

# Newspaper Clips

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Business Standard ND 13/01/2012 P-9

## NEWSMAKER SOUMITRA DUTTA

### Future thinker

During the course of an interview with CNN last weekend, Professor Soumitra Dutta said he was "intrigued" by the prospect of heading up a business school.

Dutta will take over as Dean of the Samuel Curtis Johnson Graduate School of Management at Cornell University on July 1, 2012. Cornell's Johnson Business School has a 49-member faculty along with 40 adjunct and visiting members, an annual budget of \$70 million and an endowment of over \$160 million. Cornell President David Skorton said in an announcement, "Professor Dutta's appointment is a natural fit with Johnson's increasingly global outlook." Currently, Dutta is the Roland Berger Professor of Business and Technology and Founder and Academic Director of ELab at INSEAD, which has campuses in France, Singapore and Abu Dhabi.

Of course, that wasn't his first tryst with the number one spot. In school, his mother told a newspaper recently, Dutta was a topper throughout. Yes, he has never held the position of dean; but he has held several deputy dean-level management responsibilities at INSEAD, including handling global executive education with total annual revenues of \$110 million. He is also on the advisory boards of several international B-schools while teaching as a visiting professor on several campuses, including Oxford and Cambridge. He also sits on the board of many technology startups.

Dutta went on to receive a BTech in electrical engineering and computer science from the Indian Institute of Technology and an MS in business administration, an MS in computer science and a PhD in computer science from the University of California at Berkeley. He has lived and worked in Asia, the US and Europe and has been an engineer with General Electric in the US and Schlumberger, the world's largest oilfield services company, in Japan.

A prolific writer, Dutta has written several books and has been featured in all the major management journals. One of the leading 'future thinkers' of his profession, he has a keen understanding of the importance of both innovation as well as good leadership. He is the co-editor and author of two influential reports on technology and innovation, the Global Information Technology Report, produced by the World Economic Forum, and the Global Innovation Index (co-published with the World Intellectual Property Organisation).

Indeed, innovation and inclusive growth and how one can lead to the other is an issue



that has featured regularly in his recent articles. This is what he had to say in a write-up in an Indian business magazine directed at future leaders: "The winners in inclusive innovation will reap big benefits in a changing world where the fastest growth in consumer spending is coming from the bottom of the pyramid in emerging markets. However, winning in this new arena will not be easy and cannot be taken for granted by incumbents. Are you ready for this challenge?"

Again, at the Nasscom India Leadership Summit in 2011 he had said that while India is admired by the outside world, the stress should be on equitable distribution of wealth. "Our priority should be to bring people out of poverty, to bridge the gap between the haves and the have-nots," he had said. But he is hopeful. In another interview he had commented about how innovation was being democratised in India: "What you see right now is a phenomenon of micro innovation. Every single individual is innovating.... The classical definition involved PhD and patents, which was very narrow. Now, you do not need a PhD for innovation!"

Dutta also says that the notion of role models is changing in India. Talking to a journalist he said: "Traditionally, role models in India were limited to film and cricket stars. Thanks to people like Narayana Murthy and Azim Premji, people now have new role models to emulate."

We can go ahead and add one more name to that list now.

ALOKANANDA CHAKRABORTY

Times of India, ND 13/01/2012 P-15

# Politics mars race for UGC boss' post

## Candidates Openly Canvass Political Support

Akshaya Mukul | TNN

**New Delhi:** The HRD ministry's avowed claim that politics should be out of academics has little impact on the ongoing selection process for chairperson's post of the University Grants Commission (UGC).

Candidates are openly canvassing political support and the ministry is also pitching for its own candidate in acting chairperson Ved Prakash.

The ministry's argument being that he would maintain continuity in the UGC till the organization is subsumed by the proposed National Commission for Higher Education and Research.

While former Lok Sabha Speaker Somnath Chatterjee wrote to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in favour of Prakash, two other serious candidates from UP claim support of top Congress leaders. Congress leaders from Punjab are rallying around another candidate



Acting UGC chief Ved Prakash

from the state.

With many competing interests, the two-day meeting of the UGC's search-cum-selection committee headed by scientist Goverdhan Mehta and consisting of jurist N S Madhava Menon and K Srinanth Reddy of Public Health Foundation of India, failed to evolve consensus because of deep divisions within the panel. Out of more than 80 applications for the prestigious job, the committee has decided to call 20 candidates for interaction.

Twenty academicians

called for interaction consist of Prakash; former DU VC Deepak Pental; B Hanumaiah, VC, Ambedkar University; V N Rajsekharan Pillai, former VC, IGNOU; Surbhi Banerjee, VC, Central University of Orissa; R C Sobti, VC, Panjab University; NS Gajbhaye, VC, Hari Singh Gour Central University, Sagar; Seyed E Hasnain, IIT-Delhi and former VC of Hyderabad University; Sanjay Dhande, director, IIT-Kanpur; N Prabhu Dev, VC, Bangalore University; Arvind Kumar, VC, Magadh University; D P Singh, former VC, BHU; A D Sawant of Rajasthan University; A D N Bajpai, VC, Himachal University; Furqan Qamar, VC, Central University, Himachal Pradesh.

This decision to interact is also not unanimous. "The committee is as divided as the search-cum-selection panel for selecting NCERT director was in 2010. There is a view that such interaction is often not objective," a source said.

Mint ND 13/01/2012 p-4

**BOOSTING FINANCES**

# IIMs meet to consider ways of raising funds

BY PRASHANT K. NANDA  
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NEW DELHI

Directors of the 13 Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) will meet on Friday to devise a plan to raise funds from philanthropists, industrialists and their alumni in India and abroad to boost their finances, following the example of the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and foreign business schools.

Directors and the chairmen of the board of governors of IIMs are holding a workshop in New Delhi that will also be attended by the human resource development (HRD) minister Kapil Sibal, the higher education secretary and other officials of the HRD ministry to devise a strategy to raise funds.

Initially, the IIMs plan to raise ₹400-500 crore. This may also be one of the items on the agenda for the IIMs when they go to Europe and America later this year to promote their brand and at-

tract foreign students to bring in more diversity to campuses.

The workshop, which some successful IIM alumni may attend, will discuss an HRD ministry report prepared by a team led by Hari S. Bhartia, co-chairman and managing director of **Jubilant Life Sciences Ltd.**

"Many foreign B-schools are raising funds successfully, IIMs would do well to raise funds too. It will give them a financial edge while planning their expansion inside or outside the country in future," said a senior HRD ministry official, who did not want to be named. "They are a growing brand and more funds will serve them well."

The Bhartia committee report has suggested that IIMs follow a model that identifies prospective fund givers, solicits money from them and keeps them informed about how it is being used. IIM Raipur is leading the initiative to hold the workshop, according to the HRD ministry.

The IITs have leveraged their network well and got a good re-

sponse from corporates and philanthropic funds, said P. Rameshan, director of IIM-Rohatak. The IIMs jointly represent one brand and even if the new IIMs don't have an alumni network, progress in raising funds will help all 13, he said.

For a leading business school, managing everything including infrastructure from student fees is very difficult, said Pramath Sinha, the founding dean of Hyderabad-based Indian School of Business (ISB).

IIMs have some government backing, but funds are always needed for expansion. "You need it to improve infrastructure, give scholarships to students, create chair professors and improve research," Sinha said.

Sinha, who has mentioned about the role of donations and endowment in his new book on ISB, said that this has been a trend among well-known foreign business schools and universities. "In India, IITs are doing it and IIMs trying to do so seems to be a good step."

For a decade and half, IITs have made significant progress

in collecting funds for expansion. In 2000, the Bharti Foundation donated ₹20 crore to IIT-Delhi to start the Bharti School of Telecommunication Technology and Management. IIT Kharagpur aims to accumulate a \$200 million endowment fund by 2020.

Industrialist Arjun Malhotra, an alumnus of IIT-Kharagpur, donated ₹5 crore last year and has promised to give more. IIT-Bombay has got funds from its alumni network, mainly in the US.

The Kanwal Rekhi School of Information Technology, the Shailesh J. Mehta School of Management, the Gaitonde Lecture Hall Complex, the D.S. Foundation Gymkhana and the Victor Menezes Convention Centre have come up with support from alumni, according to its website.

The Vinod Gupta School of Management at IIT Kharagpur was initiated by its alumnus Vinod Gupta and named after him.

*The promoters of Jubilant and HT Media Ltd, which publishes Mint, are closely related. There are no promoter cross-holdings.*

Initially, the Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) plan to raise ₹400-500 crore

Hindustan Times ND 13/01/2012 P-11

# IIMs look to alumni for raising funds

**Chetan Chauhan**

■ chetan@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** The country's premier educational institute, the Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs), will be seeking funds from its alumni and other stakeholders to expand and create world-class infrastructure.

The top management of the IIMs will discuss on Friday, a blueprint on ways to get funds from corporate world and alumni in the next few years.

"The IIM directors will be discussing on how to raise funds for the new and old IIMs and engage the alumni," said Hari S Bhartia, chairperson of IIM, Raipur and head of a HRD ministry committee on raising funds for the IIMs.

The HRD ministry had constituted the committee to help IIMs in building a corpus, so that they can be financially independent and fund proposal for foreign campuses. Bhartia had already recommended setting up of a development office and

campaign committees in each IIM for raising fund.

Fund raising campaign by some foreign universities like Yale and Harvard have resulted in generation of over US \$ 3 billion. Harvard had received US \$50 million donation from the Tata Group in 2010 and earlier Anand Mahindra had donated US \$ 10 million.

The Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) have also generated money in similar ways.

Bhartia said the IITs have raised good money and IIMs, especially the older ones, would like to revisit strategy and engage alumni to raise funds. According to IIM officials, the reasons for poor response would also be discussed.

To help the IIMs and IITs in their mission, the HRD ministry has already sought Income Tax exemption on donation of funds or option of non-cash endowments. The ministry had also given full authority to individual IIMs to raise money to pay for its expansion plans.

**₹2,250**

Is the price of the world's cheapest tablet Aakash

**₹3,500**

priced 4G-enabled tablet from RIL will compete with Aakash

**1 lakh**

units of Aakash tab ordered by govt. It received 30,000

**20 lakh**

units of improved Aakash have been booked by DataWind

**₹2,999**

Is the cost of the upgraded Aakash in the open market

# Sibal's low cost Aakash tablet may be shelved

By **Sanjay Singh** In New Delhi

THE Union human resource development (HRD) ministry may refuse to extend the letter of credit (LC) to Montreal-based DataWind, the makers of the world's cheapest computer tablet, Aakash, priced at ₹2,250 after a series of faults were detected, owing to which buyers have largely dumped it.

Aakash tablets were created specifically for students with the aim of bridging the 'digital divide' between the rich and the poor. The government now plans to dump these problematic tabs to rural villages.

Worse still is the fact that the entire project launched with much fanfare by HRD minister Kapil Sibal in October last year could be shelved.

Sources said the idea conceptualised by Sibal for an affordable tablet has been hijacked by corporate giant, Mukesh-Ambani's Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL), which plans to launch its fourth-generation (4G) services later this year and sell tablets at cheap price of around ₹3,500.

Industry observers said Mukesh's RIL could probably team up with DataWind or with any other entity to launch 4G services in India. RIL is the only

**END OF A DREAM?**  
Human resources minister Kapil Sibal had unveiled the ambitious Aakash project with much fanfare in October.

company to have pan-India spectrum to offer wireless broadband services on the 4G technology platform, having paid ₹13,000 crore for these airwaves.

The 4G, also called long-term evolution (LTE), will have much higher speed than 3G and many telecom companies are gearing up for its worldwide launch early this year.

The HRD ministry had initially placed an order for one lakh units with DataWind. It received 30,000 Aakash tabs as part of the pilot run. But it proved a disaster after poor the feedback received concerning these tabs.

The tablets distributed among students under the pilot

**Aakash tablets, created for students with the aim of bridging the 'digital divide' between the rich and poor, received poor feedback. Since then the processor & battery have been modified**

run had an Android 2.2 operating system, a seven-inch touchscreen, a 366 MHz processor, two USB ports, a multimedia player and 180 minutes of battery power. Instead of the

366 MHz processor, the improved

Aakash will have a 766 MHz processor and a battery with a better life.

Sources said DataWind had reportedly refused to upgrade the second tranche of 70,000 Aakash tablets with improved specifications, for which it sought

more funds. However, it will supply the second tranche of improved Aakash tablets at the original price of ₹2,250.

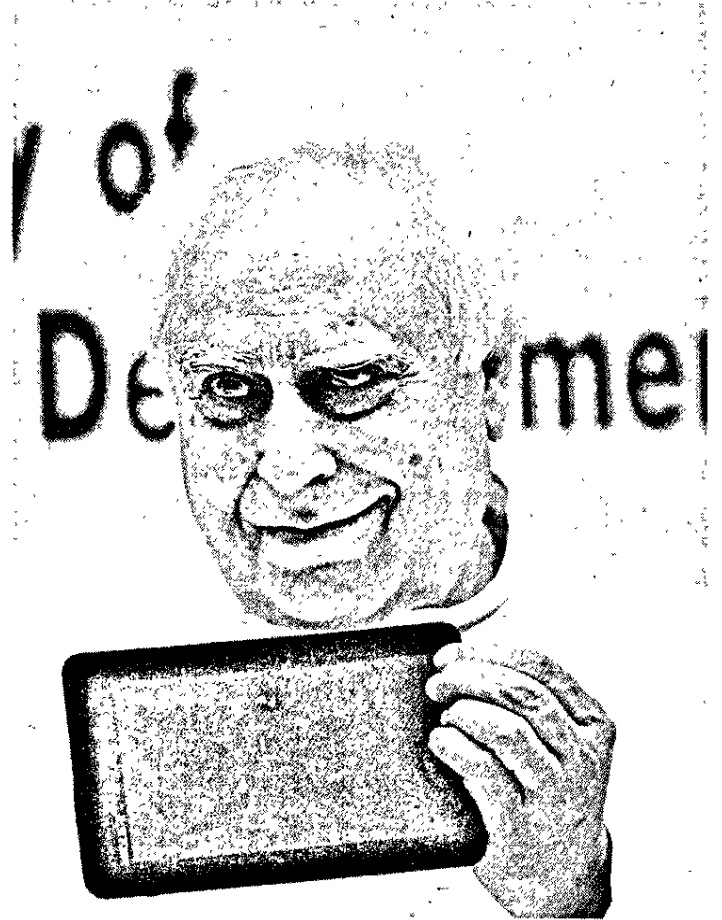
But IIT-Rajasthan, which is a

tendering authority for the Aakash project has not come out with the new testing standards so far. The HRD ministry is looking for new vendors to sell the second tranche of 70,000 improved tablets from DataWind.

Authorities said this is a clear indication that DataWind's LC will not be extended, which lapses this month-end. It will now be supplied by other agency and not DataWind.

But the promoter of DataWind, Suneet S. Tuli, has successfully managed to get over 20 lakh bookings for the improved and upgraded version of the Aakash tablet in the open market where it costs ₹749 more at ₹2,999.

Tuli was not available for comments. However, company official claimed that their LC would be extended beyond January 30. "We have not been paid for 30,000 tablets which we have supplied so far," the official complained.



# HC warns of a China-like ban on 'rogue' sites

By Nazliya Alvi  
in New Delhi

IS INDIA going the China way when it comes to controlling electronic information? Not really. But going by the mood in the government and the judiciary, it just might.

That's what the Delhi High Court threatened Facebook (India) and Google (India) with during a hearing seeking a stay on the ongoing proceedings against social networking sites.

"Like China, we will block all such websites," Justice Suresh Kait warned on Thursday, while asking the counsels for Facebook and Google to develop a mechanism to keep a check and remove offensive and objectionable material from their web pages.

## Will take steps if sites don't filter content

Justice Kait also refused to stay the proceedings against the websites before the magistrate's court, scheduled on Friday, and has fixed Monday as the next date of hearing.

The Delhi High Court's trade comes in the wake of HRD minister Kapil Sibal asking social networking sites to filter content before posting it on their web pages.

Defending Google (India), former additional solicitor general Mukul Rohatgi said on Thursday that it was not possible for website owners to filter or monitor the content being posted on their sites.

"No human interference is possible, and moreover, it is not feasible to check such incidents. Billions of people across the globe post their articles on the website. Yes, they may be defamatory, obscene, but cannot be checked," Rohatgi told the court.

He also tried to shift the blame on the US-based Google Inc, saying it was different from Google India. He added that the former was the service provider, and not the latter.

Rohatgi cited provisions under the Information Technology Act and said websites enjoyed the protection of law where such objectionable material was concerned, as long as they were not the authors.

"The websites may lose the legal protection if they either modify or monitor the article





**VIGILANTE** Justice got a new meaning when hackers cracked into the website *fatwaonline.org* on January 3 to protest against the owner Mufti Ijaz Kasmi's petition against social networking sites in a Delhi court.

Their message was clear: "This site has been hacked. This has been brought on by the people who declared war on the social networking sites as well as any site that posts anything against religion. When you attack social networking sites then expect people to come back at you tenfold. We will NOT tolerate your stupidity no longer. The non-religious are starting to notice how extremist the religious are becoming and we have had enough. (sic)"

Kasmi will be filing a criminal complaint against the hackers.

or comments or fail to deal with the complaints of an affected person or the government on such issues," Rohatgi claimed.

Senior advocate Sidharth Luthra, appearing for Facebook (India), questioned the authenticity of the documents submitted by the complainant, Vinay Rai, who had accused the websites of conniving with each other and various

unknown persons to publicly sell, exhibit and circulate obscene and lascivious content.

"We do not know as to when, how and from where the documents came into being. They are not the documents as per the provisions of the Evidence Act. Moreover, a social networking site cannot be held accountable for the acts of third parties," Luthra said.

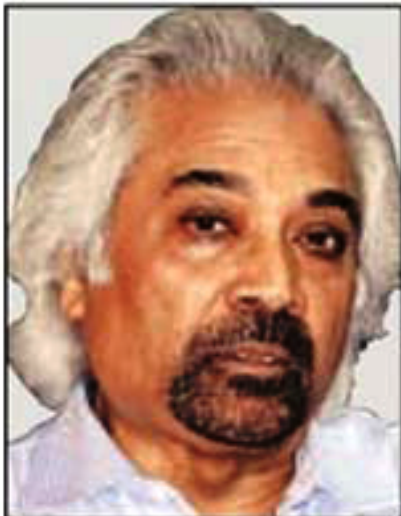
**HindustanTimes**

**Title : PITRODA TO LEAD INNOVATORS MEET IN NEW DELHI**

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■ **Pitroda: leading young India**

## **PITRODA TO LEAD INNOVATORS MEET IN NEW DELHI**

**WASHINGTON:** Leading US-based entrepreneur and policymaker Sam Pitroda will soon lead nearly 100 young social innovators to India to discuss how technology can make social enterprises more effective. The event, organised by non-profit body 'Action for India, will see innovators taking part in a day-long discussions in New Delhi on January 21. "To unleash the innovation potential in the country we need to tap into the creative energy of our young entrepreneurs," said Pitroda. **PTI**

## MIXED RESULTS

# Law education: islands of excellence

There exists a vast gulf between the top 20 law schools in India and the remaining 880 in terms of quality of education

By NIKHIL KANEKAL  
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NEW DELHI

If the alumni record is a measure of the success of an institution, then the National Law School of India University (NLSIU), Bangalore, has done exceedingly well for itself. Further, a review of the recent Common Law Admission Test (CLAT) preferences of the high-scoring candidates indicates that NLSIU is still the top school of choice for prospective law students.

Nothing works like success. Since NLSIU was set up in 1986, 13 other national law schools, based on the same blueprint, have come up across India. Earlier this month, faculty and students at the Gujarat National Law University moved into a brand new 50-acre campus in Gandhinagar in which the construction cost the government ₹150 crore. Last June, Ranchi's law school received 100 acres and before that Raipur's law university got 60 acres. The latest one to be set up is in Delhi and ministers have promised at least one in each state.

But what is of growing concern is that the schools represent an island of success.

The success of the 20 national law schools has not percolated deep enough to pull the other 880 law colleges up by the bootstraps as it were. Instead they continue to serve outdated course material, teaching styles and processes that are out of sync with the new reality of a rapidly growing economy that has diverse demands being made of the legal profession.

This was adequately summed up in May 2010 by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh while speaking at a function to usher in second-generation reforms in legal education. According to him, besides a few "islands of excellence", law colleges in India were "a sea of institutionalized mediocrity."

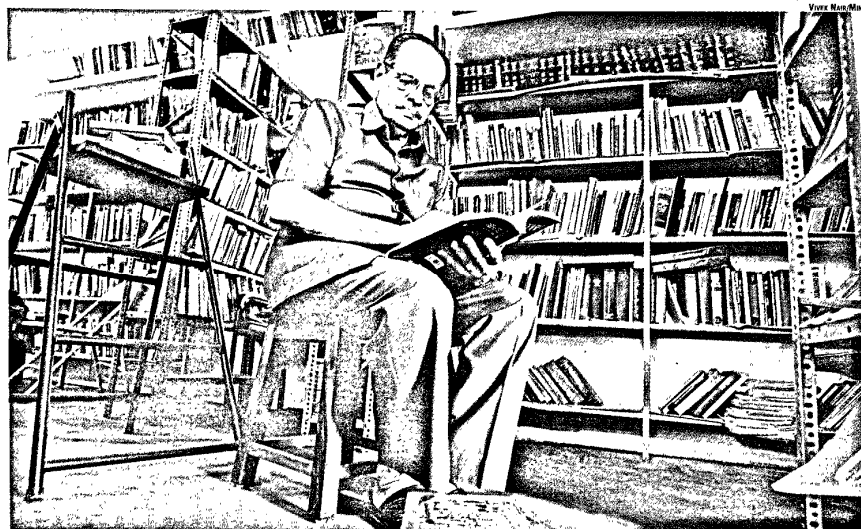
## The genesis

Admission to any of the national law schools is a highly competitive process—about 1,000 seats are available in total. CLAT's level of difficulty has increased progressively over the years, as have the number of applicants (19,000 took it in May last year, up from 16,000 in 2010). And as with any competitive entrance exam, a parallel ecosystem of coaching classes and crash courses flourishes in several towns and cities.

It was not always so. The evolution has been unlike that of institutions of excellence such as the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) or Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs).

Nearly three decades ago, N. R. Madhava Menon was teaching at Delhi University's faculty of law. He received a missive from Ram Jethmalani, then chairman of the Bar Council of India (BCI), asking him to spearhead an experiment in Indian legal education. An enthused Menon took a three-year sabbatical from Delhi University to join the BCI. He proposed a new model for a law school and travelled through many states in search of support to set it up.

"But there were no takers (among the governments). Even-



ually, my three-year tenure finished and I returned to Delhi University," recalls Menon.

The BCI later sought an opinion from the then attorney general K. Parasaran on the proposed law school, asking that it be recognized as a deemed university under the University Grants Commission Act. After the attorney general's assent, Menon was recalled and he struck a deal with Ramakrishna Hegde, then chief minister of Karnataka, leading to Bangalore being chosen as the location for the first national law school.

The start was anything but promising, with the school, in the initial stages, forced to operate from a couple of abandoned garages on the fringes of the Bangalore University campus.

Things changed however, after the ordinance setting up the institute became a law (National Law School of India University Act, 1986). Armed with 12 hand-picked faculty members and two grants of ₹50 lakh each from the state government and the Bar Council of India Trust, respectively, Menon managed to obtain deemed university status. Six years later, the first batch of 50 graduates emerged from NLSIU. Impressed, the government directed Menon and his team to replicate the success in Kolkata.

Narayanan Ramaswamy, head of KPMG's education practice, believes NLSIU brought a sense of pride and legitimacy to legal education. "The large positive effect is on the profession. Legal education has got a bit of respect. Earlier, it was almost like in chartered accountancy where the education did not matter, only the apprentice part did," he said.

## The objective

A key reason for which the national law schools were set up was improving legal education through model law schools. Today, there still exists a vast gulf between the top 20 law schools in India and the remaining 880. Unlike the national law schools and a handful of private ones, these colleges and departments that are housed in several universities have not altered the method or process of teaching of law in decades. Many of them follow the old system—a three-year programme that students can take up only after they have obtained an under-graduate degree.



Bringing change: (Above) Dayan Krishnan, a Delhi-based advocate who graduated in 1993 as part of NLSIU's first batch; (top) N.R. Madhava Menon, founder of NLSIU, was asked by Ram Jethmalani to reform legal education in India in the 1980s.

Stung by the PM's comments in 2010, then solicitor general and BCI chairman Gopal Subramaniam immediately put in place an all-India bar exam to raise the quality of law graduates entering the profession. This caused an uproar across the country from some of the 60,000 law graduates being churned out annually.

But Subramaniam refused to relent.

"The fault, I think, is that it is far too easy to become an enrolled advocate at most of the high courts," said Subramaniam, who quit as solicitor general, and consequently chairman of BCI, last year. "It seems to me that the universities which depend largely upon the number of pupils who come to them are likely to be in favour of the continuation of a situation where the university degree carries such potential subsequent advantages. Moreover, for the purpose of maintaining or increasing the supply of pupils there is a temptation to a university to make it easier from time to time the conditions of the qualifying examination for law degree."

Subramaniam suggested derecognizing law colleges that were not up to the mark. He said the intention was to reduce the number of law colleges from 900

to using case law, the course was designed as a shorter integrated five-year law degree fine-tuned for law students, saving them one additional year of college.

## The ultimate test

Whether by design or otherwise, the national law schools have produced multi-disciplinary law graduates. They've been hired by the Supreme Court and high court judges as law clerks, Magic Circle law firms in London, international agencies such as the United Nations, arbitration firms in Singapore, and even news organizations in India and abroad. The law schools have also spawned academics and entrepreneurs who have dabbled in education, social work and philanthropy.

As Rahul Singh, a professor and alumnus of NLSIU, said: "The alumni has really chosen to do a variety of stuff—it is the broadest range of possible career options that an alumni body could have chosen."

Corporate law has undoubtedly been the largest beneficiary of the national law schools. This is partly due to good timing as these graduates were lucky enough to see a boom in demand from corporate law firms that emerged to address the growing needs of a rapidly expanding economy. Several of India's top law firms employ graduates of the national law schools as partners.

## Counterpoint

The biggest criticism of the national law schools is that institutions funded by taxpayers' money are churning out lawyers for large companies and rich clients. Critics also argue that many graduates leave for a foreign university or firm, thereby creating a brain-drain like the IITs did, albeit smaller.

They contend that this makes the programme a failure since a very small percentage of national law school graduates have contributed to the profession's traditional areas such as justice delivery and litigation. Part of the reason could be that litigation is an area that takes several years of experience to master and hence graduates from the national law schools are yet to make a proper mark in the courts. It's also a field that's ruled by a handful of highly paid, superstar lawyers.

No graduate of the national law schools has been designated

as senior counsel by any high court or the Supreme Court yet. But there are some contenders according to observers at the Bar—among them Dayan Krishnan, a Delhi advocate who graduated in 1993 as part of NLSIU's first batch. He was recently appointed standing counsel for the Delhi government and has been known to handle prosecution work. Another is Aditya Sondhi, a 1998 graduate who practices in the Karnataka high court in Bangalore.

By extension, places on the bench at the high courts or the Supreme Court are still a long way off, although this will happen with time. "The national law schools have succeeded in making law a popular career choice, but not quite in contributing to the Bar and thereby to the dispensation of justice," Sondhi said.

Nick Robinson, a fellow at the Centre for Policy Research who has taught at NLSIU, Bangalore, and the Jindal Global Law School, Sonapat, said the situation is more complex. "I think it's a little more grey than black and white—the original mission of the NLS (national law schools) as I understood it was to create litigators—particularly litigators for poor people. That hasn't happened too much—although I don't think you should discount those who do it, there are people like Alternate Law Forum in Bangalore," he said.

Robinson encourages diversity among the alumni. "If you think of the NLS as more of a lead school like Harvard or Yale—most of the alumni of Harvard and Yale don't go into litigation either—they go into firms, into government and academia. I don't think that law schools should be only for cranking out litigators. In India itself, the whole freedom struggle was led by lawyers who joined politics. I'd be happy to see more NLS students going into politics or policy," he added.

There have been criticisms from the Bar and sometimes from judges that graduates are not willing to take up lower-rung litigation or the join judicial services. But Ashok Parjia, chairman of the Bar Council of India, disagrees that the graduates can be blamed for not choosing this option. "All these national schools are located in the state capitals and big cities—so you cannot expect these graduates to not go to the high courts or the Supreme Court. One cannot expect them to relocate to small towns and start trial court work there."

Parjia added that the graduates' arguments for joining law firms is simple—they get better salaries. Some of them have loans to pay back. There have been instances of some of these graduates moving to practice or to teaching after four-five years (of working in a law firm). Blaming them totally cannot be very fair—the Bar should also find ways and means to look after them."

While NLSIU has had a significant impact on India's legal system, it's still not clear whether this success can be emulated to reorder the scale and scope of legal education in the country.



Mint's association with Legally India will bring you forthright insight and analysis of major developments in law, courts, firms and universities.



# Students surprised, teachers angry at DU

Sugandha Pathak

**NEW DELHI:** Following the unprecedentedly good results in the Delhi University semester exams held in November-December, teachers of the University have claimed that they were asked to set easy question papers and be lenient in their markings of the answersheets.

The teachers say that the university wanted them to be generous in awarding marks as that would make the semester system popular.

"We were told by the authorities to make easy question papers so that all the students pass, I objected and also gave it in writing to the Vice Chancellor (VC) that this is not possible. We have to maintain

some standards of higher education," said Naveen Gaur, professor of Physics, Dyal Singh College.

Students were astounded to find out that they have got perfect 75 marks in all four theory papers of Physics in Miranda House College. "A girl from BSc Physics (Hons) got around 99 per cent," Gaur said.

A professor from Department of Germanic and Romance studies on conditions of anonymity said that the teachers were forced to give more marks: "I have told students not to be happy about their high scores as the majority of the students haven't really fared well. The marks were not given according to their merit," she said.

Implementation of the semester system drew heavy criticism from teachers and students. Many were surprised to see the first set of results declared in the last week of December, just three weeks after the exams were over.

Three students of BA Economics (Hons) scored 99 per cent in the first semester. Around 390 answer scripts in Economics theory papers were awarded perfect 75. The trend of over 90 per cent marks continued in subjects like BA(Hons) Urdu, Philosophy and Hindi.

Gaur said in Satyawati College, 37 students got first class in Political Science.

"The University's records in the past years show that never

did so many students from one college get first class in one subject. That number of first classes to be total reported in the entire University in one subject," the teacher added.

More shocking for the teachers was the free flow of marks in social science subjects, usually hard to score.

"In Hindu College, the highest marks in political science is over 80 per cent. Similar trends are seen in History (H)," said Irsh Mishra, professor of political science in Hindu College.

According to Abha Dev Habib, Delhi University Teachers' Association (DUTA) member and physics teacher at Miranda House college, students who could not even write a letter in correct English were giv-

ing over 90 per cent. "My own students are laughing. Many students who did not do well got such inflated marks," Habib said.

To pass all the students, more than 10 marks were increased after the evaluated mark sheets went to the controller of examination.

"Though the University has a right to moderate marks to pass the student after the examiner has marked the papers, the varsity went overboard. I did not give such high marks, but when the result came out there was a high disparity in the marks given by teachers and the marks out," said Ujjaini Ray, Professor of History in Lady Sriram College (LSR).

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## Teachers angry over DU generosity

University, from Page 1

She said many are unable to believe the teachers did not give such high marks and suggested filing RTI to get the OMR sheets where it is impossible to change the marks given by the teachers.

"The second and third year students are unhappy because the employer will not ask them why they got 50 or 60 per cent marks when their juniors are scoring in 90's," Ray added.

Teachers say stricter evaluation is to make students decide if they would like to continue in a subject.

"This is the death of a university. A degree from DU won't be of any value if marks are awarded like this. People will stop taking us seriously," Habib said.

The office of Controller of Examinations, D S Jaggi refused to comment when contacted.

**DH News Service**

# Needed: an IITian sperm donor, pl

A Chennai couple's ad has become a talking point on IIT campuses across India. We listen in

Renu Singh

*'My wife and I are looking for a suitable sperm donor for fresh In Vitro procedure very soon! Ideal candidate should be IIT student, healthy, no bad habits, tall and fair if possible but will consider the right donor regardless of looks etc. Time is of the essence, so please call asap. Compensation twenty thousand Rupees cash. Call or email asap. Authentic ad, we need donor within two weeks most likely. Please help us start a family filled with love and prosperity. References will be required and checked (sic).'*

The above is the text from an advertisement on a website that has created a stir nationally within the student community. While doctors admit that childless couples unofficially express the desire to have high IQ guys as sperm donors, this is the first time that they've come across such an advertisement. As for students' reactions, they range from 'bizarre!' to being okay with this desire of the parents-to-be.

Says Dr Prateek Tambe from a Mumbai-based fertility and IVF centre, "I've come across cases where people have specially mentioned that they want sperm donors with IIT or IIM background. Generally, people feel that doing so will ensure an intelligent baby. Demands are high for foreign donors as well. But till now, such requests were made within a doctor's chamber. Placing an ad is something new."

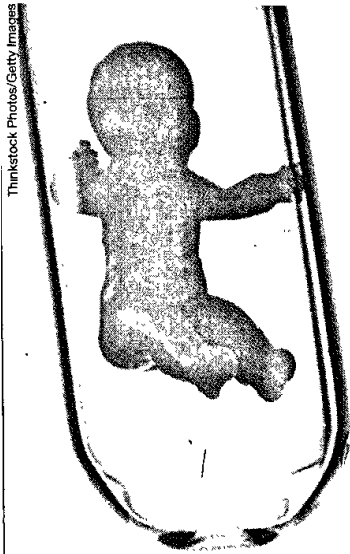
Sunny Puruswani, a third year B.Tech. student from IIT Chennai, feels the couple from Chennai has been misguided by a fraud doctor. Says Rohit Khattar, a third year B.Tech. student from IIT Bhubaneswar, "There is nothing wrong if a person can be of help to a couple. Surrogacy or IVF is neither a new concept, nor is it legally unacceptable. What's the harm if an IITian is approached for this? But if someone comes to me with such an offer, I'd say that just being an IITian doesn't guarantee anything about a person's ability or aptitude. It requires a lot more to be a perfect human being."

Prateek Kishore, a second year student of IIT Kharagpur, feels it's futile to debate this issue. "I'd say it makes no sense to talk about this issue at all. To each his own. A person from an arts background might have a higher IQ compared to any IITian," Prateek insists.

Vivek Agarwal, a final year B.Tech. student from IIT Kanpur, wouldn't oblige if such a request came his way. "That's because this is all about donating a part of my body. There is an emotional connect involved in it. I don't think this will be acceptable to society. Nobody is born a genius. A person's dedication and hard work decide his fate. Success is not hereditary," Vivek explains.

Meanwhile, Monish Sipani, a third year B.Tech. student, IIT Bombay, says, "I too have come across this classified ad circulating on social networking sites. Everybody is criticizing the whole purpose of trying to rope in an IITian. Personally, I don't support this. I don't understand the mindset of people who have come up with such an ad. It is impossible to expect a child to have all traits of his parents."

Ujjawal Kalra, a third year student from IIT Guwahati, finds this a funny situation. "I don't know how this couple came up with this brilliant idea of a child inheriting the IQ of the parents. A child can never be expected to be the carbon copy of his parents. It's ultimately his hard work that'll decide his success."



Thinkstock Photos/Getty Images

**(SOCIETY HAS BECOME MORE OPEN AND IF PEOPLE HAVE STARTED PLACING SUCH ADS, IT SHOWS HOW OPEN WE ARE ABOUT SUCH ISSUES)**

**ROHIT KHATTAR, A THIRD YEAR B.TECH. STUDENT FROM IIT BHUBANESWAR**

**(A FRAUD DOCTOR MUST HAVE WRONGLY INFORMED THIS COUPLE ABOUT A STRANGE WAY OF SOLVING THEIR PROBLEMS. NOBODY IS BORN A DOCTOR OR AN ENGINEER.)**

**SUNNY PURUSWANI, A THIRD YEAR B.TECH. STUDENT FROM IIT CHENNAI**