

# Newspaper Clips

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# दिल्ली में इंजीनियर है नक्सल नेता का बेटा

नई दिल्ली/रांची | अजय शर्मा

एमसीसीआइ का पोलित ब्यूरो सदस्य अरविंद सिंह उर्फ अरविंद जी का छोटा बेटा प्रिंस सिंह दिल्ली में केमिकल इंजीनियर है। मोटी रकम पर उसे एक कंपनी ने नौकरी दी है। प्रिंस ने आईआईटी दिल्ली से केमिकल इंजीनियरिंग की पढ़ाई की है। प्रिंस का पिता देश के टॉप टेन नक्सलियों में एक है।

हाल ही में लातेहार में नक्सलियों की जिस टोली के साथ पुलिस की मुठभेड़ हुई थी उसका नेतृत्व अरविंद जी ही कर रहा था। अरविंद की उम्र 70 वर्ष के करीब है। मूल रूप से बिहार के जहानाबाद का रहने वाला अरविंद नक्सलियों की हर बैठक में शामिल होता है। गया में हुई बड़ी बैठक में शामिल होने के बाद 400 की संख्या में नक्सली सारंडा पहुंचना चाहते हैं। इसी टोली के साथ लातेहार में पांच जनवरी को मुठभेड़ हो गई थी। अब यह टोली गुमला जिला के चैनपुर इलाके में पुलिस से घिर चुकी है। नक्सली सारंडा के गोइलकेरा पहुंचना चाहते हैं।

## खुफिया रिपोर्ट में खुलासा

- दिल्ली आईआईटी से की है केमिकल इंजीनियरिंग की पढ़ाई, नक्सलियों को सिखाता है विस्फोट करने के गुर
- लातेहार मुठभेड़ में जवान के पेट में बम फिट करने की तकनीक भी प्रिंस ने ही सिखाई थी, पिता देश के टॉप टेन नक्सलियों में एक

केंद्रीय खुफिया एजेंसी ने जो रिपोर्ट सुपुर्द की है, उसमें रूट चार्ट भी है।

**नक्सलियों को देता है बम बनाने की शिक्षा:** अरविंद जी का इंजीनियर बेटा दिल्ली में ही नक्सलियों का स्कूल चलाता है। चुनिंदा नक्सलियों को वह नई-नई तकनीक से विस्फोट करने की जानकारी देता है। प्रिंस ने ही नक्सलियों को पेट में बम लगाने की तकनीक सिखायी है। यह भी सूचना मिली है कि प्रिंस लैंड माइंस लगाने के कई तरीका इजाद कर चुका है। इसका उपयोग भी नक्सली पूरे देश में कर रहे हैं।

**पटना में है डेयरी फार्म**  
एक नक्सली की पत्नी पटना के कंकड़बाग इलाके में डेयरी फार्म चला रही है। झारखंड पुलिस की टीम जल्द ही वहां जाकर छापामारी भी करेगी। पुलिस को एक बड़े नक्सली की पत्नी के संबंध में पूरी जानकारी मिल चुकी है।

**70** के करीब है अरविंद की उम्र और वह एमसीसीआइ का पोलित ब्यूरो सदस्य है।

**घोड़ा भी नक्सलियों के पास :** नक्सलियों की इस टोली के पास घोड़े भी हैं। 31 जनवरी की रात तीन घोड़ों की मौत हो गई। अब इनके पास 18 घोड़े हैं। बुजुर्ग नक्सली इन्हीं घोड़ों से यात्रा कर रहे हैं। नक्सलियों के पास गियर वाली साइकिल भी है, जिसका उपयोग महिला नक्सली करती है। डाक्टर की टीम भी साथ चल रही है। गुमला में नक्सलियों ने जानवर का इलाज करने वाले डॉक्टर की खोज भी शुरू कर दी है। आने से मना करने पर चैनपुर के एक शिक्षक को डॉक्टर को उन्होंने पीटा था।

Amar Ujala ND  
03/02/2013

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## आईआईटी बीएचयू के नए निदेशक के लिए खुद इंटरव्यू लेंगे पल्लम राजू

नई दिल्ली (ब्यूरो)। आईआईटी बीएचयू में नए निदेशक की नियुक्ति के लिए मानव संसाधन मंत्री पल्लम राजू 19 फरवरी को, छह प्रत्याशियों का इंटरव्यू लेंगे। उल्लेखनीय है कि कुछ महीने पहले ही आईटी कॉलेज बीएचयू को आईआईटी का दर्जा दिया गया था। शुरुआत में इस संस्थान के निदेशक का पद बीएचयू के कुलपति को ही सौंपा गया था।

अब यहां पर नए निदेशक की नियुक्ति की प्रक्रिया चल रही है। निदेशक पद के लिए देश भर से लगभग 40 लोगों ने आवेदन किए थे। विभिन्न आवेदनों के पहले चरण में प्ररीक्षण व स्क्रीनिंग के बाद अंतिम रूप से छह लोगों को सूची तैयार की गई है।

इन्हीं छह उम्मीदवारों को इंटरव्यू के लिए 19 फरवरी को मानव संसाधन मंत्रालय में बुलाया गया है। आईआईटी बीएचयू के नए निदेशक की नियुक्ति एवं स्क्रीनिंग कमेटी के अध्यक्ष भी मानव संसाधन मंत्री पल्लम राजू ही हैं। मंत्रालय से मिली जानकारी के अनुसार जिन छह लोगों को स्क्रीनिंग के बाद साक्षात्कार के लिए बुलाए जाने का फैसला लिया गया है, उनमें आईआईटी बीएचयू के दो प्रोफेसर भी शामिल हैं।

Economic Times ND 03/02/2013

# An Alternative to IITs and IIMs

India trails China in its ability to provide quality higher education to the masses. That gap can be narrowed if the newer model of online teaching can be scaled up



BHADRESH GAJJAR

Higher education institutes such as IIM-A admit only a handful of students every year

:: William H Avery

There is a battle taking place between India and China – not for today's economic growth, but for economic growth a decade from now. The field of battle is higher education, and India is losing. Big time.

World Bank statistics show that higher education enrolment is a leading indicator of economic growth. When a country substantially increases the number of university students it educates, that country tends to enjoy a spike in economic growth in the decade that follows. It happened with Japan and Korea in the early and late 1980s respectively.

China will soon reap the rewards of its annual \$250-billion investments in higher education. Since the turn of the millennium, China has doubled the number of institutes of higher education and increased enrolment five-fold. It has been the greatest expansion in university education in the history of mankind. As a result, 26% of China's university-age population is enrolled in an institution of higher education, versus 18% in India.

It was not always so. In 1990 and 2000, India bested China in university enrolment rates. Until China decided to make higher education a policy priority.

## A New Medium

Do not let India's outliers – the IITs and IIMs – fool you. The key battlefield is in higher education for the masses. And on this China wins hands down, on both quality and quantity. Sure, India's IITs and IIMs offer top-notch education. But they reach a scandalously small proportion of Indian students. The annual intake of the IITs currently amounts to about 10,000 students, a fraction of India's 12-crore-strong university-age population.

So what is India doing to catch up? Not much. The University Grants Commission's 12th Five Year Plan (covering 2012-2017) is short on ambition and long on vague lamentations ("considerable challenges remain" it says). While China has ambitious plans that it executes, India has ambitious plans that it fails to execute.

In 1995 the Indian government introduced in parliament a bill to allow foreign universities to operate in the country. The Foreign Education Providers Bill, a successor to the 1995 bill, is still languishing in parliament nearly two decades later.

With India incapable of rapidly building higher-education infrastruc-

ture, and stubbornly refusing to let foreign universities in to help, the situation would be hopeless but for one fact: technology is coming to India's rescue.

American universities, led by Harvard and MIT, have decided to put their courses online for free. Any Indian with access to a computer and an internet connection (whether in his home or in the next village) can take a class taught by a Nobel laureate in Boston. Or Princeton. Or Berkeley. Some 200 American universities are interested in joining the Harvard/MIT not-for-profit venture.

## Education, a Click Away

The implications of free online content for Indian higher education – and for India's future economic growth – cannot be overstated. This revolution knocks down in a single blow the historical barriers to Indian higher education: uneven quality, overall lack of supply, and the high cost of sending a child overseas for study.

The availability of free online content will lead to an entirely new model for higher education in India. Forget the sprawling university campus with faculty developing their own course

content. Now is the time for India to invest in a new higher-education model built around content in-sourced from top American institutions.

No one can pretend that free online content is a panacea for India's education woes. There are countless other shortcomings in the Indian system, including insufficient preparation for university studies beginning at primary school and through to secondary. Vocational training (for those better suited to learning a trade than attending university) is another huge gap. And outside of the urban elite of Tier 1 cities, English-language skills among university-age Indians are limited, as is access to the internet.

Despite these complex challenges, the new reality of this revolution is quite simple. The demand in India is there. So is the brainpower. And the content is now available for free. The only thing required is a system to connect the content with the students. Can real-time translation technologies be used to convert Harvard's classes into Hindi, Telugu or Malayalam? Will the new model be solely distance learning, or will students come together to discuss the material? Can existing village school facilities be leveraged after school hours?

## Joining Hands

India's entrepreneurs will find the answers to these questions and others. As the revolution in free online content takes hold, Indians should ask only one thing of their government: stay out of the way. The government had its chance. It did not deliver. Now technology is calling NGOs and the private sector to do what the government could not: offer high quality higher education to the masses.

Ultimately there is a role for the government in setting standards for this new type of education, and for certifying institutions. But that is all for later. The need of the hour is to get new university students learning by the lakh and then by the crore.

China's investment in higher education, while impressively executed, may have been poorly timed. For China invested in an old and costly model of higher education. There is a new model out there, one uniquely well-suited to India. By investing in this model, India could yet win the higher education battle today, and the battle for economic growth tomorrow. ■



The writer, a former US diplomat, is the author of *China's Nightmare, America's Dream: India as the Next Global Power*

Indian Express ND 03/02/2013

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# Overcoming roadblocks, IIT-Jodhpur ready to sign MoU with France

**ANUBHUTI VISHNOI**  
NEW DELHI | FEBRUARY 2

PUTTING to rest their differences over a much publicised collaboration that has been in the works since 2008-09, IIT-Jodhpur and France will next month seal a memorandum of understanding when the French President visits India.

French President Francois Hollande is expected to visit India in mid-February when the MoU will be announced for the joint collaboration with the IIT.

IIT-Jodhpur has already signed its letter of intent, sources said.

While the proposed collaboration was announced in 2010 when the then French President Nicholas Sarkozy came to India, it's yet to take shape due to a rather unusual situation — mutual dissatisfaction. While the French side had termed the IIT-Jodhpur academic environment and

faculty rather unimpressive, the IIT complained that what the French are offering them is far too little for an institute of its stature.

France had conveyed to India in writing that it was “not impressed” by the leadership, faculty or infrastructure at IIT-Jodhpur, one of the six new IITs set up in 2009.

The IIT claimed that there was little worth in the collaboration being offered. France was then offering about 2 million Francs and assistance for setting up three centres instead of six proposed initially.

The IIT said that while it was keen to extend the collaboration in other areas, France refused to commit to anything further.

A French delegation that visited IIT-Jodhpur in January last year to explore the possibilities of a wider collaboration had reportedly returned disappointed, shooting off a letter to the External

Affairs ministry.

“While the French were quite enthusiastic in 2008, when talks first began, the leadership at IIT-Jodhpur then showed little interest. The HRD Ministry had to intervene and take up the matter with the Board of Governors as this is also a diplomatic issue. When the IIT finally did evince interest in the collaboration, recession — acute in Europe — came in the way. Finally, the two sides have now agreed to seal the deal,” said a senior official.

In November 2010, France and India finalised a draft MoU regarding IIT-Rajasthan, which provided for a French consortium to academically and scientifically assist the institute.

The areas of collaboration included technologies for health, renewable energy, aerospace, quantum computing, conservation of art and heritage, among others.

Times of India ND 03-Feb-13 P-15

# MBA, docs, engineers surrender soul to service and prayers

Hemali Chhappia | TNN

Even a Macintosh Pro often finds it difficult to catch up with Vidhi Desai, 30, its owner and user. An archetypal south-Mumbaiite, she is rich, aggressive, super-confident, loud and questioning. An alumna of JB Petit School and HR College, Vidhi went on to do a double major in international politics and philosophy from Penn State University. The poor little rich kid never had to wait for anything she fancied; her father, a diamond businessman, gave her the liberty to soak in the sights and sounds of the material world. Defying conformity was the elixir of her life, till her guru made her realize that what she saw as freedom was merely slavery to her own moods and conditioning. Heeding to the highest calling of her heart, Vidhi signed up at his school to train to be a nun.

● The change, for him, was dramatic: the neon clothes that he proudly wore gave way to colourless white robes. Nemi Avlani, who slept only after four every morning after a good night of partying, now wakes up at that hour to meditate. An unassuming life in the ashram, simple food and satsangs, he realized, were a bigger high than avant-garde music and bright lights under the disco ball. He decided to renovate his life



Rakeshbhai Jhaveri initiates atmarpits who have renounced the material world and chosen a life of sadhana (prayers) and seva (service)

and renounced the world and all its comforts, familial and material.

Under the mentorship of 46-year-old Rakeshbhai Jhaveri, or Bapaji as he is called, bright young Indian men and women from across the world are signing up—to live a minimalistic life, to give up the comforts they earlier soaked themselves in, to take the vow of celibacy, to shed the excesses they lived in and worked for. To become *atmarpits*. He has derived the term from *atma* (soul) and *ar-pit* (surrender). Men and women give up all colour as they are admitted to his training school, which though not conventional, does follow tradition, says Rakeshbhai, who is himself not a monk. Of late, the school has been opening to not

just followers in India, but across the world. “Two years into the atmarpit deeksha (renunciation), I feel my life has changed,” says Vidhi, who like other atmarpits dons a white kurta-pyjama, a jodhpuri jacket and a bead necklace. “It has given me an immediate sense of simplicity, a strong sense of focus. I understand the power of silence, the strength of introspection and I enjoy understanding and studying religious texts.”

Under convention, initiation into monkhood comes after immense training. The initiates (not *atmarpits*) live with monks in temples and the preparatory phase can last anywhere from six months to 10 years, says Babulal Jain, a veritable fount of information on Jainism. What is dramatically different in the case of atmarpits is the profile of the 72 who have renounced worldly pleasures: most are postgraduates, including medical doctors, engineers and MBAs; many never went to a *derasar* (Jain temple) or attended sermons by monks. They are getting drawn back into the fold of Jainism after meeting Bapaji. His satsangs end in a revelry of dance; at times, the audience leaves in tears: it's as if he has pulled them out of chaos, out of turmoil, out of a storm called life.

For the full report, log on to [www.timesofindia.com](http://www.timesofindia.com)

## New IIMs find little favour with top consulting firms

KALPANA PATHAK  
Mumbai, 2 February

Asit Dogra quit his two-year-old job at a Mumbai broking firm to join the Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Raipur. His aim: Joining a top consulting firm after an IIM degree. But, with these consulting firms continuing to evade the new IIMs, Dogra is considering an alternative job option.

"I thought an IIM would give me the right platform to make a jump, but in vain. We have been trying very hard to get the top consulting firms like McKinsey and Boston Consulting Group on campus for placements but have not been successful so far. So many students who

wished to join consulting have decided otherwise now," says Dogra.

A placement committee member at IIM Raipur confirms the B-school has been trying to invite more consulting firms on campus this year but, being a new IIM, it has become difficult to attract them. "We are in constant touch with the HR department of these companies but the results are not very encouraging," he said.

McKinsey and Company, Boston Consulting Group (BCG) and Bain & Company — known as the super consulting firms — are the most wanted on campuses. These, however, recruit only from the Indian School of Business and top-three IIMs — Ahmedabad, Bangalore and Calcutta. Follow-

ing on the list of top consulting firms are AT Kearny, Booz and Company, KPMG, PwC and Deloitte.

Last placement season, BCG hired 17 students from IIM-A. At IIM-C, Deloitte, Accenture, Capgemini, CTS, PwC, and BMGI accounted for a significant portion of the placement pile, with 25.80 per cent of the offers.

Barring Ernst & Young and KPMG, consulting firms have not shown much interest in recruiting from the newer IIMs. An email sent to McKinsey and Company, BCG and E&Y remained unanswered.

IIM Rohtak shares IIM Raipur's concern. In 2012, among top consulting firms, only E&Y offered a consulting profile in the business advisory

domain to an IIM Rohtak student according to the Institute's website.

"Nearly 50 per cent of our batch size has work experience of over two years. We are in constant touch with top consulting firms, trying to convince our students are doing very well and that student profile at our institutes is similar to that of the older IIMs," said Akash Garg from IIM Rohtak's placement cell.

IIM Rohtak, with a better batch profile this time to be placed, says students on campus are either looking forward to going back to their specific work profile or join consulting firms, pushing the demand for consulting jobs.

In addition to the crore-plus

packages that consulting firms dole out, the aura attached to a consulting job makes it irresistible.

Placement heads say even if a student spends two-three years at a strategy consulting firm, his exit options are strong. Not to mention the networking opportunity the job allows.

"A consulting job is considered an extension of what one learns in the B-school environment — involving similar research and reading," says an ex-placement head at one of the IIMs. P Thiruvengadam, senior director (human capital), Deloitte, says: "We visit a mix of campuses and look for reasonably good talent. We recruit on the basis of our regular interactions with B-schools and evaluate them on

their curriculum, quality of faculty, research work, engagement activities, ongoing connect programmes, etc."

Godwin Tennyson, assistant professor and chairperson, placement and external relations, IIM Trichy, says student-quality-wise the new IIMs are nowhere inferior. It is only the legacy the older IIMs have with consulting firms that helps them bag plum job offers.

"Consulting firms' requirements for niche profiles is limited. Besides, they have a relationship with the older IIMs and thus they recruit from those. We, however, are in constant discussion with consulting firms and will invite them for placements," adds Tennyson.



### PLACEMENT SNAPSHOT

- McKinsey, BCG and Bain & Company are known as the super consulting firms
- Joining consulting firms is considered a big career move by students
- Except for one or two, most consulting firms have preferred recruiting from the older IIMs
- To engage consulting firms regularly, B-schools have initiated various academic partnerships with those

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# Plan panel push for higher education reforms

**POST-SIBAL** Montek asks HRD minister to stress on state institutions instead of focusing on IITs, IIMs

Chetan Chauhan  
■ chetan@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** With Kapil Sibal out of the HRD ministry, the Planning Commission has pushed for more reforms in higher education to tackle the "deteriorating quality" and "eroding public confidence" in country's public education system.

The panel has asked the HRD ministry to shift its focus from country's exemplary institutions

## THE PLAN PANEL HAS IDENTIFIED 15 ISSUES THAT NEED MINISTRY'S IMMEDIATE ATTENTION

— Indian Institutes of Technology and Indian Institutes of Management — and try to revamp the state and private sector institutions which enroll over 97% of total students in higher education.

"The strategy to improve quality should be based on national initiatives that benefit a wider range of institutions by creating a strong performance culture through effective use of competitive grants, focus on evaluation and feedback of both teaching and research and ensure transparency through information disclosure to enhance student choice," plan panel deputy chairperson Montek Singh Ahluwalia said in

a letter to new HRD minister MM Pallam Raju.

Country's national objective is to double enrollment in higher education by 2020.

The plan panel has identified 15 strategic issues which need ministry's immediate attention in the next five years including increasing the capacity of existing institutions to enroll more students rather than starting new institutions.

It also wants the ministry to

significantly increase in budgetary support for equity related measures through targeted, integrated and effective equity related schemes to replace the existing maze of diffused schemes.

The panel also wants the HRD ministry to give more autonomy to institutions and focus only on evaluating their performance. It also wants more transparency in fee determination, placements and faculty appointments.

Financial Express ND 03/02/2013

P-16

# Faculty questions Delhi University's 4-year UG plan

Raises doubts over need for such a course, varsity's state of preparedness to roll out the four-year undergraduate programme, besides infrastructural bottlenecks

**Kirtika Suneja**  
New Delhi, Feb 2

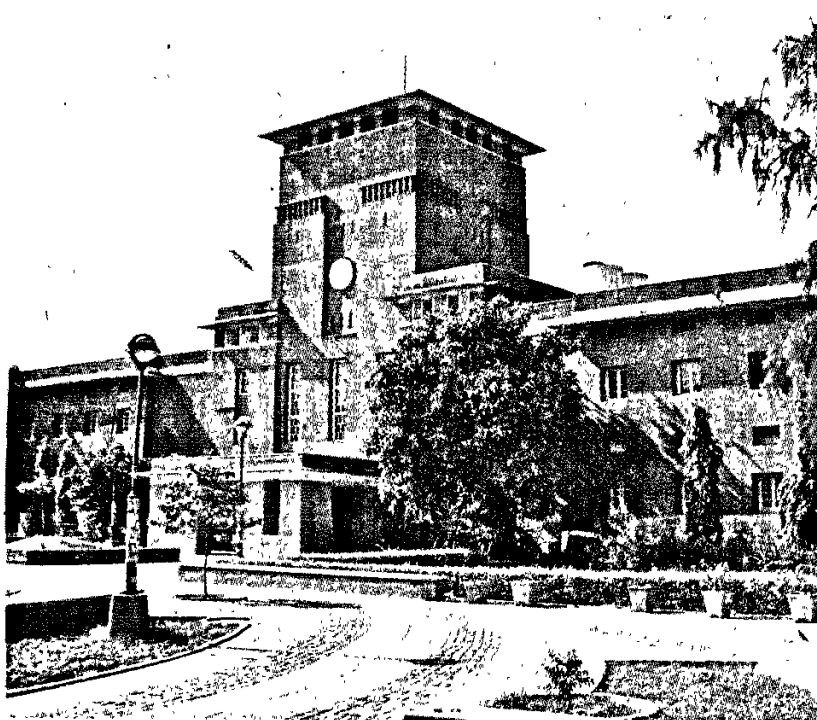
**T**HE UNIVERSITY OF DELHI (DU) may claim it is ready to roll out its four-year undergraduate programme from July this year, but various segments of the varsity's faculty are raising doubts on the state of preparedness and even the need for such a course.

With hardly five months left for the new programme to begin, DU teachers allege that the course curriculum has not been designed so far, nor have they been briefed about it. Others claim that lack of infrastructure would be a deterrent in implementing the four-year course.

"This is a dilution of the Honours system as it only adds one year in the students' study life and does not offer anything new. Moreover, it does not go with the 10+2+3 system of education. The new system also looks at removing tutorials, which have been the backbone of our academic system," says Dr Vinita Chandra of the department of English, Ramjas College.

The four-year UG programme offers a multiple degree option with 42 papers that the students have to clear with a 40% in aggregate to get an Honours degree. It is not necessary for the students to pass each paper individually.

In fact, DU teachers claim that the 61-member task force, which was set up over a year ago to devise the new system, has met only a few times and has no representation from the post-graduate



departments of history, economics, political science and English, among others.

"We are not being informed about the developments related to the revisions and how the new curriculum is to be designed and that too in such a short period of time. They are yet to decide if there are enough courses to be included in it," adds Dr Rina Ramdev, associate professor of English at Venkateswara College.

In the first year, students will have to study a foundation course comprising elements from governance and citizenship, language, literature and creativity, geographical and socio-economic diversity, among others. In the next two se-

**THE FOUR-YEAR UG PROGRAMME OFFERS A MULTIPLE DEGREE OPTION WITH 42 PAPERS THAT THE STUDENTS HAVE TO CLEAR WITH A 40% IN AGGREGATE TO GET AN HONOURS DEGREE**

esters, students would have to opt for a discipline of their choice, called discipline course I, and can continue with the same in the third year, which is called discipline course II. In the fourth year, students have to

take up the traditional scheme of papers related to their respective disciplines.

At the end of the second year, students can opt out of the course with an associate degree, whereas if they opt to exit at the end of third year, they would be awarded a Bachelor's degree. An Honours degree would be given at the end of four years. Sources say the additional one year in the UG course will reduce the first year, or Previous, of the post-graduate (MA) courses.

"There are many courses related to value-based education and integrating mind, body and heart that are to be taught in schools and not in higher education. In a way, it is a waste of time for stu-

dents," Chandra adds.

However, Prof Dinesh Singh, DU vice-chancellor, states that infrastructural bottlenecks are not worrying him. Instead, his concerns pertain to the way the foundation course would be taught.

"We have to orient the teachers to learn to handle more practical work linked to the real world with a greater exposure to research. We are also working on having an interface with the industry to make our students job-ready," Singh adds.

As per senior university officials, there would be no infrastructural issues till the third year and by then, the existing infrastructure in colleges would be used to teach fourth year students, as classes in most DU colleges are held only till afternoon.

Prof Umesh Rai, professor of zoology and director of DU's south campus, claims that the new programme seeks to provide hands-on training through the project mode. "We have more than three months to design course content. Moreover, we don't plan to detain any student," he says.

Interestingly, the Delhi University Teachers' Association (DUTA) has not opposed the radical change in the system. Says Aditya Narayan Mishra, DUTA president: "We will not oppose anything in the university ordinances that maximises students' interest and improves their employment avenues. The new course will impart more knowledge due to many papers that students have to take. It will also create employment for teachers and fill in vacancies."

HT Mumbai

# Apps, farmers' solutions a hit at IIT's B-plan summit

**Bhavya Dore**

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**MUMBAI:** Apps to navigate a city's transport facilities and end-to-end solutions for farmers: these are among the prize winners at the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay's (IITB) entrepreneurship summit which ended on Sunday.

The "Eureka!" competition – an initiative of the institute's Entrepreneurship Cell – claims to be Asia's largest business plan competition and features four categories.

Tilzmatic Tech, founded by management students from Delhi, won in the "business" category while Green Agrevolution by former engineering students won in the "social" category.

The tech company has

designed apps to help users understand the fares, routes and local train facilities in Mumbai and also has similar apps for the metro systems of Delhi, Bangalore and Kolkata. They plan to scale up by adding the London and Seoul metros. "The beauty of the app is that it is completely free for end users," said Vikash Kumar, 27, a team member and student of International Management Institute in Delhi. The competition saw more than 5,000 entries this year, with 25 selected for the final shortlist. Of these, four teams will get to go to Stanford University for a week-long workshop. The social category winner is a start-up which provides end-to-end solutions for farmers. More than Rs40 lakh worth of prize money was up for grabs at the competition this year.



# City girl bags President's Gold Medal at IIT Ropar convocation

**HT Live Correspondent**

■ [chdlivedesk@hindustantimes.com](mailto:chdlivedesk@hindustantimes.com)

**RUPNAGAR:** Divya Mahajan of Chandigarh was awarded the President's Gold Medal at the annual convocation of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Ropar.

She was given the gold medal, in absentia, for obtaining the highest cumulative grade point average (CGPA) among the graduating students of the bachelor of technology (BTech) course.

Divya, who had completed her BTech in electrical engineering in 2012, is presently pursuing higher studies in the US.

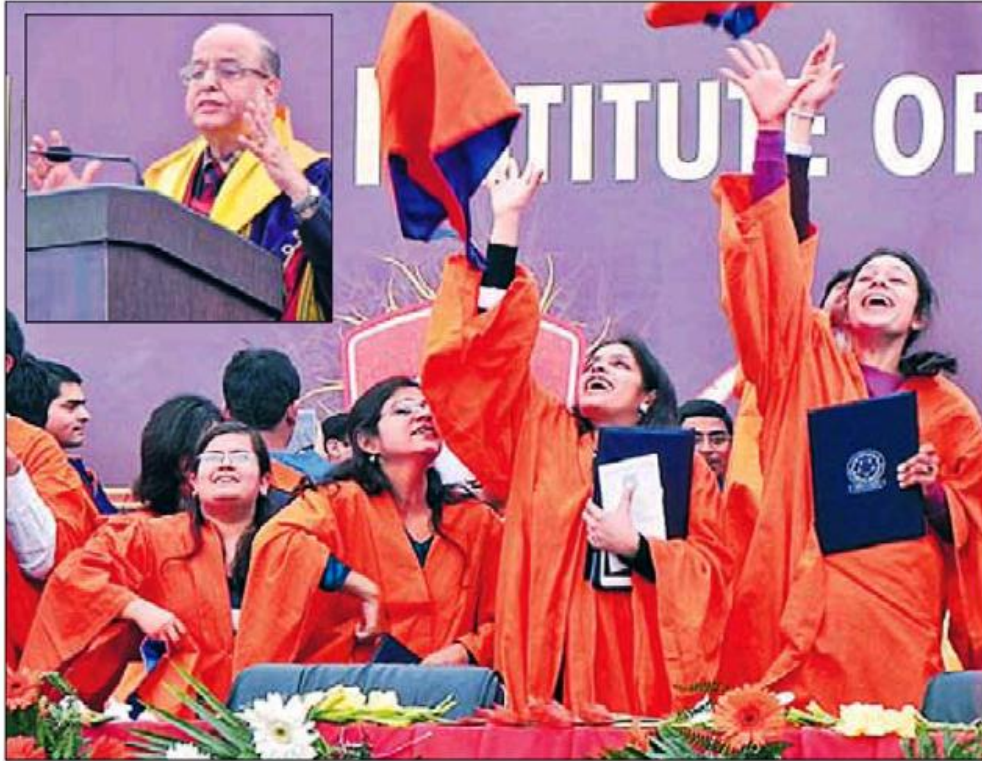
Shashank Sharma of the computer science and

**DIVYA MAHAJAN**  
AWARDED GOLD MEDAL,  
IN ABSENTIA, FOR  
OBTAINING THE  
HIGHEST CGPA IN THE  
BTECH COURSE

engineering stream was awarded the director's gold medal for the best all round performance; the institute silver medal was awarded to Bhargava Mangilpudi of the computer science and engineering department and Raghav Paul of the mechanical engineering department for obtaining highest cumulative grade point average.

## FIRST IIT ROPAR CONVOCATION

# Work on Mission Mars going on in full swing: Kasturirangan



Students of IIT, Ropar, tossing scarves in the air after receiving degrees during the convocation on Saturday and (inset) former ISRO chairman K Kasturirangan addressing the students.

HT PHOTO

Bahadurjeet Singh

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**RUPNAGAR:** Planning Commission member (science) and former Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) chairman K Kasturirangan on Saturday said that work on Mars Orbiter Mission, to be undertaken by ISRO to explore the red planet, is going on in full swing. "ISRO is working to get it ready by the year-end. The definition is more or less complete. They will now work on hardware, software and mission definition," Kasturirangan said, while talking to mediapersons on the sidelines of first convocation of Indian Institute of Technology, Ropar.

Earlier, addressing the convocation, Kasturirangan said that Mission Mars would be realised by October this year. "After the successful unmanned mission to moon (Chandryan-1), it is a giant leap, wherein scientists will study Mars atmosphere, surface, mineralogical charac-

## DEGREES CONFERRED ON 96 STUDENTS ON THE BIG DAY FOR TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE

water and signatures of the possible precursors to life," he said.

"Technologically, it will be a quantum leap for India in terms of conducting a deep space mission. These in turn could provide us with right credentials to become a partner in major international futuristic planetary explorations," he said.

In reply to a question on the status of manned mission to the moon, Kasturirangan said that many things would have to be looked into before finalising the mission. "Right now the priorities of ISRO are to strengthen the applications which are relevant to the grassroots part of the society with emphasis on socio-economic component of the technology to improve

After this there are scientific subjects like building technological capabilities."

"Scientists are not leaving the manned mission, but they are looking at various aspects of how to do it, what kind of resources are needed, whether it can be done with international collaboration. So, there are many things to be looked into. They will do the homework before taking the final call," he said.

He exhorted the students, who received degrees during the convocation, to pursue the profession which is close to their hearts, adding that only then they could make a mark.

Addressing the convocation, IIT, Ropar's, board of governors chairman T Ramasami congratulated the students and wished them success in life. Institute director MK Surappa presented the report of the activities undertaken by the institute.

A total of 96 students of 2008-12 batch were conferred with

# indiaandtheworld

## INDIAN INSTITUTES AMONG TOP GLOBAL THINK-TANKS

Six Indian research institutes, including Centre for Civil Society, are among top 150 global think-tanks in the list released by the University of Pennsylvania



■ **Brookings is the topper**

### Topping the list

#### Rank Institute

- |          |   |
|----------|---|
| <b>1</b> | <b>Brookings Institution (US)</b>               |
| <b>2</b> | Chatham House (UK)                              |
| <b>3</b> | Carnegie Endowment for International Peace (US) |

### Indian institutes on the list

#### Rank Institute

- |            |   |
|------------|---|
| <b>51</b>  | Centre for Civil Society  |
| <b>105</b> | Institute for Defence Studies and Analysis                      |
| <b>109</b> | Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations |
| <b>110</b> | The Energy and Resources Institute                              |
| <b>115</b> | Observer Research Foundation                                    |
| <b>141</b> | Development Alternatives  |

Source: PTI

Publication: The Times Of India Delhi;Date: Feb 3, 2013;Section: Front Page;Page: 3;

# 60 Harvard students suspended for mass cheating

**Boston:** More than 60 students of Harvard University have been suspended and several others disciplined after being implicated in one of the largest cheating scandals that shook the Ivy League institution last year.

The school implicated as many as 125 students when officials first addressed the issue last year. Half of the 279 students enrolled in an 'Introduction to Congress' course were suspected of "academic dishonesty" ranging from "inappropriate collaboration to outright plagiarism" on a take-home final exam. The class was widely seen on campus as an easy way to get a good grade.

In a campus-wide email on Friday, faculty of arts and sciences dean Michael D Smith said the school's academic integrity board had resolved all the cases related to the cheating probe. He said "somewhat more than half" the cases involved students who had to withdraw from the college for a period of time. Of the cases left, about half the students got disciplinary probation. The rest weren't disciplined.

Forced withdrawals usually last two to four semesters, after which a student may return.

President of the Harvard Undergraduate Council Tara Raghuvver said questions were raised about whether the take-home exam's instructions were clear enough on group work. **AGENCIES**

HT Mumbai

**LASER WORK**

# US President honours Indian-origin scientist

**Press Trust of India**■ [letters@hindustantimes.com](mailto:letters@hindustantimes.com)

**WASHINGTON:** US President Barack Obama presented the prestigious National Medal of Technology and Innovation to eminent Indian American Rangaswamy Srinivasan for his groundbreaking work with laser.

Rangaswamy received the award along with Samuel Blum and James Wynne, for the pioneering discovery of excimer laser ablative photodecomposition of human and animal tissue, laying the foundation for PRK and LASIK laser refractive surgical techniques, that have revolutionised vision enhancement.

At a glittering function held Friday at the White House, Obama presented National Medal of Science to 12 eminent scientists while 10 extraordinary inventors received 2011 National Medal of Technology and Innovation, the highest honors bestowed by the United States Government



■ **R Srinivasan with Barack Obama at the White House. PTI**

upon scientists, engineers, and inventors.

Established by statute in 1980, the National Medal of Technology and Innovation was first awarded in 1985 and is administered for the White House by the US Department of Commerce's Patent and Trademark Office.

"Success depends on the ideas that you can dream up," Obama said.

**February 4**

# **Naya Duniya ND**

**04/02/2013 P-10**

## **रुड़की आईआईटी में तकनीकी महोत्सव**

देहरादून। भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान यानि आईआईटी रुड़की के ग्यारहवें वार्षिक तकनीकी महोत्सव के रूप में कॉगनिजेस 2013 का आयोजन 22 मार्च से किया जाएगा। इस तकनीकी महोत्सव में देश-विदेश के तकनीकी विशेषज्ञ, वैज्ञानिक, इंजीनियर और तकनीकी शिक्षा से जुड़े करीब 6 हजार छात्र-छात्राएं 180 कार्यक्रम आयोजित करेंगे। तीन दिनों तक चलने वाले इस महोत्सव को तकनीकी शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में देश का सबसे बड़ा तकनीकी महोत्सव मेला माना जा रहा है। आयोजन से जुड़े अंशुमान त्रिपाठी ने बताया कि गत वर्ष के तकनीकी महोत्सव में देश विदेश के 90 तकनीकी और प्रबन्धन संस्थानों के 6 हजारसे अधिक छात्र छात्राओं ने भाग लिया था साथ ही आईआईटी रुड़की के पांच हजार विद्यार्थियों ने भी इस महोत्सव में भागीदारी निभाई थी। उन्होंने जानकारी दी कि इस तकनीकी महोत्सव रूपी कॉगनिजेस 2013 में तीन दिनों तक तकनीकी प्रतियोगिताएं, अतिथि व्याख्यान, कार्यशाला, प्रदर्शनी व अन्य कई कार्यक्रम आयोजित किए जायेंगे। इस महोत्सव का उद्देश्य आम भारतीयों के जीवन कोव्यवहार्य व चिरस्ताय तरीकों से बेहतर करना है।

**Times Of India ND 04/02/2013 P-14**

# Shackling IIMs

*Proposed Bill to bring them under HRD council will degrade premier management institutes*

**T**he proposals set out in the first draft of the IIM Bill, currently being hammered out by the government, are ominous for the premier management institutes. While the final contours of the Bill are under discussion, the contentious proposal to form an apex council – headed by the HRD ministry – to manage the 13 IIMs has understandably raised hackles among faculty and alumni. Such a move would deal a death blow to the IIMs' autonomy – a key reason for their success and reputation. Meanwhile, the government's quid pro quo – reconstituting the IIMs into national institutions empowered to award degrees – is farcical. The current practice of awarding diplomas has never hurt the IIMs. However, curbing their autonomy and throwing a government straitjacket over them certainly will.

If the apex council is constituted as proposed, there is a serious possibility of the IIMs heading the way of the IITs. The latter, envisioned as premier institutes for technical learning, have undergone a decline in standards today. Thanks to excessive government regulation – for everything from hiring faculty to structuring curriculae – the IITs have fallen far short of their true potential. As a result, none of the IITs figure in the top 100 of world university rankings. The lesson here is that autonomy is critical to the success of any institution of higher learning. Quality can only be maintained through competition, not government control. This is precisely why American universities are rated so highly and continue to produce path-breaking research. For the IIMs to remain at the top, their character must be preserved rather than killed through government interference. Besides, given the state of primary education in the country, the government should focus here rather than tinker with the few institutions that work and mess them up.

Financial Express ND 4/02/2013 P8

# Managing management

## IIMs right to fear more government control

**G**iven how the older IIMs appear to be functioning reasonably well and enjoy a good reputation among global business schools—in 2011, IIM Ahmedabad was 11th in the *Financial Times* list of top business schools—it's not quite clear what the government hopes to achieve by imposing a super-structure on top on the existing governing system of the IIMs. If the aim is to lift the new IIMs among the list of 13 that now exist, this cannot be at the cost of the reputation and excellence of the older IIMs. What's interesting is that the proposal for setting up a Council of Institutes that the government is now proposing was rejected by the IIMs four years ago.

Under the proposal, a Council of Institutes will be set up with the HRD minister as the ex-officio chairperson, the education minister of the state in which the IIM is located as a member, the secretary in charge of technical education will be an ex-officio member as will be the heads of the UGC and the AICTE, there will be 4 government nominees, apart from the chairperson and directors of each of the IIMs ... these people will, in turn, appoint more members. This Council is to coordinate the activities of the IIMs, whatever that might mean, and also be allowed to take up other issues that may be referred to it by the government. If this isn't enough for the older IIMs to feel threatened—they make their own courses right now, but this flexibility looks under threat—the proposal to have an IIM Senate as the principal academic body of each IIM adds to this threat. While the sweetener the government is offering is that the IIMs will now be able to offer 'degrees' instead of diplomas and their PhDs will be able to call themselves 'doctor' as opposed to being 'fellows', it's worth keeping in mind that the older IIMs have enough of a reputation for industry to lap up their 'diplomas'.



## INTERVIEW VED PRAKASH

## Excellence possible through autonomy

## HT Correspondent

■ letters@hindustantimes.com

Prof Ved Prakash was formally appointed as the chairman of the University Grants Commission (UGC) recently. He is a well known name in the field of education. He also officiated as the acting Chairman of UGC for nearly two years. He answers some questions on higher education in an interview with Pankaj Vohra. Some excerpts:

**What steps can be conceived for enhancement of inclusive and qualitative higher education?**

The three challenges of expansion, equity and excellence have to be addressed in an integrated perspective. Institutions need to be incentivised to increase their student intake capacity. Creation of new institutions on a large scale and allowing for a significant role for communities and private sector can meet this deficit. It is vital that this expansion is inclusive and in areas where institutional density is lower than the national average. There is also a need to evolve suitable modules of collaboration where public resources can be synergised with private philanthropy.



A key measure of inclusive expansion will require significant increase in vocational education through new polytechnics, community colleges. Diffusion of boundaries and distance learning can additionally provide better opportunities for expansion, equity and excellence.

**What structural reforms in higher education can mitigate our model of governance?**

There is a need to introduce more efficient and productive models of improving the governance system. Reducing the burden of affiliation system through amendment of Acts by the state universities is an important concern. Developing an overarching regulatory framework for effective coordination of regulatory agen-

cies is also the need of the hour. Exploring and setting up of meta-university concept can provide learners a flexi mode of education.

**How do we enhance excellence to improve our ranking among the top universities of the world?** Excellence in higher education is possible through greater autonomy coupled with higher and performance linked funding for universities that sustain excellence. It can also happen through enhancing skills and pedagogic awareness of teachers for improving instructional dynamics besides expanding and reforming faculty development initiatives and incentivising faculty and student mobility across institutions for cross fertilisation of ideas. There is also a possibility of enhancing technology-mediated teaching and expanding e-resource availability to students and teachers. Also, instituting awards to faculty for reflecting their achievements on global platforms.

**How can the research and innovation sector be strengthened?** It is an accepted fact that an essential mandate of the university sys-

tem is to teach and train high quality personnel who can face the challenging assignments of a dynamic society. Instituting curricular, pedagogical, assessment, research and organisational innovations can be an important intervention. Establishment of special incubation centres and research parks can provide a fillip to research and innovation. It will be relevant to provide special funding to research-intensive universities.

**How can internationalisation of higher education help to expand the frontiers of knowledge?** There is a need for clearer articulation of the concept of internationalisation of higher education. Providing greater autonomy to institutions to enter into collaborative partnerships with the best universities abroad can be an important initiative besides working out areas of collaboration and exchange programs. It would be relevant to design policy measures to attract foreign scholars to enroll in Indian universities. Augmenting the faculty with intellectual resources available outside the system in the form of professors can go a long way in meeting the need.

Times Of India ND 04/02/2013 P-15

# Huge asteroid to fly closest ever to Earth

Half The Size Of A Football Field, It Will Whiz Past Our Planet On Feb 15

'2 space rocks led to dino extinction'

Washington: In a close shave, an asteroid about half the size of a football field will miss Earth by 27,680 kilometres on February 15, the closest asteroid in recorded history to buzz past our planet, NASA scientists say. "This is a record-setting close approach," said Don Yeomans of NASA's near earth object programme at jet propulsion laboratory.

"Since regular sky surveys began in the 1990s, we've never seen an object this big get so close to Earth," Yeomans said. The asteroid dubbed 2012 DA14 is a fairly typical near-Earth



TOO CLOSE FOR COMFORT

© William Radcliffe/Science Faction/Corbis

asteroid. It measures some 50 metres wide, neither very large nor very small, and is probably made of stone, as opposed to metal or ice.

Yeomans estimated that an asteroid like 2012 DA14 flies past Earth, on average, every 40 years, yet actually strikes our planet only every 1,200 years or so. The impact of a 50m asteroid is not cataclysmic unless you happen to be underneath it, he said. He pointed out that a similar-sized object formed the mile wide Meteor Crater in Arizona when it struck about 50,000 years ago.

"That asteroid was made

of iron which made it an especially potent impactor," he said. Also, in 1908, something about the size of 2012 DA14 exploded in the atmosphere above Siberia, leveling hundreds of square miles of forest. "2012 DA14 will definitely not hit Earth. The orbit of the asteroid is known well enough to rule out an impact," he said.

Nasa radars will be monitoring the space rock as it approaches Earth closer than many man-made satellites. Yeomans said the asteroid will thread the gap between low-Earth orbit, where the ISS is located. ■

The space rock that slammed into Earth and wiped it clean of dinosaurs, around 65.5 million years ago, may have been a binary — two asteroids orbiting each other, according to a new study. The dino-killing asteroid is usually thought of as a single rock with a diameter of 7 to 10 kilometres, but it may really have been two widely separated rocks with that combined diameter, researchers said. The conclusion comes from a re-evaluation of the proportion of asteroid craters on Earth that were formed from binary impacts, New Scientist reported. ■

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04/02/2013

P-4  
**Govt to review  
university  
education  
system on Tue**

BY PRASHANT K. NANDA  
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NEW DELHI

Four years after the government revamped its central university system by bringing in several such new centres of higher learning to provide access with quality, there is little to show in outcomes and a concerned government is set to review its growth strategy.

President Pranab Mukherjee and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh will review the bottlenecks in infrastructure, research, curricula and teachers crunch on Tuesday, according to officials in the human resource development ministry and central universities.

"Both the high offices of Indian government may put in place a mechanism to improve their interface with the central universities," said an official of the HRD ministry, who declined to be named. "The quality of our current education system leaves much to be desired. During the 12th Plan (2012-17), the focus is on quality, the review meeting will dwell on it in detail."

There are 42 central universities in India, including 16 set up in 2009-10. All the new universities have poor infrastructure and don't have permanent campuses, the curricula is not contemporary and attracting the faculty is a challenge. As a result, they are not attracting sufficient number of students. Most of the new universities don't even have 1,000 students each and the faculty shortage is as high as 30-50%, official data show.

"None of the universities in India right now are in top 200 list of best universities in the world and this is a worrying point. The universities need to change their approach and become contemporary, from just learning to research and be industry-ready," said Abdul Wahid, vice-chancellor of the Central University of Kashmir.

As per the Times Higher Education Rankings 2012-13, published from the UK, the top ranked Indian institutions are IIT Kharagpur (234), IIT Bombay (258) and IIT Roorkee (267). The top ranked institutions as per the Quacquarelli Symonds System 2012 were IIT Delhi (212), IIT Bombay (227) and IIT Kanpur (278).

"Apart from the fact that none of the Indian institutions ranked are in the top 200, interestingly, no university finds a place in these rankings," according to an HRD ministry document. "In such a structure, quality enhancement can only be brought about by reducing the burden at the university level and giving greater autonomy and accountability."

Somnath Dasgupta, vice-chancellor of Assam University said the President is keen on improving interaction with universities. "Extending the reach of central universities is part of the agenda. Research and how to build society through it, too, will be discussed," he said.

Dasgupta said central universities in northeastern states have a problem of access and virtual learning in this context needs attention.

Wahid said that for new universities, operating from rented buildings is a key bottleneck and with both Singh and Mukherjee "taking stock of the situation, we can expect a better outcome". He said good information technology infrastructure, laboratory, library and handholding to make curricula relevant to the market are issues that need to be given attention and will be discussed in the meeting.

Economic Times , ND 4/02/2013 p-4

# Interpreting Your DNA Sequences, Safely & Cheaply

ANNE EISENBERG  
NEW YORK TIMES NEWS SERVICE

The price of sequencing a person's genome — putting in order all three billion base pairs of DNA in a set of human chromosomes — keeps dropping. But interpreting the billions of letters in a person's DNA blueprint for use in medicine, and keeping that highly personal information secure and anonymous, is still a complex task.

Over the past few years, the cost of mapping one person's genome has dropped to around \$6,000 from about \$250,000, and it is expected to go far lower. And, as genomic medicine quickly evolves, a powerful computer packed with software has arrived to interpret sequences privately within the walls of a lab, in contrast to systems that use distant servers. The software parses variants in DNA, looking for ones that may be important.

The appliance, made by a human-genome interpretation company called Knome, is the size of a file cabinet and costs \$125,000. Knome will begin shipping it in coming months to researchers investigating the genetic basis for cancer, rare diseases and drug response, said Jorge Conde, a co-founder of the company along with Dr. George M. Church, a geneticist and professor at Harvard Medical School.

For an additional, annual fee of \$25,000, users can buy technical support and regular updates of the software for the machine, called the knoSYSTEM100.

Because people can be identified by genetic data posted online, the privacy offered by the appliance, and its ability to discretely analyze data directly in a lab or office, may be an advantage. Lee Watkins Jr., director of bioinformatics at the Center for Inherited Disease Research at Johns Hopkins University, is considering buying one, in part for that reason. "You have control over it physically within your walls and logically within your network," he said. "Everyone's DNA is a very personal thing."

Dr. Peter L. Nagy, a director of the personalized genomic medicine laboratory at Columbia University, is considering ordering a Knome machine for use in a clinical setting. Such machines may broaden the reach of genomic medicine, particularly in smaller labs. "Normally you need a slew of people to maintain a center to process this data," said Dr. Nagy, who is also an assistant professor of pathology and cell biology. "Basical-

## Genome Machine

- The machine tackles a tedious, intensive task, searching for points of difference between a person's genome and the standard, or "reference," genome

There may be hundreds of thousands of variants — or far more — that we find in the person that are different from the reference genome

- The machine's algorithms examine these differences based on the investigator's search criteria, looking for medically relevant ones

But such a machine would still need a person steeped in molecular biology and genetics to sift through the data

ly this machine removes the need to maintain an expensive computational facility and a group of people who make sure the operating system is working and keep the reference data up to date." And the appliance doesn't tax Internet connections, he added.

The machine takes raw data from sequencers at Illumina, Complete Genomics and other DNA sequencing companies, which can be downloaded onto a hard disk. Then the machine's software can analyze the data, selecting a list of potentially noteworthy items.

If he had the machine, Dr. Nagy said, he would go carefully through this list. "We have to validate the items, confirming or rejecting the interpretations," he said.

He would use the machine for cancer genetics, looking for specific disruptions that are driving a tumor, and in evaluating diseases that run in families.

The machine tackles a tedious, intensive task, searching for points of difference between a person's genome and the standard, or "reference," genome.