

# Newspaper Clips

February 28, 2011

Times of India ND 28/02/2011

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## Study to quantify effect of global warming and UV rays on eyes

**Kounteya Sinha | TNN**  
New Delhi: Are rising temperatures and increased ultraviolet radiation making more and more Indians suffer from serious eye diseases?

A large scale first-of-its-kind study being spearheaded by All India Institute of Medical Sciences will soon find out. Funded by the Indian Council of Medical Research, the study on the impact of global warming and ultraviolet radiation (UVR) exposure on ocular health is being carried out jointly with National Physical Laboratory (Delhi) and Regional Institute of Ophthalmology, Guwahati. The Public Health Foundation of India will also join in soon.

From March, trained staff will go from house to house in randomly chosen community clusters in Delhi, NCR region and Guwahati and fill up a questionnaire to find out how much time people spend in the sun,

whether they wear any eye protection, whether they have any eye problem and for how long have they been suffering from it. These people will then be screened for eye diseases and the data recorded.

Experts say the study will quantify the effect of environmental factors and temperature changes like UV-B radiation, suspended particles, environmental pollutants and aerosols on the prevalence and/or exacerbation of eye diseases like cataract, dry eye, pterygium and vernal keratoconjunctivitis.

Prof Radhika Tandon from AIIMS's Dr R P Centre for Ophthalmic Sciences says, "The study will look at the effect of environmental factors and global warming on the prevalence of eye diseases in India. The study will also estimate the difference in stratospheric ozone and corresponding change in UVR in Delhi and the north-east region."

### WARMING RISK TO EYES



A large-scale study will be carried out to find out the impact of global warming on your eyes

From next month, trained staff in Delhi, NCR and Guwahati will look at whether rising temperatures are related to increasing number of the following eye diseases



The study will be jointly done by AIIMS, National Physical Laboratory (Delhi) & the Regional Institute of Ophthalmology, Guwahati

The study will also cover coastal cities like Chennai, Goa and Vishakapatnam

Ultraviolet B radiation is known to play a major role in diseases like conjunctiva and cornea, dry eye, pterygium, allergic diseases, corneal degenerative changes, cataract and retinal complications

In total, 5,000 people from 50 clusters in both rural & urban Delhi, NCR & Guwahati will be surveyed for the study. There will be 25 rural and 14 urban clusters. Around 150 participants above 40 years will be surveyed in each cluster besides children aged 5-15

Ozone depletion decreases atmosphere's natural protection from sun's harmful UVR

WHO says nearly 100m people across the world are blind due to cataract. Of these, condition of 5% is directly attributable to UVR exposure

UVR levels are influenced by a number of factors - the higher the sun in the sky, the higher the UV radiation; the closer a person is to the equator, the higher is the UV radiation levels. UV radiation levels are highest under cloudless skies

UV levels increase by about 5% with every 1,000m altitude

Ozone absorbs some UVR. Due to depletion of ozone layer more UVR reaches earth's surface

The study will later also cover coastal cities like Chennai, Goa and Vishakapatnam.

Tandon said that ultraviolet B radiation is known

to play a major role in diseases of the conjunctiva and cornea, dry eye, pterygium,

allergic diseases, corneal degenerative changes, cataract and retinal complica-

tions. "What we want to know is whether exposure to UV-B radiation and environmental suspended particles have a deleterious effect on ocular health? We want to see if the hypothesis that change of global environment will have serious consequences on human health is true," Tandon added.

In total, 5,000 people from 50 clusters in both rural and urban Delhi, NCR and Guwahati will be surveyed for the study. There will be 36 rural and 14 urban clusters. Around 150 participants above the age of 40 will be surveyed from each cluster besides children aged 5-15 years.

"In the first year, we will correlate and compare the existing data on prevalence of eye diseases with available measurements of UVR, ozone column and suspended particles and subsequently plan a long-term monitoring mechanism. The data on the changes in temperature over the year will be sup-

plied by the India Meteorological Department," Tandon added.

Ozone layer depletion decreases the atmosphere's natural protection from the sun's harmful UVR. According to World Health Organization, worldwide approximately 18 million people are blind as a result of cataracts. Of these 5% of all cataract-related disease burden is directly attributable to UVR exposure.

UVR levels are influenced by a number of factors - the higher the sun in the sky, the higher the UV radiation level; the closer a person is to the equator, the higher the UV radiation levels. UV radiation levels are highest under cloudless skies but even with cloud cover, they can be high. UV levels increase by about 5% with every 1,000 metre altitude. Ozone absorbs some of the UVR from the sun. As the ozone layer is depleted, more UVR reaches the earth's surface.

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# Actor Jung makes an impact

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: It was a rare treat for theatre lovers in the city on Sunday evening when the vice-chancellor of Jamia Millia Islamia took centre stage on the university campus and this time a hidden facet of his came to the fore. He played the role of Akbar in the play 'Anarkali-Akbar-Salim' enacted at the Ansari Auditorium. The play was organized by Outreach Programme, Jamia and Indian People's Theatre Association, Delhi.

While the other actors were from IPTA, Akbar was played by Najeeb Jung, and he drew the loudest applause for his acting skills. "The play attempts to understand why and how Salim the lover forgets his Anarkali; then becomes a demanding husband; and finally Akbar the patriarch," said Aziz Quraishi, IPTA secretary-general and director of the play.



Anindya Chattopadhyay

BACK TO THE PAST: Jamia Millia Islamia vice-chancellor Najeeb Jung plays Akbar in the play 'Anarkali-Akbar-Salim' at Ansari Auditorium on the varsity campus on Sunday

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# Minority tag for Jamia set to be challenged

**TIMES NEWS NETWORK**

**New Delhi:** The National Commission for Minority Educational Institutes' order to declare Jamia Milia Islamia as a minority institution is set to be challenged in Delhi HC. The petition, being filed by a teacher-activist, will challenge the basis on which NCMEI declared the university a minority institution.

The petitioner pointed out that the university was governed since 1988 by a law — Jamia Milia Islamia Act — specifically legislated to administer the university as it did not fall into the criteria laid down for according minority status.

The petition will argue that the university was never governed by Muslims even before the Act was brought into force. Jamia Milia Islamia Society, which was registered in 1939 in Delhi, ran and controlled the university before the law was enacted.

The petitioner, Firoz Bakht Ahmed, contends that unlike Aligarh Muslim University, Jamia was set up to assimilate Muslims in the mainstream, allow them to intermingle and compete for merit rather than be secluded or isolated. He also pointed out in his petition that Jamia Milia Islamia was a central university financed by public funds and a 'public institution' could not be granted a 'Muslim' or a 'non-Muslim' label.

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## A cellphone app that spots cancer more accurately

**London:** Scientists have developed a mobile phone-based system which they say can detect cancer more accurately than the techniques routinely used in hospitals.

Developed by a team at the Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, the device is claimed to be up to 100% accurate at telling the difference between benign tumours and their malignant counterparts.

It also takes just an hour to make the diagnosis, meaning patients don't have to spend days or weeks anxiously waiting for test results, the researchers said. The gadget, they believe, could "transform cancer care" by also making it easier for doctors to track how well drugs are fighting the disease in a patient's body, the Daily Mail reported. The researchers found that in initial tests, the device was 88 per cent accurate in distinguishing cancerous stomach tumours from benign growths.

Refining the technique boosted accuracy to 100%. The device, which is likely to cost about £60 or so, consists of a smartphone connected to a miniature MRI machine. In tests, patients with suspected stomach cancer had tiny samples of their growths removed using a fine needle. The researchers then added in antibodies designed to bind to proteins found in stomach tumours and tiny magnetic particles designed to latch onto the antibodies. They then used the magnet in the MRI machine to excite the molecules in the sample, making them vibrate. The more the molecules vibrate, the more likely the sample is cancerous, the researchers found. P11

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## **This car stops on its own to let pedestrians cross**

**London:** Swedish car manufacturer Volvo has developed a new pedestrian detection system which it says can bring a car to a halt automatically whenever someone steps out in front of it. The "support function", which works by using radar and camera technology to watch out for vehicles and pedestrians ahead of the car, is designed to save lives on urban streets, said the company.

The system kicks in at speeds of up to 35kmph, although the technology "is active at all speeds", according to Volvo.

In case a collision is imminent, the system sends an audio warning to alert the driver, and if there is no response the car is immediately brought to an emergency stop, the Daily Mail reported. However, the technology that "is active at all speeds" doesn't work at night or in poor weather. But Volvo pointed out that "it is always the driver that is responsible for driving safely".

Fourteen per cent of all those killed in car accidents in Europe are pedestrians; this figure stands at 11 per cent in the US.

Volvo estimates that its detection system would reduce the number of pedestrians killed by more than 20%, while the number of those seriously injured would fall by almost 30 per cent.

In a further 30% of incidents, a collision would be entirely avoided, Volvo said. The collision warning system is also programmed to react if the vehicle in front is at a standstill or is moving in the same direction. The system is an optional extra in the Volvo XC60, S60 and V60.

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# Tired? A cup of hot tea will perk you up, boost brain power

**London:** Feeling exhausted? Just sip a cup of hot tea, for a study has claimed that drinking the beverage not only gives human brain a lift, but also reduces tiredness.

Tea drinking has already been linked with lowering the risk of heart disease, cancer and Parkinson's. Other research has shown that drinking tea on a regular basis for ten or more years may help improve bone density.

Now, Dutch researchers have carried out the study and found that it's the natural ingredients in tea which improve brain power and increase alertness, the latest edition of the 'Nutritional Neuroscience' journal reported.

For the study, the researchers looked at the effect of key chemicals found in tea

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## CUP THAT MATTERS

on the mental performance of 44 young volunteers.

The effects of these ingredients, an amino acid called L-theanine — which is also found in green tea — and caffeine at levels typically found in a cup of tea, were compared with a dummy treatment.

The active ingredients significantly improved accuracy

cy across a number of switching tasks for those who drank the tea after 20 and 70 minutes, compared with the placebo. The tea drinkers' alertness was also heightened, the study found.

Tea was also found to reduce tiredness among the subjects, who were aged under 40, say the researchers. "The results suggest the combination helps to focus attention during a demanding cognitive task," they were quoted by the 'Daily Mail' as saying.

Dr Tim Bond, of the industry-backed Tea Advisory Panel, said the latest findings backed a previous study which showed drinking two cups of black tea "improves the ability to react to stimuli and to focus attention on the task in hand". PTI

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# Decision on LIC exam cancellation after report

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi/Hyderabad:** Seven people were arrested for allegedly leaking question papers of a recruitment examination conducted by LIC on Sunday. The exam has not been cancelled yet.

EdCIL, a public sector organization that conducts the exam, said it would await the police report. EdCIL chairman and managing director Anju Banerjee told TOI, "We decided to go with the exam. Any decision on cancellation would be taken only after the police report comes. So far, I have come to know that all the papers reached in sealed packets at all the centres".

Kumar, a 33-year-old geography graduate from Delhi University's Shivaji College, was arrested on Saturday night from Naraina village in west Delhi. He revealed the names of candidates who he got the papers from him. Kumar hails from Bihar and has been in the trade since 2005, police said.

In Hyderabad, police arrested five persons and seized copies of the question paper, six mobiles and some cash from them. They too confirmed that the copies matched with the actual question paper.

A Hyderabad task force team raided the house of P Ashok Kumar, a car driver from Gandhinagar, and apprehended him along with Yogesh Kumar Rao, a teacher from Uttar Pradesh, B Anna Rao, a supervisor at a club in Begumpet, P Srinivas, a technician at a car workshop and G Srinivas, a sales officer in bio fertilizers.

Ashok and Srinivas were earlier arrested by CBI sleuths in the Railway Recruitment Board question paper leak. They had recently got bail and went back into the trade.

According to task force DCP V B Kamalasan Reddy, Yogesh managed to get a photocopy of the question paper on February 23 from his childhood friend Lal Bahadur of Lucknow, who in turn secured it from his relative Dindyal, an employee of a printing press in Noida where the papers were printed.

Yogesh landed in Hyderabad on February 25 and handed the papers Ashok, his agent who had already selected prospective customers from coaching centres across the state. Police said the gang's usual practice was to gather the aspirants at a secret location a day before the test and give them

the question paper after collecting their original degree certificates.

If the leaked paper matched the original, the candidate paid Rs 1 lakh after appearing for the test and Rs 6 lakh if he got selected.

This time, however, they called the aspirants a few hours before the exam.

The Delhi Police raided three Kendriya Vidyalaya centres – Andrews Ganj, Janakpuri and R K Puram. Main accused Pawan Kumar's associate, Arun Parashar, was also arrested. Parashar is from Aligarh. The four candidates who bought the papers from them – Inderjit, Rahul Kumar, Praveen and Dharamvir – are from Delhi and Bihar.

The crime branch had got hold of copies of two sets of question papers, one each for the morning and afternoon sessions, from Kumar on Saturday evening.

"Kumar was earlier arrested for impersonation in Delhi's Pre-Medical Entrance Test in 2005," said DCP Ashok Chand.

A candidate, who appeared for the exam at Andrews Ganj centre, said, "I was not aware of the police raids. I took my exam properly and it should not be cancelled."

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## Parents offer body parts to pay off kids' education loan

**Houston:** A Boston couple have offered to sell their own body parts to pay off their children's \$2,00,000 student loan.

"Use my body for anything legal, or medically experimental. Simply pay off all of my children's student loans and you can use me any way you need," an advertisement said asking "Do you need a live 'cadaver?'" posted on Craigslist Boston in the "jobs wanted" section of

the website.

It added, "I am 5'10" 200lbs and have all my organs in working order: Take my blood, take my plasma. Drill into my brain, my leg, my arm. Tap my heart, my liver, my kidney. If you eliminate my children's student loans, I will give you my life!" The poster, which did not include their name, exact location or gender, said the children's student loans total \$200,000. **PTI**

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LEARNING CURVE

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# DU's Life Long Learning Institute to be decentralised

**Joyeeta Ghosh**

■ joyeeta.ghosh@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** Delhi University's Institute of Life Long Learning (ILLL) is all set to be decentralised. The smaller versions of the learning centre will be located in 12 colleges. This is a step towards making learning a more interactive process between students and teachers. The ILLL presently has two centres—one in north campus and the other in south campus.

ILLL, which was started in 2007, is meant to provide additional study materials and tools to the students of the university. It has a portal which hosts e-content such as e-lectures, e-quizzes, e-lessons, e-labs for around 12 subjects.

"Setting up smaller versions of the ILLL in colleges will mean using connectivity in every way, be it connecting minds or institutions. It is will be a two-way learning process where the students too will give their inputs on providing learning material," said vice-chancellor Dinesh Singh.

The 12 colleges which are still

## DEGREE OF CHANGE

- Decentralisation of ILLL will make learning a more interactive process.
- DU will identify 12 colleges for its learning centres. Right now, the ILLL has only two centres.
- Computer Science students will be roped in to help upload the material on its portal and will be paid for their work.
- There are also plans to make DU degrees available online by uploading material on the Net

in the process of being finalised will be chosen based on their competence on information and communication technology, and also their ability to provide additional inputs to ILLL.

## EARN WHILE YOU LEARN

The choice of these colleges will also be instrumental in integrating the students in the process of content creation.

"Creating content for so many subjects requires a lot of manpower and at the same time it

costs us a lot. A decision has been taken to rope in students from computer science to help upload the material on the portal and also be paid for it. This way, they will not only utilise their skills but also earn both money and experience as they study," said Chaturvedi.

## ONLINE DEGREE SOON

The ILLL is also planning to upload material for foreign students, who can obtain a Delhi University degree online. "The popularity of the university among African and southeast Asian students has grown over the years. A lot of students from this region cannot travel to India. So we are planning to make degrees available online," said Chaturvedi.

A step in this direction has been taken in the form of the School of Open Learning which runs a pan Africa e-network project. Students from six African nations can avail online lectures in two certificate programmes: accounting and communication skills. On completion of the course, these students are awarded DU certificates.



# 'We firmly believe in creating value and sharing it with society'

## INTERVIEW

**G. Chandrashekhara**  
Mumbai, Feb. 27

Researchers from the Faculty of Science and Engineering at Toronto's York University are currently touring India on a mission to establish key partnerships and collaborations with Indian research organisations and educational institutions. The delegation of 12 researchers is visiting several top-tier universities and institutes across the country such as the IITs at Chennai and Mumbai, the Indian Space Research Organisation, the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research and the University of Kolkata to name a few.

The key mandate for these meetings is to enable researchers from York University and from across India to establish joint bilateral research and developmental projects. York University, the third largest university in Canada is the country's leading interdisciplinary research and teaching institution with an academic community of 50,000 students and 7,000 faculty and staff, as well as 200,000 alumni worldwide.

Leader of the delegation is Dr Janusz Kozinski, Dean of the Faculty of Science and Engineering, and Professor, Department of Earth and Space Sciences and Engineering. Among others, Dr Kozinski's brainchild is an anti-terrorism project evocatively called eWAR (Early Warning and Advance Response) system that seeks to detect, quantify and initiate an effective response to chemical and biological agents released in public buildings.

In a special interview to *Business Line* during his visit to this newspaper office in Mumbai despite a hectic schedule, Prof Kozinski shared for the benefit of



*I am enthusiastic that India has a large talent pool, with multitude of science and engineering graduates waiting for right research opportunities. There is synergy between Canada and India in the science and engineering field; and we would be glad to partner India on its way to economic success.*

**PROF JANUSZ A. KOZINSKI, DEAN,  
FACULTY OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING,  
YORK UNIVERSITY, TORONTO, CANADA.**

readers the mission's objectives, research priorities, funding and related matters.

Excerpts:

**Welcome to Business Line office, Dr Kozinski. What's the nature of research collaborations you are seeking with Indian institutions?**

York University focuses on science and engineering, and our special focus is on striking collaborations and partnerships. India is one of our three focal points. We want to engage in projects with practical social applications.

Specifically, we are looking at, among other areas, space science which would cover micro and nano satellites to carry communications tools. Our focus would also be atmospheric monitoring to study global warming and climate change.

Also, we are keen to develop partnerships in the

field of biotechnology for healthcare; analyse propagation of infectious diseases - their origin, spread, control and eradication through bio-sensors.

For this purpose, we have already set off talks with India's leading institutions such as IIT Chennai and Mumbai, TIFR, ISRO and so on, and their response is absolutely positive.

**Why the focus on India?**

Canada and India have a long and sustained relationship. Nearly a tenth of the Canadian society comprises people of Indian origin. Also, I am enthusiastic that India has a large talent pool, with multitude of science and engineering graduates waiting for right research opportunities. There is synergy between Canada and India in the science and engineering field; and we would be glad to partner India on its way to economic success.

But let me clarify that we are not focusing just on India's flagship educational institutions. Over time, we will go to smaller and private institutions too and seek to work with them.

**What about funding?**

I don't see this as a problem, although no research can take place without adequate finances. We have set aside several million dollars for our international partnership programmes and I am confident that India will get a good share of it.

**Any thoughts on how the fruits of research will be shared?**

We firmly believe in creating value and sharing it with the society. Where societal benefits are involved, I am somewhat wary of creating barriers like intellectual property rights and so on. We want the society at large to benefit from our research.

**Did your mission achieve any success so far?**

Yes, of course. We have signed a memorandum of understanding with Chennai IIT focussing on energy including nuclear energy, medicinal chemistry as also water quality and management. With TIFR we have advanced our discussions focussing on life sciences, biology, genomics, and research relating to vaccines as also engineering projects relating to space.

**What next?**

On March 1, we have planned a two-day workshop in New Delhi with the Defence Research and Development Organisation and other leading national and international institutions that will bring together over 100 participants and provide a platform to discuss advances and innovations in several areas of research. I am confident that the workshop will throw up new ideas and open up collaborative opportunities for York University.

# Elevating the education debate

We have been talking of making India the knowledge capital of the world. What will the Budget do today?

**Vikram Chaudhary**

LET'S not forget that our first generation scientists, scholars, teachers, leaders, all came from the village schooling system. If we want to see the country progressing, we must first improve our education system with the due budgetary support from the government.

In that backdrop, let's see what we have been doing towards the education sector over the last few years. In the Budget for 2007, there was an increase in allocation for school education from Rs 17,133 crore to Rs 23,142 crore; there was a provision for strengthening of teacher-training institutions; mid-day meal scheme was provided Rs 7,324 crore; the provision for secondary education was doubled from Rs 1,837 crore to Rs 3,794 crore; etc. In the Budget for 2008, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) was provided Rs 13,100 crore; mid-day meal was allocated Rs 8,000 crore; secondary education was allocated Rs 4,554 crore; etc. In the Budget for 2009, Rs 827 crore was allocated for opening one central university in each uncovered state; Rs 2,113 crore were allocated for IITs and NIT; etc.

And then, in 2010, we made the modest beginnings towards educating our, millions with the Right to Education Act (RTE)—which came into effect from April 1, 2010—sadly 60 years after the Right to Education was enshrined in our Constitution (article 45 of the Directive Principles of State Policy states: "The State shall endeavour to provide, within a period of ten years from the commencement of this Constitution, for free and compulsory education for all children until they complete the age of fourteen years"). In the Budget for 2010, RTE, which promises free and compulsory education for all children aged between six and 14, got a huge thrust, with the Budget proposing Rs 15,000 crore allocation for SSA, which acts as a vehicle towards fulfilling RTE provisions. (It has been observed that in the previous Budgets, SSA—the obvious corollary in terms of realising the mandate of the RTE—did not get incremental increases in terms of money, on account of which the implementation of SSA suffered in many states.) Given this understanding, the cost estimates for the implementation of RTE at a micro-level needs to be substantially revised. Also, at the higher education level, significant outlays have to be accorded towards teacher-training. The total allocation for education, thus, jumped up from Rs 30,681 crore to Rs 42,036 crore. In the same Budget, on the higher education front, Rs 4,300 crore was allocated for the University Grants Commission and Rs 4,700 crore for technical education.

## Hopes from this year's Budget

Although RTE should be one of the major priorities in today's Budget, but for its effective execution, the focus should be on teacher-recruitment and other functionaries, phasing out the implementation plan, enhancing teacher-training facilities, etc. Says KT Chacko, director, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, New Delhi, "The Budget should be one that stimulates growth and ensures that the fruits of such growth be channelled in such a way that they reach the needy. RTE, compared to many other statutes, has been put on a much more sounder framework. In RTE there seems a 'will' to reach out and pro-



The govt should continue to focus on building capacities and creating new institutions. The real work of building these institutions will now start.

**Dr Devi Singh,**  
Director, IIM Lucknow



The Budget should be one that stimulates growth and ensures that the fruits of such growth be channelled in such a way that they reach the needy.

**KT Chacko,**  
Director, IIFT, New Delhi



The government must recognise the significant contribution that many universities inside and outside the government sector are making towards growth in quality of manpower in India.

**BN Jain,**  
Vice-chancellor, BITS, Pilani



The government has been pumping a lot of money into the IIMs and IITs, and in setting up central universities. It is time that some encouraging public-private partnerships are thought of.

**VK Gupta,**  
Director, MDI, Gurgaon

vide education. But that 'will' must be matched by the ground-level work—first, having enough schools and, second, having a large number of teachers qualified to teach. If you see what are the children in government schools are learning compared to what their counterparts in a private institute are learning, you will realise there is a huge knowledge gap, so grooming more teachers is the need of the hour. The Budget should focus more on setting up of more teacher-training institutes."

Also, there are high hopes that this Budget will have an increased focus on higher education and research compared to last year. At the same time, there should be a focus on interlinking vocational education with mainstream education (By 2020, India will need 500 million skilled and employable graduates). According to Prashant Bhalla, senior vice-president, Manav Rachna International University, Faridabad, "India is expected to have highest working age population over the next 20-30 years, which can propel economic growth in the country; however, India will also have the highest number of illiterate adults and a large number of unemployed literate people. Though the government expenditure—state and central combined—on education has grown over the years, this cannot be considered enough if we look at the actual requirements and needs of the sector."

According to Prof Sudhir K Jain, head, Department of Management Studies, IIT Delhi, "In view of India's growing population, we can derive the demographic dividend only if the growing population is well educated and professionally qualified. Before entering the workforce, if the youth are provided technical or vocational qualification with adequate inputs on manage-

ment and entrepreneurship, they can certainly become successful entrepreneurs and create enormous employment in India. I hope the ministry of HRD will get sufficient fund allocation in the Budget and the visionary minister Kapil Sibal will continue on the fast track of laying strong foundation for modern educated India."

On educational loans to students, Prof BN Jain, vice-chancellor, Birla Institute of Technology and Science, Pilani, says, "The government must recognise the significant contribution that many universities inside and outside the government sector are making to growth in quality of manpower in India. Therefore, instead of limiting the flow of government funds to only those universities in the government sector, it must empower the ultimate beneficiaries—the aspiring students—to choose the university or the programme that offers the

best education to him/her. One such scheme that empowers the students is one which enables every student to take an education loan at significantly subsidised interest rate, without the need to provide any 'collateral' or satisfy his/her 'credit worthiness'. We would like to see such a scheme to be in place at an early date."

The Budget should take steps to scaling up the existing institutes of central or state governments, while new institutes are needed, current ones can be expanded. According to Dr Devi Singh, director, IIM Lucknow, "The government should continue to focus on building capacities and creating new institutions. The focus on education both at the grass-root level and higher education level should continue. In the last Budget the government had announced a lot of sops for the sector and created new institutions. The real work of

building these institutions will now start by the administrators and academicians alike. I am of the opinion that the real differentiator will be the intellectual capital."

On the adoption of public-private partnership (PPP) model in the education sector, Prashant Bhalla believes that it could go a long way in establishing success and creating a sustainable momentum in long-term. "While the government's role could be that of funding the projects, it is the execution ability of the private sector that needs to be banked upon for the ultimate delivery of the model," he adds.

The PPP model is also exhorted by Prof KV Iyer, dean, United World School of Business, Hyderabad. He says, "It is worthwhile to note that the service sector is contributing to more than half of the Indian GDP. The Prime Minister in his address at the inauguration India corporate week in December 2010 exhorted the corporate sector to engage in a quest for sustainable growth. He emphasised that increasing the employability of the population through effective skill development should be central to corporate strategy. While the government has a vital role to play in the field of education, it cannot go alone. Partnership with the corporate sector is the need of the hour. We hope enough encouragement is given in today's Budget for private sector to play a key role in skills building and in the area of professional education."

On the issue of loans to spur capital investments, BN Jain says, "Some good private educational institutes have expanded their program in the last decade, but using bank loans at market-determined interest rates. Most such institutes are now looking to consolidate their offerings by expanding their post-graduate and PhD programmes. But this can only happen if our government develops a scheme whereby they underwrite a significant fraction of capital investments made in order to expand capability and/or capacity."

The mandate of several government ministries and/or departments is to fund research and postgraduate education. This they do by helping build lab infrastructure for research or postgraduate education, assistantships to research fellows, as well as fund basic and applied research in areas that are emerging or are strategic to India's development. Prof BN Jain adds, "While such ministries/departments do fund research and postgraduate education in independent universities (outside the government sector), we would like to see the independent universities to be treated in a manner similar to those funded by state or central government and the processes used to provide such funds to be streamlined."

"If the government wants to create 100% literacy in the country and wants to see that goal of RTE is realised, it should focus more on the primary and secondary education," believes Prof VK Gupta, director, Management Development Institute, Gurgaon. He adds, "If you see countries like the US and the UK, most of the world-class institutes of higher learning are in the private sector. And since the government has been pumping a lot of money into the IIMs and IITs, and in setting up central universities, it is time that some encouraging public-private partnerships are thought of by the government."

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SHIVANI SHINDE & KALPANA PATHAK  
Mumbai

**B**usiness process outsourcing (BPO) firms that so far hired from tier three B-schools will now flaunt IIM graduates. Take the case of Delhi-based BPO firm EXL Services which has managed to hire over 10 management graduates from India's premier Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Ahmedabad. The highest ever for any BPO company so far, EXL Services has hired the IIM-A graduates for general managerial and consulting roles.

"This year we have been aggressive in hiring from B-schools as we want to grow our foot-print in these management schools. We have been hiring from B-schools since 2003-04, but that has always been limited to one or two students. This year we have managed to give offer letters to 10 students from IIM-A itself. Last year we hired around seven management graduates from top B-schools," said Sanjay Gupta, Global HR Head, EXL Services. The company is visiting five to six more B-school campuses this year to meet its target of hiring 15-18 management graduates. The company is of the view that the focus on management talent is due to the shift that the industry is witnessing as well as the work that is coming to the Indian players.

BPO and IT services firms have traditionally hired large number of students from engineering colleges and graduation colleges. But hiring from top B-schools has always been a tad difficult as students prefer to work with sectors like banking, consultancy, and FMCG.

The trend to hire more management graduates is however, not limited to EXL services alone or to the third party BPO sector. Captive BPOs of IT companies are also joining the bandwagon. IT major Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) plans to hire over 1,200 management students for FY11 from B-schools across the nation. Of these the company has already extended offer letters to 557 students. TCS BPO has also made 129 offers so far.



With higher order processing, third party BPOs are operating like any other company with a strong marketing team

According to Pandia Rajan, Chairman Ma Foi Randstad, this trend is prominent among the third party BPOs which need a strong marketing team. "With higher order processing migrating to India, BPOs these days are operating like any other company. Their growth needs are as important with various departments including marketing and HR growing," said Rajan.

Similarly, Infosys Technologies has extended 1,000 offers to B-school students this year. This number is much higher than last years 463. For FY11 Infosys has already visited 57 B-schools.

IT services and KPO firm Syntel agrees with this trend. "We have hired management graduates in the past. With the shift in the industry the talent required in the industry is different. You also have to remember that this sector is people intensive, you need qualified managers. You cannot just blame the students for not being interested in joining this industry. IT services and BPO firms have never in-

teracted with them. With firms now getting aggressive they are finding interest as well," said Mushtaque Aalam, Global Head, Recruitment, Syntel.

Students from management schools especially from premier institutes draw much higher salary than an engineering student. For instance, at entry level, an average management student would draw between ₹3.6 lakh and ₹6 lakh whereas, salary of a management graduate from a premier institute would be over 100 per cent.

Similarly, a fresh engineer graduate gets an entry level salary of ₹3.3 lakh to ₹3.5 lakh. Category B management college students draw start salary of ₹4.6 to 4.7 lakh from the top IT services firm.

"It's the job profiles student look at rather than looking at the industry. EXL Service offered consulting and general managerial posts to IIM-A graduates which was interesting," said a placement committee member from IIM-A.

Other than opting for other sectors, management students, especially from tier-1 B-schools, tend to draw very high salaries. "A management student always manages to draw better salary. That also sometimes acts as hurdle for industry players to hire in large numbers as students like higher salary and perks that are generally provided by i-banks and consultancy firms," said Gupta. Industry experts also point out that the need to hire more management talent is also because of the work that is coming to India. "Whether it is the IT industry or BPO, they have moved on to handle high-end work for clients. For instance, BPO's are no longer providing only voice work. Large BPO firms are managing processes like accounting, analytics and other core activities. For IT firms, consultancy is becoming core as they move away from application development and maintenance kind of work," said an industry observer.

Business Standard ND 28/02/2011

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# Education sector awaits budget goodies

KALPANA PATHAK  
Mumbai

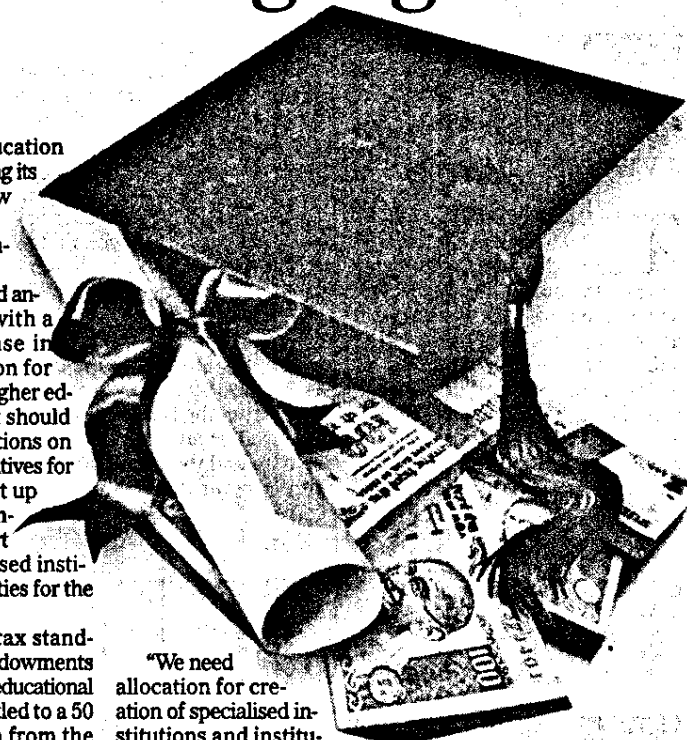
**T**he higher education sector is pinning its hopes on a few big-ticket reforms in the Budget to be unveiled on Monday.

Sector players and analysts said along with a substantial increase in budgetary allocation for both primary and higher education, the Budget should propose tax exemptions on various fronts, incentives for entrepreneurs to set up higher education institutions and support creation of specialised institutions and universities for the masses, too.

"From a direct tax standpoint, donations/endowments made to recognised educational institutions are entitled to a 50 per cent deduction from the taxable income of donor. The Budget could positively impact this process by extending the benefit to an across the board 100 per cent deduction for contribution to recognised educational institutions," said Amitabh Jhinghan, Partner, Transaction Advisory Services and National Sector Leader - Education, Ernst and Young.

According to Jhinghan, an increased budget allocation towards education could help in implementation of right to education (RTE) and achievement of the targeted gross enrollment ratio of 30 per cent by 2020.

The Indian higher education system is one of the largest in the world in terms of number of institutions and student enrolment. Higher education spends in India are currently estimated at ₹ 46,200 crore and are projected to grow to nearly ₹ 150,000 crore in the next decade. This would reflect an average growth rate of 12.8 per cent according to Ernst and Young. Sector analysts said the need of the hour is to provide either funding or incentives to start universities for the mass market.



"We need allocation for creation of specialised institutions and institutions that cater to the masses. An increased allocation would help better the industry and academic interactions. Budgeting needs to be done for upgrading curriculum through industry interaction," says Narayan Ramaswamy, Executive Director, Educational service, KPMG.

Sector players however, said allocation alone will not impress them. Implementation is the key.

"There is no significant expectation from the Budget. In the past two years, we have seen a lot of media hype from the Ministry of Human Resource Development. We want to see some execution now. A lot of new projects - Creation of Central universities, innovation universities and new IITs have been talked about. We wish to see the government doing some ground work for the same now," said H Chaturvedi, director, Birla Institute of Management and Technology.

Analysts are also expecting grant of income tax exemptions on faculty salaries and increase in the expense deduction on contributions on research and development spends at universities.

## WHAT THE SECTOR WANTS...

- 100 per cent deduction for donations/endowments made to recognised educational institutions
- Allocation for creation of specialised institutions and institutions that cater to the masses
- Income tax exemptions on faculty salaries
- Increase in the expense deduction on R&D spends at universities.

"There is an active speculation the scope of taxable services in the education sector will be expanded. The budget should consider the larger impact of human resource development, skill building and the recent inflationary trends," adds Jhinghan.

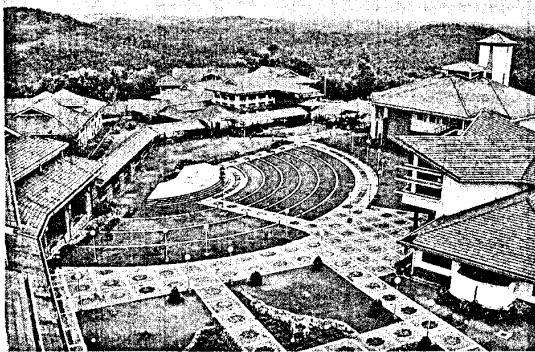
It should also consider exempting organisations that render services to recognised educational institutions from the levy of service tax.

# IIM campus hiring sees salaries, offers back to 2008 levels

VINAY UMARJI  
Ahmedabad, 27 February

It's not just an increase in compensation packages that are brightening campuses of the Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs), but also interesting offers that firms are experimenting with this year. For instance, a student at IIM Ahmedabad (IIM-A) has apparently been offered a job wherein the student can work for the first two years at a company and then build his own entrepreneurship venture with its help, says Saral Mukherjee, chairperson-placements at IIM-A, refusing to divulge details.

"The numbers of offers as well as compensation packages have been increasing. One can say that placements at IIM-A could be back to the 2007-2008 levels," says Mukherjee.



The IIM-Kozhikode campus

The three clusters of placement selections held so far at the IIM-A campus has

seen financial and consulting biggies, apart from other sectors, with job offers in

double digits. While the first cluster had companies across three cohorts — international

investment banks, global strategy consulting and private equity/venture capital, clusters two and three had Indian investment banks, corporate leadership programs and global consumer goods firms, and Indian marketing, financial services and advisory sector cohorts.

Consultancies BCG and McKinsey gave among the highest number of offers. BCG and YES Bank have given 11 offers each, while McKinsey, EXL Service and Procter and Gamble have given 10 offers each, including pre-placement offers.

## More offers, too

More, as a reflection of the improving market situation, there were a greater number of international offers this year. "Global investment banks visited the campus in greater numbers than last

year. In addition to their Mumbai office, some offered roles in their Singapore and London offices. Consulting firms also offered more international firms," says Movin Jain, student placement secretary at IIM-A.

Seconding that is IIM Kozhikode (IIM-K), where the highest compensation package of ₹70 lakh per annum came through an international offer.

"Not just have the average number of offers per firm increased from 2.5 last year to 3.5 per firm this year, but also the number of international offers has increased. Firms like Olam International (which has offered the highest compensation package) and Trident have made international offers. There has also been a 15 per cent rise in salaries in international offers," says Shridhar Guda, chairperson-placements at

IIM-K.

On an average, salaries have risen by over 30 per cent with the average compensation package now hovering at ₹32 lakh per annum, adds Guda.

The placement process at IIM Indore (IIM-I), which got over in a mere five days, witnessed participation from almost 100 companies offering a wide array of profiles across the functions of finance, marketing, human resources, operations, strategy and information technology. Most of the jobs were in banking, financial services and insurance, fast moving consumer goods, consulting, and IT, with some prominent profiles being offered in investment banking, corporate sales and management consulting.

The average compensation package this year at IIM-I is 27 per cent more than last year. The highest domestic

compensation offered was ₹32 lakh per annum by an investment bank. While the top 12 per cent of the class of 2011 secured offers on campus in excess of ₹20 lakh, more than half the batch secured offers in the range of ₹14-18 lakh per annum.

The IIM-Indore campus has seen Procter & Gamble, Hindustan Unilever, Boston Consulting Group, Deloitte, Goldman Sachs, Edelweiss, Standard Chartered, JP Morgan Chase, Deutsche Bank, Ernst and Young, Deloitte, PricewaterCoopers, Aon Hewitt, Cognizant, Tata Consultancy Services, Wipro Consulting Services, Bank of America-Merrill Lynch, Nomura, ICICI, YES Bank, Axis Bank, HDFC, SBI Caps and IDBI Caps.

While placements at IIM-A are continuing, its counterparts in Bangalore, Kolkata and Lucknow gear up for the process this week.

Indian Express ND 28/02/2011 p11

## 'India needs managerial talent... supply of (foreign) institutes will take care of itself'

Dr Sunil Kumar, Dean of University of Chicago's Booth School of Economics, speaks about the school's courses and its plans for India in an interaction with *The Indian Express* staff

**Do you see India as a destination for more and more foreign business schools to set up shop?**

India has some excellent schools of management and business... but every indication, especially from the business leaders I have met, is that there is an increasing need for managerial talent. It is I believe the intent of the HRD Minister to make it easier for foreign universities to come in... in particular in management. So I think when there is demand on the employment side and vast availability of raw talent, the supply of educational institutions of the highest calibre... will take care of itself.

**How do you think you attract so many Indians to Chicago?**

Entrepreneurship, where faculty have got interested, observing what's happening around them, and have created courses which are experiential in that sense, and also roped in adjunct faculty who are industry leaders. For example one of the hottest new start-ups in the US is Groupon (based in Chicago). The two founders are teaching a course on Internet start-ups at Booth.

**You have courses in Singapore and in London. Is there a core course that is the same and then local subjects, local faculty?**

We do not partner with any local institutions, nor do we recruit local faculty. As much as possible we try to use the same faculty and have as uniform an experience among the



I can speculate, we haven't done a study as to why our students come. There are two aspects that I think appeal to our Indian students. Our programme is extremely flexible... intended to support a wide variety of aspirations. The other reason (is) I would say the faculty are primarily researchers... six Nobel Prize winners have served on the rolls, and that I think attracts talent.

**In India, scores in 10th, 12th and GMAT are important (qualifying) criteria. Is it the same in foreign business schools?**

Scores are important indicators, in some sense necessary but not sufficient to resolve the matching problem — what set of students when put together in a class would maximally benefit from our programme? The admission process in our school does require a subjective file reader, in addition to objective measures. But inherently subjective measures are also not airtight... it's just that we feel that it solves our matching problem better.

**There's a very old view that one of the major goals of going to a business school is networking. Looking forward at a time when we see the entire landscape shift so fast, what are some of the new skills you are looking at weaving inside your MBA, to make it more relevant to the next five or 10 years?**

Twenty years ago we were known as a finance, economics and accounts school. Today we have some of the best organisational behavioural faculties in the US. So we are adaptive... There has been an increased interest in entrepreneurship among our students and we have gone from having almost nothing in entrepreneurship to an extremely vibrant programme — including the Polsky Centre for

programmes in Chicago, London and Singapore... There is some amount of local customisation. But it is done by the same faculty, because we want to be reasonably assured they (students) had the same experience as any other executive MBA that we give.

**Are these local courses open to everybody in the world? Say can somebody from Delhi join the Singapore course?**

Indeed it is intended to operate that way. For the Asian region it is Singapore, for Europe it's London. Even in Chicago, in the executive programmes we have people from Latin and South America.

**You have talked about a Delhi centre too. Where does it stand?**

Part of my conversation with leaders (in India) has been about the Delhi centre. Last year, the University of Chicago commissioned a panel to study the feasibility of setting up a centre in India. They wrote a report that recommended first that a centre be set up in India, and second that it be in Delhi. We are in the phase of figuring out where and how to fund it. It is intended to be a broad-based centre which will serve two purposes. The first purpose is to support faculty research; we have a lot of faculty interested in studying India as well as collaborating with Indian academics. Second, it will have some classroom facilities to provide a study-abroad component, perhaps, for our students in Chicago, as well as for us to provide education where we can deliver value to the Indian audience.

**So right now you are not looking at full-time courses for students in India?**

No, right now we don't have any plans to do that.

Transcribed by PRITHA CHATTERJEE