectly-preserved amber fossil from Myanmar has revealed evidence of the

earliest grass specimen ever found, about 100 million years old, and even then it was topped by a fungus similar to ergot, which for eons has been intertwined with animals and humans. In animal and human history, the fungus has been known to cause delirium, irrational behaviour, convulsions, severe pain, gangrenous limbs and even death.

More than 1,000 compounds have been extracted or derived from it, some of them valuable drugs. They also included, in the mid-1900s, the powerful

psychedelic compound lysergic acid diethylamide, or LSD, that is still being studied and has been widely used as an illegal recreational drug. Apparently both ergot and the grasses that now form most of the diet for the human race evolved together.

And if they already seemed a little scary, imagine a huge sauropod dinosaur that just ate a large portion of this psychotropic fungus, which in other animal species can cause anything from hallucinations to delirium, gangrene,



JURASSIC SECRET

convulsions or the staggers. The fungus, the grasses it lived on and dinosaurs that ate grass co-existed for millions of years, according to researchers from Oregon State University, the USDA Agricultural Research Service and Germany. "It seems like ergot has been involved with animals and humans almost forever, and now we know that this fungus literally dates back to the earliest evolution of grasses," said George Poinar, a faculty member in the OSU College of Science.

IIT-Kharagpur celebrates its alumnus' win in Delhi

<http://indianexpress.com/article/cities/kolkata/iit-kharagpur-celebrates-its-alumnus-win-in-delhi/>

It was celebration time on Tuesday at IIT-Kharagpur from where AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal had graduated in 1989.

With news trickling in that Kejriwal was inching towards a colossal victory in the Delhi Assembly polls, rallies were taken out, sweets distributed and gulal sprinkled among students and AAP supporters who gathered outside the IIT.

“We were sure that the people of Delhi would vote him back but never expected that it would be such an overwhelming majority. We will keep on supporting Kejriwal,” said Atal Asuthosh Agarwal, a third-year mining engineering student and a AAP member.

In the last Delhi Assembly elections Asuthosh — a resident of Badarpur in Delhi — had taken leave and actively campaigned for Somnath Bharti, the AAP candidate from the seat. “This year, I had exams and could not campaign,” he added.

Kejriwal, a student of mechanical engineering, had entered the IIT in 1985 and stayed at the Nehru Hall hostel for five years.

Everybody at IIT-Kharagpur — from his professors to the owner of the canteen frequented by Kejriwal — want him to complete his term this time. “Tomorrow, I will distribute sweets among students to celebrate that my ‘baccha’ is still the beloved boy of the people of Delhi.

But we would like him to remain calm despite all provocations,” said canteen owner Pradip Gupta.

Professor Emeritus Shankar Shome in the mechanical engineering department, who taught Kejriwal for about a year, said: “Last time, we had great expectations from him but somehow those could not be fulfilled. We believe my former students will learn from his mistakes and come out with flying colours.”

How an IIT-B team shaped AAP's Delhi poll campaign

<http://www.bangaloremirror.com/news/india/How-an-IIT-B-team-shaped-AAPs-Delhi-poll-campaign/articleshow/46178361.cms?>

Programme sifts through thousands of tweets to help party veer away from negative issues and announce voter-pleasing measures like free WiFi in the nation capital

An enterprising group of 10 volunteers at IIT-B, which created a research tool in November with the specific purpose of trawling tens of thousands of social media posts to measure public opinion, has helped shape the Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP) election strategy in the Delhi assembly election, which was held on Saturday.

Party leaders told Mirror that the programme, designed to perform "sentiment analysis" helped veer AAP's campaign away from issues that were deemed "negative" by the electorate, and towards such concerns as women's safety, which, data revealed, was consonant with voter sentiment in the nation's capital. The algorithm developed by the IIT-B group sifted through the language that constituted thousands of tweets to assess reactions to specific issues. It was also employed to determine the swing in the electorate's sentiment towards AAP at any given point of time.

"The programme runs a word analysis on a database of many thousands of twitter handles and categorises people's responses to particular events or issues as negative, weakly negative, neutral, weakly positive, or positive," said Divyank Agarwal, a fourth year student of Engineering Physics who was in the team that built the tool. "Three or four volunteers would look over the scan manually and the results would be communicated with the Delhi office for them to fine tune their strategy."

Agarwal, a devotee of AAP, and three other IIT-B students skipped classes to campaign in Delhi for more than a week in the run up to the elections. "I haven't told my parents that I bunked classes and even an exam to go door-to-door campaigning in Delhi's jhuggis," he confessed. "I'm not sure how they'll react."

According to research scholar Ratikant Nayak, one of those who forsook classes to work for the party in Delhi, scores of students at IIT-B became beholden to AAP's ideology during its Mumbai North East LS candidate Medha Patkar's unsuccessful run last year. "The booth inside IIT was the only one from which Patkar won," he said. A Facebook group of the party's supporters in the campus exceeds 1,000 members.

India has over 100 million Facebook users and 33 million people on twitter, digital bulletin boards on which views and proclivities are freely and emphatically expressed, and that formed the engine of AAP's game plan. "Analysis of social media has played a major role in how we have allocated funds in our manifesto," said senior AAP leader Manish Sisodia. "For instance, the majority of inputs on education and regarding free WiFi (a poll promise the party made in Delhi) came through social media. Sentiment analysis of social media particula-rly helped us understand the specific demands of women."

Preeti Sharma Menon, former Maharashtra state secretary of AAP, who played an important role in the social media campaign for the Delhi elections, said IIT-B volunteers performed a critical role in fashioning the party's response to voter sentiment in Delhi. "The feedback they provided framed vital turning points in the campaign," she said. "The importance of social media lies in introducing a new thought or perspective. While everything we spoke about became part of the poll agenda, the BJP, on the other hand, was unable to introduce a single new thou-ght that would get echoed by opinion makers in the press."

Degree valid? UGC, MHRD clueless

Hindustan Times (Kolkata)

STANDOFF UGC and MHRD have failed to come up with clear answers on status of architecture degrees awarded by an institute in Greater Noida affiliated to IP University

IN OTHER CASES, COA CLAIMS TO HAVE THE POWER TO GRANT APPROVALS TO COLLEGES RUNNING ARCHITECTURAL COURSES, BUT IN CASE OF DTC IT WANTS TO JUST LIMIT ITS ROLE.

ASHOK GOEL, veteran architect based in delhi

University Grants Commission (UGC) rules prohibit universities from affiliating colleges outside their states, but Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University (GGSIPU) Delhi, has granted affiliation to the College of Architecture of Delhi Technical Campus (DTC), a private institute, in Greater Noida. Interestingly, neither the human resource development ministry nor the UGC or Council of Architecture (CoA) are able to clearly pinpoint the violation or give answers on the validity of degrees awarded by the college.

Noida. Interestingly, neither boundaries

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The University Grants Commission
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Responses under the Right to Information Act from various authorities such as UGC, AICTE, MHRD and CoA.

2	The UGC has framed various website www.ugc.ac.in
3	Norms and standards are fixed
4	Your query is related to (COP) concerned section of UGC.
5	Yes.
6 to 8	The UGC will take action on receipt of request.
9 & 11	The UGC has already asked Mysore University territorial jurisdiction.
12	The degrees would not be recognized.

The Appellate Authority is Dr. Sanjay Kumar...

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Responses under the Right to Information Act from various authorities such as UGC, AICTE, MHRD and CoA.

According to UGC's notification dated June 27, 2013 with regard to territorial jurisdiction, a state university cannot grant affiliation to any college beyond the state's geographical boundaries even if the university's own act allows it to do so.

When Ashok Goel, a veteran architect based in Delhi realised the GGSIPU (which comes under the Delhi government) was violating UGC's notification by granting affiliations to DTC, he decided to file an RTI asking the UGC to confirm the legal status of degrees awarded to DTC students. To UGC's response that the degree would not be recognised, Goel again enquired if the UGC would stop the university from granting affiliations. UGC's reply to that was: "UGC will take action on receipt of specific complaint."

Goel then filed complaints with five authorities, name-ly, the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), AII India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), Council of Architecture (CoA), UGC and Directorate of Education (DOE) Delhi. UGC's response was attached with each complaint.

"Normally, when we file a complaint with one authority, it forwards it to the other one and the complainant keeps moving from one department to another. So I decided to agitate the issue in all the departments at one go to expedite action. The reason why I complained to AICTE was that DTC also offers degrees in technical courses," says Goel. MHRD transferred Goel's complaint to UGC and UGC forwarded it to the registrar, GGSIPU, asking, "You are requested to send the comment on the complaint at the earliest."

The UGC also wrote to the DOE, saying "The requested information doesn't fall within my jurisdiction. The application in original is, therefore, being transferred to you under subsection (3) of Section 6 of RTI Act, 2005, as the matter closely relates to you. In case it doesn't fall under your jurisdiction, it may please be further transferred to the public authority to which the subject matter is more closely connected, directly, under intimation to the applicant." DoE's response to this was: "The requested information falls under the jurisdiction of your (UGC) department. Hence the application is being transferred to you under section 6(3) of the RTI Act 2005."

AICTE, meanwhile, washed its hands of the case saying that universities were governed by the UGC and AICTE had no role to play. The CoA, writing to Goel, said, "First of all, it is clarified that no separate action-taken report is required to be prepared or maintained under the Architects Act, 1972, on the communications/representation received at this office. However, as regards your letter dated 01.12.2014 to the chairman, UGC, and vice chancellor, Guru Gobind Singh IP University, for their perusal and necessary action at their end since Council is not the competent authority to deal with matters related to affiliation with universities."

Justifying the affiliation to DTC, Sunita Shiva, deputy registrar (affiliation), GGSIPU, said the university "is established by the government of NCT of Delhi vide 'The Indraprastha Vishwavidyalaya Act 1998,' Under section 5(21)(A), the university is empowered to establish and maintain colleges, institutions and such other centres of education, research, training and extension as deemed appropriate by the University and as per section 4(1) under this Act, the limits of the area within which the University shall exercise its power, shall be those of The National Capital Region Planning Board Act, 1985."



On Goel's question if action could be taken against GGSIPU for its reply, UGC responded with: "action has already been taken on your complaint (copy enclosed)." The copy was a letter from UGC to the GGSIPU registrar, asking for a "comment on the complaint at the earliest."

LU to host V-Cs' meet on March 14, 15

Hindustan Times (Lucknow)

LOW QUALITY OF TEACHING AND LEARNING IS THE GREATEST CHALLENGE FACING HIGHER EDUCATION. REPORTS ESTIMATE THAT 30 TO 40% OF FACULTY POSITIONS ARE VACANT.

LUCKNOW: The Lucknow University will host roundtable of vice-chancellors of state universities across India on March 14 and 15. In this meeting, over 300 vice-chancellors of various universities will put their brains together to dwell on issues like poor quality teaching and learning, the supply-demand gap, uneven growth and access to opportunity and constraints on research capacity and innovations.

The low quality of teaching and learning arguably is the greatest challenge facing higher education in India. Various reports estimate that 30 to 40% of faculty positions are vacant. Most faculties do not undergo training in teaching. The issue of outdated and rigid curricula will also be discussed at length in the meet. An ineffective quality assurance system and a complete lack of accountability by institutions to the state, Central government, students and other stakeholders are also on the agenda.

The educationists are of the view that it has resulted in graduates with low employability that is a common feature of higher education in South Asia. Experts are of the view that these problems are endemic across higher education institutions in India including in many of the top tier institutions. Manoj Dixit, professor of public administration department will be conducting the event.

Your time starts now, Mr Kejriwal, say IIT students

<http://www.dnaindia.com/india/report-your-time-starts-now-mr-kejriwal-say-iit-students-2060056>

A large number of students from India's premier institutes supported Kejriwal wholeheartedly with working behind the scene, they want him to deliver now. Kejriwal is an alumnus of IIT Kharagpur (1989 batch) and hence many of the IITians, students and professors both, have a soft corner for him. His daughter Harshita is also a first year engineering student at IIT Delhi, a fact which mobilised a large number of students from IIT Delhi towards working for AAP.



The mood across IITs was jubilant as the landslide victory of Aam Admi Party unfolded Tuesday morning. Groups of students in IIT Delhi, [IIT Bombay](#) and [IIT Kharagpur](#) campuses have been seen cheering and greeting each other over AAP's phenomenal success. The celebrations went on till late night.

A large number of students from India's premier institutes have been supporting Arvind Kejriwal and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in the Delhi Assembly Elections.

While most of them have been part of the social media campaign of the AAP with devising vibrant and positive online campaign strategy which outsmarted the rival BJP, at least 300 of them had posted themselves at Delhi since past 10-15 days for door to door campaign which led to a huge turnout from the young and affluent class.

Kejriwal is an alumnus of IIT Kharagpur (1989 batch) and hence many of the IITians, students and professors both, have a soft corner for him. His daughter Harshita is also a first year engineering student at IIT Delhi, a fact which mobilised a large number of students from [IIT Delhi](#) towards working for AAP.

IIT Bombay which has as many as 1,000 AAP sympathisers/donors was in the party mood Tuesday evening with dancing to the Kejriwal tune literally (A song composed by [Bollywood](#) musician Vishal Dadlani, an AAP supporter).

“Our hard works pays off. We hope AAP starts delivering on its promises now,” said Ratikant Nayak, an IIT Bombay research student who along with three other IITB students was campaigning for AAP in Delhi since past two weeks. A team of another dozen students handled the vibrant social media campaign of the AAP.

Lokesh Deshmukh who led the AAP’s campaign from from IIT Kharagpur said, “AAP supporters gave their 100% to see Kerjiwal as Delhi CM mainly because he presents the kind of politics which youth wants to see. People have very high hopes from him and he will have to fulfil all his promises. His time starts now.”

IIT Delhi student Abhishek Agrawal says, “We had supported the BJP in [Lok Sabha](#) elections with very high hopes from Narendra Modi but we didn’t not see any change in the country in past 9 months except religious intolerance promoted by right wing groups and Modi’s silence over it. Hope Kejriwal learns from BJP’s downfall.”

IITians have contributed a lot in AAP’s victory. IIT-B team, for instance, has created a research tool in November to measure public opinion on social media which had helped shape the Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP) election strategy in Delhi. They conducted a "sentiment analysis" to separate the negativity from the AAP campaign and suggesting the party to pick up issues as women's safety which was close to voters’ heart. Teams from other IITs also worked day and night adjusting their classes and creating videos for campaign, emailing and calling random voters and even donating from the pocket money.

“AAP made the best use of the social media platform defeating the BJP, a champion of social media user in the Lok Sabha elections,” says an observer. The vibrant and positive campaign helped AAP to dent BJP’s core vote bank en mass.

This also helped three-year-old party to regain its own vote bank which it had lost to the BJP after the Kejriwal's resignation from the Delhi’s chief minister post last year following a brief stint of 49 days.