

EDU-TECH

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What will transformation India in years to come are education and technology, say experts at a recently concluded lecture series on 'Technology in education'. Patricia Mascarenhas reports.



Speakers at a recently concluded lecture series on "Technology in education" converged on a common theme that technology had reformed the field of education. The Internet was a huge information base to acquire knowledge and the use of technology had made the process of teaching and learning more flexible, said **R.K. Shevgaonkar, director, IIT-Delhi**. The lecture series was organised by the Vaze College of Arts, Science and Commerce.

"The new learning makes everything easy. Students and teachers don't have to be present at the same time in the same room," said Shevgaonkar. "Students can learn in their own time and in their own way and teachers too can give lectures at their own time, no repeated delivery so the quality of content is intact," he added

Shevgaonkar however, observed that many educational professionals saw technology developments in education as intimidating. "Teachers are scared to take risks so they play safe. Technology needs to be seen not as a replacement but as an evolution," he pointed out. Technology did not reduce the number of people but instead increased the need for skilled people, he said, adding that "When students have questions and when they're curious, they will need teachers to present the subject in the most simplified fashion."

The world was changing and growing digitally, Shevgaonkar said. And it was the need of the hour to be taught how to adapt and manage this complex world. Today, digital literacy was one of the basic skills required for

employment. "You have to be familiar with the trends in technology. Everything is available online but the knowledge about what exactly to type or which site to refer is imparted through education," he informed.

Earlier, Jyoti Bhadkamkar, trustee, Kelkar Education Trust, said that technology was the need of the day as it increased one's efficiency. With the onset of computers, it had become easier for teachers to impart knowledge and for students to acquire it. "Students become more confident as they learn through various interesting mediums like audio visuals, which makes them more skilled," she added.

Academics connected with technology, was a geometric progression that was indispensable, said Dr. Sanjay Oak, vice chancellor, Padmashree Dr. D. Y. Patil Vidyapeeth. However, all this came with a cost. "What we need to challenge is how to make it affordable for the future generations of students," he said. "When we talk about technology it includes not only the capital cost but also the recurring cost to maintain it," Dr. Oak said, adding that "We all need to figure out a way to make it available for free or a subsidised rate to the lowest level of people because digital literacy is the future," he concluded.

<http://www.dnaindia.com/academy/report-edu-tech-1962980>

IIT Delhi and Ministry of Textiles hosted a fashion show-cum-quiz in Delhi

TNN | Feb 19, 2014, 12:00 AM IST



AK Kohli and Anupama, who was wearing a dress from Mizoram

Recently, IIT Delhi, along with the [Ministry of Textiles](#), Government of India, hosted a fashion show-cum-quiz to help familiarize people with the culture of the northeastern states.

While many are still angry at the death of [Nido Tania](#), an Arunachali student, who was allegedly beaten to death in Lajpat Nagar in a fight triggered by a racial slur, "We thought it's high time we did what we can," said Adit, a student there. Barry O'Brien, the emcee, said, "If you don't know your own country, you know nothing. Just because somebody's eyes or hair look different from yours, just because somebody speaks whatever language you speak in a different accent than yours, it makes them no less Indian." During the show, Brian quizzed the audience on the traditional costumes of the models and the videos of culture-specific hand-crafted products, which were featured in the show.

Former governor of Mizoram, AR Kohli, came to the event with his wife [Anupama](#), who chose to wear a traditional dress from Mizoram. "We have realized that the northeast has tremendous scope for handicrafts. My suggestion is that the people of Delhi, especially the elderly, who could anyway use

some companionship, adopt the NE students while they are in Delhi and treat them like their own children. The distance between Delhi and NE, both physical and emotional, is painful. We need to harbour some family feeling," said Kohli.

[Yana Ngoba](#), a designer from Arunachal Pradesh, said, "Even when I go to Mumbai, people call me 'Nepali' and 'Chinese'. According to them, [Arunachal Pradesh](#) is a jungle. I want to say that we are pretty fashionable out there in the northeast. Girls from there are always tagged as 'characterless'."

Added [Venika Aggarwal](#), a student there, "I'd like to believe that at IIT, we don't have these prejudices, but as a state, we still do. As much as we criticize the daily soaps, the cultures of Kolkata, Gujarat and Maharashtra have come to the Delhi audiences through these shows, even in a melodramatic form. People are beginning to realize that Bengalis don't only eat fish, and Mumbaikars don't only talk in tapori language. I think that if we have daily soaps or any popular entertainment shows with northeastern settings, it might aid cultural integration."

A tribute to Nido Tania, a celebration of the northeast



Jyotipriya models a Manipuri costume

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Umang Aggarwal and Manavi Gaur



Barry O'Brien



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Ranjivjit Singh

In *Delhi Times*, in an article dated February 18, 2014, titled 'Deepika's a tech freak', the name of Ranjivjit Singh, head, marketing, printing and personal systems, India, Hewlett Packard India Sales Pvt Ltd, has been incorrectly spelt as Ranjivit Singh.



Yana Ngoba

<< Anousha Chauhan models an outfit from the NE



Zohra Chatterji, secy, Ministry of Textiles



SS Gupta, development commissioner, handicrafts

Notice to IIMs over 'faulty result' of CAT 2013 exam

Vanita Srivastava

NEW DELHI: The Indore bench of the Madhya Pradesh High Court on Tuesday issued notices to 13 IIMs (Indian Institute of Management) to explain both the normalisation and the scaling process of the scores of the CAT 2013 aspirants.

The court issued the notices to 13 IIMs, the Union government, the CAT examination conducting committee and Prometric. It has also directed that all the admissions to the institute will be subjected to the final decision of the writ petition.

Aggrieved candidates had filed it while alleging that there was discrepancy in the scoring. The next date for the hearing is March 7 and the replies have to be furnished before that.

"The entire methodology for computation of marks for CAT 2013 is faulty. We have asked for the raw marks of all students who appeared in the exam. The marks should not be processed so many times. Infact there should not be 2-3 filters," the counsel for the case Piyush Mathur told HT.

Last week some candidates of CAT 2013,

We have asked for the raw marks of all students who appeared in the exam

PIYUSH MATHUR, counsel

while alleging faulty evaluation had filed a petition in Delhi High Court pleading for a stay on the admission process.

Ever since the results of CAT 2013 were announced on January 14, many students have been demanding a re-valuation.

"We have been asking for our raw scores. The normalisation process should also be made more transparent," says an aggrieved candidate.

Eight persons, all male had got 100 percentile score in the CAT 2013 for admission to the Indian Institutes of Management and other business schools

The CAT exam has been marred with problems ever since it became online in 2009. In 2009, the exam had to be extended by three days. In 2012, there were reports of tampering with scores resulting in escalated scores for 80 people.

Top B-schools register robust final placements

HT Education Correspondent

The final placements at Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) and other B-schools have brought good news to students at these institutions. The first cluster of the final placement process for the PGP batch of 2012-14 at the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, concluded recently. The participants included global strategy consultancies, investment banks and global financial services firms.

The major recruiters included Accenture Strategy, The Boston Consulting Group, Citigroup, Deutsche Bank, Goldman Sachs, McKinsey, and others. Banks offered diverse roles across trading, investment banking, private banking and quantitative strategy.

Consulting firms once again reinforced their faith in the talent pool at IIM Ahmedabad. Accenture Strategy made the highest number of offers — 18 (including pre-placement offers). The second cluster consisted of six cohorts: consumer goods and services, global tech firms, general management and leadership, strategy and niche consulting, banking and financial services.

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The consumer goods, consumer services and global technology firms cohorts included regular partners like Amazon, Hindustan Unilever, ITC, Nestlé and Samsung. The third cluster will to be conducted on February 23, 2014. At IIM Bangalore, the final placement season for the PGP class of 2012-14 was concluded within a record time of eight sessions across four days.

This year, the placement process witnessed the participation of 388 eligible students. More than 150 companies made 425 offers across 200 profiles. The pre-placement offers poured in aplenty with 117 students receiving offers before the start of the final placements, which is 20% higher than the last year. Major hirers included Goldman Sachs, HSBC, JP Morgan, Bank of America Merrill Lynch. XLRI Jamshedpur, too, witnessed 100% placement for the batch of 2012-14 in less than four days.

Asteroid as big as 3 soccer fields gives Earth a scare

@ 43,000 Kmph, It Zips By At A Distance Of 3.4m Km

Kounteya Sinha & Agencies

William Radcliffe/Science Faction/Corbis

London: An asteroid — estimated to be the size of three football fields — hurtled close to Earth on Monday, roughly a year after one exploded over Russia and injured 1,200 people. The Slooh Space Camera tracked the approach of the asteroid as it raced past the planet at about 43,000kmph, the robotic telescope service said in a statement on Slooh.com.

The 270m asteroid — named 2000 EM26 — was streaking past Earth at a distance of about 3.4 million km little more than a year after another asteroid exploded on February 15, 2013, over Russia's Chelyabinsk. That asteroid injured 1,200 people following a massive shock wave that shattered windows and damaged buildings.

Slooh's flagship observatory on Mount Teide in Spain's Canary Islands was iced over and unable to be used for the 2000 EM26 viewing, Paul Cox, Slooh's technical and research director, said on the one-hour webcast. "We continue to discover these potentially hazardous asteroids — sometimes only days before they make their close approaches to Earth," Cox said in a statement before the show. He added, "We need to find them before they find us!"

Tracking 'near-Earth' asteroids has been a significant endeavour for Nasa and the broader astronomical community, which has discovered 10,713 known near-Earth objects to date. Nasa is de-



COSMIC CLOSE SHAVE

veloping an Asteroid Redirect Mission (ARM) — a first-ever mission to identify, capture and redirect an asteroid. ARM plans to use capabilities in development, including the new Orion spacecraft and Space Launch System rocket and high-power solar electric propulsion, to capture an asteroid in the near future.

Nasa is assessing two concepts to robotically capture and redirect an asteroid mass into a stable orbit around the Moon. In the first proposed concept, Nasa would capture and redirect an entire asteroid. In the alternative concept, Nasa would retrieve a large, boulder-like mass from a larger asteroid and return it to the lunar orbit. In both cases, astronauts aboard an Orion spacecraft would

then study the redirected asteroid mass in the vicinity of the Moon and bring back samples.

Very few known near-Earth objects are ARM candidates. Most asteroids are too big to be fully captured and have orbits unsuitable for a spacecraft to redirect them into orbit around the Moon. Some are so distant when discovered that their size and makeup are difficult for even our most powerful telescopes to discern.

"We'd be looking for an asteroid smaller than about 40 feet across," said Paul Chodas from Nasa's Near-Earth Object Program Office. "There are hundreds of millions of objects in this size range, but they are small. The best time to discover them is when they are close to Earth."

IISc trespassers to pay ₹200 fine now

By Mail Today Bureau
in Bangalore

FOR the first time in its history, the premier university for scientific research, Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in Bangalore, has been forced to impose a fine of ₹200 on trespassers to ensure the security of its students.

The sudden decision comes in the wake of three attacks by miscreants on students within its premises in the last one month, two of which happened last week.

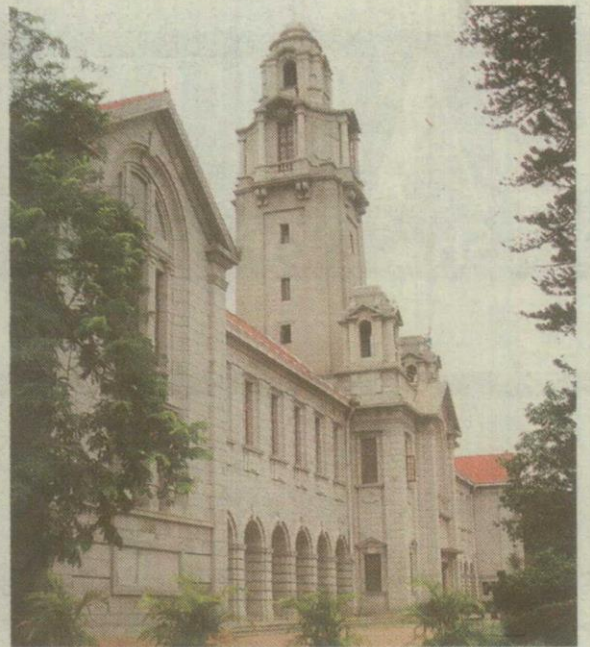
In an incident, a group of tres-

passers assaulted a student after the latter questioned them for consuming alcohol on college campus. In another incident, unidentified bike-borne youths molested a female student in the campus.

IISc's security head M.R. Chandrashekar said that fine was necessitated as it had become difficult for the institute to regulate entry of unauthorised vehicles in recent times.

"We cannot afford to ignore the security of the students. We will step up vigilance. People who are found within the IISc premises for no valid reason will be fined," he said.

Besides a terror attack on IISc premises in 2005, the institute has largely remained incident-free.



IISc (above) has imposed a fine of ₹200 on trespassers to ensure security for students.