

Newspaper Clips

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NBT, New Delhi

बड़ा कदम

आईआईटी दिल्ली ने तैयार किया देश के पहले बायोडिग्रेडबल स्टेंट का डिजाइन

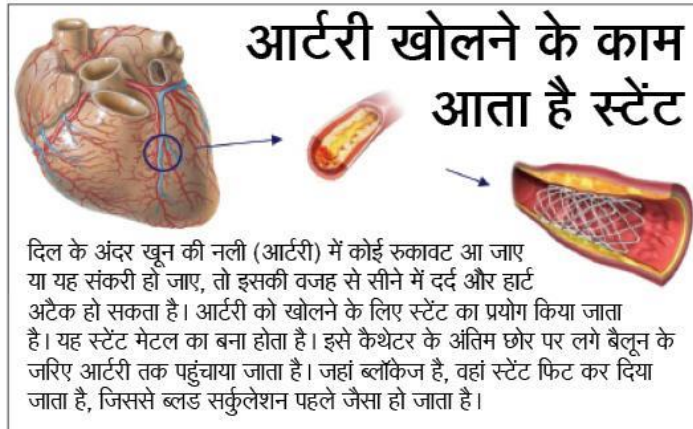
देसी स्टेंट से दिल का सस्ता होगा इलाज

■ राहुल आनंद, नई दिल्ली

भारत में दिल के मरीजों के लिए सस्ते इलाज की उम्मीद बढ़ी है। इलाज के दौरान काम आने वाले उपकरण स्टेंट का सस्ता डिजाइन आईआईटी दिल्ली ने तैयार किया है। फिलहाल दुनिया में केवल एक कंपनी यह स्टेंट बनाती है, जिसकी कीमत भारत में 1 लाख 75 हजार रुपये है। देसी स्टेंट को बाजार में आने में करीब 2 साल लग सकते हैं।

आईआईटी की ओर से तैयार स्टेंट बायोडिग्रेडेबल (शरीर में अपने आप घुल जाने वाला) होगा। इसका अभी आईआईटी में ही मैनुफैक्चरिंग ट्रायल चल रहा है। जल्द ही इसे एनिमल ट्रायल के लिए लैटिन अमेरिका या जर्मनी भेजा जाएगा। आईआईटी ने डिजाइन को पेटेंट कराने के लिए आवेदन कर दिया है।

इस डिजाइन को तैयार करने वाले आईआईटी के मैकेनिकल इंजीनियरिंग



डिपार्टमेंट के प्रोफेसर नरेश भटनागर ने कहा कि यह शरीर में नसों की जरूरत के अनुसार ही फैलता है। इसमें पॉलीमर का इस्तेमाल किया गया है, जिससे यह ज्यादा टिकाऊ होगा। डिजाइन तैयार करते समय इसका खिंचाव न्यूनतम और मजबूती अधिकतम

रखने की कोशिश की गई।

स्टेंट बनाने के लिए लेजर कटिंग विदेश से करवानी पड़ी। लेकिन देश में कटिंग शुरू कराने के लिए साइंस एंड टेक्नॉलजी मिनिस्ट्री के डिपार्टमेंट ऑफ बायोटेक्नॉलजी और काउंसिल ऑफ साइंटिफिक एंड इंडस्ट्रियल

क्या होगा फायदा

शरीर में लगाने के 6 से 9 महीने में अपने आप गलने लगेगा और दो साल के अंदर पूरी तरह खत्म हो जाएगा। अभी तक लगाया जाने वाला मेटल स्टेंट पूरी जिंदगी शरीर में रहता है। मेटल स्टेंट लगा होने पर दोबारा उसी जगह स्टेंट लगाने की जरूरत पड़े, तो बाई पास सर्जरी करनी पड़ती है। अब ऐसा नहीं होगा।

रिसर्च (सीएसआईआर) को प्रस्ताव भेजा गया है, जिसके मंजूर होने पर स्टेंट आईआईटी कैंपस में ही बनाया जा सकेगा। गंगाराम अस्पताल के हार्ट स्पेशलिस्ट डॉ. सुजॉय साद ने कहा कि आईआईटी ने हाई क्वालिटी रिसर्च कर इस डिजाइन को तैयार किया है, जो बेहतर और सस्ता साबित होगा।

HT.Com ND 01/01/2014 P-6

IIT Delhi moots an Endowment Fund for research, faculty

Vanita Srivastava

In what could be a new trend in high-end professional education in the country, the Indian Institute Technology-Delhi (IITD) has proposed to create an Endowment pool with support from its alumni to fund world-class faculty development and to finance its research students for international exposure.

This kind of endowment fund is probably being created for the first time by an IIT.

IIT-D Director Prof RK Shevgaonkar said, "We require repositioning of our institute in order to make it world-class research institute and for that institute has taken several innovative measures and to take it forward

THE NEW ENDOWMENT FUND WOULD HELP IIT-DELHI BY WAY OF TRANSLATING INTO GREATER RESEARCH ACTIVITIES, MORE PATENTS AND INNOVATIONS FOR THE STUDENTS

role of the alumni is critical."

The first-ever alumni meet of IIT Delhi was held at institute premises on Sunday.

"The institute is committed to work on three critical areas including faculty, infrastructure development and funding to catapult IIT D into a new league," Prof

Shevgaonkar said.

"There has been a great response to the fund. IIT Delhi is looking forward to finalise the framework of the fund over the next 12 months. A large number of alumni have excelled in the corporate, business, government, and education fields and they want to give back to the institute as well as to the society," Pravin Purang, President, IIT Delhi Alumni Association said.

Maintaining that the fund would help IIT Delhi translate into greater research activities, more patents and innovations, Ejaz Hooda, Joint Secretary, IIT Delhi Alumni Association said: "The fund will also help in getting the best of the faculty."



■ Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi FILE

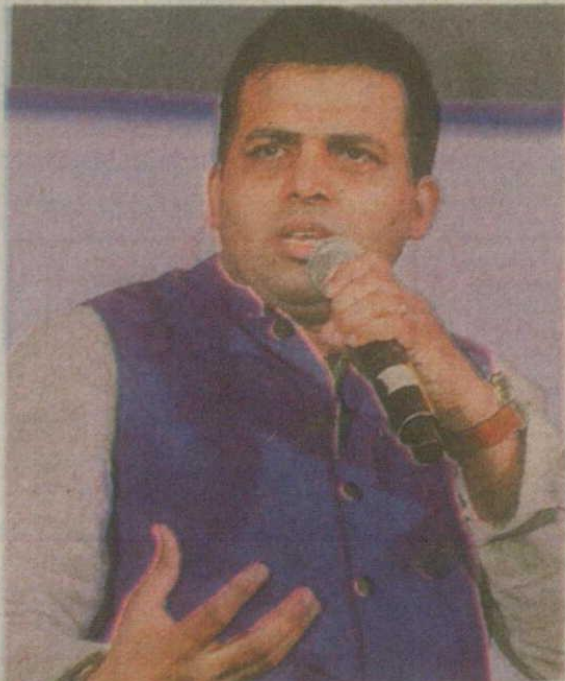
Times of India 01/01/2014 P-3

IIT-Delhi reunited

The first IIT-Delhi alumni meet hosted on the campus premises was an event replete with fun, dance, comedy and some serious discussions. While the morning was reserved for panel discussions, the evening saw a stand-up comedy act from IIT-Delhi alumnus **Amit Tandon**, and a performance by singer **Aditi Singh Sharma**. Amit had the audience in splits when he introduced himself, saying, "This is Amit Tandon produced by mother, directed by wife." We caught up with him after the show, and he told us, "It feels nice to be here. I had entered this hall for my counselling and today I am on their stage."

Amit's performance was followed by Aditi's. She sang a medley of old and new songs, and got the audience grooving. She thanked the IITians, and said, "This is our last show of 2013 and we couldn't have asked for a better audience. Thank you IIT." **Ashok Kumar**, secretary, IIT-Delhi alumni association, told us, "It was IIT-D director Prof RK Shevgaonkar's idea to host this alumni meet for all the students who have passed out in the last 52 years. Now we will host this alumni meet on the last Sunday of every year. Students from as far as the US have also come for it."

Saloni Bhatia



Amit Tandon



Ashok Kumar



Pravin Purang,
president, IIT-D alumni
association

Hindustan Times ND 01/01/2014 P-22

IIT Delhi falls back on alumni support

HT Education Correspondent

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Here's alumni power at its best. In what could spell a new trend in high-end professional education in the country, Indian Institute Technology-Delhi proposes to create a unique endowment pool with support from its alumni to fund world-class faculty development and to finance its research students for international exposure.

The IIT-D director has called upon alumni in the industry to engage in developing a 21st century modern curriculum which is in sync with the dynamically changing professional landscape. The institute is also setting up a Centre for Cyber Security at Delhi and a Science and Technology Park at its Sonipat campus.

Delivering the keynote address at its first-ever alumni meet at institute premises recently, IIT-D director, Professor RK Shevgaonkar said, "We require repositioning of our institute in order to make it a world-class research institute. The institute has taken several innovative measures and to take it forward the role of the alumni is critical."

Prof Shevgaonkar said the institute was committed to work on three critical areas, including faculty, infrastructure development and funding to catapult IIT-D into a new league.

"Everything is online and control is remote. It was felt that IIT D is the most suitable to have a capacity building for cyber security in the country. The centre, which is to start in the next session, will also undertake cutting-edge research in this field," he said.

Pioneer ND 01/01/2014 P-11



Puneet Kumar Goel, an IAS officer of 1991 batch (AGMU Cadre) has taken over as Chairman and Managing Director of Delhi Transco Limited. He has joined in place of Shri R K Verma.

Born on 3rd August 1966, Dr Goel has done PhD in Renewable Energy and M Tech in Power System Engineering both from IIT Delhi. Dr Goel has also done his MBA in Finance. Besides, he has earned Post Graduation in Computer Networking from USA. He is a B Tech from IIT Kanpur.

A very dynamic and result oriented Dr Goel has held many challenging and prestigious posting during his illustrious administrative career. He has served in Andaman and Nicobar, Goa, Arunachal Pradesh and NCT of Delhi as Secretary Power.

Electronic cane to support visually challenged

G.V. Prasada Sarma

The cane developed by the VACSS is easy to use and costs a maximum of Rs. 2,500

In a smart world man has a number of gadgets to make his work and life comfortable and communicate faster. But for the visually challenged poor, it is still a cane that helps him/her find way. With increasing population and traffic and spaces becoming more crowded, its use is becoming difficult.

To help overcome the handicap, the Vision Aid Charitable Services Society (VACSS) here has come out with an electronic cane.

The cane measuring 20 inches is made of UPVC. It comprises a sensor with transmitter and receiver at the lower-end, a vibrator close to the grip and works on a rechargeable battery.

Beeps and vibrations

When the user switches it on, it emits broken beeps and vibration when the object/obstacle is in the vicinity and continuous beep when closer. The beep is to alert the other people about the presence of a visually challenged person and the vibration alerts the user about the objects in the path.

“The range is about 1.5 metres. Anything longer is likely to be counterproductive and if it is too short may lead to collision,” explains M.S. Raju, president of VACSS.

Quoting World Health Organisation statistics, Mr. Raju, an IITian from Kharagpur and former executive chairman of the Stone Telecom, says while about two crore people have visual impairment in the country, the highest in the world, half of them cannot see at all.

About 20 lakh have to move about to lead their life. For them there has not been any improvement over the white cane for a long time now, he observes.

Mr. Raju says the electronic cane being produced in the other countries is either expensive or the research is incomplete.

In the country, IIT, Delhi and Kharagpur, have developed prototypes with more sensors and analogue system where the users are alerted through earphones. However, it cuts off the user from the environment, he points out. They are costlier, longer and heavier, he says.

The cane developed by the VACSS is easy to use and costs a maximum of Rs.2,500.

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- *The cane measuring 20 inches is made of UPVC*
 - *It comprises a sensor with transmitter and receiver at the lower-end, a vibrator close to the grip and works on a rechargeable battery*
-

The cane developed by the VACSS is easy-to-use and costs a maximum of Rs. 2,500

Printable version | Jan 1, 2014 2:22:16 PM | <http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-andhrapradesh/electronic-cane-to-support-visually-challenged/article5525289.ece>

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HT Kolkata

GREAT FEAT: HOSTING 100TH INDIAN SCIENCE CONGRESS

Kolkata hosted the centenary session of the Indian Science Congress — often called the 'Parliament of Science' — in January. President Pranab Mukherjee inaugurated the event in the presence of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. Around 12,000 eminent scientists from 20 countries, including six Nobel laureates, attended the five-day session. The first Indian Science Congress was convened at Kolkata's Asiatic Society in 1914 where eminent educationist Sir Asutosh Mookerjee delivered the presidential lecture. The centenary session also served as a platform for building a coalition of all stakeholders of science and society to pave a new path of progress for India in the emerging global knowledge economy. Some of the major constituents of the centenary session were Children's Science Congress, Women's Science Congress and Pride of India Expo. The 101st session will be hosted by Jammu in January 2014.



Hindustan Times ND 01/01/2014 P-23

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SPRING FEST AT IIT KHARAGPUR

NEW DELHI: Spring Fest, an annual social and cultural festival of IIT Kharagpur, is currently in its 55th edition, scheduled from January 23 to January 26, 2014. With a plethora of more than 80 events covering seven genres, Spring Fest offers students a platform to showcase their versatile talent and competitive spirit. The last edition, Spring Fest 2013, saw

a footfall of over 30,000 people and participation from over 150 colleges. Spring Fest organises three nationwide events — Wildfire, the rockband competition (Mumbai, Bangalore, Guwahati, Delhi and Kolkata), Nukkad — the street play competition (Bhopal, Chandigarh, Delhi, Kharagpur, Lucknow, Nagpur, Pune) and Shuffle — street dance competition.

IIM-B Professor in Elite League of Psychologists

When we are asked to take a decision without the necessary information, what do we do? This is where psychological scientist Ramadhar Singh comes in. He has demonstrated how people take decisions by inferring the missing information.



When we are asked to take a decision without the necessary information, what do we do? This is where psychological scientist Ramadhar Singh comes in. He has demonstrated how people take decisions by inferring the missing information.

Prof Singh, a distinguished professor at the Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore, is the only Indian to be on the list of the United States-based Association for Psychological Science (APS) and The Faces and Minds of Psychological Science, a list of leading researchers in psychology.

“This is my most important work of all the areas of research I have forayed into,” Prof Singh told Express.

“We often take decisions even when there’s not enough information. The processes and rules people followed to make such decisions can be determined by the missing information. Instead of determining the information given from what was missing, I went reverse by identifying the missing information from what was given.”

Prof Singh wrote on ‘Inferring Missing Information’ in the ‘I’m a Psychological Scientist’ series contest.

“Take donation, for example. If a person is very generous, it is inferred that he has a lot of money. But the inference won’t work vice-versa. Income and ability are considered as capability, while generosity and motivation are temporary energizing factors. Our people believe they can change ability by being nicer. What I have done is a meta-cognitive analysis,” he explained.

According to the APS, “Prof Singh’s work identifying asymmetrical inferences has helped social and cross-cultural psychologists understand and investigate how people judge morality and achievement of others even without the needed information.”

Prof Singh said he is proud that psychological research from India has been recognised. “To be a part of some of the biggest names in psychology has made me very happy,” he said. After his PhD from Purdue University in 1973, Prof Singh returned to India. “Then, people said nothing could be done here. But I always believed India has more potential than anywhere.”

He worked on “Inferring missing information,” from 1975 to 1991, when it was published first as a chapter. His biggest challenge, he said, “was to sit on one problem for more than 15 years.” When asked for his assessment of psychology education in the country, Prof Singh lamented by saying it needs a revamp.

“We have to ensure we don’t recognise a person unless they deserve recognition. The PhD Selection Committees need improvement in the quality of selection of PhD scholars,” he said.

“Psychology is a great science that needs to be enjoyed,” is his dictum to young students. He said the recognition he has achieved is because of the IIM-B’s decision to have him onboard in July 2010.

Know Ramadhar Singh

After his BA and MA from Bihar University, Prof Singh went to Purdue University in 1972 for an MS in Social Psychology, in which he also received his PhD. He has taught at Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, IIM Ahmedabad and National University of Singapore. “I got some of my ideas from the bright students I taught. I was brought to IIM-B to bring it global recognition. I am happy I have been able to do that,” he said.

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DNA

Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay '88 alumni take small step to pay back gurus

The Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay's (IIT-B) class of 1988, on the occasion of its silver jubilee reunion on Sunday, adopted three key projects in the institute and pledged Rs2 crore towards it. The batch will fund three existing initiatives as part of its Legacy Project — a project adopted by the batch celebrating its silver jubilee anniversary — for the betterment of the institute and of the people associated with it. "We felt that it is important to support the retired faculty members, who have played a great role in shaping many careers, as well as to attract talented young minds to take up teaching at IIT Bombay. Hence, we have decided to contribute towards the existing projects that are supporting the same goal," said Kiran Shesh from the batch.

The three projects include – Retired Faculty Wellness Fund, Financial Aid Program for Students and Young Faculty Award or New Faculty Sign-on Bonuses and Faculty Development Fund.

The announcement was made on the occasion of the institute's annual alumni day celebration.

The institute also bestowed the Distinguished Service Awards to six of its alumni for its achievements and contribution towards the institute. This year's recipients were Dhananjay Saheba, Sameer Katdare, Ruyintan Mehta, Ajay Bhagwat, Amol Gokhale and Paresh Vora.

The institute also unveiled its plan for the near future. Devang Khakhar, director, IIT-B, in his address said, "We are planning to set up a National Centre for Mathematics in collaboration with Tata Institute of Fundamental Research. New hostels and residential facilities are also in the pipeline. The work to establish a Technology Park at IIT Bombay will commence from early next year."

Business Line ND 01/01/2014 P-15

B-schools to oppose UGC bid to curb autonomy

Indo-Asian News Service
New Delhi, Dec. 31

Leading business schools are likely to oppose a move of the UGC to affiliate them with State-run universities, which will curtail their autonomy, a delegation of management institutions has said.

Deans and chairmen of B-schools offering post-graduate diploma in management (PGDM), described the December 23 University Grants Commission (UGC) proposal as retrograde, similar to the December 2010 notification issued by All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), which was suspended by the Supreme Court.



Uncertain fate: Students attend counselling for an MBA course at the Government College of Technology in Coimbatore in this file photo.

A delegation of the Education Promotion Society for India (EPSI), an apex organisation representing more than 500 management institutions in India, will be

meeting Union Human Resource Development Minister M.M. Pallam Raju and UGC Chairman Ved Prakash.

The delegation, comprising chairmen and deans of B-schools, will appraise them about the collective stand taken by 300 PGDM institutions to protect an autonomy they have exercised for more than 50 years, according to an EPSI press release.

They said the UGC move, if implemented, is likely to halt the current momentum in management education, as an inevitable result of rigid controls similar to those imposed on State universities.

These universities known to

be mired in red tape, lethargy and corruption, have little affinity with innovation and professionalism which is a sine-qua-non for business education, the press release added.

The Association of Indian Management Schools (AIMS) and Indian Association of Autonomous Business Schools (IAABS), two other apex bodies representing management institutions, have seconded the stand.

EPSI, AIMS and Jaipuria Group of Institutions had filed three petitions in February 2011 against the AICTE 2010 notification. The matter is pending before the Supreme Court.

INDIA INC WANTS YOU!

CAMPUS PLACEMENTS 2014 Start-ups set to hunt for young talent and hirers ready to pick social sciences students



CAMPUS TO CAREERS

Gauri Kohli

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This New Year promises to ring in optimism for college students in the Capital as far as campus placements are concerned. Predictions by recruitment experts and human resource consultancies suggest that campus recruitments may gain momentum in 2014 despite the economic slowdown, making way for some new hiring trends.

"With the world looking at India, the job scenario is likely to improve. Recruiters visit colleges for two reasons - they get young, bright minds who are ready to learn and they get employees who are highly trainable and more performance driven. Companies get cost benefits too," says Seema Mehra Parihar, founder chairperson, Central Placement Cell, Delhi University.

CAMPUS HIRING UPBEAT

Hiring trends in 2013 indicated that despite the slowdown, India Inc was strong on campus placements. As per a campus study conducted by Aon Hewitt, the global human resource consulting and outsourcing firm, the economic slowdown did not deter employers from actively pursuing candidates through on-

campus recruiting programmes. Mainstay sectors such as consumer durables, engineering/manufacturing, and automobiles reported a stable outlook with a majority reporting no change in hiring plans.

The study findings revealed a steady flow of pre-placement offers and interviews (PPIs and PPOs). In a year where concern about final placements was high, the PPOs and PPIs offered at campuses gave some respite with many organisations using it as a strategy to spot and retain talent ahead of the placement season. Besides compensation, more and more organisations were looking at providing accelerated development, roles that offered varied experience and flexible work arrangements to campus hires.

POSITIVES FOR GRADS

Another key trend in 2014 will be the presence of entrepreneurial ventures on campuses. "Besides the established players, a number of start-ups are expected to come for placements. These are youth-driven ventures which look at inducting fresh minds just like their founders," adds Parihar.

According to Rihan Khan Suri, university placement officer at Jamia Millia Islamia, "While most of the big companies have squeezed their numbers, middle-level companies and start-ups are expecting to get good talent from the good campuses."

"We have increased our reach among alumni and past recruiters and are focussing on emerging areas and companies. We are look-

ing for more international placements this year. Also, increasing industry interaction by inviting professionals for more student interactions, industrial visits, greater students' participation in various national and international competitions, pre-placement camps, and industry mentorship programmes are some ways through which we plan to boost our placement drive. More than 30 companies have offered placements to more than 124 students till date," adds Suri.

What's also excellent news for students from arts background is that many of them from the social sciences and humanities and allied areas are being welcomed by recruiters. "Supporting jobs are coming for them and they are doing equally well. Recently, Japanese company OJI Holdings recruited an MA economics student at an annual salary package of ₹18 lakh," says Suri.

Delhi University is also hopeful of a similar trend. "The meaning of participatory development has changed for many companies as they are emphasising on CSR activities. They are looking to hire students from the social sciences and research. They are willing to give higher packages to students from sociology, social work, international relations and political science," says Parihar.



THINKSTOCK

Around one billion people across the world are connected and have been learning through the MOOC (Massive Open Online Courses) platforms that consists of 1,000 interesting courses from the top universities and institutes like Harvard and MIT. MOOC which was introduced in 2011 saw a great hype in India since 2012, where people from across all the backgrounds, be it unemployed or employed, Class XII pass or a degree graduate, enrolled themselves and got the privilege to study courses which are not available in India.

MOOC platforms like Edx, Coursera, Udacity, Edukart, Futur learning are some of the platforms that have tied-up with the universities to make education available for all and affordable for them too. All it requires is an internet connection to enroll for a course, video conferencing with the professor, get connected to your peer group of the same course and discuss issues.

"MOOC is the biggest revolutionary change in the present education scenario. Irrespective of geographical and economical barriers, people can pursue their interest of course offered by the best of universities in the world. Almost all the courses are free of cost but some are chargeable for tutoring and assessment tests. Students can interact with the teachers and students of the course and discuss their views and problems. Thus it provides a complete blend of learning," says Chetan Mahajan, head, HCL Learnings.

Courses like Biology and Life Sciences, Business and Management, Computer Science, Economics and Finance, Education, Electrical and Materials Engineering, Food and Nutrition, Health and Society and Media Ethics, History, Humanities, Information technology and Design, Law, Mathematics, Medicine, Music, Film — you name it and its all there.

When we talk about MOOC platforms like Coursera, Edukart, Futurelearn, Udacity and edX etc, all of them are different and have something to offer for everyone. From different courses in varied language, different teaching and learning modules, deadline for the completion of the course, assessment etc MOOC has something for all. In Coursera, a certificate is provided which includes secure assessments, employee recruitment, applicant screening, human tutoring or assignment marking etc.

The enterprise pays to run their own training courses and also includes sponsorships and tuition fees. Udacity also provides certification. Employers pay to recruit talented students. Student resumes and job match services are also there.

Road to online education

The much criticised Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC) learning has revolutionised the education sector and the system is going to grow manifold in 2014. SANGEETA YADAV tells you how MOOC has been the biggest gainer in 2013 with as many as one billion users

There are sponsored high-tech skills courses. Edukart is a franchise network and the courses fees are taken directly from enrolled students. There are companies who pay for employees' training and colleges paying for students training.

MOOC is gaining importance at offices and colleges. Where professors are constantly encouraging their employees and students to undergo MOOC courses that will not only enhance their skills and training but will also provide them with an opportunity to reach their maximum potential in the workplace and progress in life.

"A lot of things can be done to fully utilise the MOOC profitably. People can register for courses related to their work and are offered by renowned universities for continued learning. Corporates and colleges have tied up with the university to sponsor a course that is relevant to their employees. Certification holds a lot of value at the work field," Rakshit Kejriwal, co-founder of Smarton Learning solutions tells you.

"Education systems have become very complex with the regulatory regime, infrastructure requirements, class schedules etc., hence, it can't serve the purpose of a learner who wants to learn a specific skill in a certain time frame. MOOC presents an educational structure that is primarily about learning, and not degree or certification. For example, Sunstone MOOC has seen many housewives joining the courses to enhance their skills, government employees learning business skills, engineers learning basic finance, so on and so forth.

With growing numbers every day, the community of learners is getting stronger and it is running parallel to the existing education systems," says Rajul Garg, director, Sunstone Business School

which also runs MOOC open courses in management and has enrolled more than 15,000 professionals in 2013.

Around 50 per cent of the enrollment are done from smaller cities and towns. Though MOOC is a boon to empower people to be aware and get educated at any age and time, but there are certain challenges one must be aware of while pursuing MOOC.

A recent report by the University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education revealed that out of the 1 million MOOC enrollees, on average only half of those who registered for a course ever viewed a lecture, and only about 4 percent completed the courses. Another challenge is time difference for video seminars or conference with the professor. "Sometimes, people couldn't complete the course on time and they have to start from the scratch. If students don't put in right effort and get proper guidelines, they will not see results. The video conferencing timings is another challenge," Ragini Vasishtha, a PR executive at 2020msl tells you.



Financial Chronicle ND 01/01/2014 P-1

Today, India steps out of its comfort zone

As individual beliefs and ideologies assert themselves, aspiration often finds itself treading a road less taken



JEMIMA RAMAN
New Delhi

THAT aspirations kept India on its toes, turning its economy around when much of the world hit a plateau, is nothing new. It is one reason why companies — like the world's biggest champagne house and part of French multinational luxury goods conglomerate Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton that started producing here

recently—chase India head on despite the lag in the market, cashing in on its fizz.

But what's definitely new is that the aspirations of Indians have taken on bolder hues and refuse to be bound by tradition. Easy money, which would



satisfy materialistic aspirations, are increasingly being given a skip over individual beliefs and ideologies that often require treading the road less taken. And this growing band of believers is prepared to rough it.

Case in point is Ritika Singh,

who moved cities — from Kolkata to Delhi — chasing her dreams. Singh, whose voice is not something that one could fit in the conventional mould, aspired to be a singer. Had she been born in the times when aspirations stood at the wings, waiting for perfection, gazing longingly at the star on stage, she

would still be in Kolkata. As things went, Singh stood in the good company of dream shapers. She found fellow band-mates who thrilled in her freak-folkish voice. Thus was born Space, a three-act band that — much like the aspirations today — sets its own rules. But still, being a singer was until quite recently a part time occupation for Singh, something she indulged in during the weekends, while doing nine-to-five to pay her rent.

"To say it's a struggle to make ends meet now is actually an understatement. But I thought if I don't do it now, I'd never get around to doing this. If things don't pan out, I could always say I tried," says Singh.

That she gave up her regular income says a lot about the turn of tide when it comes to aspirations these days. "But it's a niche, we are talking about," says Pankaj Mullick, who also gave up his job in a reputed media house in last March after almost two decades to start Art Collide, a platform to share, discuss, incubate and create collaborations involving multiple disciplines of art.

Society at large is still insisting that its sons and daughters travel the time-tested route — that of an engineer or a doctor. The moment Ashish Yadav, who hails from a non-descript village in the hinterlands of Haryana, Narnaul, was recognised as a prodigy of sorts, his society and family zeroed in on a doctor or an engineer for him.

But when it came to dreaming, even sky was not the limit for this 19-year-old: he wanted to become an astronaut. Only, Narnaul, not used to the likes of Yadav, laughed. So he went through the rigmarole. He appeared for pre-medical examination last year and was ranked 37th in India. To be sure, he had also appeared for IIT entrance exam and got an all-India rank of 112. But he also did not lose sight of his dream.

Turn to P10

Writers from IIT Delhi

[Avinash Pothu](#) | [December 31, 2013](#)

http://www.toptalent.in/blog/2013/12/31/writers_from_iit_delhi/

One book on three screwed up IITans changed the entire landscape of semi fictional writing in India. It fueled a market for short, accessible and affordable one time reads which gradually extended to other formats. More than his books, Chetan Bhagat is often lauded for starting a new age revolution which is making young India read like never before.

9 years after the launch of five point someone, we see more IITians and management graduates coming into writing. As interesting it might seem, even within the breed of IIT-IIM writers, we increasingly find writers from one particular college IIT Delhi and most of them not surprisingly are into love stories.

Chetan Bhagat:



He is the man of the masses. With all his novels becoming best sellers in India, Chetan slowly diversified from writing love stories for the singles to becoming a screenplay writer, columnist and public speaker. He is all set with two films based on his books and a novel next year. He also has his own fan merchandise.

Harsh Snehanshu:



Travel writing is an intriguing space in this cubicle struck urban world and that is where Harsh is heading to. Harsh published his first two book while at college and has written two more novels since. A highly self-critical writer, Harsh also tried his hand in entrepreneurship only to return back to write a novel on it. Harsh is all set to reach one lakh sales for his books.

Parul Mittal:



Parul A. Mittal is the author of a national bestseller novel “Heartbreaks & Dreams! – The Girls @ IIT” and “Arranged Love.” An Electrical engineer from IIT D, Parul worked for twelve years in the corporate world before venturing into writing. She also co-founded an e-venture Rivokids – which offers smart parenting ideas and free online memory books.

S. V. Divvaakar:



S. V. Divvaakar is a Managing Partner at Ace Global Consulting LLP and proper corporate turned writer. He served as the director at multiple companies in the past and is a Fellow at the Indicus Centre for Financial Inclusion. He wrote two books till date “The Winner’s Price: Life Beyond The Campus” and “Beaten by Bhagat.” His interests apart from writing include music, travel and public speaking. Co-incidentally, he stayed at the same hostel room which Chetan Bhagat occupied a few years later.

Anirban Mukherjee:



Anirban Mukherjee is an alumnus of IIT Delhi and IIM Kolkata. He made his debut with “Love-Bites!”. His recent one “Love, a rather bad idea” is a portrait of love based on his experiences at IIT and IIM.

Tushar Raheja:



Tushar Raheja, a doctoral candidate at IIT Delhi published his first book right after graduation. His flair for writing resulted in two books “Anything for you, Ma’am” and “Romi and Gang” both of which are acclaimed by critics and readers alike. Tushar balances his work between writing and his research on Nash Equilibrium.

IIT-Bhubaneswar to promote research in probiotics

The memorandum of understanding between IIT-B and the Minneapolis-based DDF was signed at the weekend to carry out research and development in the field of probiotics and pharmaceutical products, DDF statement said.

Probiotics are organisms such as bacteria or yeast that are believed to improve health.

According to the pact DDF will sponsor the setting up of "SK Dash center of excellence of bio-sciences and engineering and technology" at the IIT-Bhubaneswar, it said.

Chairman of the DDF SK Dash, is considered to be the pioneer in the field of probiotics globally.

Mathematical modelling meet at IIT-Kanpur

TNN | Jan 1, 2014, 10.47 AM IST

KANPUR: An conference on mathematical modelling and computer simulating with applications was held at IIT-K on Tuesday. The conference was held under the aegis of Indian Society of Mathematical Modelling and Computer Simulation (ISMMAACS).

ISMMAACS general secretary Prawal Sinha welcomed the guests. The conference began with Ganesh and Saraswati Vandana. IIT-K director Indranil Manna spoke at length about the utility of the mathematical modelling. As chief guest, he talked about creating models that would end the problems. He urged the engineers and scientists to find solutions to the real world problems.

The organisers of the conference thanked National Board for Higher Mathematics and department of science and technology. ISMMAACS founder president JB Shukla delivered the plenary talk titled 'Mathematical modeling: What it has to do with the infectious diseases'.

As many as 20 scientist from all over the country and abroad and around 50 research scholars from across the country participated in the conference. tnn