

Newspaper Clips

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Hindustan Times ND 18/02/2011

p-13

No permanent IIT foreign faculty

ROADBLOCK External affairs ministry derails Sibal's plan; refuses to change visa regime for teachers

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NEW DELHI: In a major setback to the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) plan, the ministry for external affairs (MEA) has rejected a proposal to liberalise visa norms to allow foreign teachers to take up permanent posts at the IITs.

The MEA has refused to change the rules under which each foreign faculty member at the IITs needs to re-obtain a work visa every five years, top government and IIT sources have confirmed to HT.

Human resource development minister Kapil Sibal had on September 11, 2010 announced the plan to allow the IITs to fill up to 10% of their permanent teaching posts with foreign faculty.

The proposal — first reported by HT on September 2, 2010 — was approved by the IIT Council — the highest decision making body of the IITs — and is aimed at reducing a massive faculty crunch plaguing the IITs.

But the MEA's refusal to allow foreign faculty to join with visas of longer duration than

HOPES DASHED



■ HRD minister Kapil Sibal. FILE

■ HRD minister Kapil Sibal had on September 11, 2010 announced the plan to allow the IITs to fill up to 10% of their permanent teaching posts with foreign faculty

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faculty posts vacant across the premier engineering schools

■ The IITs are arguing that permanent posts would help them lure the best of foreign teachers

five years means that the IITs will not be able to offer permanent posts to foreign faculty.

"We will need to continue to offer contractual appointments - something we wanted to, and quite frankly, need to change," an IIT Director said.

Each IIT is facing a faculty crunch between 15 and 40% with a total of over 1,000 faculty posts vacant across the premier engineering schools.

The Institutes have over the past year however received a number of applications from foreign faculty, including Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) keen to teach at the IITs. The IITs are arguing that permanent posts would help them lure the best of foreign teachers.

All foreign teachers are at present required to teach as visiting or ad-hoc faculty.

Times of India ND

18-Feb-11 p-21

Talking on mobile helps drivers concentrate?

In a complete reversal of what motorists have been advised, a new study suggests that those who talk on phone or switch on the radio stations while behind the steering wheel may actually be driving safely. Researchers from Kansas University found that drivers who engage in a “secondary task” pay more attention to the road because some types of distraction can help bored drivers stay focused. Past studies have showed that drivers who talk on the phone may be more prone to meeting with an accident, but the new study found that the monotony of driving may itself be an accident risk.

Times of India ND

18-Feb-11

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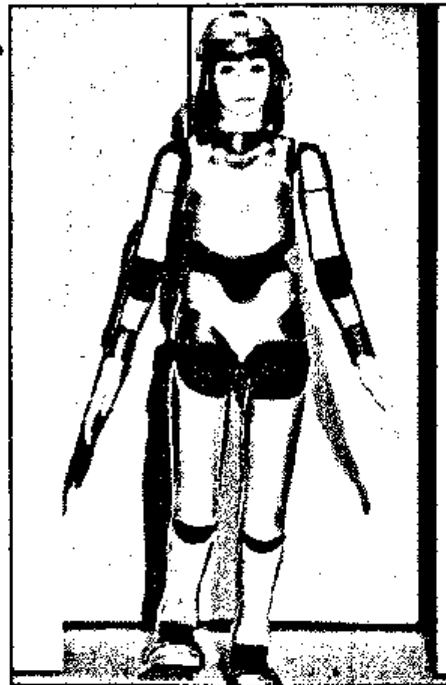
Chatty humanoid robot that tweets set for space odyssey

Tokyo: Lonely astronauts on the International Space Station may soon be getting an android friend from Japan.

And for the folks back home, it will tweet. Japan's space agency is considering putting a talking humanoid robot on the International Space Station to watch the mission while astronauts are asleep, monitor their health and stress levels and communicate to Earth through the microblogging site Twitter.

Japan's space agency JAXA announced this week that it is looking at a plan to send a humanoid robot to the space station in 2013 that could communicate with the ground through Twitter — primarily feeding photos, rather than original ideas — and provide astronauts with “comfort and companionship”.

Following up on Nasa's “Robonaut” R-2 program, which is set for launch on the Discovery shuttle next week, the Japanese android would be part of a larger effort to create and refine robots that can be used by the elderly, JAXA said in a statement. Japan is one of the leading countries in ro-



© Michael A. Keller/Corbis

EYE IN THE SKY: The robot will watch over astronauts at the space station while they are asleep, and monitor their health

botics, and has a rapidly aging society with one of the world's longest life-expectancies.

Improving robot communication capabilities could help the elderly on Earth by providing a nonintrusive means of monitoring the robot owner's health and vital signs and sending information to emergency responders if there is an abnormality, JAXA said. AP

Times of India ND 18-Feb-11 p-21

A device to take stink out of your shoes

London: Those who are embarrassed by their smelly feet, need not fret any more, as scientists have developed a new gadget which they say can stamp out the odour from the shoes.

The device, called SteriShoe, uses ultra-violet light to sterilize the bacteria which causes odours, said its developers Shoe Care Innovations. Ultra-violet light is used as a disinfectant in hospitals, dental surgeries, swimming pools and other water treat-

ment systems, but this is for the first time it is used to tackle smelly trainers, the Daily Mail reported.

According to its manufacturers, the gadget would soon be available worldwide at an expected price of around £80. It is currently available in the UK.

SteriShoe, which looks like a shoe tree and needs to be placed inside the shoe, will be sold in pairs so users can treat a pair of shoes with each application, the company said. Rainer

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ZAPPING AWAY SMELL

Kuehling, a spokesperson for Shoe Care Innovations, said: "The SteriShoe shoe is recommended by doctors as a chemical-free method to kill bacteria in shoes, reducing shoe odour and risk of infection from athlete's foot."

"If the stench from your footwear regularly kicks up a stink with your other half, then this could be the solution to your relationship woes." According to researchers, the average person produces up to 250 ml

of sweat per foot each day, but SteriShoe can kill 99.9% of bacteria in just 45 minutes. They said that the device works for people who suffer from athlete's foot, toenail fungus, or just smelly feet. Kuehling said:

"The SteriShoe shoe sanitizer is clinically proven to destroy microorganisms in shoes using ultraviolet light. It is recommended by doctors as a chemical-free method to kill bacteria in shoes, reducing shoe odour." ■

Economic Times ND 18/02/2011 P8

CAT Applicants to Take IIMs to Court Over New Criteria

MAHIMA PURI
NEW DELHI

You may not make it to the IIMs this year even if you have scored 99 percentile or more in CAT 2010. An alleged discrepancy in the IIM admission system has meant that candidates like Dipesh Kaien and Vipul Chawla have not received calls from any of the 11 IIMs, despite scoring more than 99 per-

centile in CAT 2010.

Apart from the CAT's eligibility criteria that demands a minimum of 50% in graduation, every year, IIMs release their own eligibility criteria, either before or after the CAT results are announced. This year, IIMs decided to take only those students who have scored a minimum percentage in their graduation. For instance, IIM Shilong has short-listed only those

candidates who have scored at least 87% in graduation, while IIM Trichy, Raipur and Rohtak have short-listed only those who have scored at least 65% in their graduation.

Appalled by their announcements by IIMs after the CAT results were announced, more than 60 students will approach the Delhi High Court on Saturday. These students are filing a writ petition seeking justice in what they regard as an unfair practice by

IIMs to choose candidates. Majority of these candidates have scored above 99 percentile in CAT 2010.

According to these top scorers, they may not have scored well in their academics due to various reasons but this should not be the basis of rejecting them because they too worked hard on scoring percentile above 99.

Dipesh, for instance, is an engineer and studied for CAT sitting in the

waiting room of a hospital, since both his parents are suffering from cancer. He has also cleared two levels of CFA. According to Dipesh, it's unfair to reject his academic background just because he could not score a certain percentage of marks during graduation. "Either IIMs should announce their criteria before CAT aspirants file their registrations or their criteria should be in line with CAT eligibility," he said.

Brand New Race: IT Pays to Hire Local US Talent



**SHRUTI SABHARWAL &
PANKAJ MISHRA**
BANGALORE

After years of hiring experienced professionals to serve top customers in the US, Indian tech firms are now seeking to hire fresh engineering graduates from American universities, as stricter immigration norms and high unemployment rate make local hiring attractive in the country.

In a year when India's top outsourcing firms are under pressure to position themselves as global companies not necessarily responsible for America's 'jobless economic recovery', experts and company officials say a war for local US talent is set to become a priority. Apart from stricter and costlier visa permits in the US, outsourcing customers such as GE are also asking Indian vendors to play a role in addressing high unemployment rates.

India-based tech firms, including Wipro, Tata Consultancy Services, Infosys

and Cognizant, are now battling it out to hire hundreds of fresh engineering graduates from campuses of Pennsylvania State University, Rutgers, University of Massachusetts, University of Connecticut, North Carolina State University and University of Michigan, among many others.

Companies such as Infosys, which counts JPMorgan among its top customers, say they have started hiring from US campuses.

"We have a target of hiring 250 local employees every quarter in the US for the next four quarters," said S Gopalakrishnan, CEO of Infosys. "As we develop our consulting and systems integration services, we need to hire more at all levels in the US. Brand recall for companies like ours is improving every year, we are slowly getting there."

Smaller Pool ▶▶ 19

A Much Smaller US Pool

▶▶ From Page 1

"There is no big cost difference because we have to pay Americans salaries even to our Indian employees going there," he added.

However, unlike India, which produces nearly 600,000 engineering graduates every year, the US pool is much smaller, ensuring a much more intense fight for whatever talent is available.

"Though IT is a popular choice, compared to Indian colleges, the pool of students looking out for a career in IT is smaller and all tech firms are tapping into this pool, so definitely the war for talent is there," said Priti Rajora, global head, talent acquisition, Wipro Technologies.

On their part, India's top outsourcing companies—TCS, Infosys, Wipro and HCL—have already started setting up development centres in locations such as Atlanta and Michigan. While TCS aims to double its foreign workforce from 10,000 currently to 20,000 over next five years, Infosys and Wipro could see non-Indians account for 10-15% of their total employee base in next 3-5 years, from around 5% currently.

Wipro, for instance, wants US locals to account for more than half of its workforce in the country, and hiring from local campuses is a strategic shift to achieve that goal.

These companies have kicked off several initiatives to build a brand on campuses and attract the best



TALENT HUNT

hired a senior campus relationship manager responsible for keeping the company visible in campuses throughout the year. The company says it has managed to create a buzz in these campuses by showcasing alumni, being a part of campus fairs and being present on multiple other forums.

"It is true that Wipro is not as big a brand name in the US as it is in India but we have been able to generate significant interest. IT is a buzzword there too and India and China are being seen as the places to be. We have been doing a lot of work in campuses to showcase ourselves," Rajora of Wipro said.

IT firms pay at least 20-25% more to tech graduates in the US compared to Indian colleges. But they do not see this leading to a big increase in employee costs as they are able to charge higher for onsite employees. At the same time, Indian employees sent on H1B visas also prove to be as expensive as they

talent. "The view of Indian companies in these campuses has changed a lot over the past few years. US, campus connect programs are much deeper and more opened than in Indian colleges would be difficult to enter a college if you were not known an IT companies are now find place in these colleges, they are slowly being seen as alternative the big tech firms there, like Accenture," Thiruvengad leader, human capital advisor, Deloitte, said.

Cognizant has a team of 6 time recruiters in the US who are solely responsible for hiring graduates locally, both from campus and the lateral market. The company views this as a sign of a maturing industry.

"Just like the manufacturing supply chain went atomically global, we are seeing the early signs of services value chain go atomically global. While we have done a lot of graduate recruiting from campus for specific needs of practices here, this is the first time we are aggressively focusing on key universities for our pan organisation and we are trying to build long-term relationships," Shrinivasan, chief people officer, Cognizant said.

Local experts such as Mor Nair, who is based in Philadelphia and advises on immigration, say the rate of visa denials by US embassies is among the reasons for

Economic Times ND 18/02/2011
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Non-IIM Grads Too Fetch Record Salaries

Entry-level salaries at leading campuses have gone up by 12-20%

**WRITANKAR MUKHERJEE &
SREERADHA D BASU**
KOLKATA

It's not just the IIMs that are likely to hog the limelight during this year's student placements. The country's second-tier B-schools, that started the placement process a few days ahead of the IIMs, have already begun setting pay package records.

Entry-level salaries at leading campuses like XLRI, IMT Ghaziabad, TA Pai Management Institute (TAPMI), Xavier Institute of Management Bhubaneswar (XIMB), Jannalal Bajaj Institute of Management Studies (JBIMS), Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT), International Management Institute (IMI) and Welingkar have gone up by 12-20%, including a significant jump in both the lowest and the ₹10 lakh-plus pay packets. The institutes are also seeing IIM regulars — I-banks, consultancy firms and top MNCs — visit them for the first time this year. All in all, the campuses claim 2011 has been one of their best placement seasons ever.

"After a lull in 2009 and 2010, placements this year have seen a complete rebound to the pre-recession days," says IMT Ghaziabad head (corporate relation) Prakash Pathak. "In fact, they are even better." IMT was visited, for the first time, by recruiters like Goldman Sachs and P&G. Average salaries, too, have shot up by around 12%, to ₹9.3 lakh.

At Mumbai's JBIMS, there has been a substantial rise in the number of global consulting firms visiting this year, with McKinsey, Citibank, and Nomura being the major recruiters. HUL, ITC and P&G



GIVING COMPETITION

also visited the campus.

At XLRI Jamshedpur, Swiss pharma biggie Novartis topped its last year's highest package of \$1,10,000 to \$1,20,000 this year, for the role of HR leadership development at its global headquarters. Around 15 new recruiters thronged XLRI this year, with average salaries shooting up to ₹15.8 lakh this year. XIMB saw almost 30 new recruiters coming in this year.

"The economy is booming, and that translates into more offers and higher salary offers," says Diwakar Kaushik, secretary, external linkages, at XLRI. A total of 109 companies made 317 offers to the 240-strong batch at XLRI.

Experts say a rebound by IT and ITeS firms, the bullish growth of FMCG companies and the strong performance of banks and financial institutions have rubbed off on placements. "India Inc is back on its feet. Sectors like IT, ITeS and finance are getting a lot of international business, which is creating opportunities for students," said Welingkar Institute of Management director Uday Salunke.

Some of the top recruiters confirmed that this year, they took a fresh look at their placement plans to widen their reach beyond the IIMs, but stuck to offering IIM-type salaries. Deloitte India rejigged its campus positioning this year to include other B-schools. "We are offering a 10-15% higher salary this year. Everyone is hiring in larger numbers, and recruitment frenzy has touched the pre-slowdown levels," says Deloitte India's HR head Dhananjay Bansod.

Top domestic recruiters like the Aditya Birla and RPG Groups have reviewed their campus recruitment plans. "The idea is to recruit more from all the campuses and not just top ones," says RPG Group president (corporate HR) VC Agarwal.

Students Without Work ex will also get fat Salaries



"The requirement for Indian students to work on international teams is at an all-time high. And this is not just about positions abroad, but also about positions on global teams."

SAPNA AGARWAL
Head, Career & Devt, IIM-B

With placement offers pouring in, the salary dipstick has never looked this robust. If lateral placements are an indication, this is just the beginning of more offers to come, says Sapna Agarwal, head of Career and Development at the Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore.

The placements scene has been quite good, with a considerable number of pre-placement offers as well as lateral offers being rolled out. This year companies from the retail and healthcare sectors, which have previously been shy of coming to the IIMs, have confirmed that they will be visiting campuses. This has made the kind of jobs on offer more broad-based — it is no longer just positions with finance, banking and consulting firms that IIM students can aspire to.

This year's lateral placement offers are really generous. Although IIM Bangalore (IIM-B) does not

comment on salaries, we expect to see more placement offers in the coming weeks. For the past few years, we have seen the demand for lateral placements go up at our institute, and this year, too, students with work experience seem to be in great demand.

At IIM-B, we have students with anywhere between one and five years of work experience, and we started our lateral placements in mid-December. Since then, there have been 90 offers for 198 lateral candidates. Compared with last year, the number of offers for laterals seems to have gone up by 30%. I have also seen a change in the composition of salaries — and the variable component appears to have increased as well.

The process of lateral placements is not new. Companies have been visiting B-schools for this for over a decade. Before hiring students with experience, there is a lot of discussion that takes place at the highest

levels in companies. So to expect that the laterals joining a company, and the generous salaries offered to them, will have any impact on the pay of employees who work at the same level, is untenable.

If there has been a hike in salary levels this year, it is perhaps because of an improved economic situation. If placement season coincides with appraisal time, companies have all the implications factored in. I have not received any negative feedback from students with experience joining firms.

Companies also invest a fair amount in training talented freshers. To that extent, we expect the offers to freshers to be as good. When the companies who visit us also go to other B-schools, we caution our students that this only means increased competition for every available job.

I think the requirement for Indian students to work on international

teams is at an all-time high. And this is not just about positions abroad, but also about positions on global teams. The courses offered by the IIMs provide international exposure. We have also increased the opportunities for more student exchange programmes.

A significant number of students intern abroad. Many students are now required to spend a semester working abroad, and by the end of a two-year course, more than half the batch has some experience of working with international teams. This shows that jobs in India are considered on par with positions abroad.

Last year, we finished our placements in five or six days. This time we expect it to go on for a longer time, not only because of a larger batch size of 360 students, but also because we have received confirmations from over 100 companies, to visit our campus.

Centre Aims To Increase Enrollment Ratio in Higher Education to 15

OUR POLITICAL BUREAU
NEW DELHI

After focusing on educationally backward districts to improve access to higher education, the human resource development ministry is now focusing on marginal districts. These districts currently have a gross enrollment ratio of between 12.5 and 15, that is, for every 100 students who complete schooling only 12.5 to 15 of them move on to pursue higher education.

The government's aim is to increase gross enrollment ratio to 15 from the current rate of 12.5 by the end of the Eleventh Five Year Plan. It is felt that investment in these districts will address an existent need, stem the need for students to move to other areas to pursue higher education. It also addresses the need to improve quality of existing institutions.

The ministry has already got clearance from the Expenditure Finance Committee to assist 83 colleges (which includes engineering colleges) and eight universities in the remaining period of the current five year plan. The proposal will now be placed before the Cabinet for approval. The assistance would be to improve the condition of these colleges and universi-



HRD minister Kapil Sibal

ties as well as increasing their academic offering.

In another effort to improve the quality of higher education in the country, the ministry has asked the UGC to provide a one-time grant to all those colleges that currently do not qualify for grants. This one time payment will help these institutions in meeting the basic eligibility criteria for receiving grants from the UGC.

This effort is already underway.

The ministry had earlier pushed for setting up colleges in areas that had a enrollment ratio well below the national average. The focus on increasing and improving access to higher education is pushed in some measure by the increase in enrollment at the elementary school level and the rollout of the plans to universalise secondary education.

'AICTE CAN'T PUNISH GOOD B-SCHOOLS TO CRACK DOWN ON ERRING ONES'

Management institutes across the country are up in arms over recent guidelines issued by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) governing the post graduate diploma in management. The Education Promotion Society of India (EPSI) and Association of Indian Management Schools have approached the Supreme Court seeking reprieve from the current guidelines. H Chaturvedi, director of Noida-based Birla Institute of Management and Technology and EPSI president, tells Kalpana Pathak that in the name of revamping management education, AICTE is harassing the better B-schools and letting the non-performing ones off scot-free. Excerpts:

Q&A
H Chaturvedi
 Director, Birla Institute of Management and Technology

AICTE argues these guidelines are designed to improve management education. But you have gone to court. Wasn't there a middle way over this?
 When we met Kapil Sibal two years ago, he told us that whatever our prime minister did for the Indian economy, he will do for the education sector. But it's disappointing to see what his ministry is doing. These new guidelines will take management education back to the year 1992 when India introduced postgraduate diploma in management (PGDM) programmes. The success of Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) was responsible for this. In the age of liberalisation, we seem to be going backward. There can't be a diktat on admissions and fees and curricula. Our

view is that AICTE has not followed proper procedure in drafting these guidelines. It has not consulted the stakeholders before framing the guidelines. We have proof that these notifications were not properly drafted. When we raised this point with the AICTE chairman, he did not respond. Now we will produce the proof in the court.

But why can't B-schools follow a common admission date as AICTE has suggested?

Over a decade ago, the ministry of human resource development (MHRD) approved five tests for management institutes: the common admission test (CAT) conducted by the IIMs; the management aptitude test (MAT); the joint management entrance test conducted by the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) for admission to their management schools; the AIMS test for management admission (ATMA) and the Xavier Admission Test (XAT) conducted by Jamshedpur-based Xavier Labour Relations Institute. All these exams follow a different schedule. AICTE says

admissions to the programmes should not start before March 31 of the academic year. It has ignored the fact that most universities have their final examination in April. CAT is conducted around October and the results are declared in January. We are of the view that group discussion (GD) and personal interviews (PIs) should be conducted by February.

AICTE has also said the GD and PI should be conducted by the state governments. Delegating admissions to the state governments, which will certainly find this idea attractive, will breed corruption. We already have so much corruption at the national level. If you want to reform a sector you look at how to make it better, not worse. AICTE is changing the guidelines and norms every week. You can speak to engineering colleges for which AICTE has changed the norms three times in the last three years.

AICTE argues that a common admission date will ensure that seats at B-schools do not go vacant.
 The problem with AICTE is that it does not do its homework. It has created excess supply without paying attention to demand. For instance, in 2008, it created 100,000 new management seats when there was no need. Last year, around 60,000 seats, or 30 per cent of the available 200,000 management seats, went vacant. This year 80,000 new seats have been created. Though the economy is booming and the job market is positive, many seats will go vacant



structure. But the University Grants Commission (UGC) is not monitoring them. Many of them are ill-run. No one bothers to review B-schools at universities where students do not even find a decent job.

But AICTE says B-schools involved in malpractices are behind the court case. We are not criminals. We are serving the country by creating educated manpower working across the world. The B-schools involved here include reputed names like SP Jain Institute of Management and Research, Xavier Labour Relations Institute, Institute of Management Technology, Management Development Institute and so on. These are reputed institutes not only in India but also abroad where they have set up international campuses. We are not disputing the fact that there are some institutions that are not of good quality. But they have flourished under AICTE's rule. Why does AICTE not close them down? Besides, the government may soon allow foreign universities and B-schools in the country, shouldn't it ensure a level-playing field? If you will grant international B-schools autonomy and allow them to fix their own fees, admissions and curricula why can't you allow Indian B-schools to do the same? There are at least 50 B-schools in the country that can be helped to become world class. But no one is paying attention to that issue. AICTE has not discussed this with any industry body. They cannot punish good institutes in order to crack down on the erring ones. They are no one to decide the future of management education.

Would a court case not impact admissions this year?

So far there has been no effect on the admissions. We have received reports that there is 70 to 85 per cent turnout in good schools for GD/PI. Students do not go by what AICTE says. They always look for quality.

What if the AICTE's stance is upheld by the court?

We will not do anything that will go against the law. We are keeping our options open. After the Supreme Court's verdict, the B-schools will sit together and decide the future course of action.

again. We expect no takers for over 70,000 seats this year. These vacancies occur because students do not want to risk their career if they do not get admission in a good B-school.

Also, while giving out licences, AICTE does not pay attention to the location of the institute. B-schools can't flourish in the countryside or where there are no industries. But you will find them in every possible location. In the last 20 years, AICTE has increased the number of B-schools from 1,500 to 3,000.

You mean institutes at locations other than the major cities are not performing well?

I will explain it like this. If an IIM is set up in places like Ranchi or Rohtak, and operates without faculty members, no one questions that. But had it been one among us, we would have been issued a warning letter about penalties. This is a ridiculous way of functioning. If you look at the quality of the MBA that the universities and their affiliated colleges in our country offer, you will be surprised by the lack of infra-

Business Line ND 18/02/2011 p-12

Education sector stocks in the limelight

Budget expectations boost sentiment

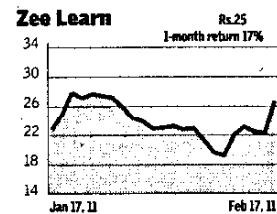
Our Bureau

Mumbai, Feb. 17

Education sector stocks were up on the bourses on expectations that the Budget will focus more on education this time.

The stock that saw the largest percentage rise was Zee Learn, which gained 19.91 per cent to close Rs 25.60. Others that rose were Everonn Systems (up 17.1 per cent to close at Rs 678.7), Educomp Solutions (5.04 per cent to close at Rs 505.4), Edserv Softsystems (10.62 per cent to close at Rs 153.65), Aptech (3.74 per cent to close at Rs 109.45), Ace Edutrend (5 per cent to close at Rs 33.6) and Career Point (4.44 per cent to close at Rs. 360.9).

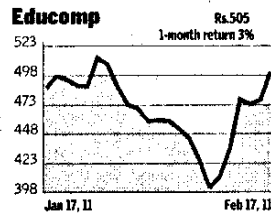
Analysts said that education is always an evergreen sector and rarely sees a down-



turn and added that there is a lot to do.

"In fact, people start enrolling for courses during a downturn," said the head of research of an MNC brokerage. "This helps them to re-skill and update themselves with the latest and be ready for changes that occur at the workplace."

Another research head at a large Indian brokerage said: "Take the case of equity research. Fundamentally, analysts who choose to remain in



equity research are increasingly registering themselves to appear for the CFA certification offered by AIMR USA, while technical analysts opt for the certified market technician (CMT) offered by Market Technicians Association USA."

A Cygnus report on education lists a whole host of problems related to fragmented management, government not being able to provide information on vocational training, lack of plan implementation,

outdated curriculum, poor industry interface, vocational training not addressing the needs of the unorganised sector, little incentive to improve performance, poor quality of teachers and problems related to funding.

In spite of all the constraints, said experts, Indians are going all out to equip themselves with education, skill-sets and certifications that make them employable.

"While the education sector has several catalysts (low penetration of high quality education and growing demand for educated workers and others), our analysis of the key segments in which listed players operate suggest that specific challenges persist that makes sustainability of returns doubtful," said an Ambit report.

CAT toppers to bell IIMs in SC

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

Nearly 60 toppers of Common Admission Test (CAT) 2010 are all set to drag the IIMs to the Supreme Court for allegedly keeping the selection criteria based on scores obtained in undergraduate examinations under wraps till the announcement of results. They further charged the premier institutes of various discrepancies and adopting unfair practices in their shortlisting criteria this year.

The fact that the IIMs had kept the aspirants in the dark has been revealed through response to a RTI application filed by an affected candidate, Dipesh Kaien in IIM Ahmedabad. The response states that the "eligibility criteria for shortlisting candidates for personal interview was decided after the publication of the notice for CAT". These criteria were finalised on January 4, 2011 and published on the website on January 12.

According to Dipesh, who scored 99.27 percentile in the admission test, "About half of us secured over 99 percentile in the CAT, falling in the top one per



ABOUT HALF OF US SECURED OVER 99 PERCENTILE IN THE CAT, FALLING IN THE TOP ONE PER CENT. THE REST SECURED BETWEEN 98 AND 99 PERCENTILE, BUT STRANGELY NONE OF US SECURED A CALL FROM THE IIMs FOR OUR SECOND ROUND OF ADMISSIONS

— IIM AHMEDABAD CANDIDATE

cent. The rest secured between 98 and 99 percentile, but strangely none of us secured a call from the IIMs for our second round of admissions." Dipesh claimed he and others like him would not have secured a call even if they had secured 100 per cent.

As per the suddenly changed selection criteria, the IIMs used scores obtained in undergraduate examinations of Class X and Class XII, as a part of the selection criteria which got disclosed only after the results were out and

candidate, using specific weightages for Class X, XII and UG marks, pointed out the enraged candidates.

Dipesh pointed out that the IIMs, as autonomous institutions, undoubtedly have every right to set their own selection criteria - including giving weightage to Class X, XII and UG marks as they deem fit. But the way they went about, none of them would have even applied for the test. They added that this would have saved them time, money and resources involved in the preparations.

Determined to fight out a legal battle against these premier institutes, the candidates have questioned as to why the IIMs hid these criteria till after the test? "Instead, the IIMs only disclosed one eligibility criteria with the CAT bulletin — 50 per cent marks in UG."

Further there is discrepancy and lack of uniformity even in this criterion. While IIM Rohtak and Trichy are only considering CAT scores of those with UG marks over 65 per cent IIM Shillong is using UG marks ranging from 71 per cent to 90 per cent, the candidates pointed out.

"none of us stood a chance under this criteria," said Aditya Narang, an IIT Roorkee pass-out and Infosys employee who secured 99.46 percentile.

In fact, three of the IIMs at Rohtak, Shillong and Trichy had not even looked at CAT scores unless students have obtained the desired cut-off mark in their UG, Class X and Class XII performances. IIMs in Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Lucknow, Indore and Kozhikode, on the other hand had calculated a weighted score for each

Science and Technology

The cluttered frontier

SECURITY IN SPACE

America updates its space-security policy

THE high frontier. The final frontier, even. The metaphor is compelling, and American writers of both fact and fiction have not resisted it. Space is there to be exploited, just as the wide-open lands of the West were in the 19th century. Moreover, there are no pesky Mexicans to be defeated, nor inconvenient native inhabitants to be corralled into reservations before the exploitation can begin. True, there was a rival, in the shape of the Soviet Union. But that imploded two decades ago. They might be coming in peace, for all mankind, but Americans are clear that the development of the new, high, final frontier should be led by them, and no one else.

At least, they used to be. Unfortunately, it has not quite worked out like that. A strategy document* published on February 4 by the country's Department of Defence (DOD) and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence reveals interlopers. Around 60 countries now have satellites orbiting the Earth. Along with those satellites — which number more than 1,000 — there are 22,000 man-made objects large enough to track by radar and hundreds of thousands of bits of debris too small to detect. Space is a congested, contested and competitive place, and one in which America is merely first among equals.

America's new national security space strategy — the first the DOD has felt the need to publish — is an attempt to adapt to this reality. Satellites, vital for both military and economic security, face a range of threats, including accidental collisions, anti-satellite missiles, lasers, electronic jamming and even the hacking of their software. On top of that, America has a lot more competition than it used to in the markets for making and launching satellites. A decade ago its share of these industries was double what it is today.

The virtues of modesty

Such competition is inevitable, as space technology spreads and other countries are no longer forced to rely on America's good offices for things like satellite-based global positioning systems. But a more direct threat to America's position comes from the testing of anti-satellite weapons.

In 2007 the Chinese used one of their ageing weather satellites as target practice for a ground-based missile. The test was successful, in that the satellite was destroyed, and America had a

minor "Sputnik moment" of realisation of the true capabilities of its rival. But the test also had the consequence of creating thousands of pieces of debris that now pose a hazard for other satellites, including Chinese ones.

The new strategy document suggests that, rather than trying to negotiate treaties that outlaw such behaviour, America should lead by example. To an extent, it already has. A year after the Chinese test, America followed suit. It destroyed an errant spy satellite that still had a full load of a toxic propellant called hydrazine, and was in danger of spilling it over an inhabited area when it re-entered the atmosphere.

Unlike the Chinese test, though, the American target was in such a low orbit that any debris would quickly have fallen into the air and burned up. There were claims at the time that this test was intended mainly as a demonstration to the Chinese. If it was, they may have learned a lesson in good neighbourliness, at least.



According to Brian Weeden, of a think-tank called the Secure World Foundation, China conducted another anti-satellite test in 2010, and that passed without criticism. The crucial difference was that, like America's test, the second Chinese one did not create any mess.

The strategy document also talks of improving "space situational awareness" which, translated into English, means that America should be willing to share intelligence, if that will help the rest of the world avoid collisions. Along with improvements to the country's system of sensors for detecting objects in orbit, this intelligence might also come from data-sharing agreements with commercial satellite operators and other governments. According to Mr Weeden, such discussions are already happening.

That is a significant change of attitude. In the past, information about orbits was a closely guarded secret. Now, a degree of pragmatism is needed. There is little point in retaining a superior awareness

of what is going on in space if this means watching debris build up to the point where your own satellites become unusable.

Another area of politically sensitive change described by the document is export control. It makes sense, of course, not to give your best secrets to your enemies. But it also makes sense not to have controls so onerous that your own companies cannot compete with foreign rivals. Not only does that reduce revenue, it also weakens the incentive to improve technology and lets those foreigners get ahead. And that is what has happened to America in recent years, as its satellite industry has been entangled in Gordian knots of red tape.

Change, though, is afoot — as the strategy document confirms. Peter Marquez, vice-president of strategy at Orbital Sciences Corporation, a private space-launch company, was once the National Security Council's director for space policy. He says both the DOD strategy document and America's broader space policy admit that the country has "a serious problem" with its space industry. Action needs to be taken, he says, to help aerospace companies succeed, both at home and abroad.

That sounds suspiciously like industrial policy. But when the government is an industry's biggest consumer, it is unavoidable. Change is clearly needed, because government procurement practices have turned out to be harmful. As Mr Marquez puts it, "the government typically buys large, expensive space capabilities, which cost a great deal and take a long time to build. Long timelines lead to gaps in coverage, decreased abilities to insert new technologies, attrition in the workforce and a dwindling supply chain." In other words, a vicious circle. The new strategy seeks to replace this with a virtuous circle, buying more specialised spacecraft on a reliable schedule.

But America will also have to recognise it no longer rules the roost. Mr Marquez reckons that American firms will increasingly have to work with foreigners. A new and modest view of space, indeed, from the country that brought you the Apollo programme. Globalisation, it seems, is now extraterrestrial, as well.

*National Security Space Strategy. Joint publication by the Department of Defence and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence

US wants to resolve TVU issue quickly

Three more students gets untagged

LALIT K JHA

WASHINGTON, FEB 17

Regretting the inconvenience caused to Indian students, the US has said it wants to quickly resolve the "visa fraud" issue leading to the closure of the California-based Tri-Valley University even as radio tags were removed from three more students.

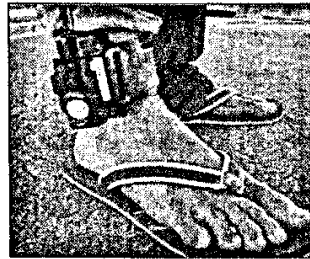
"We have reiterated over the course of the last several days our commitment to work very closely with the Indian government. We understand the concerns the government has. We want to resolve these cases and those that are just ensnared in somebody else's fraud. We understand that they've been put in kind of a limbo status as a result of this. We regret that very much," State Department spokesman PJ Crowley told reporters here.

"We we have strong suspicions that visa fraud has occurred. It is a matter of great concern to us as a country. It's a matter of great concern to India as a country. We will seek to resolve this as quickly as we can. We will pledge to keep Indian authorities fully informed. But we have to go through this investigation first," he said.

India's Consul General in San Francisco Susmita Gongulee Thomas said Immigration and Custom Enforcement (ICE) have removed radio tags from three more Indian students and returned their passports along with the two others, from whom radio tags were removed last week.

In all radio tags so far has been removed from five of the 18 Indian students.

According to a federal complaint filed in a California court in January, the TVU had helped foreign nationals illegally acquire immigration status. The university



is said to have 1,555 students. As many as 95 per cent of these students are Indian nationals, the complaint said.

Investigations by US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) have found that while students were admitted to various residential and on-line courses of the university and on paper lived in California, but in reality they "illegally" worked in various parts of the country as far as Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania and Texas.

ICE has called it as a "Sham University", a charge denied by the TVU.

The US fully understands the point made by Indian government that the closure of this university has put in limbo the academic career of Indian students, Crowley said, adding that the issue has been a subject of discussion between New Delhi and Washington which involves Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

"We have ongoing concerns both in this case and more broadly about instances of visa fraud. We need to continue to investigate how these things happen and try to do everything we can to prevent them from occurring in the future," Crowley said.

"That said, we do understand that there are students who have been caught up in this. It has been the subject of discussions with Secretary Clinton and others and also with the Indian embassy here, our embassy in India," he said.—PTI

Opportunity beckons

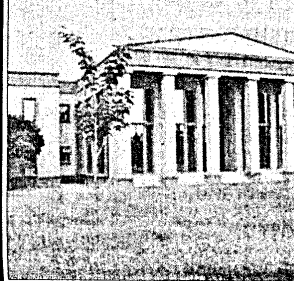
A degree in Intellectual Property law could take you places, and IIT Kharagpur provides the wherewithal, writes kamalika bhattacharya

INTELLECTUAL Property is a term that refers to a number of distinct types of creations of the mind for which a set of exclusive rights are recognised — and the corresponding fields of law. While these rights are not actually property rights, the word "property" is employed because they resemble property rights in many ways. Under Intellectual Property law, owners are granted certain exclusive rights to a variety of intangible assets such as musical, literary and artistic works; discoveries and inventions; and words, phrases, symbols and designs. Common types of intellectual property include copyrights, trademarks, patents, industrial design rights and trade secrets in some jurisdictions.

India's emergence as a knowledge superpower is making the practice of IP law a very promising and attractive career option for candidates from science, medicine or engineering backgrounds.

IIT, Kharagpur's Rajiv Gandhi School of Intellectual Property Law, set up in collaboration with George Washington University Law School, has the unique

IIT Kharagpur's Rajiv Gandhi School of Intellectual Property Law



distinction of being the only law school in any IIT in India. It boasts of a Microsoft Centre of Excellence in Intellectual Property Research and Technology Policy, funded by Microsoft. The centre represents a unique partnership between industry and academia in the field of IP law in India. Students of the law school have been placed with leading global giants like General Electric, Siemens, Honeywell, Wipro, Infosys, IUS Juris, etc, and with some of the best known firms in India like Amarchand Mangaldas, Lex Orbis, the TVS group, etc.

Welcoming IIT, Kharagpur's endeavour, Daniel Bernstine, president, Law School Admission Council, said, "Adoption of the Law School Admission Test-India by IIT Kharagpur is a strong endorsement of the quality benchmarks established by the LSAT."

The Institute, one of the most coveted in India, has decided to accept LSAT-India for admission to its three-year LL.B programme in IP laws. It is a standardised test designed for the Indian scenario by the Law School Admission Council, USA, which also administers the tests used by leading law schools worldwide. LSAT-India is administered by Pearson VUE, global leaders in assessments and testing. LSAT-India provides a standard measure of acquired reading and analytical and logical reasoning skills that law schools can use as one of several factors in assessing



Sarvesh Shrivastava

applicants. This is the first time IIT, Kharagpur has given recognition to LSAT, considered the "gold standard" in global law admissions testing for international students seeking admission.

Candidates from India and abroad with LSAT-India or LSAT scores can apply for the programme. "Pearson VUE is excited about IIT, Kharagpur's decision to adopt LSAT-India as an admission criteria to its law programme," said Sarvesh Shrivastava, managing director, Pearson VUE Asia Pacific. "This demonstrates the faith and confidence that leading Institutes place in the LSAT-India test to measure abilities considered essential to study law."

For more, visit:

www.pearsonvueindia.com/lsatindia/help.html

This mobile checks pulse, reads ECG, calls ambulance

© Howard Pyle/Corbis

Barcelona: You probably have good reason to worry if you get a call on your mobile phone with the following message: "Sir, an ambulance is on the way." That's the worst call you can receive if you buy a new EPI Life mobile phone, which comes complete with mini electrocardiogram.

It's a new phone developed in Singapore that takes your pulse when you press your fingers on a receptor, and sends the results to a 24-hour medical call centre.

"We think it's a revolution. It has clinical significance," EPI medical chief Chow U-Jin said at the mobile industry's annual conference in Barcelona. "Anywhere in the world you can use it as a phone but you are also able to transfer an ECG and get a reply," Chow said. "If you get a normal reply it will be an SMS," he added. "If it's severe,



LIFELINE: The phone checks pulse when fingers are pressed on a receptor and sends the results to a call centre. If the report is serious, an ambulance sets off

you get a call: 'Sir, an ambulance is on the way'."

EPI Life costs \$700, the

price of a top range smartphone, and 2,000 of them have been on the market since 2010. Depending on your health or disposition you can choose from three packages offering 10, 30 or 100 tests a month.

There is now a mini \$99 version with a smaller receptor that links via Bluetooth connection to your smartphone.

The EPI Life is one of a of mobile health initiatives unveiled in Barcelona. Many of the services rely on SMS or MMS messages that even older mobiles can receive.

Health Company sends medical information about sexuality, obesity, children's health etc to about 430,000 customers in Arab and English. "You could send a consultation through SMS," said company V-P Fahad S Al-Orifi. "This will go to our website where our doctor answers you to your mobile." AFP

Laser killer, the antilaser, is here

Can Be Used In Next-Gen PCs, But Not As Defence Against High-Power Laser Weapons

Chicago: The laser — a 50-year-old invention now used in everything from CDs to laser pointers — has met its match in the "antilaser," the first device capable of trapping and canceling out laser beams.

While such a device would seem most fitting in a science fiction movie, its real-world application will likely be in next-generation, optical computers, which will be powered by light in addition to electrons, US researchers said.

"It's a device which basically works like running a laser backwards," A Douglas Stone of Yale University, who published his findings in the journal Science, said.

While a laser takes in electrical energy and emits light in a very narrow frequency range, Stone said, his antilaser takes in laser light and transforms it into heat energy. But it could be easily converted into electrical energy, he said. Conventional lasers, which

WHAT IS A LASER?

- ▶ A laser is a device that can produce a beam of coherent light
- ▶ The beam is produced using a quantum effect, whereby electrons can be made to emit light
- ▶ That is achieved by stimulating electrons inside a 'gain medium', typically using an electric current
- ▶ Resonators are used to amplify the light produced to form the beam

were invented in 1960, use a so-called "gain medium," such as a semiconductor material, to produce a focused beam of light

waves. Stone's device uses silicon as an absorbent "loss-medium" that traps light waves, which bounce around until

they are converted into heat.

And while the technology seems cool, his antilaser would never be used as a potential laser shield. "This is something that absorbs lasers. If a ray gun was intended to kill you, it's going to kill you," Stone said.

He said the most obvious use of his device is in computing. These new computers will use both light and electrical energy. Ultimately, he said, the technology could find its way in radiology, **NEWS**

Times of India ND 19/02/2011 P-21

Hummingbird-sized drone can fly through windows to take pics

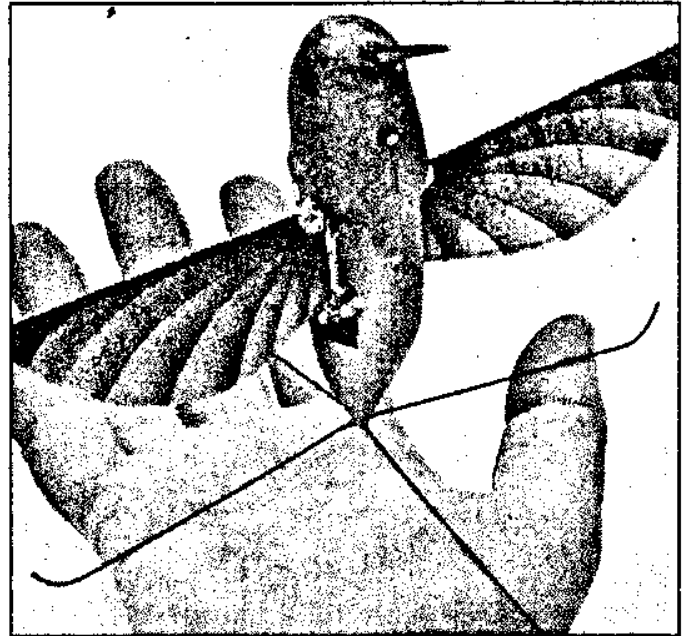
Boston: A California-based company has developed a pocket-size spy plane resembling a hummingbird for the Pentagon that can enter through a window to be used for battlefield and urban surveillance.

The battery-powered 'Nano Hummingbird' is the result of a five year effort by AeroVironment Inc, the California-based developer of unmanned aircraft systems. The Pentagon awarded about \$4 million dollars to AeroVironment to develop the technology.

The miniaturised drone, industry experts said, is a step towards technology that could produce drones capable of flying through open windows or sitting on powerlines, capturing audio and video while enemies would be none the wiser.

Equipped with a camera, the drone can fly at speeds of up to 11 miles per hour. It can climb and descend vertically, fly sideways, forward and backward, as well as rotate clockwise and counter-clockwise by remote control for about eight minutes.

The 'hummingbird' has a wingspan of 6.5 inches and weighs 19 grams – less than an AA battery. It uses only its flapping wings for propulsion and control. Slightly larger than the average hummingbird, the drone contains motors and other communications systems. PTI



DEFINITELY NO BIRD-BRAIN: Equipped with a camera, the drone with a wingspan of 6.5 inches can be used for battlefield and urban surveillance

Economic Times ND 19/02/2011 P15

For Startups, IIM Grads Pin Hopes on Deferred Placements

SREERADHA D BASU
KOLKATA

When his classmates line up during final placements for a shot at their coveted jobs with the blue-chip biggies, Vivekanandan M of IIM Calcutta will be pursuing a dream of his own: Chasing butterflies. The second-year student of the Joka institute is raring to go with his startup, ButterflySpotter, a consultancy firm which will help resorts create butterfly habitats. He is in touch with three nationwide resort chains and his pilot project is all set to take off in Uttarakhand.

Vivekanandan is not alone. As IIM Calcutta kicks off its deferred placements process for the first time this season, it has given other budding entrepreneurs like him wings to pursue their dreams. Like fellow engineering grad Nithin Jagannathan, who is also opting for deferred placements. His startup, Schnell Energy, which he began in 2008, is involved in energy conservation and automation. At XLRI Jamshedpur, student Kumar Ankit availed of the deferred placements to start his own venture, a project on biodiesel in Bihar.

With the economy thriving, entrepreneurship is looking increasingly attractive and such initiatives are encouraging students to pursue alternative careers. Gujarat's Institute of Rural Management, Anand (IRMA) has also rolled out this deferred placement scheme earlier this year for to encourage rural entrepreneurs among its graduating students. A few other leading names including IIM-Bangalore, XLRI Jamshedpur and ISB, Hyderabad already offer this to students as a back-up option.

The core objective of the deferred place-



ON THE ROAD LESS TRAVELLED

ment policy is to encourage students to pursue alternative careers beyond what are offered by corporates. The idea is to mitigate the career risk students might face otherwise by offering a fallback option. Depending on the institute, students can opt out of placements in the current year with the option of participating in any one of the two/three placement processes.

At IIM Calcutta and IRMA, it's within three subsequent final/ lateral placement processes, while at XLRI, IIM Bangalore and ISB, Hyderabad, it's within two years.

Vivekanandan M plans to formally register his company by March 2011. He'd

earlier opted out of summer placements at IIMC to work on his project. Now, a resort chain has agreed to give him a set of ten projects upon successful completion of his pilot. Vivekanandan, who has opted out of final placements to work on this venture, is planning to work with Isaac Kehimkar, author of *The book of Indian Butterflies*. He says, "I think the policy of deferred placements is a tremendous help in allowing budding entrepreneurs to take the plunge. I had a hard time convincing my parents when I told them that I wanted to start my own venture, but now they have agreed to let me pursue my dreams."

Sapna Agarwal, head of career and development at IIM, Bangalore says an average of six-seven students sign up for the deferred placement process every year. "A few return in subsequent years to participate in placements," she says.

It's the same story at ISB, Hyderabad where director-career advancement services VK Menon also sees graduates of its one-year programme opt for this scheme and pursue entrepreneurship.

Says XLRI placement committee chairman Rajiv Misra: "We also have some students who continue with their own ventures alongside their jobs, or take up entrepreneurship a couple of years down the road. But so far, of the students who opted for deferred placements, none have come back to participate in placements."

"Apart from encouraging entrepreneurs, we also plan to support students who want to work in the social sector; join a government organisation involved in national service, or pursue higher education," says Abhijeet Kamath, external relations secretary at IIM-C.

Business Line ND
19/02/2011 P-19

Symposium on IIT Bombay's tie-up with Monash varsity

Our Bureau

Mumbai, Feb. 18

The IIT Bombay-Monash Research Academy is hosting its annual symposium between February 17 and 19 to share, review and form views on how the collaboration of the two is moving thus far, progress of the academy collaboration model and new areas, challenges and research themes to focus on and challenges that are common to India and Australia in a resource-constrained world.

The heads along with key researchers of two premier institutions - IIT Bombay and Monash University, Australia - will be present on the occasion.

This annual symposium will also focus on developing common research programs of interest to society, government and industry. The event will also be a platform to air opinion and views and listen to the industry on needs, goals and challenges, said a statement.

Among the speakers will be Mr F.C. Kohli, Former Deputy Chairman-TCS, Mr Aravind Sitaraman, MD-Cisco, Mr Manish Gupta, Associate Director, (IBM Research Laboratory), Mr Adil Dhalla, Director of GE Singapore Water Technology Centre, Mr Surendra Kulkarni, Senior Director R&D and CTO, Dow Chemicals, India among others

The symposium will conclude with the students' annual awards ceremony on Friday. Dr Narayana Murthy, Chairman and Founder of Infosys and Chair of the Academy's Advisory Board, will be the guest of honour.

Hindustan Times, ND
19-Feb-11 p-10

Criteria fixed after results, admits IIM

ht FOLLOW-UP

Charu Sudan Kasturi

charu.kasturi@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI. The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Ahmedabad on Friday accepted that it hid its eligibility criteria till Common Admission Test scores were disclosed, bolstering charges of foul-play made by several CAT toppers eliminated because of hidden pre-test cut-offs.

The IIM-A confession, in reply to a right to information (RTI) Act query, is likely to provide further ammunition to about 75 CAT toppers planning to file a writ petition in the Supreme Court seeking a stay on the second stage of IIM admissions. The second stage of admissions at many IIMs starts from Saturday.

These students have not been short-listed for the second stage because the IIMs either changed eligibility rules after the test or used criteria that were

never disclosed before the test, as was revealed by HT on February 9. These criteria — Class X, XII and undergraduate marks — ruled out these CAT toppers from the second stage of IIM admissions despite aggregate and sectional CAT scores over the cut-offs set.

“The eligibility criteria for shortlisting candidates for Personal Interview [the second stage of admissions] were decided after publication of the CAT notice, were finalised on January 2, 2011. The date on which they were published was January 12, 2011,” the RTI Act response from Diptesh Ghosh, chairman of the IIM-A admissions panel states.

The students, who have now petitioned HRD minister Kapil Sibal, are arguing that they would never have applied for the CAT had they known they stood no chance. “Why have the IIMs wasted a year of our life, our money, time and our sacrifices,” questioned IIT Roorkee graduate Aditya Narang.

Hindustan Times, ND 19-Feb-11 p-10

More Tri-Valley like cases under scanner

UNCERTAIN US authorities are probing other such varsities where Indian students might be enrolled

Yashwant Raj

■ yraj@hindustantimes.com

WASHINGTON: One of the big fears in New Delhi has been the possibility of the exposure and closure of more Tri-Valley-type universities in the US leaving more Indian students facing anything from deportation to jail to an uncertain future.

These fears were not unfounded, after all.

"ICE has other such investigations underway, but we're not going to quantify the scope of our efforts," Virginia Kice of the US immigration and customs enforcement said in reply to a specific question about it.

As stated above, she refused to divulge the number of such probes. Kice pointed to some other such cases cracked by ICE in the last few years. Tri-Valley was a true descendant of some of them — using the same fraud.

There are fears that Indian students might be enrolled in other such universities for the same reasons that made Tri-Valley so attractive: easy enrollment with visa, low tuition fee, online classes and readily given permission to work.

The enrolled student could, be anywhere in the US, was never required to attend on-site classes and was allowed to work full-time — and not in relevant

areas — for Curricular Practical Training from day one.

In short, you come to the US on student visa — F-1 — or transfer from another more expensive and rules-conscious university and start working in contravention of immigration rules.

Many Tri-Valley students came from other US varsities, which were possibly in the same racket, but charged more.

But when they are raided by ICE more of these students will be on the street, joining the hundreds who have lived like fugitives since the raid on Tri-Valley on January 18, a handful of them with radio-collars to prevent them from fleeing.

HISTORY OF VISA FRAUDS LIKE TRI-VALLEY

March 2010: A Florida language school owner indicted for sponsoring foreign students with foreign student status without requiring them to attend classes; 81 students, mostly from Thailand, were arrested.

March 2010: An Oregon man surrenders facing charges of running a racket helping foreign students avoid classes — and work on a full-time basis — by having someone else do that for them, enabling them to log the mandatory 18 hours of classes every

week. The enrollees were mostly from the Middle East.

May 2010: Owners of a San Diego flight training school plead guilty to issuing visa papers to foreign students despite the fact that the school's license to teach commercial pilots was cancelled.

Dec 2010: A Santa Ana owner of a religious school was caught in an operation copied by Tri-Valley. Students were given I-20s, didn't attend classes and even staged graduation ceremonies. Most enrollees were Koreans.

SOURCE: US IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT

Times of India Chennai
18.02.11 p-4

Fun science for students at IIT workshop

Chennai: From balloons that don't burst to plastic sheets that tear when in the hands of one but remain indestructible in the hands of another — these were some of the everyday applications of science that enthralled 300 children from 100 schools in the city on Thursday.

They were participating in an awareness workshop, 'Science and Engineering — A Journey', being conducted for school students at the IIT Madras on Thursday and Friday. Conducted by the Federation of Science Clubs of Tamil Nadu and MCC Higher Secondary School, Chennai, students of Class 10, 11 and 12 are participating in this workshop.

"The brightest students from over 100 schools have been selected and for two days they will be exposed to science and engineering in various forms with a lot of exposure to practical applications," said ■ president FSCT and head of IGCAR Daniel Chellappa. He added that many professors from IIT will participate and enlighten students on the challenges and prospects in ■ physics, chemistry, mathematics, computer science, engineering design, bio technology and electrical, chemical, mechanical and aerospace engineering. TNN

CAT Applicants to Drag IIMs to Court Over Admission



MAHIMA PURI
NEW DELHI

You may not make it to the IIMs this year even if you have scored 99 percentile or more in CAT 2010.

Thanks to the alleged discrepancies in the IIM admission system, candidates like Dipesh Kaien and Vipul Chawla have not received calls from any of the 11 IIMs, despite scoring more than 99 percentile in CAT 2010.

Appalled by some announcements of eligibility criteria by IIMs after the CAT results were announced, more than 60 students are now approaching the Delhi High Court on Saturday. These students are filing a writ petition in the court, seeking

Appalled by some announcements of eligibility criteria by IIMs after the CAT results were announced, more than 60 students are approaching the Delhi HC on Saturday

justice in what they regard as an unfair practice by IIMs to choose candidates. Majority of these candidates have scored above 99 percentile in CAT 2010.

Every year, IIMs release their eligibility criteria after the results are announced, though some may also announce their selection criteria prior to the CAT results.

This year, IIMs that announced their criteria have decided to take only those students who have scored a minimum percentage in their graduation. For instance, IIM Shillong has shortlisted only those who have scored at least 87% in graduation, while IIM Trichy, Raipur and Rohtak have shortlisted only those who have scored at least 65% in their graduation.

According to these top scorers, CAT's eligibility criteria demand a minimum of 50% in graduation, which they met. But they may not have scored well in their academics due to various reasons. This should not be the basis of rejection.

Dipesh, an engineer, studied for CAT sitting in the waiting room of a hospital since both his parents are suffering from cancer. He has also cleared two levels of CFA. According to Dipesh, it's unfair to reject his academic background just because he could not score a certain percentage of marks in graduation.

"Either IIMs should announce their criteria before CAT aspirants file their registrations or their criteria should be in line with CAT eligibility," he said.

He added that aggrieved students like him had filed an RTI that confirm the criteria were indeed announced after CAT results, on the basis of which they will apply in the high court. "We have put in a lot of time, energy and money in preparing for CAT, but despite scoring well, it is disheartening that we are not being considered by any of the IIMs," he added.

He also said off late, IIMs are giving more weightage to academic background (marks in Class X, XII and graduation) and giving less weightage to CAT, which is inappropriate.

टाटा व सदर्न कैलिफोर्निया यूनिवर्सिटी करेंगे करार

अजीत सिंह • मुंबई

देश के अग्रणी व्यवसायिक घरानों में से एक टाटा समूह और युनिवर्सिटी ऑफ सदर्न कैलिफोर्निया (यूएससी) भारत में उच्च शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में महत्वपूर्ण रणनीतिक घोषणा करने की योजना बना रहे हैं। अगले हफ्ते इसकी घोषणा किए जाने की संभावना है।

इस बारे में टाटा संस के एक अधिकारी के मुताबिक रतन टाटा युनिवर्सिटी ऑफ सदर्न कैलिफोर्निया के ट्रस्टी बोर्ड में सदस्य हैं और इसी संस्था के प्रेसीडेंट सीएल. मैक्स निकी के साथ मिलकर वे इसकी घोषणा करेंगे। यह घोषणा भारत में उच्च शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में करार पर की जानेवाली है। इसके तहत भारत के कुछ कॉर्पोरेट जगत और अग्रणी शैक्षणिक संस्थानों की पहचान भी



की जा चुकी है, जिनके साथ यह करार होगा।

इस अधिकारी के मुताबिक रतन टाटा के साथ कुल चार लोग होंगे। जिसमें यूएससी सिनेमाटिक आर्ट्स के डीन एलिजाबेथ एम डिले,

मार्शल स्कूल ऑफ बिजनेस के जेम्स जी इलीस, स्कूल ऑफ कम्युनिकेशन एंड जर्नलिज्म के डीन अर्नेस्ट विल्सन और स्कूल ऑफ इंजीनियरिंग के डीन यानिस योरटसास का समावेश है। हालांकि

अभी तक यह पता नहीं चल पाया है कि कितने शैक्षणिक संस्थानों के साथ यह करार होगा, पर कहा जा रहा है कि काफी व्यवसायिक और सरकारी संस्थानों के साथ यह करार की योजना है। यूएसई विश्व का अग्रणी निजी रिसर्च विश्वविद्यालय है और इसने कई अंतरराष्ट्रीय छात्रों को भरती किया है। यूएसई रिसर्च कार्यक्रमों, टीचिंग के लिए विश्व के कई संस्थानों के साथ करार किया है और एशिया तथा लैटिन अमेरिका के उसके कार्यालय इसमें काफी मदद करते हैं। उसके भूतपूर्व छात्र भी उसकी इस योजना में नेटवर्किंग का काम करते हैं। यूएसई मुख्य रूप से विश्व के सभी देशों में सभी सेक्टर की शैक्षणिक संस्थानों के साथ एक गठबंधन कर वहां के छात्रों को अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर की शिक्षा देना

चाहती है और यही कारण है कि वह इस समय भारत में उभरते शिक्षा व्यवसाय में टाटा समूह के माध्यम से जुड़ने की योजना बना रही है।