Newspaper Clips

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HT Lucknow

LU'S 56TH CONVOCATION

Only 1% students in varsities pursuing research: Ansari

MATTER OF CONCERN India spends only 1.2% of GDP on higher education, which is much less than other big developing countries, says vice-president

HT Correspondent
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LUCKNOW: Expressing concern over the lack of focus on research work in universities, vice-president M Hamid Ansari on Thursday said that only 1% of the enrolled students were pursuing research, which according to him, was a "disturbing phenomenon".

According to him, in 2009 India stood 11th in terms of the number of papers published, 17th in terms of the number of citations, and 34th in terms of the number of citations per paper. "Our contribution to the world's scientific publications was a mere 3.5% as compared to 21% from China," he said while speaking on 'The challenge in higher education' during the 56th annual convocation of Lucknow University.

"As a result, there have been fewer patents. The total number of patent applications filed by Indians in 2010 comprised only 0.3% of the total applications filed globally. The picture is no better in social sciences and humanities. In social sciences, India is ranked 12th with 1.18% of global publication share compared to China's third rank with 5.14% share," he emphasised.

Ansari was concerned over budgetary allocations to higher education and research incentives. "We spend only around 1.2% of the GDP on higher education, which is much less than other big developing countries such as Brazil and China. The use of technology in higher education remains limited and standards of research and teaching in our universities are below international standards with no Indian university finding a place in the top 200 rankings of institutions globally," he said.

PROBLEM DIAGNOSED

In its recent report, the Parliament's Standing Committee on human resource development sought to diagnose the problem. "It observed that traditional universities in our country are so overburdened with imparting undergraduate and postgraduate education and managing the affiliation system that they are not able to focus on research," he said.

POOR ENROLMENT OF DALITS

Despite India having the third-largest higher education system in the world (652 universities and 33,000 colleges), enrolment of dalits and minorities in higher education was still low.

He said, "The disadvantaged sections of the society, including SCs/STs, minorities and women have significantly lower enrolments than the national average. Less than one-fifth of the estimated 120 million potential students are enrolled in higher education institutions, which is well below the world average of 26%."

DIG AT TEACHERS

He said, "On their part, teachers cannot be absolved of their responsibility. While the condition of university teachers have improved considerably in recent years, the same cannot be said about the quality and quantity of their inputs in teaching and research."

Reports of absenteeism make disturbing reading. Performance appraisal is lacking or inadequate and parochialism and inbreeding have added to a noticeable decline in the esteem in which teachers were earlier held.

In many universities, particularly those funded by state governments, budgetary shortfalls lead to faculty positions deliberately being kept vacant, he said.

Vice-president M Hamid Ansari (centre) felicitating a student during the Lucknow University's annual convocation on Thursday. Also seen in the picture (from right) Dr RA Mashelkar, former director-general, CSIR, CM Akhilesh Yadav, Governor BL Joshi and LU VC SB Nimse.
ASHOK DUTTA/HT PHOTOS

'GOLDEN MOMENTS' FOR THE ACHIEVERS

Motivated by vice-president M Hamid Ansari and inspired by Padma Vibhushan Prof RA Mashelkar, medal winners and graduating students of Lucknow University are determined to take up quality research work. Their aim: create new knowledge and contribute to the general pool of information.

Roma Dubey, 23, who was feted with the Chancellor's Gold Medal for being the best student in all the faculties, said that she is determined to pursue PhD in Economics at some point of time. An economics honours from LU with 71.92% marks in 2011, Roma did her Master's in business economics and secured 85.89% in the 2013 examination.

Currently working with a private sector bank, she also aspires to crack the civil services examination. "I love reading books and travelling. Robin Sharma and Geeta Piramal are my favourite authors. The credit for this achievement goes to my teachers and my parents," Roma told HT.

Medal winners and graduates jubilate.

Srivastava told HT that she was keen to do PhD in criminal law. She is also preparing for civil and judicial services examinations.

Shipra Mishra, who bagged the Chancellor's Silver Medal for the best student of all the faculties of post-graduate classes, wants to become an entrepreneur so that employment avenues could be created for UPites.

Nupur Agarwal, who post-graduated from LU, received 11 medals

ematics and statistics.

Dr Chakravarti Gold Medal for Service was awarded to Amitabh Srivastava for good behaviour and the Vice-Chancellor's Gold Medal was bagged by Yogita Bhatt for being the best NCC cadet.

Besides, 10 Chancellor's Bronze Medals will also be conferred on final year undergraduate students -- Aqeel Ahmad and Tusha Pandey in BA part-III , Swati Yadav and Ambrish Singh in BSc (final).

GIRLS DOMINATE MEDAL TALLY

Governor BL Joshi said it was heartening to see that maximum medals were bagged by girls. Female students having a greater share in the medal pie was an encouraging thing, especially in a country where female literacy rate was lower than males.

TAP POTENTIAL OF YOUNGSTERS: CM

Chief minister Akhilesh Yadav called upon the professors to take universities in the state to greater heights. He said it was time India tapped the potential of its young work force and used it to the country's advantage.

V-C ON GROSS ENROLMENT RATIO

LU VC SB Nimse said that higher education in India has to expand quantitatively to increase the Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) to 30% by 2020 and at the same time improve qualitatively.

Ample opportunities for world-class research in India, says Mashelkar

LUCKNOW: With his short but inspirational speech, Padma Vibhushan Dr RA Mashelkar, former director-general, CSIR, touched the hearts of LU students on Thursday.

Overwhelmed after receiving the D Sc (Honoris Causa) by LU, the scientist struck the right connect with the students when he described LU as "our university".

He said there were ample opportunities to carry out world-class research even in India.

"All my research, which has won me the global recognition, has been done in India, in CSIR, the only organisation that I have worked for. I thank CSIR for giving me an opportunity to show that one can do world-class research in India. To me, scientific research was a spiritual experience," said Mashelkar.

These words drew thunderous applause from the graduating students. Speaking about LU, he said: "I feel truly privileged and honoured to receive this honour. This is something special for me, because I receive it from a university with great history, heritage and standing."

He said, "Teaching disseminates known knowledge. Research creates new knowledge. And innovation converts knowledge into wealth and social good."

He remembered his mother, who despite extreme poverty and hardships, encouraged him to go for higher studies.

Mashelkar expressed gratitude to his two teachers - Prof MM Sharma, and Prof CNR Rao - who were recently conferred with the Bharat Ratna. HTC

HT Jaipur

Indian scientists see cancer cure in plants

Vanita Srivastava
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NEW DELHI: A chemical found in several vegetables and fruits can come in handy in the treatment of cancer, claim scientists at Kolkata-based Chittaranjan National Cancer Institute (CNCI) after a preliminary study.

Phytochemicals, a substance that occur naturally in plants to protect them from diseases, can help lower the drug dosage administered to cancer patients and reduce its side effects, said Madhumita Roy, head of the CNCI environmental carcinogenesis and toxicology department.

"If phytochemicals and anti-cancer drugs are used together, they have the advantage of killing tumour cells faster than the conventional techniques and allow the use of lower drug concentrations, reducing the toxicity of the drug.

"Further clinical research needs to be carried out to prove the role of phytochemicals," Roy said.

According to her, phytochemicals may prevent the formation of potential carcinogens - a substance that can cause cancer - and block their action.

"Certain proteins are over expressed in cancer cells; these are known as tumour markers. Phytochemicals target these proteins."

Cancer cells grow in the body through a multi-step process known as carcinogenesis, which involves initiation, promotion and metastasis - the spread of tumours in other parts of the body.

GREEN SOLUTION

- Phytochemicals, a substance that occur naturally in plants, may boost anti-cancer drugs
- They can help kill tumour cells faster
- The combined usage may also allow lowering drug dosage, reducing the side effects of medicines

Dailybhaskar.com

IIT-JEE Mains and Advance to be one exam from 2015

The year 2015 will be an easy year for all engineering students as the All central government-funded engineering schools, including the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), will choose students through a common entrance examination in 2015.

JEE Mains and JEE advance which are two separate exams will be merged from next year HR ministry has decided. IITs across India have already been informed about it.

According to government ruling, all engineering colleges will have to conduct common counseling for students in 2014.

Candidate who wants to get into IITs needs to crack JEE advance whereas all the government funded technical schools, including the National Institutes of Technology (NITs) and the Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIITs) use JEE Main scores for admission.

Pranab: Let's reclaim our top position in higher education

J. Balaji

Time has come for India, which once had such world famous universities as Takshashila, Nalanda and Vikramashila, to reclaim its premier position in higher education, President Pranab Mukherjee said on Thursday.

Presenting the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards at the 12th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas , which concluded here, he said: "Time has now come for us to reclaim our leadership position in the world as far as higher education is concerned. Our efforts to increase 'quantity' must be matched with commensurate efforts to improve 'quality.' We must lead our institutions into the ranks of the best in the world."

As visitor to all Central universities, IITs and NITs, he had been travelling the length and breadth of India, pointing out that the country needed world-class universities and had not produced a Nobel Prize winner since Sir C.V. Raman. "I have been urging our educational institutions to invest more in research and development and pursue greater international linkages by establishing collaborations with foreign universities and inviting the best of faculty from across the world to come and teach in our institutions."

Key role

Overseas Indians, with their experience, expertise and knowledge, gained as a result of their life abroad, could be of immense benefit to India. They could play an extremely important role in helping the education institutions of India, most of which were their Alma Maters, rise to the world-class status. They could be catalysts in transforming Indian higher education institutions and instilling in them a culture of excellence as well as the spirit of innovation.

Mahatma Gandhi's grand-daughter Ela Gandhi, Australian senator of Indian origin Lisa Maria Singh and Ramakrishna Mission in Fiji were among the 13 recipients of the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award. Ela Gandhi was honoured for public service, enhancing India's image and promoting ties between India and South Africa.

Keywords: Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards, Indian education

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IIT-KGP to set up research parks in Kolkata

IANS

Indian Institute of Technology-Kharagpur (IIT-KGP) will expand its base here through research and innovation parks, an official release said Monday.

The move aims at merging industry and academia as well as fostering international collaborative studies.

The hubs would give scope to young scientists from the institute to not only enhance their academic prospects but also boost their entrepreneurship skills, the release said.

IIT-KGP plans to set up parks at Gopali, Kansabati and Rajarhat, besides the existing one at the Kharagpur campus.

"The hubs would be a merger of all these areas. The project is on...and the first building would come up by early 2015," project in-charge Joy Sen told IANS.

"The parks will be an extension of IIT-Kharagpur in the state capital," he said.

The first Park will be developed in Kolkata.

It will have facilities to house collaborative research laboratories of partner organisations, incubation units, and other academic and research facilities.IANS

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With no AICTE, students to miss 6,000 free seats

DC | 22 hours 36 min ago

Bangalore: With AICTE almost becoming non-functional after the central government vested power in the University Grants Commission (UGC), the COMED-K affiliated private engineering colleges of the state have decided not to implement the supernumerary quota (free seats) in their colleges from 2014-15. This means poor meritorious students will miss 6,000-plus free seats in the state.

AICTE had introduced the free seat scheme two years ago. Under the scheme, every engineering college must give five seats over and above the sanctioned intake to students from poor families.

So, if a college has an annual intake of 100 in computer science, it has to admit five students from poor families, taking the actual intake to 105.

In Karnataka, the Karnataka Examination Authority (KEA) was authorised to fill up these seats through counselling.

This free seat quota will be abolished in private colleges from the next academic year.

Speaking to this newspaper, Dr. Panduranga Setty of RV Engineering College said, “AICTE had introduced this scheme. Financially we are not in a position to offer free seats to anyone. We have made our decision clear to the state government.”

Such a decision has not gone down well with students who want to avail of the free seats.

Vijay Shet, a II PUC student said private colleges are trying to make education like a business.

“The free quota seats were over and above the sanctioned intake. Colleges need not count them for their expenditure. AICTE introduced this scheme to make technical education accessible even for poor students. This decision is not fair,” he said.

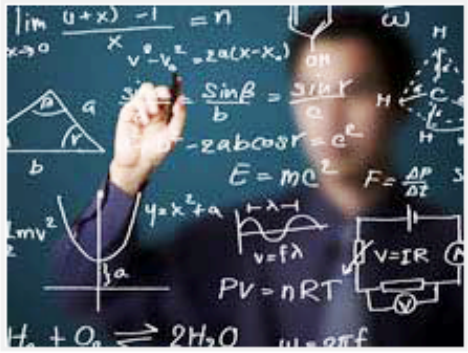
An official in the higher education department says the decision is not final. “Colleges put forth a proposal in this regard at a meeting held recently.

“But at the end of the day they can’t run away from their responsibilities. If students demand and pressurise, the colleges can’t say no to these seats,” he said.

Govt meeting today on AICTE role

SC last year ruled that regulator was not empowered to lay down rules for technical courses

Manu Balachandran | New Delhi January 10, 2014 Last Updated at 00:38 IST



Classroom image via Shutterstock

The human resource development ministry has called a meeting on Friday to discuss ways to restore the powers of the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE).

About 300 business schools are waiting for a decision, ahead of the Common Admission Test results next week.

A senior ministry official said: "There is an internal meeting to decide on giving further power to AICTE. The UGC (University Grants Commission) cannot regulate the institutions and with the matter being a serious one, the ministry wants to decide on the amendment to the AICTE Act soon." The ministry would seek the opinion of various parties, including AICTE and UGC.

The Supreme Court had, in a ruling last year, quashed the powers of the technical education regulator, saying the council was not empowered to lay down rules for technical courses. This had made the AICTE only an advisor in the technical education space. Then, UGC had issued a circular in December, bringing all technical and professional schools under its ambit.

According to senior officials, the ministry was looking at an interim arrangement, so that AICTE could set standards for technical institutes and higher education. The ministry had explored options, including the introduction of an ordinance, to restore the powers of the regulator but failed.

"We are hoping that the HRD ministry takes a decision tomorrow. We are waiting and watching," said Chowdhari Prasad, chairman-admissions at T A Pai Institute of Management.

Management institutes in the country have also expressed unhappiness at the revised UGC guidelines, which bade autonomous management institutes to seek fresh approvals from local universities.

Earlier, Union Minister for HRD Pallam Raju told Business Standard his ministry was looking to bring an Act to restore the relevance of AICTE. "We are working on it and hope to get it approved soon. We had planned an ordinance but we do not think we will go ahead with that," Raju had said.

AICTE had filed a review petition against the order, saying the authority had played the role of a regulator for many years and it couldn't suddenly become wrong. "We do not want to damage students' future. There could be a tremendous amount of exploitation and unstructured growth. We do not want that to happen," AICTE Chairman Shankar S Mantha had said. The petition is still pending.

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

How ISRO developed the indigenous cryogenic engine

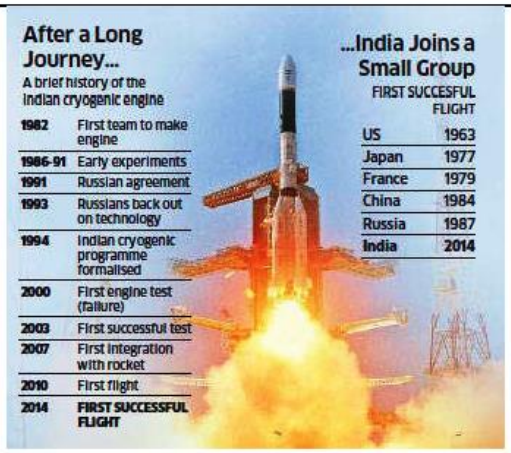
By *Hari Pulakkat*, ET Bureau | 9 Jan, 2014, 07.24AM IST

The year was 1987. V Gnanagandhi, head of the cryogenic engine project at the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), wanted to set up a high-pressure hydrogen plant in Mahendragiri near Thiruvanathapuram. But an official from the supplier of the machinery, a German company called Messers Grieshem, suddenly threw a spanner in the works. "There are snakes and elephants on the roads in India," he told them. "How can I come there?"

The journey was shot through with frustrations, technology denials, quiet diplomacy and hard work The development of India's cryogenic engine was long and arduous

Gnanagandhi reached a compromise with the Grieshem executive. He need come only as far as Mumbai; the entire ISRO team would meet him there. He agreed. The German—his name is now forgotten—agreed to sell the machinery, but was also inquisitive. "Why do you need a high-pressure hydrogen facility?" he asked. "We are using it to launch rockets," came the answer. "You cannot just fill an engine tank with high-pressure hydrogen," he told the ISRO team. "It will evaporate in no time." The ISRO engineers, thus, learned a thing or two about dealing with hydrogen at high pressure.

A few days ago, Gnanagandhi retired after watching his baby fly on a Geostationary Launch Vehicle (GSLV), marking the culmination of a journey that was shot through with frustrations, technology denials, quiet diplomacy and sheer hard work. After two decades of development, India developed the cryogenic technology, giving it the much-needed capability to launch medium-sized satellites in a geostationary orbit, and joined an exclusive club of six nations. But on that day in 1987, at their Mumbai Guest House, ISRO engineers, led by Gnanagandhi, were taught a thing or two about hydrogen under pressure by their German guest.



Obtaining The Engine

Brought into the nascent cryogenic engine team in 1984, Gnanagandhi had begun his job with clean slate. He had not even heard about the cryogenic engine. He didn't know how to get liquid oxygen or liquid hydrogen, let alone how to use them in an engine. But he learned quickly, set up the facilities, and made a one-tonne prototype engine by 1988. It blew up during a test. "We had used liquid nitrogen to clean the nozzle," says Gnanagandhi. "And nitrogen solidifies and clogs the nozzle at liquid oxygen temperatures." ISRO was led by UR Rao at that time. ISRO had been planning larger rockets.

Cryogenic engines were absolutely essential to put satellites in geostationary orbit, but the technology was difficult and a closely guarded secret. India had offers of engines. US firm General Dynamics offered first at a high price, and so did the French. It was then that Russia, which was going through difficult times, offered it at a reasonable price. India signed a deal in 1991 for two engines and the technology.

Everything looked good, but soon wasn't. The Americans pressurised the Russians into reneging on the deal, saying its engines will be used for nuclear missiles.

ISRO would get the engines but not the technology. UR Rao went to talk to the Americans, and to tell them something that everybody knew: cryogenic engines cannot be used in a missile. But the US had strong commercial interests in denying India the technology. Rao's meeting with vice-president Al Gore was futile.

Rao then negotiated with the Russians. "I told them that I had paid them too much money for just two engines," says Rao. "If you are not giving me the technology, give me six more engines." Eventually ISRO got seven engines. However, flying them was not a simple matter as there were no data about their performance. The engines that ISRO got hadn't been flown yet in any rocket. ISRO engineers discovered they had to work hard to make the engines fly in their launch vehicle. "We found that the Russian engines did not perform as well as we expected," says Vishnu Kartha, who now heads the cryogenic project.

Developing The Technology

If flying the Russian engines was hard, copying the engine design was harder. The Russians had designed these engines in the 1960s but not flown them, probably because they were still not flight ready. Moreover, they used a technology— called stage combustion—that was efficient but difficult. It made the engine a bit heavy but gave the highest efficiencies for a specific amount of propellant. The indigenous engines had to be exactly like the Russian engines: the GSLV has already been planned based on them.

The Indian government gave a formal approval to the Cryogenic Upper Stage (CUS) project in 1994. The budget was Rs 300 crore. ISRO then made a key decision quite in keeping with its tradition: involve the private industry from the beginning. "We didn't want to first develop the technology and then transfer it," says BN Suresh, now Vikram Sarabhai distinguished professor in ISRO.

The two major partners were Godrej and the MTAR Technologies. Godrej set up the rotary vacuum brazing facility in Mumbai. Brazing was a key and difficult technology, and setting up the facility took more than a year. MTAR made the turbo pump and some other components.

The sophistication of the cryogenic engine would be obvious from a few simple facts. The liquid hydrogen is kept at -253 degree centigrade. The turbo pump operates at 500 degree centigrade and rotates 40,000 times a minute. The combustion temperature is around 3,000 degree centigrade.

The pressure inside the combustion chamber is 60 times the atmospheric pressure. The chamber wall has to withstand the high pressure and temperature. No material can withstand a temperature of 3,000 degree centigrade, and so the combustion chamber wall has to be cooled.

Lift Off

ISRO's cryogenic team made the first 7.5-tonne engine in 2000. It blew up while being tested. The hydrogen valve had prematurely closed, affecting the oxygenhydrogen ratio in the combustion chamber. "We became failure-hardened," says Mohammed Mulsim, head of the cryogenic project at that time. "After each failure we went back not to the Russian engines but to the drawing board." They succeeded finally in 2002. The indigenous cryogenic engine was qualified in 2003. It took another four years to integrate it with the GSLV. But the first flight failed in 2010, as the engine shut down three seconds after ignition.

ISRO then conducted a thorough review of the entire GSLV project. For the cryogenic engine, special vacuum testing facilities were created at Mahendragiri. By 2013 end, every likely cause of failure was looked into. A few days before the GSLV flew on January 5, ISRO officials conducted a review meeting to clear the vehicle for launch. Such meetings usually take several hours. This one ended in 45 minutes. Every possibility had been analysed, and project leaders were quietly confident.

When it flew, the GSLV put the satellite into orbit with a precision never possible with the Russian engines. "We took a long time to develop the engine," says ISRO chairman K Radhakrishnan, "but all countries took 10-15 years to develop cryogenic technology." ISRO now has to develop a more powerful engine, to put a 4-tonne satellite into geosynchronous orbit. The older generation that led the first cryogenic engine development has retired. It has been such a long journey, it gave the younger generation now in command a deep understanding of cryogenic technology. And they have long stints left in ISRO.

Business Standard

'Super earths' have earth-like climate, life next?

IANS | New York January 09, 2014 Last Updated at 10:58 IST

Super earths or massive terrestrial planets dotting our galaxy the Milky Way, may have more earth-like climate then scientists have ever thought.

Regardless of mass, these 'super earths' store most of their water in the mantle and would have both oceans and exposed continents - enabling a stable climate such as earth's, claimed researchers.

"Our new model challenges the conventional wisdom which says super earths actually would be very unlike earth -- each would be a waterworld, with its surface completely covered in water," said Nicolas B. Cowan, a post-doctoral fellow at Northwestern University's Centre for Interdisciplinary Exploration and Research in Astrophysics (CIERA) in Chicago.

In their model, researchers treated the intriguing exoplanets like earth, which has quite a bit of water in its mantle - the rocky part that makes up most of the volume and mass of the planet.

"Water is constantly traded back and forth between the ocean and the rocky mantle because of plate tectonics. The division of water between ocean and mantle is controlled by seafloor pressure, which is proportional to gravity," said Dorian Abbot, assistant professor in geophysical sciences at University of Chicago.

"We can put 80 times more water on a super earth and still have its surface look like earth. These massive planets have enormous seafloor pressure and this force pushes water into the mantle," Cowan told the gathering at the meeting of the American Astronomical Society (AAS) in Washington, DC.

"It doesn't take that much water to tip a planet into being a waterworld. If earth was 1 percent water by mass, we'd all drown, regardless of the deep water cycle," he said.

"Whether or not you have a deep water cycle really matters for planets that are one one-thousandth or one ten-thousandth water," confirmed Abbot.

The ability of super earths to maintain exposed continents is important for planetary climate. On planets with exposed continents, like earth, the deep carbon cycle is mediated by surface temperatures, which produces a stabilising feedback (a thermostat on geological timescales), the researchers added.

Times of India 10/01/2014 P-11

Cabinet clears addition of 10,000 more MBBS seats

Plan Seeks To Reduce Doc-Patient Ratio From 1:2000 To 1:1000

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The Union Cabinet on Thursday cleared a proposal to create 10,000 new MBBS seats in government medical colleges.

At present, there are around 22,500 MBBS seats in government colleges.

There are 381 medical colleges — both government and private — in the country with around 50,000 MBBS seats registered with the Medical Council of India (MCI). The proposal is aimed at increasing the number of doctors to reduce the doctor-patient ratio from the current 1:2000 to 1:1000. This is also likely to increase availability of doctors in the hinterland where people have to travel long distances to get medical treatment.

The proposal mooted by the health ministry relates to the centrally sponsored scheme for upgrade of state and central medical colleges. A government statement said the spending for this will be Rs 10,000 crore.

While the central assistance will be Rs 7,500 crore, states' share will be Rs 2,500 crore. The total investment for one MBBS seat is approximately Rs 1.20 crore.

Under the scheme, the funding pattern will be 90:10 by central and state government respectively for northeastern states and special category states.

This is perhaps the largest ever addition of MBBS seats in the country in one go. The government had last week cleared a proposal by the health ministry to set up 58 new medical colleges in states with central assistance and upgrade of district hospitals, thus helping create 5,800 more MBBS seats.

Since 2000, the government has created 9,300 medical seats, almost as many as it did in half a century from 1950 till 2000. But private medical colleges added at least 17,700 MBBS seats in the same period.

The private sector taking over medical education in a big way has been a concern for the government and students alike because of the spiralling costs, question marks over quality and a sharp geographical skew.

Bench reserves verdict on 44 deemed universities

Legal Correspondent

'Court will grant two months to UGC to submit its report to Centre'

The Supreme Court on Thursday reserved verdict on a batch of petitions on regulation of deemed universities and indicated that it would ask the University Grants Commission (UGC) to reassess the standard of education in the 44 Deemed Universities which were sought to be de-recognised on the basis of the Tandon Committee's report.

A Bench of Justices K.S. Radhakrishnan and Vikramajit Sen after hearing counsel for various deemed universities said it would grant two months time to the UGC to submit its report to the Union Government after examining the infrastructure and hearing these 44 DUs. The Bench said it was referring the matter to the UGC as the government did not consult the UGC before taking a decision to appoint the Tandon Committee and to act on its report to de-recognise them.

Justice Radhakrishnan observed "We can't bypass the UGC. Its views were not sought. So, the matter should be referred to it. Let it go to the UGC and then to the government. We will not discard the Tandon committee report. At the same time we will not give our stamp of approval to you."

Keywords: deemed varsity issue, University Grants Commission

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Indian Express ND 10/01/2014 P-14

Delhi Multiversity

Proposal to reserve DU seats for residents misunderstands the city that is all cities at once

IPSITA CHAKRAVARTY

AS YOU take a left into Chhatra Marg, the trees are a bit taller, the buildings more red. The first *banta*-shops make their appearance. *Banta*, you learn, is the beverage of choice here, at least when the sun is high. This place has its own geography, marked out by names that may or may not be found on a map. For food, you will need to go to Kamla Nagar. For jelly and cutlet, the D School canteen. For xeroxes or printouts, head to the shops near Patel Chest. Delhi University North Campus is its own country, rimmed by the Ridge on one side and the busy Mall Road on the other. Before the metro came, autos could take you to south Delhi for a princely sum of eighty rupees. Outstation students preferred to stay on campus on most weekends. Confined to this small corner of the world, they adapted and then evolved. They developed new gills, plumage, colouring. They became DU citizens.

It may not be a citizenship recognised by the Aam Aadmi Party, whose government now speaks of reserving DU seats for Delhi residents. Or for that matter by the Congress and the BJP, which had proposed similar policies earlier. There are no papers to show for it or a civic agenda that it needs fulfilled. The university has its student elections, but that is not where this citizenship defines itself either. Although it comes in various political colours — leftwing, rightwing, feminist, chauvinist, ironic, Pink Floyd, don't know. As students pour in from all parts of the country, this citizenship is also veined with different memories of home. For thousands of students who become DU citizens, it is a sense of living in a city that is all cities at once. It is a capacious identity, though it inhabits the radius of a few miles.

But for most, it has not been a citizenship won easily. I, for one, arrived in Delhi in a contingent from Kolkata. Having survived two rounds of selection, I looked on Delhi with something of the Conquistador's relish. This New World may be mad, bad and dangerous to know but it would be mine. Encountered in novels and in travelogues, remembered from a brief childhood holiday, Delhi was half city, half idea. But like the MCD bulldozers that would soon rip through the city, Delhi systematically demolished all assumptions you made about it. I had been warned at the admission interview itself. After listening to my extemporised gush about everyday moments in the city, one of my interrogators had fixed a weary eye on me. You came to college to be divested of such romantic notions, he said. By the end of my first month in college I would be divested of most notions, romantic or otherwise. DU cheerfully shredded all the opinions you had gathered in your 18-year-old life, stripped away all familiar associations, made you forget everything you knew. That was step one of naturalisation.

As you recollected yourself, you learnt to speak a new language. Some of it was the usual college dialect — for instance, people could be described as arbit or shady, lending or throwing angle. Some of it consisted of the local names for nearby places. I also picked up some handy north Indian — *chant*, *kanj*, *bhav* — all of it suitably belligerent. Then there was that word of unknown provenance but immense versatility, *vella*, which was noun, verb and adjective all rolled into one. But colleges all over the country have their own dialects, inflected with strong regional associations.

If we did not quite belong to the city, we found a place for ourselves in that corner of it. Yet maybe it was only in the national capital that all these stories and identities could share space and grow meshed together. For us, it was neutral ground that did not belong to any particular region. At the same time, the life of the capital has always seemed connected to events in other parts of the country; they are not just stories happening elsewhere. We seemed to contract that sense of immediacy.

This rich DU patois held something more. My class of about 30 students included Bengalis, Punjabis, Haryanvis, Ahomiyas, a Tibetan, a Chinese-Punjabi, a Bengali-Malayali, a Pahari-Malayali, a UP-ite-Nepali, a Rajasthani, among others. Students from other departments added to this varied list. I also lived with a very chatty Tamil, two other Bengalis and a long-suffering Malayali. Naturally, this meant we could all gather a fruity collection of cuss words in various languages. But it also meant that we learnt to speak a language of difference — difference as a source of laughter, a source of ease, a way to start the conversation. Often, it was our differences that interested us in each other. So it became a language that extended our set of references. Mine, for one, stretched to include Malayali naming customs, Coorgi funerals and wedding rituals in Karnal. I also came to know the gossip in about five cities across the country. These stories entered a shared folklore that would help us strike roots in a new place.

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To study in Delhi University, then, is to be demolished and made again. It is to be filled with other lives and places. Maybe it was also where I formed my idea of citizenship, that it is not just a collection of demands or even always about my own immediate concerns. For me, citizenship, or the state of belonging to a larger entity, has to begin with an imaginative empathy with memories and experiences outside my own.

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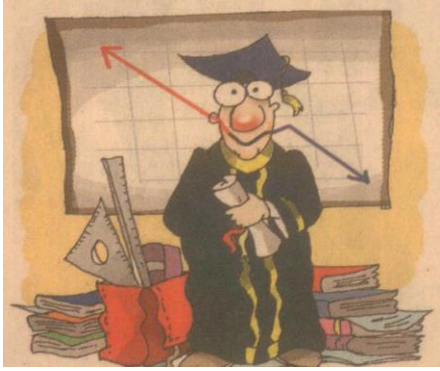
Economic Times ND 10/01/2014 P-1

हालात का असर | 2013 में CAT एप्लिकेंट्स की संख्या 7 साल में सबसे कम, GMAT में आवेदन ऑल-टाइम हाई पर

MBA स्टोरी में आया ट्विस्ट, CAT पर भारी पड़ रहा GMAT



ऋचा भट्टाचार्य & अनुमेहा चतुर्वेदी | मुंबई & नई दिल्ली |

पिछले साल ग्रेजुएट मैनेजमेंट एडमिशन टेस्ट (जीमैट) में शामिल होने वाले भारतीय स्टूडेंट्स की संख्या ऑल-टाइम हाई पर पहुंच गई। वहीं, कॉमन एडमिशन टेस्ट (कैट) में एप्लिकेंट्स की संख्या 7 साल में सबसे कम रही। दोनों ट्रेंड भारत में मैनेजमेंट एजुकेशन की पिच पर हो रहे बदलाव की तरफ इशारा कर रहे हैं। यह बदलाव ऐसे वक्त हो रहा है, जब इकनॉमी में स्लोडाउन है।

फ्रेशर्स और कुछ वर्षों का एक्सपीरियंस रखने वाले एग्जिक्यूटिव्स के लिए कैट फुल टाइम एमबीए का मेन एंट्री प्वॉइंट है। दूसरी तरफ, जीमैट ग्लोबल बिजनेस स्कूल्स का दरवाजा खोलता है। हालांकि, हाल के दिनों में यह शॉर्ट एग्जिक्यूटिव एमबीए प्रोग्राम के लिए भी पसंदीदा चॉइस बन गया है। ऐसे प्रोग्राम का चुनाव एक्सपीरियंस वाले प्रोफेशनल्स करते हैं। भारत से 2013 में 22,878 कैंडिडेट्स जीमैट में शामिल हुए, जबकि इससे एक साल पहले 22,310 लोगों ने यह टेस्ट दिया था। 2010 से इसमें 25 फीसदी बढ़ोतरी हो चुकी है। दूसरी तरफ, 2010 से अब तक कैट के लिए एप्लिकेशन देने वालों की संख्या 4 फीसदी कम हो चुकी है।

कैट की घटती लोकप्रियता और जीमैट की बढ़ती अपील से साफ है कि स्लोडाउन को ध्यान में रखते हुए अनुभवी एग्जिक्यूटिव्स फिर अपनी काबिलियत बढ़ाने में जुटे हैं, जबकि फुल टाइम एमबीए का आकर्षण फीका पड़ रहा है। वहीं जीमैट में पढ़ाई ज्यादा फ्लेक्सिबल है।

आईआईएम-बैंगलोर में करियर डिवेलपमेंट सर्विसेज के चेयरपर्सन प्रोफेसर संकर्षण बसु कहते हैं, 'जीमैट देने वाले कैंडिडेट्स का एवरेज वर्क एक्सपीरियंस 7 साल का है। यह अलग तरह के लोगों के लिए ही उपयोगी है।' जीमैट स्कोर को मानने वाले भारतीय इंस्टीट्यूट्स की संख्या भी बढ़ी है। पिछले साल भारत में तकरीबन 235 मैनेजमेंट प्रोग्राम्स ने जीमैट स्कोर स्वीकार किया, जबकि 2010 में ऐसे संस्थानों की संख्या महज 37 थी। हालांकि, इस साल पूरी दुनिया से जीमैट कैंडिडेट्स की संख्या घटी है। तीन साल में पहली बार ऐसी गिरावट आई है।

Dainik Bhaskar ND 10/01/2014 P-7

मंडी में आईआईटी कैंपस बनेगा दो साल में

नेशनल ब्यूरो | नई दिल्ली

सरकार की ओर से खोले जाने वाले नए आईआईटी कैंपस की शृंखला में जिन नए परिसरों की शुरुआत होनी है उसमें से मंडी, हिमाचल प्रदेश का कैंपस करीब ढाई साल बाद बनकर तैयार हो जाएगा। यहां के ठंडे मौसम को देखते हुए नमी आदि से बचाव का निर्माण के समय विशेष ध्यान रखा जाएगा।

वहीं, दिल्ली-आईआईटी का नया कैंपस कुंडली, हरियाणा में बनेगा और इसके लिए जरूरी कार्य शुरू किया जा चुका है। इन कैंपसों के निर्माण की जिम्मेदारी लेने वाले केंद्रीय शहरी विकास मंत्रालय के निकाय एनबीसीसी के सीएमडी अनूप कुमार मित्तल ने कहा कि मंडी, हिमाचल प्रदेश में मौसम अलग मिजाज का है। वहां पर निर्माण के लिए कई अन्य तरह की बातों का भी ध्यान रखना होगा।

Hindustan ND 10/01/2014 P-5

जेईई एडवांस का परिणाम 19 जून को

नई दिल्ली। जेईई एडवांस का परिणाम 19 जून को आएगा। 1 जून को आंसर की और 8 जून को ओआरएस अपलोड कर दी जाएगी। इससे छात्रों को पता चल सकेगा कि उनके कितने नंबर हैं। किसी सवाल पर आपत्ति है तो अभ्यर्थी 500 रुपये प्रति सवाल शुल्क देकर संशोधन करा सकेंगे।

IIT Chennai comes up with largest student festival of South India, Saarang 2014

India TV News Desk [Updated 09 Jan 2014, 16:48:28]

Chennai: IIT-Madras's cultural festival Saarang has begun here on January 8 and will continue till January 12.

Saarang is considered the largest student festival of South India.It is organized every year by IIT Madras.

The fest has become an integral part of Chennai's city culture. This is one event the city's youth looks forward to.

The five-day festival will have special shows by violinists Ganesh–Kumaresh, dancer Sonal Mansingh, music composers Salim-Sulaiman and singer Benny Dayal. A rock show will feature the Architects, a metal core band from the UK.

Apart from music and dance events, the cultural fest will have debates, quizzes, elocution competitions, dramatics and mono-acting events. Personalities such as Nawazuddin Siddiqui, Manu Jospeh, Mahesh Dattani and Leela Samson will present lectures and demonstrations.

According to the reports the collection from the tickets will go to charity. Last year the collection swelled up to '68 lakh, and this year they expect it to be at least '65 lakh.