

Newspaper Clips

February 25, 2011

Hindustan Times ND 25/02/2011

p-5

Minority tag upsets students and teachers

STATUS QUO V-C says nothing much will change at ground level

Mallica Joshi

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NEW DELHI: The green light for granting minority status to Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI) has failed to impress many students and teachers of the university. While no protests were seen against the move, murmurs of dissent could be heard all over the campus.

"The reputation of being a secular university that we managed to cultivate over the years will take a serious hit," said Kanika, a BA English (Hons) student, who did not want to give her full name. A faculty member, who did not wish to be named, agreed, "JMI was set up with a vision of becoming an institution of higher learning and critical thinking against the insularity and isolationism of all



■ The Jamia Millia Islamia campus.

HT FILE PHOTO

kinds. This vitiates the ideals with which it was started."

JMI's vice chancellor Najeeb Jung meanwhile said that nothing much will change at the ground level. "There are around 51% Muslims studying here. The

reservation will just ensure that Muslim students, who according to the Sachar Committee report, are worse off than SCs when it comes to education, get equal opportunity," he said.

But many felt this move will

weaken the university. "Giving colleges and universities minority status is a quick fix solution and will help create educational ghettos," said a teacher who is part of the Jamia Teachers' Solidarity Association, which has been against this minority status since the beginning.

Jung has meanwhile warned students and teachers against giving the judgement a communal turn. "If I hear even one communal voice, that person will be rusticated," he said.

National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions (NCMEI) had granted the JMI the status of a minority institution on Tuesday, clearing the way for 50% reservation for Muslim students. The JMI administration is currently studying the judgement to see how it can be implemented.

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CASE FILED IN JNU SEX CLIP SCANDAL

HT Correspondent

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NEW DELHI: More than two weeks after the prestigious Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) was rocked by the emergence of a video clip, showing two of its students in a compromising position, the Delhi Police on Thursday lodged a first information report (FIR) in the case.

"An FIR has been lodged against the unknown people involved in the case and we have started investigation into the matter on the basis of an internal inquiry carried out by the university administration," said a senior police officer.

The JNU administration had recently expelled two male students and rusticated another for their involvement in the making and circulation of the tape on February 13 on the basis of an internal inquiry's report.

The expulsion and rustication were part of the recommendations of the proctorial inquiry conducted by Chief Proctor H. B. Bohidar into the making and production of the tape containing graphic scenes involving a boy and girl which was shot last year in April in one of the JNU hostels.

"The first student has been expelled for participating in the crime, the second for its distribution and the third has been rusticated giving room to the girl and the boy," said the officer.

According to JNU authorities, the said video was shot in 2010. It involves a male and female student and is understood to have shot at JNU's Tapti hostel.

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IGNOU attempts to make courses more inclusive

HT Correspondent

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NEW DELHI: In a bid to make education more accessible for the underprivileged, the Indira Gandhi National Open University has developed a new programme — Ability Development and Inclusive Programme — to make sure that all those who want to pursue education, can do so.

The programme aims to reach those who do not know much about the various courses offered by the university, both on campus and through the distance-learning programme.

The university is also planning to tie up with non-governmental organisations who work with the underprivileged to apprise them of the opportunities they have.

"The fee for our BA course is only ₹1,700 per annum. This is very affordable but people don't know about these things. We are trying to reach such peo-

We are trying to reach such people, so that they also get access to higher education.

KD PRASAD

ple so that they also get access to higher education," said KD Prasad, regional director, Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU).

Prasad added that the university will conduct monthly open house sessions to inform prospective students about various courses offered and course content. "We are also planning to open a career counselling unit at the YMCA centre on Jai Singh Road," he said.

Meanwhile, the biggest problem faced by students — that of late declaration of results — was also solved this time around. The university declared the result of three lakh students within 45 days. It would earlier take two-three months.

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25/02/2011

IIT-Kgp challenges liar tag to registrar

Charu Sudan Kasturi

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NEW DELHI: Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur on Thursday filed a writ petition against the Central Information Commission challenging the transparency watchdog over a recent order in which it described the IIT registrar as a liar.

The writ petition accuses the CIC — top monitor of the Right to Information Act — of not considering its views before dubbing registrar TK Ghoshal a liar.

Ghoshal provided misleading information to a whistleblower, IIT Kharagpur computer science professor Rajeev Kumar, the CIC said in a February 5 order. The commission issued a show-cause notice asking why disciplinary action ought not to be taken against the registrar.

Information Commissioner Shailesh Gandhi in his judgment had also ordered the IIT to provide security to Kumar, who has allegedly been threatened by top IIT officials for exposing a series of scams and irregularities at the Institute.

Within hours of the CIC order however, the IIT instead circulated personal phone details of Kumar's son, drawing allegations from Kumar that his son's safety too was being compromised.

The IIT challenge to the CIC comes soon after Kumar challenged exaggerated laptop procurement rates which the Institute had listed, as was first reported by HT on February 6. The IIT has since told the HRD ministry that it is putting on hold the purchase of laptops based on the exaggerated rate list.

Hindustan Times ND p-8
25/02/2011

LUNAR BASE

ISRO discovers safe cave on the moon

Press Trust of India

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NEW DELHI: ISRO scientists have discovered a giant underground chamber on the moon, which could be used as a lunar base by astronauts for inter-planetary missions.

Scientists at the Space Applications Centre (SAC), using data gathered from Chandrayaan-I's Terrain Mapping Camera and Hyper Spectral Imager (HySI) payloads, found a 1.2-km long buried, uncollapsed and near horizontal lava tube.

The hollow cave situated just above the lunar equator on the nearside of moon, can accommodate a large number of astronauts and scientific instruments, and also

protect them from hostile lunar environment.

"Such a lava tube could be a potential site for future human habitability on the Moon for future human missions and scientific explorations, providing a safe environment from hazardous radiations, micro-meteoritic impacts, extreme temperatures and dust storms," a team of scientists led by AS Arya of SAC, Ahmedabad said reporting the findings in *Current Science*.

Scientists said identifying sites for permanent base for human settlements on the moon is important for further exploration.

"Lava tubes provide a natural environmental control with a nearly constant temperature of minus 20°C, unlike that of the lunar surface showing extreme variation, maximum of 130°C to a

minimum of minus 180°C in its diurnal (day-night) cycle," they said.

The scientists said the lava tubes offer a dust-free environment and adapting them for human use requires minimal construction.

The structures also shields its occupants as after 6 meters depth, no effects of radiation due to or induced by galactic cosmic rays were observed in simulation, they said.

"After less than one meter, no effects of radiation due to or induced by solar particle events are observable. Natural or induced radioactivity does not play a significant role in the lava tube exposures," the scientists said.

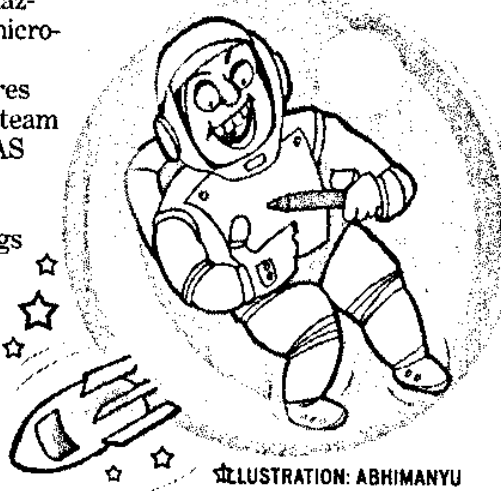


ILLUSTRATION: ABHIMANYU

Major challenges for Jamia Millia

MINOR POINT With minority status won, Jamia has to address charges of decline in academic standards

Charu Sudan Kasturi and Zia Haq

■ charu.kasturi@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Less than 24 hours after winning his university minority status, Jamia Millia Islamia history professor Rizwan Qaiser was back in class on Wednesday, calmly teaching his BA and MA students.

The only concession Qaiser allowed himself was to cut the duration of each of his three lectures by five minutes to field questions from media on Jamia's minority status.

"We've to take this new status as a routine matter and carry on with our regular work," said Qaiser, secretary of the Jamia Teachers Association, which was one of three petitioners who sought — and obtained — minority status for Jamia from the National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions, the country's apex minority education watchdog.

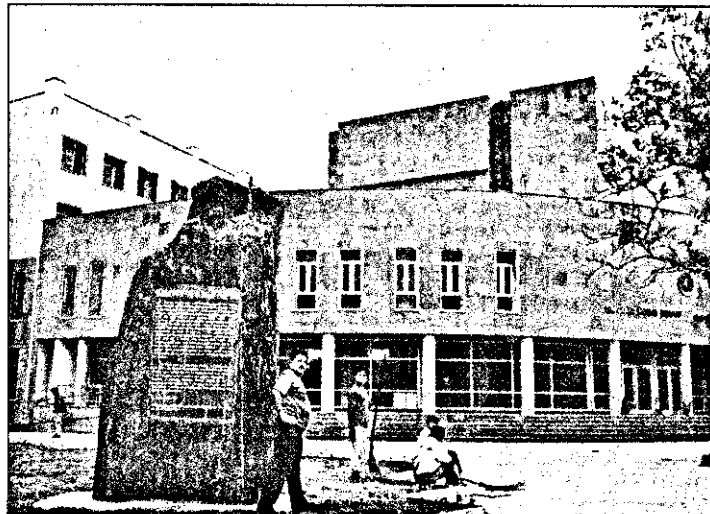
Implicit in Qaiser's words is the bigger challenge after Tuesday's victory that Jamia is now bracing itself for -

big picture

A CLOSE LOOK AT ISSUES THAT MATTER



to disprove those prophesying that the university will now decline in standards and suffer the malaise plaguing Aligarh Muslim University (AMU). What was set up in 1875 as Mohammedan Anglo-Oriental College by educationist Sir Syed Ahmed Khan became a central university called AMU in 1920, but remained a minority institution in its approach. Critical to this was the Constitution's Article 30, which gives the minorities the right to establish and administer their educational institutions. A change was forced in 1967 after the Supreme Court held — in a historic judgment — that a government-funded university could



■ Jamia's battle for minority status was aimed more at avoiding 27% reservations for the OBCs than at asserting a stronger Muslim identity. HT FILE

not claim to be both established and administered by a particular community.

In 1981, the Centre circumvented the 1967 judgment through legislation — the varsity now belonged to the community after the amendment of the AMU Act. AMU in 2005 approached the human resource development (HRD) ministry with a proposal to reserve 50% seats for Muslims. The ministry gave a no-objection certificate.

But a single-judge bench of the Allahabad high court struck down the plan and a division bench upheld the order, against which the HRD ministry and AMU appealed in the Supreme Court, where the case is being heard. The Supreme Court has stayed the HC order but has also told AMU not to implement its new admission policy.

Many academics have held responsible the back-and-forth struggle over its minority character for the university becoming a hotbed of controver-

sies and law and order problems. AMU is still home to some of the country's better academic departments. But pitched battles on campus, vice-chancellors being forced to flee the university environs, a strong police presence and a perceived decline in academic standards are crosses AMU today wears.

In contrast, Jamia, set up in 1920 as a concomitant of the freedom struggle, has remained relatively an oasis of peace even during some of modern India's most turbulent periods, including the one after the demolition of the Babri Masjid. Former vice-chancellor Mushirul Hasan publicly opposed minority status for Jamia, but completed his term without ever being jeered for his stand.

Jamia's battle for minority status was aimed more at avoiding 27% reservations for other backward classes (OBCs) than at asserting a stronger Muslim identity.

But will this change Jamia? The challenge for the university starts now.

Times Of India ND 25/02/2011 p-21

Born without ear, boy gets one made from his ribs

Cartilage Taken From Rib Cage Used In 6-Hour Surgery

London: In what's being hailed as a surgical feat, British doctors claim to have created an ear for a nine-year-old boy, using cartilage from his ribcage.

A team of doctors at Royal Free Hospital in London has performed the six-hour-long operation on Ethan Giles-Bowman — born without a right ear due to his rare congenital condition called Hemi-facial Goldenhar Syndrome, the Daily Mail reported.

It was a painful process, but the schoolboy is more than delighted with the result and is very proud of his realistic-looking new ear, say his parents. Mother Kathryn Giles-Bowman, 33, from Sheffield, said: "It resulted in Ethan having to put up with a lot of pain and discomfort but he was determined he wanted to do it. Now he is fantas-

It was a painful op, but the boy is more than delighted with the result. The first thing he wanted was to have his hair cut, instead of hiding underneath it, says his mom

tic, the first thing he wanted was to have his hair cut shorter, instead of hiding away underneath it and we're getting used to his new look.

"The change in him since then has been enormous. He is now much more outgoing. It is wonderful for me and his father to see him looking so happy and confident."

The family knew surgery was an option but they had to wait un-

til he was physically big enough for surgeons to take enough cartilage.

The operation was carried out last September. Kathryn Giles-Bowman said when the bandages were removed after two days Ethan's face "lit up". "All his friends think it's really cool," she said.

At the moment the ear looks "pinned back" and a further operation will be carried out in April to take more cartilage and build up the ear further.

His father Richard Bowman, 41, said: "Ethan has had to live with the problem all his life, but he has just got on with things. He has been so brave and I am sure that he will be able to cope with further surgery. The whole family is proud of him." Ethan added: "It's just nice to feel normal now like my friends." PTI

Times Of India ND 25/02/2011 p-21

Danger is in the air: Cycling biggest trigger of heart attack

© moodboard/Corbis

London: Doctors have for long said that cycling is good for health. But, now a new study has claimed it is literally one of the biggest triggers of heart attacks.

The study, which analysed 36 pieces of research, has revealed that the "final straw" in bringing on a heart attack is spending time in traffic as a driver, cyclist or commuter, the *Lancet* journal reported.

But of these, cyclists are in greatest danger because they are more heavily exposed to pollution and are subjecting themselves to another major heart attack trigger, exercise.

Traffic exposure was blamed for 7.4% of heart attacks, followed by physical exertion with 6.2%. Over-all air pollution triggered between 5% and 7% of heart attacks, while drinking alcohol accounted 5%.

Other risk factors included negative emotions (3.9%), anger (3.1%), eating a heavy meal (2.7%), positive emotions (2.4%) and sexual activity (2.2%). Cocaine was to blame for 0.9% of heart attacks, but this was because of limited exposure to the drug among the population.

On an individual basis, taking cocaine was shown to raise a person's risk of having a heart attack 23-fold, according to the study, led by Dr Tim Nawrot, from Hasselt University in Belgium. In comparison, air pollution led to a 5% extra risk, but since far more people are exposed to traffic fumes and factory emissions than cocaine, air quality is a far more important population-wide threat.

David Spiegelhalter, a risk expert from Cambridge University, said it was difficult to "disentangle" the risk factors in the study for cer-



RISKY RIDE? Cyclists are in the greatest danger of suffering a heart attack as they are exposed to pollution and are also subjecting themselves to another trigger, exercise

tain situations, such as driving or cycling to work in heavy traffic. "A lot of other factors are contributing to the overall risk; air pollution, stress, physical exertion, even anger which is another well-known trigger for a heart attack." ❧

Times Of India ND 25/02/2011

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Poor start: 20 out of 25 flunk Saarc univ course

To Escape Embarrassment, Call For An MCA Re-Test

Josy Joseph | TNN

New Delhi: A term into its existence, the South Asian University (SAU) has provided an embarrassing twist to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's dream of building a forum for the best South Asian academicians, scholars, researchers and students "to work together in the service of human advancement". It is learnt that 20 out of the 25 students have failed in one of the two master's courses offered by it.

Not just this, already the administration and faculty have developed serious differences over almost every aspect of running the university, which is funded by eight Saarc member countries. To escape public embarrassment, its administration has now resorted to a re-test for MCA (Master of Computer Applications) students, a rare phenomenon in higher education.

According to sources, in the first semester exams for MCA, 18 of the 20 Indian students failed, as did two of the five foreign students. The results are better for MA (Developmental Economics), in which 24 of the 25 students have passed.

The results of SAU's first semester, say insiders, reflects the crisis gripping the insti-



NOT A DREAM RUN

tution, which will be located in a sprawling 100-acre campus with a total investment of over \$500 million. It's said the students were selected in an adhoc manner with no entrance test, as originally planned. Instead, the administrators used their discretion to take on students.

Most of the Indian MCA students are from institutes in or around Delhi or those with distance-learning degrees. The faculty had no role selecting students — in fact, the faculty joined the university only after the students were admitted.

Not just students, even the selection process for faculty was opaque. For instance, it's

said that SAU had appointed its own OSD (academics and planning) Prof Rajiv K Saxena as a professor of biotechnology, and this led to protests from other faculty members.

Asked about this, Saxena said this was "misinformation" fed by "disgruntled elements". He said he was on deputation to SAU to help Prof G K Chadha (former JNU VC) in the establishment of SAU that would "play a key role in generating regional consciousness and understanding amongst the young student population of South Asia." He added, "I am an OSD in SAU Project Office and never joined it as a professor."

A detailed questionnaire was sent to Prof Chadha but he chose not to respond despite several reminders to his office.

SAU now proposes to start post-graduate courses in law, sociology, biotechnology, and international relations. The recruitment of faculty for some of these courses is currently underway. Faculty positions in SAU are the highest paid (tax-free) academic jobs in the government sector in South Asia. The to-be-appointed president of the university would get \$80,000 salary per year, while a professor gets between \$30,000 and \$45,000 a year.

Times Of India ND

25/02/2011 p-8

Isro's 'lunar tunnel' could be future base

New Delhi: Isro scientists have discovered a giant underground chamber on the moon, which could be used as a lunar base by astronauts for inter-planetary missions.

Scientists at the Space Applications Centre (SAC), using data gathered from Chandrayaan-I's Terrain Mapping Camera and Hyper Spectral Imager (HySI) payloads, found a 1.2km-long buried, uncollapsed and near horizontal lava tube.

The hollow cave situated just above the lunar equator on the nearside of moon, can

accommodate a large number of astronauts and scientific instruments, and also protect them from hostile lunar environment. "Such a lava tube could be a potential site for future human habitability on the moon for future human missions and scientific explorations, providing a safe environment from hazardous radiations, micro-meteoritic impacts, extreme temperatures and dust storms," a team of scientists led by A S Arya of SAC, Ahmedabad said reporting the findings in 'Current Science'. ■

Financial Express

ND 25/02/2011 P2

Bombay HC stays AICTE notification on new norms

The Bombay High Court on Thursday stayed the new norms laid down by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) on regulating the fee, curriculum and admissions of the post graduate diploma in management (PGDM) programmes. As part of the stay order, which will be applicable to Maharashtra for the next one year, the petitioners can join any of the five tests namely CAT, MAT, JMET, ATMA and XAT but will have to conduct the group discussion together to “provide comfort to the candidates”.

Financial Express ND 25/02/2011 P2

Delhi HC notice to IIMs on CAT eligibility criteria

The Delhi High Court on Thursday issued notices to all the 11 Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) and the Ministry of Human Resource Development with regard to the declaration of the eligibility criteria for the common admission test (CAT) 2010 held last year. A week back, over 60 CAT had accused the IIMs for "using selection criteria that were hidden till after the test results came out and which ruled these students out because of pre-test performances."

B-schools in Maharashtra get stay order against AICTE norms

PIYALI MANDAL &
KALPANA PATHAK

New Delhi/Mumbai, 24 February

In a major blow to the country's technical education regulator, the Bombay High Court is understood to have given a stay order on the recent guidelines issued by it, which, among other things, proposed to regulate the fees and course curriculum of all the B-schools.

This implies that the 30-odd institutions in Maharashtra, who had filed the writ petition against the All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE) guidelines, will be free to select candidates through any of five national level entrance tests for 2011. According to sources, the court had given a ruling in favour of a writ petition filed by Consortium of Management Institutes, Maharashtra (COMI), which had challenged the guidelines.



Recent guidelines issued by the court proposed to regulate the fees and course curriculum of all the B-schools

When contacted, COMI, has about 30 B-schools as members from Maharashtra, confirmed the move but added that they were yet to receive the order copy. "Though this is a regional development, it will have larger ramifications on all the other petitions being filed by other institutions," said H Chaturvedi, Alternate President, Education Promotion Society of India (EPSI).

Earlier, this month the Orissa High Court had also given a stay order on the AICTE notifications till March, 2011, when it will come up for further hearing. EPSI and Association of Indian Management schools (AIMS) had filed separate writ petitions challenging the same guidelines of AICTE in the Supreme Court. In December 2010, AICTE issued guidelines on post-graduate diploma in

management (PGDM) courses.

Of the clauses, the B-schools strongly oppose the norm that admission to PGDM courses must be through common entrance tests such as the Common Admission Test (CAT), Management Aptitude Test (MAT) or examinations conducted by state governments.

AICTE also suggested that a model curriculum for PGDM should be issued by the council. It also directed the B-schools not to start admissions to their PGDM (executive) courses before March 31 of any academic year. AICTE also said admission to PGDM programmes must be conducted by state governments through a competent authority. The regulator has also suggested that fees to be charged for PGDM, PGDM executive and PGCM programme be approved by a committee of respective state governments.

Financial Express ND 25/02/2011

P5

Finance job offers rule at non-IIM Bschoools

Kirtika Suneja
New Delhi, Feb 24

UNLIKE the Indian Institutes of Management (IIM) where placements were dominated by the consulting profiles, other business schools have seen an increased number of finance profiles being offered.

For instance, at Delhi's Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT), the finance sector has been the largest recruiter with 20% of the batch being placed in it. Same is the case with Institute of Man-

agement Technology (IMT), Ghaziabad where companies from the finance sector recruited 30% of the batch compared to 15-20% in earlier years.

"Traditionally, the biggest recruiters have been information technology (IT) and IT-enabled services that take up to 40% of the students. However, this time, the BFSI sector has picked up momentum by recruiting 30% of our students," said Prakash Pathak, chairperson, placement, IMT Ghaziabad.

Placements at the institute commenced from mid-December 2010

and almost 75% of the batch - around 300 students - has been placed till now with 109 students

AT IIM INDORE, MANAGEMENT CONSULTING AND INVESTMENT BANKING STOOD OUT AS THE MOST SOUGHT AFTER PROFILES AND 28% OF THE PEOPLE ACCEPTED FINANCE ROLES WHILE 25% ACCEPTED CONSULTING ROLES

being recruited by the BFSI sector. The major recruiters were Goldman Sachs, JP Morgan, Kotak Bank, Yes Bank, Citi Group, Reserve Bank of India (RBI), HSBC,

Deutsche Bank, among others of which the major first time recruiters were RBI and Goldman

Sachs. The highest salary of ₹13 lakh—10% more than last year—was offered by a couple of finance firms including Goldman Sachs.

This trend is different from

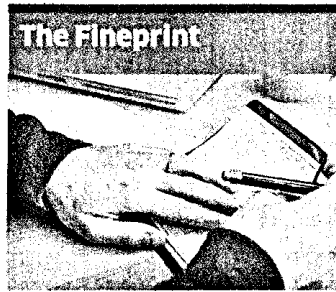
what the IIMs have exhibited. At IIM Indore, management consulting and investment banking stood out as the most sought after profiles and 28% of the people accepted finance roles while 25% accepted consulting roles.

"This is a marked change from previous years when finance roles dominated more than 40% of placements," the institute said in a statement.

At the Faculty of Management Studies (FMS), Delhi, financial firms with a number of offers made across private equity, invest-

ment banking, markets, treasury, asset management, corporate finance, and wholesale and retail banking. Niche profiles offered by private equity firm Avigo Capital and investment banking major Avendus Capital emerged as some of the most sought after roles on campus. Goldman Sachs and Deutsche Bank returned to campus in style, making six and five offers respectively.

"The highest package offered was of ₹26 lakh by Avendus Capital, up 28% from last year," said a member of FMS' placement team.



B-schools to run pay packets by auditors

IIM-A, SP Jain Willing To Get Salaries Offered To Students Checked By Professionals For Transparency

AVINASH NAIR & PARAG DAVE
AHMEDABAD

B-schools are seeking professional help to demystify pay packages offered by recruiters, and help students understand their potential earnings better. Institutes like the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad (IIM-A) and the SP Jain Institute of Management & Research, Mumbai plan to appoint external auditors to decode the cost to company (CTC) that organisations offer management graduates. Others, like IIM-Lucknow are contemplating a similar step.

"There have been instances where companies have included notional benefits and training costs in the CTC," says an HR manager with KPMG who does not wish to be named, pointing to some of the grey areas in salary packages today. Notional benefits could include month-long training at an overseas location, market value of accommodation provided or even a subsidised lunch in the company's canteen. Experts say salary figures quoted by B-schools are not reflective of a student's take-home (net) remuneration, and could be confusing.

For instance, last year, when IIM-Calcutta declared an average salary of ₹ 15.32 lakh, which was higher than IIM-A's figure of ₹ 14.94 lakh, students in Ahmedabad accused the other institute of inflating the figures. The charges, expressed publicly, showed that even IIMs do not follow a common format for calculating CTCs. According to Rahul Thappa, a student enrolled in the post-graduate programme at IIMA: "Portions of the salary such as the variable, bonuses and taxation components are few grey areas that freshers find it difficult to comprehend."

Adds an IIM alumnus: "For freshers, salaries are the only metric they understand. There have been instances in the past, when B-schools have asked recruiters to include the cost of flight tickets or rental of the accommodation provided by the employer, in the CTC." According to Delhi-based executive search firm GlobalHunt, a ₹1 crore salary package bagged by the topper of a reputed B-school whittles down to a ₹50 lakh take-home. The remainder is subject to his performance and market conditions.

Anomalies like this have prompted IIM-A and SP Jain to put their own placement data under the scanner of an independent auditor. "There is no system in place which can verify the data emanating from placements. There are no agencies to go through offer letters," says Prof Abbasali Gabula, deputy director (external relations and administration) at SP Jain. Prof Saral Mukherjee of IIM-A reiterates that the issue of authenticity and transparency could only be addressed by an external auditor. Mukherjee, who heads the placement committee, has already come out with salary reporting norms that B-schools across India could follow.

Among the other IIMs, Lucknow has indicated that it is open to having its salary data authenticated. Calcutta, on the other hand, has said it doesn't plan to. "External audits can give better credibility to data. In principle it is good," says Prof Amit Dhiman, placements chairperson at IIM-C. "But once you have a system, a lot will depend on its practicality."

FAT BILL: B-SCHOOLS OUT OF RADAR

Cos Now Recruit From Arts, Commerce Colleges

Recruiters save up to 70% on entry-level salaries by sidestepping 'pricey' MBAs and hiring general-stream graduates. The emphasis is now on grooming new hires on the job



The New Hiring Turf

Jobs are not just raining at hallowed B-schools but also in some of India's top undergraduate colleges. Average salaries have jumped by 15-20% in most colleges. Shreya Biswas & Writankar Mukherjee run a quick check.

SHRI RAM COLLEGE OF COMMERCE, NEW DELHI

34 companies have visited the campus so far with eight more expected to recruit students.

Average salaries offered up until now is ₹6.3 lakh, an increase of nearly ₹2.5 lakh in the past two years.

Top recruiters are Deloitte Consulting India (21 students), Verity Knowledge Solutions (19 students), Deloitte, Haskins & Sells (20 students), PwC (19).

Top salaries offered: ₹39 lakh by Deutsche Bank, ₹21 lakh by Parthenon Group, ₹10 lakh by Citibank, ₹9.25 lakh by McKinsey, ₹8.25 lakh by Nomura.

ST STEPHEN'S COLLEGE, NEW DELHI

35 students have been hired by 18 companies up until now. At least 10 more are expected.

Some of the big recruiters include McKinsey, Deutsche Bank, Citibank, Bain Capability Centre and Futures First.

LOYOLA COLLEGE, CHENNAI

Leading recruiters: L&T, Jet, HCL, Patni, Ranbaxy, GSK, Wipro, McKinsey, Google, Deloitte, Goldman Sachs, Infosys.

Highest salaries offered by Deloitte (₹4.2 lakh) and Goldman Sachs (₹3.8 lakh)

ST. XAVIER'S COLLEGE, KOLKATA

Top recruiters: UBS, McKinsey, CTS, Essar

Average salary: ₹3.54 lakh

Highest salary: ₹6.5 lakh (offered by McKinsey, UBS and Futures First)

HR COLLEGE, MUMBAI

Top recruiters till now are KPMG, The Nielsen Company, Tata Capital, Deloitte, Google, Ernst & Young, Kotak Mahindra and PwC.

Placements in undergraduate colleges are on the rise. There is a rush in the second half of the academic year. In fact, we had to say no to at least five companies this year

LAZER SELVA

Director (training & placement cell), Loyola

WRITANKAR MUKHERJEE KOLKATA

This year's placements have indicated that after a two-year lull, and thanks to an improving economy, the salaries of management graduates are again shooting up. But that's not necessarily good news. This is making them too expensive for companies, many of whom are now scouting for management talent from the liberal arts and commerce streams of undergraduate colleges.

For instance, one of the most popular recruiters on the circuit, the ₹67,500-crore Essar Group, plans to give B-schools a complete miss this year. It has decided, as an experiment, to hire students from general-stream colleges and groom them with some on-the-job training. Essar has recruited 28 students from colleges like St Stephen's and Lady Shriram in Delhi, and St Xavier's in Kolkata. The company has tied up with IIM Ahmedabad to create a 16-month management programme (including one month of internship) for the new hires. In short, Essar is trying to build its next generation of managers from within, rather than recruit them from B-schools at fat salaries.

"How many management executives does a company actually need to hire every year?" asks Essar Group HR head Adil Malla. "No business requires so many management graduates every year, if you consider organisational dynamics. At Essar, for instance, we have sufficient human capital with a background in management studies within our system already." FMCG major Dabur is currently finalising a plan for next year where it expects to slash recruitment from B-schools by 50%. The company usually picks up 14-16

management graduates every year from top institutes like the IIMs. Next year, it wants to tie-up with a B-school instead to hone general-stream graduates into specific management roles. "Management graduates are becoming increasingly unaffordable, now that their salaries are going up again. In a cascading ef-



"No business requires so many management graduates every year, if you consider organisational dynamics"

ADIL MALIA
Group HR Head, Essar

fect, this also forces us to increase the salaries of other managers in the company, to prevent resentment," says Dabur India executive director (HR) A Sudhakar. Ganes Shernon, partner and head (human capital practice) at KPMG says this trend is picking up in sectors like manufacturing, cement, chemicals and pharmaceuticals, retail and commodities.

"It is like a counter-strategy for companies in these sectors, as they often find it difficult to attract talent from top B-schools," he says.

Consultancy major Deloitte, a top-tier recruiter at the IIMs,

also plans to recruit from general-stream colleges and train them into the system. "The initial results have been encouraging; this appears to be a sustainable idea," says Deloitte India chief people officer Dhananjay Bansod.

Deloitte wants to scale up this model to eventually balance both undergrad and MBA recruitment at the entry level. As a clear result of this move by companies, this year leading undergraduate colleges claim to have seen several first-timers — who are also IIM-regulars — visit their campuses. Companies like Bristlecone, American Express, Citibank, American Appraisal, Cerebrus Consultants, Nobel Resources and Deloitte Haskins & Sells.

Placements at some of the top colleges have been at an all-time high: Shri Ram College of Commerce (SRCC) in Delhi saw 45% of its graduating batch of 400 being picked up by India Inc. Graduating Stephensians have found positions in companies like McKinsey, Deutsche Bank, Citibank, Bain Capability Centre and Futures First (see chart).

Indeed, this interest in undergrad colleges has also pushed up the salaries offered here. For instance, the average pay offered at SRCC today is ₹ 6.3 lakh — up from ₹3.8 lakh two years ago. HR managers, however, caution that students from undergraduate colleges cannot, however, aspire to the salaries offered at the top B-schools just as yet.

With B-school pay packets going up by 12-20%, not just at the IIMs but also at XLRI, XIMB, IMT Ghaziabad, IIFT and Jannala Bajaj, the average, entry-level salary at several campuses stands at a steep ₹16 lakh. Given this situation, HR heads estimate companies can cut down on entry-level salaries for

management trainees by up to 70% by recruiting undergraduates rather than MBAs.

The total savings, therefore, can be as much as 50%, even after taking into account the cost of management education for the non-management hires.

However, Bansod of Deloitte warns that substituting MBAs with trained graduates can have its pitfalls. "We cannot ignore the fact that the best talent resides in the top B-schools," he says. "We have to get the most suitable candidate for a particular job profile." HR heads claim that jobs that require insight rather than solution, or use standard processes as in the manufacturing and BPO sectors, a general-stream graduate may deliver the same results as an MBA. "However, when it comes to complex problem-solving, an MBA from a top institute may be a better choice than a graduate," adds Bansod.

According to EXL Services global HR head Sanjay Gupta, "speed to market is critical in the talent market, and companies may not have the patience to train graduates into the business. The B-schools provide good grounding for certain dynamic industries like ours."

EXL, a US-based ITeS firm, plans to recruit 18 students from the IIMs this year. Moreover, there is no surety of retention even after the companies invest considerably to train the undergraduate employees.

"There are companies who wait to poach such talent at a 100-150% higher premium. Still, it is encouraging that companies are using various models of recruitment," says Ernst & Young partner, national and EMEA leader (people and organisation) NS Rajan.

(With inputs from Shreya Biswas in New Delhi)

Discovery shuttle poised for final launch

FLORIDA: Discovery, NASA's oldest and most journeyed space shuttle, was poised for launch on Thursday on its final mission, wrapping up a near three-decade legacy of orbital travel.

When the storied spacecraft lifts off at 4:50 p.m. (21:50 GMT), it will mark the beginning of the end of the United States' space shuttle programme, with Discovery, first of the remaining three shuttles, headed for retirement this year.

The closure of the shuttle programme will leave a gaping hole in the American space mission, forcing astronauts to rely on the Russian Soyuz space capsule for transport to the orbiting International Space Station.

But concerns for the future were brushed aside as excitement mounted for Discovery's mission, with technical checks moving along smoothly, with no hint of the fuel tank woes that delayed the launch in November.

Employees of the Kennedy

Space Center here drove into the complex at a steady clip as the sun rose on Thursday, and a layer of low-lying fog was expected to burn off by mid-morning with the weather forecast 90 per cent favourable for launch.

Puzzle for engineers

Cracks on Discovery's external fuel tank emerged just before the launch, over three months ago, causing engineers to puzzle for many weeks over the cause and how to fix it.

In January, they agreed that installing small metal strips — called radius blocks — on the 6.7-meter-long (22-foot) U-shaped aluminium brackets would reinforce their strength.

The six-member crew are Commander Steven Lindsey, pilot Eric Boe, Alvin Drew, Michael Barratt, Steve Bowen and Nicole Stott.

Astronaut Tim Kopra was scratched from the crew list after a bicycle accident in January. He was replaced by

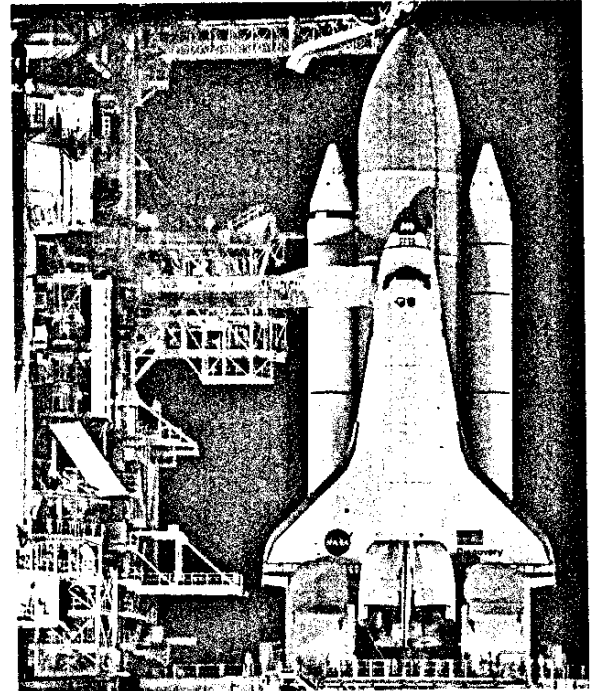
Mr. Bowen.

The shuttle will bring the first humanoid robot to the ISS. The Robonaut 2, or R2, is a joint project of General Motors and NASA and will stay behind when Discovery leaves as a permanent resident of the space station.

Discovery first flew in 1984. Final flights for the other two in the fleet — Atlantis and Endeavour — are scheduled for later this year.

Endeavour is set for its final take-off on April 19 and the last mission for Atlantis is scheduled for June 28, though the funding for Atlantis remains in question.

There were initially five space shuttles in the fleet — Challenger exploded shortly after lift-off in 1986 and Columbia disintegrated on its way back to the earth in 2003. The sixth shuttle, Enterprise, did test flights within the atmosphere but was never flown into space. It is already on display at a museum outside Washington. — AFP



Space shuttle Discovery stands ready for launch at Pad 39A at the Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Florida, on Wednesday. — PHOTO: AP

A RECORD RAJENDRA PRASAD, WHO TOOK CHARGE WHEN HE WAS 33 YEARS OLD, SAYS IT WASN'T ALWAYS POSSIBLE TO DO THE RIGHT THING HERE DUE TO VESTED INTERESTS

Ramjas principal completes 25 yrs, longest serving in DU

DEEPU SEBASTIAN EDMOND
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 24

There are certain images that remain imprinted on your memory. For the principal of Ramjas College, who took charge of the institute on July 7, 1985, one such image is that of broken window panes.

"Those days, if you took a round of the college, you would not find a single window pane intact," recalls Rajendra Prasad, who has entered the 26th year as the principal of the college. He is the longest-serving principal at the Delhi University, a record that could hold true on the national level.

At 33, Prasad was the youngest principal of the DU when appointed. He was then a teacher of History at the Zakir Husain Col-

lege. "It (the appointment) came as a surprise for me as well. One fine morning, around 5.30, professor Moonis Raza (then VC) came to my house and said, 'Get ready!' I asked, 'Sir, Iya hai?' 'Get ready!' he repeated. So I got ready. First he took me to his house in JNU, then we came here. And he said, 'You're joining. Meet the chairman of the governing body'."

Prasad, who will then have completed 31 years in the position, will retire on February 16, 2017 — exactly a month after the college celebrates its centenary.

"Everything was bad. Women students were afraid to take admission. There were hardly 15 to 20 women students when I came. There were only 12 lady colleagues. Now we have more than 1,200 women students and the

majority of teachers — about 85 — are women," says Prasad.

A Stephenian, Prasad completed his PhD in Chinese and Japanese Studies from the DU. He is the son of Amba Prasad, a former professor of History at the university. "I was brought up here, on the campus. I have seen all the vice-chancellors. I was two years old when we shifted to 14, Vice Regal Lodge. Effectively, I have a 58-year association with the University," he says.

Prasad started early — he was only 22 when he began his teaching career at Zakir Husain, then the Delhi College. He is shocked when reminded what his age was back then, and works out the math on a piece of paper just to be sure.

The principal talks of inheriting a flawed system — files were miss-



Rajendra Prasad, Principal of Ramjas College. PRAVEEN KHANNA

ing, accounts were bad and teachers had not been paid for months. "In Ramjas College, it was not possible to do right all the time, because of vested interests. It was

like a mini-India here. All the leaders of various political organisations were teaching here," he says, refusing to blame the students for the lawlessness.

He says change came as late as in 1999. "There was tremendous change after 1999. Their last attempt to throw me out came in 1997-98," he recounts, adding that his willingness to engage his teachers always worked in his favour. "Every year, I used to take my vision to the staff council. We used to debate it for hours. My strength lies in the fact that I have been able to carry my colleagues along."

Prasad considers connecting all college computers using a local area network in 2001, making Ramjas the first college to have LAN, as the first in a series of changes. Wi-Fi, another first in the DU, followed in 2005. The college went on to establish the School of Foreign and Indian Languages and offer various short-term add-on courses.

The Principal considers converting a part of the boys' hostel into that for girls, in 2005, as one of the highlights of his term. "We took the first floor of the boys' hostel and converted into a girls' hostel. There was massive opposition. It is a highly successful experiment," he says.

Prasad said that instead of going for decentralisation, the DU had become more centralised, "particularly in the last 7-8 years". He adds he is not for complete, but a semi-autonomous system.

Prasad was felicitated by the alumni last Saturday at a function to kick-start the centenary celebrations of the college. On his plate for the next six years is raising Rs 50 crore for the construction of at least two seminar halls and teachers' rooms.

Pioneer, ND 25-Feb-11 p-3

High scorers' plea on IIM selection rejected

SEEMA HARKAULI ■
NEW DELHI

Dismissing a plea by candidates who had scored a high percentile in the Common Aptitude Test (CAT) and had sought stay of the admission to the IIMs, the Delhi High Court has held that some IIMs using the school and college academic record as selection criteria cannot be termed "unusual" as was being claimed by the petitioners. According to five petitioners, they may not have scored well in earlier academics due to various reasons but that could not be made the basis of rejecting them because they too worked hard on scoring a high percentile.

Justice Rajiv Sahai Endlaw on Thursday dismissed the plea filed by Ashutosh Chaubey, Sushrut Chaubey, Dipesh Kaien, Vipul Chawla and Aditya Narang who had sought a stay on the admission to the IIMs as they had not received any interview call from the premier institutes even though they were among the top three per cent of CAT applicants.

According to the Ashutosh's petition, the announcement of the short-listing criteria after declaration of results by IIMs was bad in the eyes of law and was "wholly whimsical, fanciful

and devoid of any nexus with any purported objective."

The petitioner's contention was that each IIM had a different eligibility criteria — for instance some gave weightage to work experience while others did not and some take college academics into account while others do not.

The petitioners had sought a direction to the IIMs to frame a uniform eligibility criteria and had also sought quashing of this year's eligibility criteria and selection process. The court said that uniform eligibility criteria is not followed by Ivy League colleges in other countries.

The petitioner had made it clear that it was unfair for the eligibility criteria to be announced after the CAT results were declared. The petitioners also categorically stated that they would not have appeared for the fiercely competitive CAT if they had known that their earlier academic record would be given weightage by some of the country's most sought after management institutes.

The court held that the premier management institutes' own selection criteria followed earlier did not stop them from evolving a selection procedure that was different from what has been followed so far.

P&B Daily ND 25-Feb-11 p-6

Isro discovers cave on moon; can be used as human outpost

PBD BUREAU/ PTI

NEW DELHI, FEB 24

ISRO scientists have discovered a giant underground chamber on the moon, which could be used as a lunar base by astronauts for inter-planetary missions.

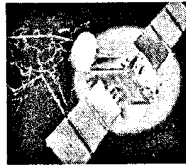
Scientists at the Space Applications Centre (SAC), using data gathered from

Chandrayaan-1's Terrain Mapping Camera and Hyper Spectral Imager (HySI) payloads, found a 1.2 km long buried, uncollapsed and near horizontal lava tube.

The hollow cave situated just above the lunar equator on the nearside of moon, can accommodate a large number of astronauts and scientific instruments, and also protect them from

hostile lunar environment.

"Such a lava tube could be a potential site for future human habitability on the Moon for future human missions and scientific explorations, providing a safe environment from hazardous radiations, micro-meteoritic impacts, extreme temperatures and dust storms," a team of scientists led by AS Arya of SAC, Ahmedabad said



reporting the findings in 'Current Science'.

Scientists said identifying sites for permanent

base for human settlements on the moon is important for further exploration.

"Lava tubes provide a natural environmental control with a nearly constant temperature of minus 20 degrees Celsius, unlike that of the lunar surface showing extreme variation, maximum of 130 degrees Celsius to a minimum of minus 180 degrees Celsius in its diurnal (day-night)

cycle," they said.

The scientists said the lava tubes offer a dust-free environment and adapting them for human use requires minimal construction.

The structures also shield its occupants as after 6 meters depth, no effects of radiation due to or induced by galactic cosmic rays were observed in simulation, they said.

"After less than one meter, no effects of radiation due to or induced by solar particle events are observable. Natural or induced radioactivity does not play a significant role in the lava tube exposures," the scientists said.

"Thus lava tubes are not only a safe natural cavity, but also a readymade structure for a lunar base, being a habitat," they said.

Asian Age ND 25/02/2011 p-3 Tech student hangs self in IIT hostel

AGE CORRESPONDENT

CHENNAI

Feb. 24: An M.Tech student from Andhra Pradesh committed suicide by hanging himself in a hostel on the IIT campus on Wednesday night. The student was reportedly depressed over failing to pass his course.

The police said Anup Valaparla, 26, of Masab Tank in Hyderabad, had joined the integrated MTech course at IIT seven-years-ago. He should have completed the course in five years but failed to even after seven years. "Some students said Anup had been upset for the past few days," a police officer said. "He was found hanging by a bed sheet from the ceiling fan in his room in Tamirabarani Hostel."

Nai Duniya ND 25-Feb-11 p-12

सभी आईआईएम हाईकोर्ट में तलब

नई दिल्ली (सं)। कैट-2010 में 99 प्रतिशत से अधिक अंक पाने के बावजूद दो छात्रों को आईआईएम में दाखिला देना तो दूर, पर्सनल इंटरव्यू के लिए फोन कॉल तक नहीं किया गया। इसके खिलाफ पांच सफल उम्मीदवारों ने हाईकोर्ट में याचिका दायर करके कैट-2010 के मापदंडों पर सवाल खड़े कर दिए हैं। आरोप है कि विभिन्न आईआईएम ने कैट रिजल्ट आने के बाद विरोधाभासी मापदंड तय किए। इस कारण सफल उम्मीदवारों को दाखिले से वंचित रहना पड़ा। मापदंड परीक्षा से पहले तय होने चाहिए थे। इस पर हाईकोर्ट ने भारत सरकार के मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय और सभी 11 आईआईएम को नोटिस जारी करके जवाब मांगा है। याचिकाकर्ता विपुल चावला ने कैट 2010 परीक्षा में 99.46 और दीपेश ने 99.27 प्रतिशत अंक हासिल

■ कैट में 99 फीसदी अंक,
फिर भी दाखिला नहीं

किए थे। यह दोनों टॉप एक फीसदी सफल उम्मीदवारों में शामिल थे। आरोप है कि आईआईएम की तरफ से दोनों को पर्सनल इंटरव्यू के लिए फोन तक नहीं किया गया। कारण पूछने पर पता चला कि 10वीं और 12वीं में कम प्रतिशत के आधार पर उन्हें दाखिला नहीं मिल सकता। याचिकाकर्ताओं के वकील सुमीर सोढ़ी और रिषभ संचेती ने दलील दी कि यह केस कैट की तैयारी कर रहे लाखों उम्मीदवारों से जुड़ा है। कैट-2010 में शामिल होने के लिए ग्रेजुएशन में न्यूनतम 50 फीसदी अंक की अनिवार्यता रखी गई थी। उसके आधार पर उनके मुवक्किल परीक्षा में शामिल हुए। 12 जनवरी, 2011

को रिजल्ट आने के बाद विभिन्न आईआईएम ने दाखिले के लिए परस्पर विरोधाभासी मापदंड तय किए। किसी ने 10वीं कक्षा का प्रतिशत तय किया तो किसी ने 12वीं कक्षा का। उसके आधार पर उनके मुवक्किलों को अयोग्य ठहरा दिया गया। अगर मापदंड का पहले ही पता होता तो वह परीक्षा नहीं देते। परीक्षा के बाद मापदंड तय किए जाने को लेकर उनके मुवक्किलों ने सभी आईआईएम में आरटीआई भी लगाई। एक से विरोधाभासी जवाब आया तो बाकी ने जवाब ही नहीं दिया। याचिकाकर्ताओं ने हाईकोर्ट से आईआईएम की पूरी दाखिला प्रक्रिया पर अंतरिम रोक लगाने या उनके मुवक्किलों को दाखिला देने का निर्देश देने की मांग की थी। हाईकोर्ट ने कहा कि दाखिला प्रक्रिया पर रोक लगाने से लाखों सफल उम्मीदवार प्रभावित होंगे।