

Newspaper Clips

February 26-27, 2012

Asian Age ND 26/02/2012 p-13

Sibal dream: Every child must have Aakash

New Delhi, Feb. 25: The 20th World Book Fair in the city began on an optimistic note on Saturday with Union human resources development Minister Kapil Sibal announcing that efforts were on to make the biennial fair an annual affair. He inaugurated the nine-day book fair, being held

Feb 25-March 4, at the Hamsadhwani open air theatre at Pragati Maidan.

Mr Sibal said the government would try to host the fair every year given its increasing popularity and growing status as one of the most important book-related events in the Afro-Asian region.

The National Book Trust

WORLD BOOK FAIR OPENS

which hosts the fair has been trying to persuade the government to make the fair an annual event for several years.

Addressing the gathering at the inauguration, Mr Sibal said: "India is the third largest publisher of

English books after the US and UK."

Citing figures, Mr Sibal said the country published at least 1,00,000 books in different languages annually. The HRD minister said that children in India should have access to information free of cost.

"My dream is to see that every child in this country

has an Aakash tablet computer," he said.

He said: "One of the reasons for keeping the price of the tablet computer reasonable (₹2,500) was to ensure that it reached everyone."

The minister praised the efforts of the NBT in "making the fair on par with the best in the region".— IANS

Publication: The Times Of India Delhi; Date: Feb 26, 2012; Section: Times Nation; Page: 13;

Teachers can't have political links, says HC

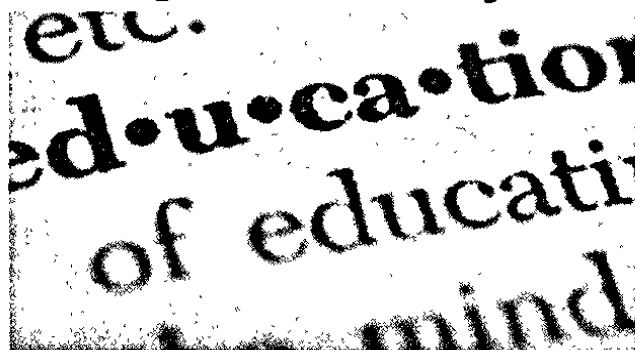
Mumbai: Education should be kept away from politics, said the Bombay high court while refusing to strike down the order suspending a teacher only because he is associated with a political party.

Justice P B Majumdar and Justice P B Varale of the Nagpur bench on Thursday heard a petition filed by Shrikant

Pande, a teacher at Nutan Adarsh Junior College in Umred, Nagpur district, challenging his suspension order dated November 23, 2011. Pandey's advocate Anand Parchure argued that he had been suspended because he is associated with a political party. He is the president of the local unit of the BJP. **TNN**

INFOCUS

Failing education system



PRITI BAJAJ ■ NEW DELHI

It is common knowledge today that quality of education at every level is going downhill and even though it is capable of yielding social and economic benefits, there are severe bottlenecks in the system. Not just access, but equity, management and quality, all are in dire need of improvement.

In fact, the academicians view India's education system as a stumbling block towards its objective of achieving inclusive growth.

Global education experts categorically state that though India has some good institutions like IIT and IIMs, they are not as tall as institutions like MIT and Leeds, in terms of quality of education imparted.

Also, usually the people who come to IITs and IIMs are from well-off families. Even now, there are hardly any opportunities for the poor.

Experts add that education has become so market-driven that quality is taking a back seat. Nowadays, "knowledge" is associated with a degree or qualification that can land students with a good job. It is pretty obvious that such a system cannot produce the kind of excellence that a country looks for in its strategic teams.

The Government's focus on functionality of education is obvious from the fact that the National Knowledge Commission (NKC) has pointed out that command over the English language is

very important for access to higher education and employment opportunities.

But teaching in a foreign language is supposed to be a major cause for a large number of children opting out of school.

This is not to say that English should be phased out, in fact, this is the way to western intellect. India's middle-class aspirations involve acquiring basic skills in spoken or written English to cater to demands of a service-sector driven economy.

Moreover, the NKC also does not really define what it means by knowledge. It seems to consider education as a machine to churn out workforce for the global economy.

Experts say that in today's syllabi there is more stress on information technology as compared to the basic science, more focus on management studies than economics and there is more of grammar than literature.

With all this, it does not help an individual realise the true potential, which is a loss to society as well.

Policymakers need to understand that mass production of graduates is by no means indicative of a knowledgeable society. In fact, it cannot even serve the economy in a larger interest by either invention or innovation.

This is a major reason why we actually need to take a long-term view of our prevalent education system by replacing it with a system which actually encourages creativity and innovation.

Court to hear Swamy plea for recovery of dues from IIT-Delhi



PBD BUREAU/PTI

NEW DELHI, FEB 26

A court here has agreed to hear a plea of Janata Party chief Subramanian Swamy, who has sought recovery of over Rs 19 lakh as alleged dues from IIT-Delhi for his services there as an assistant professor between 1972 to 1991.

The court's order came while dismissing an application of Director, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi, who had sought dismissal of Swamy's civil suit on the ground that his plea was time barred and beyond the jurisdiction of the court.

"Keeping in view the discussion, application of

defendant (Director, IIT-Delhi) is hereby dismissed. The (Swamy's) suit will progress forward from the stage immediately prior to the passing of this order," Additional District Judge Neelam Singh said.

The IIT Director, while opposing Swamy's plea, has said that he has sought recovery of Rs 19.50 lakh along with an interest of 18 per cent with effect from February 1991 and his total claim was Rs 70.20 lakh which is beyond the pecuniary jurisdiction of a lower court here.

It said Swamy's claim for alleged dues was constantly denied by the IIT as he has failed to provide the details of the amount earned from his employment for the period between December 11, 1972 to March 27, 1991.

Swamy, who had filed the plea for recovery of his dues, however, opposed the application by the IIT Director, saying that he came to know about his dues only in 2009 after filing.

सुब्रह्मण्यम स्वामी ने आइआइटी से मांगे बकाया 19 लाख रुपये

नई दिल्ली, जासं : जनता पार्टी प्रमुख सुब्रह्मण्यम स्वामी ने आइआइटी दिल्ली के खिलाफ साकेत की सिविल कोर्ट में याचिका दायर कर 19 लाख रुपये बकाया की मांग की है। स्वामी के अनुसार वे वर्ष 1972 से 1991 तक आइआइटी में सहायक प्राध्यापक के तौर पर कार्यरत थे। इस अवधि के दौरान किए गए कार्य की 19 लाख रुपये की राशि उन्हें अभी तक नहीं मिली है। अतिरिक्त जिला न्यायाधीश नीलम सिंह ने स्वामी की याचिका पर सुनवाई के लिए सहमति प्रदान की है। वहीं, अदालत ने आइआइटी दिल्ली की उस अपील को खारिज कर दिया, जिसमें कहा गया था कि रुपयों को पाने के लिये दावा डालने की अवधि बीत चुकी है और यह मामला अदालत के अधिकार क्षेत्र में नहीं आता। अदालत ने अगली सुनवाई के लिए 27 अप्रैल की तारीख तय की है। अपनी याचिका में स्वामी का कहना है कि दिसंबर 1969 में वे हार्वर्ड यूनिवर्सिटी में इकनॉमिक्स विभाग में सहायक प्रोफेसर के रूप में कार्यरत थे। आइआइटी दिल्ली के निदेशक ने उनका उस समय साक्षात्कार लिया और उन्हें तुरंत एक प्रोफेसर के रूप में कार्य करने के लिए कहा। उन्हें नौ सदस्यीय समिति के तत्कालीन अध्यक्ष डॉ. मनमोहन सिंह जो कि वर्तमान में देश के प्रधानमंत्री हैं, ने चुना था। उन्होंने अक्टूबर 1972 से प्रोफेसर के रूप में कार्य शुरू किया। उन्हें कुछ ही महीनों बाद एक पत्र जारी कर बताया गया कि उनकी नियुक्ति अवैध है और उन्हें दिसंबर 1972 में निकाल दिया गया। इसके खिलाफ उन्होंने अदालत की शरण ली तो अदालत ने उनकी नियुक्ति को सही करार दिया। मार्च 1991 में उन्होंने नौकरी छोड़ दी।

Hindustan ND 27-Feb-12

P-4

आईआईटी से वसूली के लिए सुब्रमण्यम की अर्जी मंजूर

नई दिल्ली | वरिष्ठ संवाददाता

अदालत ने आईआईटी दिल्ली से लाखों रुपये की बकाया वसूली के लिए जनता पार्टी प्रमुख सुब्रमण्यम स्वामी की अर्जी को सुनवाई के लिए स्वीकार कर लिया है। आईआईटी दिल्ली पर स्वामी का 19 लाख 50 हजार रुपये बकाया है जो ब्याज जोड़कर 70 लाख रुपये से अधिक बनता है।

साकेत स्थित अतिरिक्त जिला एवं सत्र न्यायाधीश नीलम सिंह ने आईआईटी दिल्ली के निदेशक की अर्जी को खारिज कर दिया है। निदेशक ने इस मामले को अदालत के अधिकार क्षेत्र से बाहर बताते हुए स्वामी के दावे को खारिज करने की मांग की थी। अदालत ने आईआईटी दिल्ली की याचिका को अपरिपक्व बताते हुए कहा कि स्वामी के दावे को पहली नजर में ठुकराया नहीं जा

सकता। अदालत ने स्वामी की याचिका पर अगली सुनवाई 27 अप्रैल तय की है।

स्वामी के अनुसार वर्ष 1969 में हॉवर्ड विश्वविद्यालय ने अर्थशास्त्र के सहायक प्रोफेसर थे। आईआईटी दिल्ली के निदेशक ने अनौपचारिक साक्षात्कार के बाद उन्हें बतौर प्रोफेसर काम करने के लिए कहा था। स्वामी के मुताबिक 9 सदस्यीय चयन समिति के तत्कालीन प्रमुख व देश के प्रधानमंत्री मनमोहन सिंह की सिफारिश पर अक्टूबर 1972 में उनकी नियुक्ति हो गई लेकिन कुछ ही दिन बाद दिसंबर 1972 में उनकी नियुक्ति को गलत बताते हुए उन्हें पद से हटा दिया गया। कई दौर के मुकदमों के बाद अदालत ने स्वामी की नियुक्ति को सही ठहराया। साथ ही वेतन व भत्ता देने का निर्देश दिया। स्वामी ने आईआईटी दिल्ली से मार्च 1991 में इस्तीफा दे दिया था।

Hindustan ND 27-Feb-12P-5

आईआईटी परीक्षा के नए पैटर्न को लेकर अलग-अलग हलकों में उठने लगी आवाजें

आईआईटी बिना सुधार असंभव

नई दिल्ली | अनुशासक मिश्र

आईआईटी परीक्षा के नए पैटर्न को लेकर एक तरफ जहां विरोध के सुर तेज हो गए हैं तो दूसरी तरफ पैरोकार नए पैटर्न को सिस्टम में पारदर्शिता बढ़ाने के लिहाज से देख रहे हैं। पैटर्न का विरोध कर रहे पक्ष का कहना है कि नए सिस्टम से आईआईटी की गुणवत्ता प्रभावित होगी।

आईआईटी दिल्ली के 2007 बैच के एलमुनी अक्षत शंकर का कहना है कि जो छात्र बारहवीं की परीक्षा इस बार दे रहे हैं उनके लिए ये असमंजस में डालने वाली स्थिति है। इस सिस्टम को हड़बड़ी में न लागू किया जाए। जेईई के पैटर्न में बदलाव की फिलहाल जरूरत नहीं है। आईआईटी के शिक्षकों और छात्रों की रायशुमारी लेनी आवश्यक है। उन्होंने कहा कि एक बेहतर मैकेनिज्म बनाए जाने की आवश्यकता है जिससे चीजें अपने आप सुधर जाएंगी। कृत्तिकल सॉल्यूशन कंपनी के निदेशक (स्ट्रेटेजी और प्लानिंग) दीपेंद्र का कहना है कि

किसी भी फैसले को लेते समय ये ध्यान रखना चाहिए कि उसमें आईआईटी से जुड़े लोगों के फैसले को तरजीह दी जाए। प्रवेश परीक्षा के कई स्तर भी बेहतर विकल्प नहीं लगते।

आईआईटी दिल्ली के छात्र प्रिंस कुमार ने कहा कि इससे छात्रों पर दबाव अधिक बढ़ेगा साथ ही इससे कोचिंग संस्थानों की संख्या में भी बढ़ोतरी होगी। परिणामस्वरूप आईआईटी की दुनिया भर में बनी हुई साख प्रभावित होगी। उन्होंने कहा कि बड़ा सवाल ये है कि आखिर क्यों पूरी तरह से प्रमाणित जेईई सिस्टम को हटाया जा रहा है। एक छात्र सतीश यादव ने बताया कि इससे आईआईटी में भ्रष्टाचार बढ़ेगा। इससे छात्रों में नंबरों को लेकर दौड़ शुरू हो जाएगी, जिस वजह से फर्जीवाड़ा बढ़ेगा। वैसे भी देश भर में दाखिला पाने के लिए फर्जी मार्कशीट के मामले सामने आते हैं। कपिल आर्या और ब्रजकिशोर का कहना था कि इस बदलाव से राजनीतिक हस्तक्षेप बढ़ेगा। साथ ही इससे पब्लिक फंड की बर्बादी भी होगी।

ये दिक्कतें सुझा रहे हैं आईआईटीयंस

- आईआईटी के मौजूदा छात्रों, पुराने छात्रों और शिक्षकों को प्रवेश प्रक्रिया में शामिल किया जाए
- सभी बोर्डों के स्कोर को एक स्तर पर कैसे लाया जाएगा, इस पर सशय बरकरार
- कोचिंग सिस्टम को बढ़ावा मिलेगा
- एक से अधिक परीक्षाएं देनी पड़ेगी शिक्षकों और एलमुनी द्वारा सुझाई जा रही ये सलाह
- आनन-फानन में 2013 से न लागू हो व्यवस्था
- आईआईटी में बहुविकल्पीय परीक्षा के साथ एक लिखित परीक्षा भी हो
- यूपीएससी की तर्ज पर प्री और मुख्य परीक्षाओं का आयोजन कराया जाए। प्री-परीक्षा सरकार आयोजित करें और मुख्य परीक्षा आईआईटी।
- मुख्य परीक्षा में भी बारहवीं के अंकों को वेटेज दिया जाए पर प्री-परीक्षा के मुकाबले इसका अनुपात कम हो।
- विभिन्न बोर्डों के अंकों में समानता के लिए बनाया जाए नया फॉर्मूला

परीक्षा की बेहतरी को लेकर तर्क

- ज्ञान को जाचा जाए, 12वीं के सिलेबस पर भी छात्र दे सकेंगे ध्यान
- कोचिंग पर निर्भरता कम होगी साथ ही छात्रों पर दबाव भी
- एटीट्यूड पर जोर (90 प्रतिशत से अधिक)
- प्रक्रिया में बद जाएगी पारदर्शिता
- आईआईटी दिल्ली के फैकल्टी फोरम के अध्यक्ष संजीव सांघी का कहना है कि शिक्षकों ने पहले ही इस फॉर्मेट के बारे में निदेशक को अपने सुझाव सौंप दिए हैं। सांघी ने कहा कि नए सिस्टम को बनाने में शिक्षकों की भागीदारी जरूरी है।

बोर्ड अंकों को मिलेगी तरजीह

आईआईटी समेत देश के चुनिंदा इंजीनियरिंग कॉलेजों में एडमिशन के लिए होने वाले सिंगल एंट्रेस टेस्ट में अब 12वीं के अंकों को भी तरजीह दी जाएगी। इसके अलावा छात्रों को दो परीक्षाओं से भी गुजरना पड़ेगा। आईआईटी दिल्ली में निदेशकों की बैठक में इस प्रस्ताव को रखा गया। सूत्रों के मुताबिक अगर फॉर्मूले को पूरी तरह मंजूरी मिल जाती है तो नई परीक्षा में 12 वीं के अंकों को 40 फीसदी तरजीह मिलेगी जबकि दो परीक्षाओं को तीस-तीस फीसदी प्राथमिकता दी जाएगी। एक परीक्षा एप्टीट्यूड की होगी तो दूसरी परीक्षा फिजिक्स, केमिस्ट्री, मैथ्स को होगी।

Coaching firms now set eyes on ISEET pie

■ Institutes adapting to new regime, designed in part to check their rampant growth

Kirtika Suneja
New Delhi, Feb 26

THE government wants to check the booming coaching class business with a single test to replace multiple engineering tests. Bring it on, says the ₹23,000-crore industry.

A day after the Indian Science Engineering Eligibility Test (ISEET) was announced, the homepage of Career Point, a coaching institute based in Rajasthan's Kota, the hub of training institutes in the country said: "Welcome ISEET 2013. Being a pioneer in adopting all changes

in IIT-JEE and AIEEE, Career Point proudly announces admission for the ISEET course." The ISEET, expected to roll out next year, will eliminate India's two largest engineering entrance tests — the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) and the All India Engineering Entrance Examination (AIEEE).

Institutes are quickly adapting to the upcoming regime, which was designed in part to check their rampant growth. India, which has a ₹1.8-trillion education and training market, produced 8 lakh engineers last year.



"We expect more students because of the gap between school teaching and competition, which is the application of concepts which needs practice. However, now, students will have to appear for

the aptitude test besides the advanced learning test," said RL Trikha, director, FIIT JEE, the largest player in the engineering coaching business. Over 20,000 students have signed up at the institute this year, with the number of candidates growing 10-15% every year.

ISEET will test comprehension, critical thinking and logical reasoning, along with problem-solving ability in basic science subjects. The two tests will together indicate a candidate's scholastic level and aptitude for science and engineering and give 40% weight to class

12 Board exams.

This means coaching centres will have to expand their curricula to include school syllabus - something which FIIT JEE offers in its two-year integrated school programme called Pinnacle.

"In the last three years, a large number of candidates is common to IIT-JEE and AIEEE rank lists. The ISEET, which allocates weight to marks in class 12 exams will help students focus on academics," said Satya Narayanan, chairman, CL Educate (previously Career Launcher).

■ **Continued on Page 2**

Coaching...

Brilliant Tutorials is the platform partner for CL. While the bulk of its 40,000 students are IIT aspirants, 8,500 out of one lakh CL students are engineering aspirants. The industry feels the coaching class business will continue to thrive.

"Coaching classes are related to students' aspirations and there will be fierce competition for the remaining 60%, after the 40% weight to school exams. The government may not be completely successful in controlling the business," noted Shalini Sharma, head, higher education at CII.

CL's Narayanan said with the new test, there'll be no escaping the school syllabus. His institute will start offering coaching in school curricula soon. "As long as such competitive exams remain and the number of students increase, they will always need extra coaching to perform better than others. We have been changing our coaching in line with the changing patterns of engineering exams and aptitude training is something we impart to all our students," said Ajay Antony, course di-

rector, IIT JEE exam at Triumphant Institute of Management Education (T.I.M.E.).

However, coaching institutes are divided on the issue of fees. While Antony says there could be a 10-15% increase, others say fees might decline.

China ahead of India in science, says PM

LALIT K JHA

WASHINGTON, FEB 26

CHINA is in "many ways far ahead" of India in the field of science, says a concerned Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, who last month pledged to more than double the country's R&D spending to \$ 8 billion a year by 2017.

In an interview to the prestigious US 'Science' magazine, Singh reiterated his concern that India's relative position in the

world of science has been declining over the past few decades and it has been overtaken by countries like China. "China is in many ways far ahead of India," he said.

Asked if India is competing with China in the field of scientific research, Singh said: "Well, we are competing, yes and no."

"India and China are engaged in a stage of development where we have both to compete and cooperate. We are the two largest developing countries and the two fastest

growing countries. China is our great neighbour. Now, we've had in the past problems way back in the 1960s, but we are finding pathways to promote cooperation," Singh said.

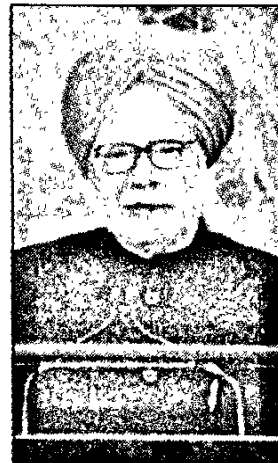
His comments follow his recent pledge to hike R&D expenditures from around \$ 3 billion last year to \$ 8 billion a year by 2017.

During the interview, the Prime Minister laid out his vision for science in India and commented on controversial topics,

such as genetically-modified food.

Singh said that Indian scientists need to focus on agriculture sector too. "We need to pay a lot more attention to the development of our agriculture.

"That will accelerate the tempo of rural development, which will help to increase the opportunities for our scientists to work in rural areas in development of water-management technologies, in development of environment-friendly technologies," he said. - PTI



Business Standard ND 27/02/2012

p-11

Aakash: Not quite reaching for the sky

If private players do not come out with student-specific content, the device may take some time to soar

SHIVANI SHINDE & PRIYANKA JOSHI
Mumbai, 26 February

For many tracking the Indian government's efforts to come out with a cheap computing device that would help bridge the digital divide, the Aakash phenomenon, they would know, is experiencing déjà vu.

Time and again, the government and the Department of IT have aspired to come out with a computing device that is cheap, efficient and convenient — whether it was the CU1000 Linux-based mobile computer from Encore Software in 2005, or the SImpLur, the hand-held low-cost computing device introduced by Encore again (in collaboration with PicoPeta).

But every time a low-cost computing vision is conjured, one essential feature is missing — and this is content or, to be precise, applications ready for use. While the Minister of IT and Communication, Kapil Sibal, has gone ahead to create the lowest-priced tablet at \$35, he has made no attempt to ready content for Aakash. His idea was to give students the ability to browse the Internet. Considering that Aakash is targeted at the student community, creating applications that allow access to relevant content is crucial.

Take the case of Mehek Raj, a student of Symbiosis Management Institute, Pune. She bought a Reliance tablet PC, as every one on the campus flaunted a tablet. But, she soon realised that accessing websites for studying and downloading content was not a breeze on the tablet. "Many of the sites we management students need to frequent for assignments or research do not offer a mobile version tailored for smaller screens that use multi-touch, and often the mobile site doesn't include all of the functionality of the original site." Raj had to switch back to her desktop for daily work and relegate the tablet for email, recording lectures, social networking and games when on the move.

Users point that the way the sites handle Flash, mouse-over animations and other Javascript functionality designed solely for a user with a mouse, shows these are yet to gear themselves for mobile visitors.

If private players are yet to come out with student-specific content, Aakash will certainly take some time to soar.

Government officials and industry players in the tablet segment agree the government's focus had always been on hardware and not on creating an ecosystem. "I am not trying to be critical of Aakash, but the base model hardly runs. Besides, a student in some remote area is expected to browse this, what content will they be able to consume. More, other vendors have also slashed price-points of tablets, but has that meant rise in their sales?" says an industry player, who did not wish to be quoted.

Government officials, however, say that with Aakash now supposed to be managed by Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) and Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs), it would see the incorporation of local language content. "C-DAC has been working on Indian local languages. There would be applications based on these like data-entry capability. Display would be in the local language as well," said Rajat Moona, director general, C-DAC Mobile.

Moona said they may look at integrating an e-book reader with Aakash. "We do have an e-book application. Its too early to comment if it will be part of the app store on Aakash. Reason: We still do not have the functional specifications of the tablet," he added.

Experts opine that relevant content is not just on the list of tablet users, but also critical for smartphone ones. A Nielsen Informate Mobile Insights report claims that the average smartphone user spends 2.5 hours a day using his phone, with 72 per cent of the time spent on activities such as gaming, entertainment, apps and internet-related content. An Android user, according to Nielsen data, installs an average of 19 apps in a month, compared to 10 apps for a Symbian one. "Today, younger Indians, for instance, prefer texting and chat over voice communications. Understanding this behaviour better can define data consumption and customer acquisition strategies for operators and handset providers," notes Farshad Family, MD — Media, Nielsen India.

Probably, the Indian government can take some cues from Apple. It recently forayed into education by launching iBooks.

As part of this, it introduced iBook Author, an application that allows one to create a multi-touch text book, or any other kind of book, for iPad. While iBook Author is yet to be used in the Indian context, there are firms that have created platforms for digitising educational content.

Soumya Banerjee, CEO, Attano, a company providing the technology and services for digitised content, is one such. "So far, we have approached publishers for digitising content. As of now, our focus is on supplement education. But, it is only the private schools that have shown any interest. Children here learn differently," he added.

"Other than providing technology, we shall also work with the publishers to sell e-content. At present, we are in a beta phase, with 200 books, but in a month's time, are hopeful of getting on board 1,500 books. In the next six months, we hope to

add a dozen or so publishers," added Banerjee. He also said that soon Attano will also make available regional language content.

There are instances where vendors and companies have come together to offer applications that integrate seamlessly with various devices. "A recent study by Adobe suggests that tablet PC visitors spent 54 per cent more than smartphone ones and 21 per cent more per purchase than desktop/laptop ones. Tablet visitors appear to spend more because of their demography, the nature of the tablet PC user experience and the environment in which they shop online," said Umang Bedi, MD (Sales and Marketing for South Asia), Adobe Systems. Adobe is working overtime to ensure its recently launched family of Touch Apps are adopted by creative professionals for designing, editing and presentations on tablet devices.



Users point that the way the sites handle Flash, mouse-over animations and other Javascript functionality designed solely for a user with a mouse, shows these are yet to gear themselves for mobile visitors

Implications for higher education in India

C Raj Kumar

GLOBALISATION HAS had a profound impact on the changing landscape of higher education around the world. India aspires to build a knowledge-based society that critically values research and scholarship through publications as a central component of University development. International collaborations and global initiatives are critical for developing academic standards and research capacities within our Universities. While there are significant milestones that the post-independent India has achieved in various sectors both in the economy and society, transformational reforms relating to higher education is an urgent need of the hour.

The Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2011-12 glaringly demonstrates that not a single university from India is ranked as one of the world's top 200 universities, while universities in other parts of the world including in China and East Asia have a number of Universities that have made great achievements in the last few decades. The criteria for these rankings are: teaching (30%); research (30%); citations (30%); industry income (2.5%); and international outlook (7.5%). It is clear that research and the impact of research alone constitutes 60% of the weightage for determining the rankings.

International collaborations are central to developing research agenda not only in terms of the thematic framework for research, but also for understanding the best practices of research capacities that prevail in different parts of the world. It needs to be noted that collaborative research between scholars from dif-

ferent institutions is a well-established phenomenon that prevails in most of the top universities. Increasingly, there is a strong commitment in pursuing research with an international and comparative dimension. There are a number of issues that affect the world at large and there is a strong need for developing research collaborations between universities in India and other parts of the world. Pursuing such research partnerships in the form of international collaborations between faculty members from two or more institutions, or research centres help in fulfilling the research objectives.

Most of the universities in India are focused on studies and research relating to a single discipline. Even if there are many disciplines in a University, the interaction between the faculty members, research scholars and students between these faculties and schools either do not exist or at best, limited. There is a threshold challenge to our higher education system, if the best of our institutions foster research that is germane to only a single discipline. Some of the most reputed institutions in this country in the field of sciences, engineering and management happen to be largely single discipline institutions.

The experience of OP Jindal Global University (JGU) with four schools: Jindal Global Law School; Jindal Global Business School; Jindal School of International Affairs; and Jindal School of Government and Public Policy is a useful example to demonstrate the strong focus on developing substantive international collaborations that focus on institutionalising global education through a global curriculum, global courses, global programmes, global faculty, global research



and global interaction. JGU's international outlook is central to its vision as a Global University. The Jindal Global Law School has collaborated with universities around the world including in relation to faculty and student exchange programmes, joint teaching and research initiatives and joint conference and publications. One of the earliest such initiatives is with the University of Cambridge in which both JGU and Cambridge jointly have been undertaking a training programme for senior IPS officers on issues relating to policing and criminal justice. JGU had signed a MoU with the University of Cambridge which involves the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India nominating for nearly 100 senior police officers at the level of DIGs and IGS to participate in this programme taught

by faculty members from both the Universities and police leaders from across the world. The Jindal Global Business School has established a Global Immersion Programme with the University of Texas Dallas at the Naveen Jindal School of Management in which several of our MBA students pursue a study abroad programme and industry interaction with corporations in the USA.

Another substantial international collaborative initiative by JGU is in relation to a video conference enabled Global Classroom experience in which an entire course is taught through this technological interface. This collaborative initiative is undertaken by JGU with the Cornell University and the University of Michigan. In addition a research centre known as Michigan-Jindal Centre for Global Corporate and Financial Law and Policy as been established by both the universities. Most recently, the Jindal Global Law School and Indiana University's Maurer School of Law have collaborated in launching a unique programme that will lead to the award of two degrees in law from India and the USA.

India is poised to seek a transformational change in the landscape of higher education. While many developing countries look up to India for our ability to provide leadership in many aspects of international relations and development, we need to recognise that international collaborations and global initiatives among institutions around the world will help in institution building which a sine qua non of nation building.

Dr C Raj Kumar, a Rhodes Scholar is the Vice Chancellor of O.P. Jindal Global University. He can be reached at CRK@jgu.edu.in

Times of India ND 27-Feb-12
P-1/2

By Andrew Crisp



A new study of prospective MBA students suggests growing interest in specialist Masters and less interest in the MBA. The '2010 Tomorrow's MBA' study found that only four percent of Indian respondents would definitely consider a specialist Masters rather than an MBA. In the same study in 2011, repeated by Carrington-Crisp, European Foundation for Management Development (EFMD) and Association of Business Schools (ABS), 14% of Indians said they would consider a specialist Masters, and across the world it was as high as 28%. At the same time, GMAC reported that applications for Master of Finance programmes rose by 83%, Master in Management by 69% and Master of Accounting by 51%. So why the rising interest in specialist Masters?

MBA vs Specialist Masters
Part of the answer lies in the problems of the MBA rather than the attraction of

The MBA is not about to disappear tomorrow, but it may not be quite as strong a brand as it has been for several decades

HIS MASTER'S CHOICE

the specialist Masters. The MBA jobs market has tightened in recent years, especially with declining recruitment in the financial sector. Where recruitment has continued relatively strongly, it has tended to be concentrated at the top MBA schools.

On the other side, a specialist Masters will often provide skills in a specific field, making a graduate well-suited to a particular career and, more importantly, a particular vacancy.

The second part of the equation is

cost. It is not unheard of for an MBA at a top school to cost over £100,000 and possibly as much as double this figure once income foregone from giving up a job is taken into account. Getting a return on such an investment again requires a highly paid job and will still take several years to break even.

A specialist Masters degree has lower fees than an MBA at the same school. It may also be quicker to complete than an MBA. Even with a lower

programme at a school with a stronger reputation and at a lower cost than they would when applying for an MBA at a lesser ranked school.

For new undergraduates the Masters degree can also offer a way to differentiate themselves in the labour market. In many countries the number of undergraduates has grown significantly in recent years, while jobs markets have not been strong. A one-year Masters offers a useful tool to distinguish an un-

dergraduate in the job market, more so when most MBA degrees require work experience of several years.

Maybe these Masters students will decide in a few years that they still need an MBA to make the next step up the corporate ladder. For now, they are increasingly thinking about studying finance, accounting, marketing and international management as a specialist Masters.

(The writer is the co-author of the study)



FACTSHEET

- 1 In 2009 and 2010, 1 in 5 or less of the respondents said they would definitely consider a specialist Masters as an alternative to an MBA; in 2011, 28% said they would definitely consider a specialist Masters and a further 23% said this would be a possibility
- 2 The study of specialist subjects such as Logistics or Taxation look attractive as a Masters rather than within an MBA, being cheaper and often quicker to complete
- 3 A further consequence of the growing popularity of the pre-experience Masters programme may be that graduates of these programmes perceive less value in completing an MBA at a later stage in their careers
- 4 Styles of learning are also changing with a move-away from the traditional academic terms-office hours; such a traditional approach is the preferred choice of only 18% of the sample. The most popular style of study is blended learning, chosen by 27%, representing a combination of e-learning and face-to-face

Source: Tomorrow's MBA 2012

Financial Chronicle ND 27/02/2012

p-10

MS, Plinga bring cheer to IIM-C

Batch of 356 gets 423 offers despite slowdown

RITWIK MUKHERJEE
Kolkata

WITH 1.2 offers per student and with Microsoft and Plinga, Germany hiring exclusively from Indian Institute of Management Calcutta (IIM-C) for their head offices, the sentiment at one of the country's leading IIMs has been very positive during the final placement, this time round. And this is notwithstanding the second global economic downturn.

That's not all. Although the placements were set to happen over five days (February 20-24), the entire batch got placed by 4th day evening, in an unprecedented development, Aswin Murali, IIM-C external relations secretary, said. He said IIM-C had a total batch strength of 356 this time and they together had got 423 offers. There were as many as 35 lucrative international offers for the IIM-C students this time, Murali said, without disclosing the amounts of the offers.

"Despite the economic downturn, IIM Calcutta has been able to provide diverse opportunities to its students. The alumni played a very crucial role in this bad market scenario and were there to support us whenever we needed them. This shows the strength of brand IIM Calcutta - very much in demand by recruiters, aided by a strong alumni base," professor Amit Dhiman, IIMC's placement chairman, said. Financial sector has all along been IIMC's forte and this time also there has been no exception to this. Offers were made across the major financial hubs of the world including



DEFYING ODDS: Although the placements were set to happen over five days, entire batch got placed by 4th day evening

New York, Zurich, Hong Kong, London, Singapore among others.

Zurich Financial Services, a major financial services group, recruited exclusively from IIM Calcutta (first time from any B-school in Asia) for its Zurich and New York offices. Bank of America, Merrill Lynch hired exclusively for an international finance profile based out of Hong Kong. Capital One made an international offer for its Dallas (Texas) office. Duferco participated in the final placements for its trading role for the first time for its Lugano head office. Other major recruiters in the finance domain included Goldman Sachs and Deutsche Bank. Among Indian investment banks, Edelweiss recruited from IIM Calcutta for its trading role. Banks like Development Bank of Singapore, ICICI Bank, HDFC

Bank and Yes Bank recruited for their corporate banking and treasury divisions. Diverse roles were offered in the finance domain by companies like Ocwen Financial Corporation, JM Financial, RBI, CRISIL, UAE Exchange and IFMR Capital.

All the major consulting firms were also on campus recruiting in big numbers. BCG, McKinsey, Bain, AT Kearney, Accenture, among others, recruited in big numbers from IIM Calcutta. IBM Consulting participated in the final placements for the first time. Other recruiters in this sector included Opera Consulting and KPMG, Jandeep Singh, another secretary, IIMC's external relations cell, said, adding that altogether 83 companies had visited for the final placement.

ritwikmukherjee
@mydigitalfc.com