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Govt looks to get IIT-Delhi director back to work

[Akshaya Mukul](#), TNN | Jan 12, 2015, 03.12 AM IST

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/education/news/Govt-looks-to-get-IIT-Delhi-director-back-to-work/articleshow/45847159.cms>

NEW DELHI: With his resignation still pending with the HRD ministry, the government is working to get IIT-Delhi director RK Shevgaonkar to resume duty. However, it is being done through a carrot-and-stick policy. Top ministry officials recently told Vijay P Bhatkar, chairperson, board of governors, IIT-Delhi, that Shevgaonkar was director till his resignation was accepted and should not let down the institution.

At the same time, the ministry is non-committal about possible action against Shevgaonkar for signing an MoU with Mauritius-based International Institute of Technology Research Academy. "There is no plan to take action now but we do not know about the future," a top ministry official said.

Shevgaonkar was on leave for a few days after the resignation and has already sent out his farewell letter to students and faculty. IIT sources said, "At this stage, it is unlikely that Shevgaonkar will change his mind. His relationship with the ministry cannot be mended."

Though the HRD ministry would like to keep the Mauritius issue alive to ensure Shevgaonkar falls in line, sources said there was a slight change in its perception about the alleged illegality involved in signing the MoU. A top ministry official told TOI, "It seems the MoU would have helped IIT-Delhi faculty make some extra earning." When told about the detailed explanation that IIT-Delhi gave about the MoU, the official said, "Only in-principle approval was given by the IIT Council but IIT-Delhi went ahead and did everything. In-principle approval has a different connotation."

Sources also said the ministry knew that any action against Shevgaonkar would be questioned since no action was being contemplated against UGC chairperson Ved Prakash for far more severe illegal acts. A detailed note on illegal acts by Prakash, including his visit to Mauritius last year without political clearance, is awaiting the ministry's decision for more than three months now.

Land scarcity makes IITs, IIMs to grow taller

<http://www.dnaindia.com/mumbai/report-land-scarcity-makes-iits-iims-to-grow-taller-2051721>

Acute shortage of urban land has forced the [Narendra Modi government](#) to relax land requirements for upcoming central educational institutions. Meaning, all the proposed IITs, [IIMs](#) and central universities will be vertically constructed and may have to share some of their resources, like library, as these institutes don't really need that much land, feels the government. The Centre plans to renowned architect Hafeez Contractor for architectural designs.

According to prevailing norms, a state government must spare 100 acres for an IIT, 200 acres for an [IIM](#) or IISER, 300 acres for an NIT and 500 acres for a central university.

"Easing out these norms is the need of the hour as states can't find the mandated land," a source said.

The HRD Ministry has already constituted a high-level committee last month to recommend a plan of action. The five-member committee is headed by Higher Education Secretary Satyanarayan Mohanty. Other members are KV Kamath, chairman, Board of Directors, ICICI Bank; Anil Sahasrabudhe, director, College of Engineering, Pune; and, Syed Bari, Vice-Chancellor of Central University of Gujarat.

What's the committee's observation?

It feels land norms are way too much. "As per the committee's internal assessment, land requirement could be much less. For example, IIMs require only 80-100 acres," states the minutes of the December 8 meeting of the committee, which has been put up on HRD ministry website.

What about sharing resources?

For cost efficiency, a common set-up of library, auditorium and academic resources for better collaboration between central institutes was mooted at the meeting. According to a committee member, "KV Kamath has already done a study on universities in the US, Hong Kong and Singapore to determine the total campus size, number of students etc... Our national institutes are occupying land much beyond requirement."

What has air connectivity got to do here?

The committee feels that institutes of higher excellence and central universities should be within 30-40 minutes of drive from the nearest airport. This aspect, the committee, said should be kept in mind while acquiring land. The next meeting of the committee is scheduled in mid-January. The final report is expected in two months.

Where are the news IITs, IIMs coming up?

The government has proposed five new IITs – in Jammu, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala. Five new IIMs will be set up in Himachal Pradesh, Bihar, Punjab, Maharashtra and Odisha. A centre of excellence in Madhya Pradesh named after Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Narayan and four more All India Institutes of Medical Sciences in Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Vidarbha (Maharashtra) and Purvanchal (Uttar Pradesh) are also proposed.

IIT Bhubaneswar professor taken to task for mentally 'harassing' girls

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/IIT-Bhubaneswar-professor-taken-to-task-for-mentally-harassing-girls/articleshow/45847845.cms>

BHUBANESWAR: IIT Bhubaneswar (IITBBS) has 'censured' a professor for mental harassment of two M Tech girls.

Sources said the IIT took action against the professor this weekend after the minutes of a meeting of the board of governors (BOG) held in New Delhi in December reached here. The BOG, under the chairmanship of S K Roongta, took the decision on the basis of inquiry report by a seven-member committee.

IITBBS director Sujit Roy said the case had reached a logical conclusion. "The institute followed the laid down procedures for such an allegation with due diligence. The faculty member concerned was censured and issued certain strictures. It is a closed chapter for us now," Roy told TOI on Sunday.

On April 27, 2014, the girls had lodged a complaint with the IIT director alleging that the professor wanted them to visit his chamber frequently, even at night, and threatened to spoil their career by awarding poor marks. The institute had constituted an inquiry panel to probe the charges and sent the professor on leave.

As part of the punishment, the teacher can never hold any administrative post, such as dean or head of any department or committee in the institute. The professor was already a dean and founder head of a department since 2009 when the IIT was established.

The professor, a PhD from IIT Kanpur, could not be contacted for comments. His colleagues said the 49-year-old man had numerous national and international awards to his credit.

A source said the professor had already resigned from IIT. He, however, will be at the IIT for a few months more.

आईआईटी में फाइटर प्लेन बनाकर उड़ाया

<http://www.amarujala.com/news/city/kanpur/kanpur-hindi-news/the-fighter-plane-flown-by-iit-student-hindi-news/>

एयर स्ट्रिप पर एडवांस फाइटर प्लेन की भरमार। प्लेन हवा में गोते लगाते आगे बढ़ते और कुछ ऊपर जाकर 8 के आकर में तब्दील हो जाते। सीधे उड़ान के बाद उल्टा होकर स्टंट बाजी करने लगते।

जी हां! यह नजारा रविवार को आईआईटी कानपुर के एयर स्ट्रिप पर देखने को मिला, जहां प्लेन बनाकर उड़ाने का प्रशिक्षण चल रहा था।

रिमोट कंट्रोल से संचालित प्लेन ऐसा करतब दिखा रहे थे मानो सीमा पर जंग छिड़ी हो और दुश्मन को मार गिराने का लक्ष्य मिला हो।

आईआईटी का टेकफेस्ट 19-22 मार्च तक होना है। इसके तहत अमेरिका की बोइंग कंपनी और आईआईटी के एयरो मॉडलिंग क्लब ने दो दिवसीय प्रशिक्षक शिविर लगाया। इस फेस्ट का मीडिया पार्टनर 'अमर उजाला' है।

पहले दिन (शनिवार को) प्लेन बनवाया गया। दूसरे रविवार को प्लेन बनाकर उड़ाने का गुरुमंत्र दिया गया। इसमें कानपुर इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ टेक्नोलॉजी (केआईटी) कानपुर सहित यूपी, देश के 28 कॉलेजों की टीमों ने हिस्सा लिया।

सभी ने प्लेन बनाया और उड़ाकर अपनी प्रतिभा का लोहा मनवाया है। जिन कॉलेजों ने प्लेन बनाकर उड़ाया है, वह टेककृति की प्लेन मेकिंग, फ्लाइंग प्रतियोगिता में हिस्सा ले सकते हैं।

एयरो मॉडलिंग क्लब के सचिव और टेककृति के सीनियर मेंबर शुभम मित्तल ने बताया कि प्रशिक्षण शिविर में देश के विभिन्न शहरों के 130 कॉलेजों के स्टूडेंट्स ने हिस्सा लिया।

सबने प्लेन बनाना सीखा है, जो बेसिक ट्रेनिंग की श्रेणी में आता है। 28 टीमों को एडवांस फाइटर प्लेन बनाने और उसे रिमोट कंट्रोल की मदद से उड़ाने की सीख दी गई है।

इन सबने रविवार को एयर स्ट्रिप प्लेन उड़ाया। ज्यादातर प्लेन जमीन से 100-200 फीट की ऊंचाई पर उड़ाए गए। पहली बार दो विंग का प्लेन बनवाया गया है। अभी तक एक विंग का प्लेन बनाया और उड़ाया जाता रहा है।

आईआईटी का दीक्षांत समारोह 23 फरवरी को

आईआईटी का 47वां दीक्षांत समारोह 23 फरवरी को होगा। इसमें एमटेक, एमडैस और पीएचडी के स्कॉलर को डिग्री दी जाएगी।

यही वजह है कि 6 फरवरी तक स्टूडेंट्स का नो ड्यूज सर्टिफिकेट और 10 फरवरी तक वायवा कराके मार्क्स का ब्यौरा देने को कहा गया है। आईआईटी का दीक्षांत समारोह अब दो चरणों में होगा।

पहले चरण में पोस्ट ग्रेजुएट (एमटेक, एमडैस, पीएचडी) को डिग्री दी जाएगी। यह समारोह हर साल फरवरी माह में होगा।

दूसरे चरण में बीटेक, बीटेक एमटेक डुवल डिग्री प्रोग्राम, बीटेक-एमएससी डुवल डिग्री प्रोग्राम, बीएससी-एमएससी (इंटीग्रेटेड एमएससी) की डिग्री दी जाएगी।

यह समारोह हर साल मई-जून महीने में होगा। इसी क्रम में ही पोस्ट ग्रेजुएट स्टूडेंट्स के पहले चरण का दीक्षांत समारोह 23 फरवरी को कराया जा रहा है।

डीन ऑफ एकेडमिक अफेयर्स प्रो. धीरज सांगी ने बताया कि दीक्षांत समारोह के मुख्य अतिथि क्वालिटी काउंसिल के चेयरमैन अदिल जैनुलभाई होंगे।

Deccan Herald ND 12/01/2015 P-7

CAG raps govt for delay in setting up campus for IITs

NEW DELHI: The Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) has rapped the government for delay in establishment of permanent campus for eight new IITs set up in the last six years, as the cost of shifting these institutes from their temporary campus has gone up by more than 150 per cent which could have been avoided.

On July 17, 2008, the Union Cabinet had approved setting up of IITs in Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Odisha, Gujarat, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and Indore in Madhya Pradesh at a total cost of

Rs 6,080 crore (Rs 760 crore per institute).

Out of eight, six IITs commenced their academic session in Bhubaneswar, Gandhinagar, Hyderabad, Patna, Jodhpur and Ropar in 2008-09 while the remaining two started operating in Indore and Mandi in 2009-10. All of them began functioning from temporary campuses.

The cost of setting up of these eight IITs over a period of six years was then estimated at Rs 6,080 crore (Rs 760 crore per IIT). The government, however, will now have to cough up at least Rs 15,664

crore due to the delay in construction of permanent campus, according to the latest report by the CAG.

In its response to the CAG, the Human Resource Development (HRD) Ministry cited various reasons for delay in establishment of permanent campus, including the delay by states in handing over land, preparation of master plans and appointment of architects.

The national auditor, however, highlighted several lapses on the part of the government, noting that the expenditure finance commit-

tee (EFC), while considering the proposal for setting up the institutes in Bihar, Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan, had emphasised the need for setting up a "project monitoring unit" in the HRD ministry to ensure timely completion of the project. But the ministry did not pay heed to the advice and went ahead with the plan to set up institutes. The CAG also noted that no commitment has been obtained from the state governments for timely allotment of land before sanctioning the projects.

The CAG remained dissat-

isfied with the ministry's clarification that progress of the establishment of new IITs were monitored through monthly reports, regular meetings, video conferencing and visits to the institutes. "The fact remains that both physical and financial progress in the establishment of these IITs has been extremely slow," it observed.

The CAG also observed that the government has not addressed the erstwhile Planning Commission's advice that projects should be completed in four years instead of six.

DH News Service

Asian Age ND 12/01/2015 P-4

Govt faces uphill task on new education policy

NITIN MAHAJAN
NEW DELHI, JAN. 11

After facing stiff resistance from the Opposition and various state governments on the implementation of land acquisition laws, the government is set to face an uphill task while formulating its new education policy.

While full-scale consultations on formulation of the new education policy are likely to be launched in February, the Union human resources development ministry is expected

to face tremendous pressure to accommodate the agenda being pushed by the Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh (RSS) which is in turn being opposed by several political parties, including the Congress, Left and Trinamul Congress.

Sources said that several states like West Bengal, Assam, Bihar and Karnataka, ruled by parties opposed to BJP's agenda, are likely to disagree with several proposals being mooted by the HRD ministry. The non-BJP

● Several state governments are expected to oppose several RSS-backed policy changes

governments in these states are expected to oppose any attempt by the Narendra Modi government towards saffronisation of education in the country. The forthcoming meeting of Central Advisory Board of Education (the highest advisory body on education in the country) is

expected to witness high-voltage drama as several state governments are expected to oppose several RSS-backed policy changes.

While the national level consultation is expected soon, the RSS has already held a meeting with HRD minister Smriti Irani where they had pushed for introduction of moral education, correcting the distorted history being taught in educational institutions and giving proper representation to forgotten idols of the

country from the pre and post independence era. The Sangh affiliates, including its ideologues like Dina Nath Batra, have also shown their opposition to the entry of foreign universities in the country and termed it as a direct attack on Indian culture.

Interestingly, the NDA government headed by former Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee had also faced allegations of saffronisation of education and faced stiff resistance from Opposition-ruled states.

Hindustan Times ND 12/01/2015 P-11

Govt to restructure UGC soon, give it more teeth

MOVE This is the 2nd Nehru-era institution to be 'modified' by NDA govt

Brajesh Kumar

■ brajesh.kumar@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The University Grant Commission (UGC) is set to be remodelled and the three-member committee set up to recommend its restructuring has readied a blueprint of the changed structure giving the body more teeth.

This is the second Nehru-era institution, after the Planning Commission, to be restructured by the NDA government.

The new apex regulatory body for higher education is likely to have permanent members and representation from the states, much like Niti Aayog, along with the power to recommend punitive action for the setting up of fake universities.

The restructured body will also have a governing council with members from different educational councils like the All India Council of Technical Education, Medical Council of India and Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

According to sources, all private universities will come under the purview of the new body, which could be called the Higher Education and Research Commission.

"The UGC Act 1956 recommends a fine of a few thousand rupees for setting up a fake university. Today, when fake universities are being set up in hordes, there is a need for



■ The UGC office in New Delhi.

SONU MEHTA/HT FILE

UGC: REVISITING HISTORY

- UGC is a statutory body set up in 1956 to maintain standards of education
- At that time there were only 20 universities and 500 colleges in the country with a total enrolment of 0.21 million students
- Now, there are about 726 uni-

versities and 38,000 colleges with nearly 28 million students enrolled

- In light of the new challenges facing the education sector, the NDA government set up a 3-member committee to recommend the restructuring of the body.

tougher action, ideally a jail term," Sukhdeo Thorat, chairman of the Indian Council of Social Science Research and former chairman of the UGC, told HT.

When the UGC was enacted, there were only 20 universities and 500 colleges in the country with a total enrolment of 0.21 million students. Today, there are about 726 universities and 38,000 colleges with nearly 28 million students enrolled.

The NDA government, in July, set up a three member committee headed by former UGC chairman Hari Gautam to recommend its restructuring.

"There is a realisation that the UGC is not able to do justice to its mandate...UGC's entire functioning continues to be oriented more towards grant giving rather than regulation and enforcement of minimum standards," the ministry order said.

Union HRD Ministry tells state to revise higher education plan

Vikas Sharma

Tribune News Service

Jammu, January 11

<http://www.tribuneindia.com/news/jammu-kashmir/union-hrd-ministry-tells-state-to-revise-higher-education-plan/28914.html>

The Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) has asked Jammu and Kashmir to revise its State Higher Education Plan (SHEP). The instructions were issued in the recently held Project Approval Board (PAB) meeting of the Rashtriya Uchcharat Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) by the Department of Higher Education, Union HRD Ministry.

Sources said the state had proposed upgrade of government colleges to model degree colleges to improve the class/quality of these institutions. It also asked funds for faculty recruitment, faculty improvement, equity initiatives and for research, innovation and quality improvement.

Sources added that the PAB observed that in these areas, currently the state did not fulfil norms under the RUSA guidelines and hence they cannot be supported.

Eleven model degree colleges in the state were sanctioned by the Central ministry under the old UGC scheme titled "Establishment of Model Degree Colleges in Educationally Backward Districts of the Country." Further, an amount to the tune of Rs 16 crore (Rs 2 crore per college) has been received for the eight colleges already approved by the UGC.

Sources claimed that the three model colleges sanctioned for Marwah, Mahore and DH Pora were yet to receive the funding from the MHRD. It was stated that further funding to the aforementioned colleges could be done only after the state's adherence to the utilisation norms.

"Similarly, since the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) of technical education is low, it wants to set up new professional colleges. Infrastructure grant to colleges and universities has been proposed in order to cater to the needs of many of the colleges which are quite new and also to the needs to its two heritage-type universities at Jammu and in Kashmir," a Central ministry statement claimed.

"The state has also asked for grants under vocationalisation of higher education by proposing a number of vocational specialisations identified under the National Vocational Education Qualification Framework (NVEQF)," it added.

The HRD Ministry has maintained that a major gap in the SHEP of the state has been its inability to complete their data capture for (DCF) - mats on "State Plan at a Glance."

It claimed that discrepancies were noticed in the population data and the GER data. "The perspective plan is missing in certain key areas, namely accreditation status, Centre for Excellence (CPE) status and faculty status. Broad basing of data across different socio-economic categories is required," the HRD Ministry said.

Hindustan Times ND 12/01/2015 P-12

Centre mulls revamp of exams conducted by SSC

CHANGE Staff Selection Commission may conduct an online exam to check increasing number of irregularities in recent months

Aloke Tikku

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NEW DELHI: The government is considering a revamp of the examinations conducted by the Staff Selection Commission (SSC) including a plan to conduct the recruitment examination online to deal with an increasing number of complaints of irregularities in recent months.

The revamp would affect nearly 16 million candidates who take the SSC examinations to join nearly 85,000 junior jobs in the central government, ranging from stenographers to inspectors of customs.

The move follows the recommendations of a panel of experts that also called for making it mandatory for applicants to register online and end the practice of forcing candidates to repeatedly register for each exam.

The commission has been dogged by controversies over the last year or so, particularly in view of repeated numerous allegations of irregularities in its examinations that have been mentioned in the Parliament too.

Just last month, Apna Dal MP Anupriya Patel alleged in the Lok Sabha that "many

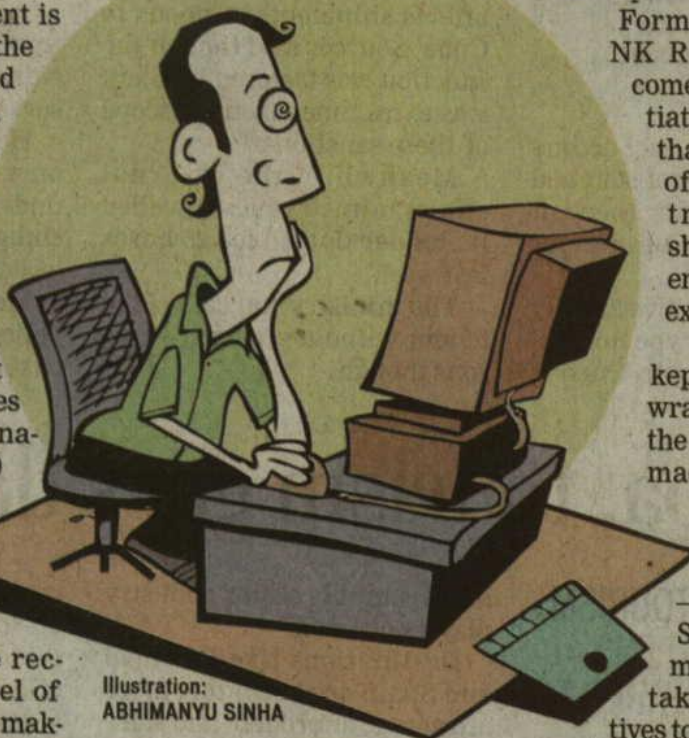


Illustration:
ABHIMANYU SINHA

candidates who were absent in Tier-II re-examination of combined graduate level exam 2013" had been declared successful by the Staff Selection Commission.

She also asked the government to respond to charges that a large number of candidates from the same city appeared to have cleared the examination. The MP also demanded that the list of those candidates who were debarred be made public. She also

asked that the names of absent candidates of CGL-13 be also made public.

Former SSC chairman NK Raghupathy welcomed the revamp initiative but demanded that the department of personnel and training (DoPT) should be transparent about the panel's exercise.

The DoPT has kept the report under wraps but only placed the recommendations made at a SSC workshop that debated the report.

Raghupathy — who headed the SSC till his retirement in 2013 — had taken several initiatives to improve transparency within the panel.

For instance, he used social networking sites such as Twitter and Facebook to advise candidates long before it was fashionable to do so.

He continues to do so after his retirement too.

Raghupathy — who had advocated a single screening test for candidates — said access to the expert group report would help understand why it was not in favour of a single test.

The panel had called for more debate before a view was taken.

Monalisa Sen

LET'S face it, today's schools and colleges are vastly different from the ones we attended back in the 80s and 90s. A present-day school or college is literally a small society comprising of students, faculty, administrators, staff, parents and alumni with its own dynamics. Many educational institutions have deployed technology in the form of student information systems which are merely databases; some have even streamlined their administrative and management processes with expensive hardware-software mix. Can one system meet the needs of the entire school or college community, which can create a high quality educational ecosystem, where all stakeholders including parent community are able to associate and contribute meaningfully to the wholesome development of the child?

Definitely yes, says Partha Mohanty, senior vice-president—technical, MGRM Net, headquartered in New York with a presence in more than 34 countries, including India. "MGRM's global relationship management team of over 150 analysts has studied worldwide educational systems, covering more than 100,000 schools, 300 colleges and 120 universities to develop educational e-governance systems under the brand name M-Star Education Expert System. MGRM's M-Star School Expert Sys-

tem and M-Star College Expert System have been deployed across 150 educational institutions in the country. Some of these include Bal Bharati Public School, Noida, St Peter's School, Faridabad, Delhi Public School, Amritsar, Ahlcon International School, Mayur Vihar, Phase-1 and Sardar Patel Vidyalaya, Lodhi Estate in Delhi, Mahaveer Public School and BVB Vidyasharam in Jaipur, among others.

According to Mohanty, world over it has been demonstrated that education institutions which have implemented integrated IT solutions have benefitted much more than streamlining their administrative and management processes. Through the use of such solutions, educational institutions are able to create a high quality school ecosystem, where all stakeholders including parent community are able to associate and contribute meaningfully to the common objective—the wholesome development of the child.

Mohanty reveals that educational institutions in India are undergoing a

transformation with extensive use of modern technology to improve their operations. Students and teachers need opportunities to participate, interact and shape their learning experiences; parents demand anytime access to information and services pertaining to

their wards; administrators and staff members need a practical blend of academic and business processes. Alumni want to stay in touch with each other and with their school.

M-Star Expert System is a Factop enabled, process-driven, integrated

e-governance application for schools and colleges, encompassing all academic and administrative processes. The solution has been developed by MGRM after a thorough study of educational systems. Mohanty says that it is flexible in a way that it can be applied to any educational system and yet be customised to a very high degree to fit in with all the required parameters and diverse needs of an institution.

Through the use of MGRM system, schools have been able to create a high quality school ecosystem where all stakeholders including parent community are able to associate and contribute meaningfully to the wholesome development of the child



In fact, for one of the schools its management believes that the M-Star School Expert System has enabled it to greatly aid in the physical, psychological and social development of the students and has been a key factor in the rapid rise of it becoming one of the topmost schools in New Delhi in just over a decade. Through the use of this system, the school has been able to create a high quality school ecosystem where all stakeholders including parent community have been able to associate and contribute meaningfully to the wholesome development of the child. This has immense advantages on the child's learning and development as the entire set of people within the school and at home that are responsible for the child's development are able to play a coordinated role towards the same; minimising the chances of conflict in approaches and inputs to the developing mind of the child.

From a technology point of view, the vital and most visible element of M-Star is micro-processor chip embedded multi-functionality "Online Multi-Domain Value Card (OmVcard). This card serves as a personal ID as well as allows to access school/college library, certify attendance, handle cafeteria/uniform/book store charges, user's health history, collect school fee and other functions.

Put simply, school doesn't have to be boring anymore. M-Star technology is turning the traditional teacher-led class on its head.

NASA satellite to track droughts, boost flood warnings

WASHINGTON: NASA is launching a new satellite this month that will improve drought monitoring and flood warnings. The Soil Moisture Active Passive (SMAP) satellite will provide the best maps yet of soil moisture levels from pole to pole, scientists said. For the first time, scientists will get a bird's-eye view of drought patterns; for instance, they will watch where droughts begin and end, and how droughts spread across large areas. Scientists said the soil moisture maps will help farmers who depend on rain to irrigate crops.

The soil moisture maps could also help improve flood warnings because forecasters will know how wet the ground

is before an intense storm, 'Live Science' reported. Data from the satellite will track global soil moisture levels for the top 5 centimetres of Earth's surface every two to three days. The mission is planned to last three years, at a cost of USD 916 million, but the instruments could last several years longer, mission scientists said. The SMAP satellite, which will be carried aloft by a Delta II rocket, is scheduled to launch on January 29 from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California.

Meanwhile, NASA's venerable Kepler space telescope's count of exoplanets has passed the magic 1,000 mark, including eight new planets and 544 candidate planets. Of more than 1,000 verified planets

found, eight are less than twice Earth-size and in their stars' habitable zone, the US space agency said. Kepler continuously monitored more than 150,000 stars beyond our solar system, and to date has offered scientists an assortment of more than 4,000 candidate planets for further study - the 1,000th of which was recently verified.

Using Kepler data, scientists reached this millinery milestone after validating that eight more candidates spotted by the planet-hunting telescope are, in fact, planets. The Kepler team also has added another 554 candidates to the roll of potential planets, six of which are near-Earth-size and orbit in the habitable zone of stars similar to our Sun.

Only 10% MBA grads employable, say experts

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/coimbatore/Only-10-MBA-grads-employable-say-experts/articleshow/45846637.cms>

COIMBATORE: India produces about three lakh management graduates every year, but hardly 35,000 of them are employable, said experts who gathered here for a conference of B-school heads.

According to All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), 3,54,421 students enrolled for MBA in 3,364 institutions across the country last year. Speaking to TOI at the southern regional round table conclave of business school directors and deans, J Philip, former director of IIM-Bengaluru, said, "Today, the requirement of managerial candidates in the Indian market is between 35,000 and 40,000 every year. There are two reasons for unemployment: Lack of global skills and excess supply."

Philip said India is probably the only country that could help supply managers to European countries and Japan. "Most countries in Europe are facing a crunch," said Philip, now the director of Xavier Institute of Management and Entrepreneurship, Bangalore. An expert, who did not wish to be named, said, "Around year 2000, there were about 10 world class business schools in India. Now we have 25, but we have a long way to go. We need an industry-oriented syllabus and interaction with industry to improve employability."

Parag Kalkar, director of Singhad Institute of Business Administration and Computer Application, Pune, said in the past 10 years the number of management institutes in the country had doubled. "While the previous central governments aimed at reaching the global enrolment ratio for higher education (27%), AICTE randomly allowed institutes of engineering," Kalkar said.

According to AICTE, the number of management institutions have risen from 2,614 in 2006-07 to 3,364 in 2013-14. While the numbers continuously rose till 2011-12, at least 71 institutes shut shop in 2012-13 and 107 in 2013-14.

Kalkar added, "While quantity has improved, the government and AICTE have been compromising on quality. Institutes have been given approval without examining or inspecting documents, infrastructure, faculty and other basic requirements."

Lack of industrial exposure of faculty and students is another issue. "Many institutes do not have faculty with industrial experience. Some wish to join a management institute immediately after completing their postgraduate study," said R Nandagopal, director, PSG Institute of Management. The same applies to students, too.

"Many engineering graduates do not want to waste time. Hence they apply for MBA immediately after graduation," said Nandagopal. "While in the US and Europe, institutes consider work experience as a criterion for admission to MBA. It is a mid-career education for them," he said.

January 11

Mumbai: IIT-B moves HC to save reserved land, seeks cost waiver

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/mumbai/iit-b-moves-hc-to-save-reserved-land-seeks-cost-waiver/article1-1305488.aspx>

The Indian Institute of Technology – Bombay (IIT-B) has urged the Bombay high court (HC) to save a prime plot measuring 40,425 square meters at Powai, earmarked for the institute, from getting de-reserved.

The institute has also sought a direction from the state government to acquire the land, shown in the development plan (DP) for the city as reserved for the expansion of IIT-B at the earliest, and hand it over to the institute.

A division bench of justice Vasant Naik and justice CV Bhadang last week adjourned the hearing on the petition to January 29 after assistant government pleader Bharat Mehta sought time to file an affidavit in reply on behalf of the state government.

According to the petition, the land was reserved for IIT-B in 1993-94 and accordingly shown reserved for the purpose in the sanctioned DP for the city. The institute got to know about the reservation in its favour only in 1999. It immediately addressed letters to the Maharashtra urban development department and the collector, Mumbai suburban district, requesting them to take steps to acquire the property.

On March 8, 2002, IIT-B received the first response from the revenue officials, stating that the price of the land was fixed at Rs. 11,600 per square meter, aggregating to Rs. 50.13 crore for the entire plot. A year later, the institute, however, expressed inability to pay such the huge acquisition cost. It urged the district collector to take into consideration that IIT-B was an educational institute and requested the state government to hand over the property free of cost.

Three years later, the institute received another letter from the collector's office disclosing the new rate fixed for acquisition of the 40425-square-meter plot – Rs. 28,500 per square meter, which would require IIT-B to pay sum of Rs. 118 crore as the acquisition cost.

IIT-B then approached high court last year, after a private developer, claiming through the owners of the land, issued purchase notice under section 127 of the Maharashtra Regional and Town Planning (MRTP) Act, 1966, to the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) calling upon it to acquire the property at the earliest.

Golden opportunity to make in India: IIT alumni

Hindustan Times (Kolkata)

I THINK IT'S TIME TO GIVE SOMETHING BACK TO THE NATION. THERE IS GREAT SCOPE FOR INNOVATION

HARISH HANDE, social entrepreneur

KHARAGPUR: Whether you want to serve the nation or make a fortune for yourself, it's time to focus on India instead of rushing abroad. This is what former students of IIT Kharagpur, told the present students during interactive sessions, titled Make in India, which were a part of the three-day alumni meet that started on Friday.

The alumni include entrepreneurs and corporate honchos, who feel India, at the present juncture, would go through a lot of new developments. The IITans need to focus on basic necessities and evolve solutions to the problems relating to people's daily lives.

"I think it's time to give something back to the nation. India is a great paradox of overdevelopment and underdevelopment. Crores of poor people lack basic amenities and services. There is great scope for innovation and entrepreneurship," said social entrepreneur Harish Hande, who has been awarded the Ramon Magsaysay award for his efforts in putting solar technology in the hands of the poor.

"I think the students at IIT Kharagpur are luckier. They have the best technology in their hands and the campus is surrounded by localities inhabited by the poor. They have this unique opportunity of knowing the two Indias," Hande said, while encouraging present students to take up entrepreneurship.

Among other alumni who are established in their own sectors are Germany-based Indian entrepreneur Jayant Kirloskar, whose firm JK Con-Rep works in mechanical and industrial engineering sectors, Pavan Vaish, global chief operating officer of United-Lex, a legal services outsourcing company, and Subhadip Dutta Choudhury, CEO of Hawkins Cooker Ltd.

"The next 10 years are going to provide India with a unique opportunity where many things will happen. The ball has started rolling. The IITans should figure out the necessities of the country in various sectors. They have the skills. Now they need to make best use of opportunities," Vaish said.

Dutta Choudhury has already expressed his interest in collaborating with IIT Kharagpur and offered students to think of inventions in his sector.

"Young IITans now have great scopes for innovations, which will principally be driven by local needs," Prashant Singh, principal, Pri-Edge Services, said. Students like Atal Ashutosh Agarwal of mining engineering department and professors like Amit Patra of electrical engineering department felt such meets are going to come to great help of the present students, as these provide them with the necessary guideline to plan future.

In a first, IIT-K to hold two convocations this session

Hindustan Times (Lucknow)

For the first time in its history, the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur (IIT-K) will be holding two convocation functions in an academic year. As per the latest decision, in 2015, the 47th convocation would be held on February 23 while the 48th convocation would be organised in June. Chairman quality council of India Adil Behnubhai would deliver the convocation address on the occasion. IIT-K registrar RK Sachan said the decision of holding two convocations in a year was taken in view of the growing number of MTech and BTech students at the institute. The convocation addresses would be delivered by two different eminent persons. Till last year, the institute organised convocation on the same day in two sessions.

Vibrant Gujarat UGC's first business summit

<http://www.dnaindia.com/india/report-vibrant-gujarat-ugc-s-first-business-summit-2051479>

University Grant Commission (UGC) is spending about Rs two crore to put up a stall at the Vibrant [Gujarat Summit](#), scheduled from January 11 to 13. This is the first time, the regulatory body whose role is restricted to giving grants to affiliated universities and [colleges](#) and to oversee the workings of the university has gone out to participate in a [business](#) summit.

While all the expenditure is being incurred from the public exchequer, the members of the UGC are also not aware of the commission's extravagance. No budgetary allocation for the summit appeared in any of the UGC meetings.

The various skill [development courses](#) of UGC will be up for a display in the summit. The UGC says it is a step towards Prime Minister's Make in India concept. "PM has proposed Make In India campaign. We want to tell the world, How to make in India," said a official of Information and Library Network Center (INFLIBNET) an autonomous Inter- University Center of UGC at Ahmedabad.

Besides explaining the broader role and objective of the UGC, the agency will promote its various skill development courses. "We want to communicate to the international community that we have plan to train adequate manpower for industries," said the official.

However the idea of UGC putting up a stall at a state sponsored event has not gone down well with many in the UGC. Even the members of the UGC seemed unaware about any such development. They feel that the UGC is working merely as a subordinate office of the Ministry of Human Resource and Development. "All that the UGC is trying to project at the cost of Rs 2 crore for two days is available on the UGC website. What is the point of spending so much money," said a member.

The members also feel that as a regulatory body, the UGC has no role of such kind of promotions and it is for the universities and colleges to project themselves.

Questions are also being raised on spending money only in Gujarat and not other states. "Madhya Pradesh also did an industry summit and West Bengal is doing one. Why only in Gujarat has the UGC decided to put up its stalls," said a member.

Dainik Tribune ND 11.01.15 P-1

सरकार ने माना

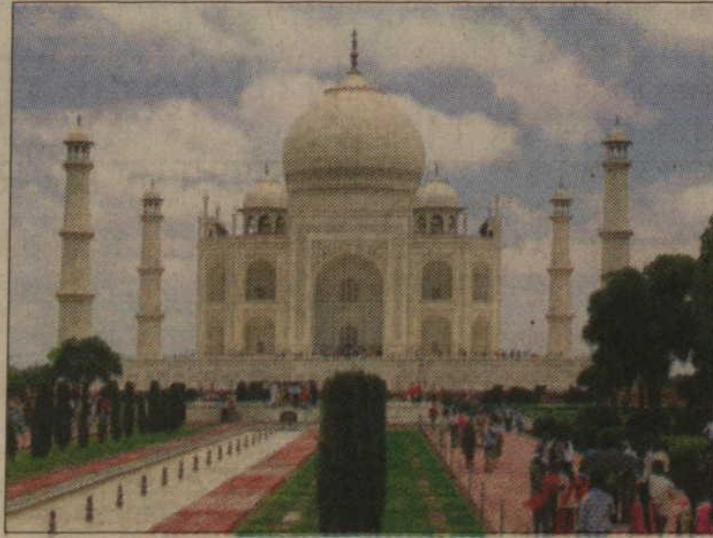
फीकी पड़ रही ताज की रंगत

■ 67 फीसदी नुकसान वाहनों के धुएं और धूल के कारण

अदिति टंडन/ ट्रिब्यून

नयी दिल्ली, 10 जनवरी

सरकार ने आज माना कि ताजमहल की चमक फीकी पड़ रही है। इसकी रंगत को हो रहे 67 फीसदी नुकसान का कारण है इसके आसपास बढ़ रही गाड़ियां। ताजमहल के संरक्षण से जुड़े व केंद्रीय पर्यावरण सचिव अशोक लावासा और उत्तर प्रदेश के अधिकारियों ने पर्यावरण संबंधी स्थायी संसदीय समिति के सामने स्वीकार किया कि ताज पर प्रदूषण का असर दिख रहा है। जानकारी के मुताबिक पूर्व कानून मंत्री अश्विनी कुमार की अध्यक्षता वाली समिति को अधिकारियों ने बताया कि ताजमहल पर



'पर्टिकुलेट मैटर' स्वीकार्य सीमा से ज्यादा पाए गए हैं।

सूत्रों के मुताबिक समिति ने ताज

के संरक्षण के मौजूदा उपायों पर असंतुष्टि जताते हुए केंद्र और राज्य के अधिकारियों से इस बारे में

लिखित व समयबद्ध योजना मांगी है।

सूत्रों के मुताबिक समिति के सामने दी प्रेजेंटेशन में अधिकारियों ने बताया कि गाड़ियों के कारण उठने वाली धूल और धुएं के अलावा खाना बनाने के लिए गोबर के उपले वगैरह जलाने और ईटों के भट्टों के कारण ताज के रंग पर असर पड़ रहा है। गौरतलब है कि हाल ही में आईआईटी कानपुर और विसकॉन्सिन यूनिवर्सिटी के विशेषज्ञों ने रिसर्च में खुलासा किया था कि ताज की रंगत बिगड़ रही है। उन्होंने पाया था कि ताजमहल के गुंबद पर 'पर्टिकुलेट मैटर' के कारण इस पर भूरापन आने लगा है।