

## Newspaper Clips January 13, 2015

### **IIT Delhi director Shevgaonkar joins duty, meets some senior faculty members**

[http://zeenews.india.com/news/delhi/iit-delhi-director-shevgaonkar-joins-duty-meets-some-senior-faculty-members\\_1529056.html](http://zeenews.india.com/news/delhi/iit-delhi-director-shevgaonkar-joins-duty-meets-some-senior-faculty-members_1529056.html)

New Delhi: Amid the controversy surrounding his resignation, [IIT Delhi](#) Director [R Shevgaonkar](#) today joined duty and met a couple of senior faculty members who are understood to have pursued him to reconsider his decision.

Shevgaonkar had gone on leave soon after he tendered his resignation late last year but it has not been accepted by the HRD Ministry.

He remained non-committal during his meeting with the faculties and preferred to wait till he receives some kind of communication from the ministry, sources said.

Members of IIT Delhi Faculty Forum are also expected to meet him soon, they said.

In its resolution passed last week, the forum had said it "unanimously and unitedly extends full support" to Shevgaonkar.

"We vehemently protest the malicious allegations and the politicisation of issues in the press and media," it said.

Shevgaonkar, whose resignation had triggered a controversy, has attributed his decision to some "unforeseen situations".

"Towards the end of the year... Some unforeseen situations developed and I had to decide to step down from my position," he had said in his mail to the faculty and students after he stepped down.

Shevgaonkar, however, did not elaborate on the factors that had led to his decision to quit.

Sources in the HRD Ministry have indicated that faulting the director on the issue of the setting up of an extension research campus in Mauritius would prove counter-productive as it had approval of the Ministry itself and an MoU in this regard was signed in Mauritius last year in the presence of the then HRD Minister M M Pallam Raju.

An enquiry is already underway about the MoU which has been at the centre of the controversy ever since Shevgaonkar quit.

Times of India ND  
13/01/2015 P-15

## Visited Mauritius after govt nod, says UGC chief

A TOI report 'Govt looks to get IIT-Delhi director back to work' published on January 12 said UGC chairman Ved Prakash had committed "severe illegal acts" including "his visit to Mauritius last year without political clearance". Prof Ved Prakash has strongly denied any illegal actions. He travelled to Mauritius in January 2014 after due written clearance from the then HRD Minister on December 20, 2013 to renew an agreement with Mauritius' Tertiary Education Commission that was first signed by UGC in 1992, and renewed by successive UGC heads in 1994, 2001, 2002, 2007 and 2010. The agreement renewed by Prof Prakash in 2014, with due permission, included a new clause which specifically made it incumbent on TEC to check with UGC regarding eligibility and approval for any local institution intending to operate as offshore centre/campus of any Indian institutions/universities. We regret the embarrassment caused to Prof Prakash.

S.S. MANTHA

# AICTE should move from being just a regulator to a facilitator

BY PRASHANT K. NANDA  
prashant.n@livemint.com

NEW DELHI

Five years ago, when S.S. Mantha became chairman of the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), the apex technical education regulator was notorious for corruption and opacity. Mantha improved its reputation and made it accountable by introducing e-governance. Mantha, who relinquished office on 2 January, said in an interview on his last day that AICTE must move from being a regulator to a facilitator. He advocated government funding for quality private technical schools and urged streamlining of various education laws to avoid turf battles between regulators. Edited excerpts:

## How would you sum up your stint as chairman?

Last few years that I have been here were full of challenges, but I always thought challenge would provide an opportunity. A lot of practices were not desirable at the time when I came in. After I joined, we implemented e-governance and because of that, today an applicant sits at home, makes his application and prints his approval to open a college from home without coming to AICTE office.

The transformation has been remarkable—from a paper-based approach to a completely automation-driven implementation



**Helping hand:** Mantha says the best private schools should be identified and made eligible for funding.

## mint INTERVIEW

process. It increased transparency, accountability and has restored the credibility of the organization. This is a key takeaway for me.

Besides, we managed to improve the quality of teachers though still we have to go a long way, and moved towards vocationalization of higher education.

## How tough was it to work with the government?

As administrators, we follow the policies of the government. To that extent, we work as professionals. I would not say it's difficult to work in a government set-up as long as you understand that there is no local agenda.

**The government has set up a committee to review AICTE and may**

## restructure it. What are the key areas where AICTE needs to change for good?

I want to see AICTE moving from being just a regulator to a complete facilitator and enabler. We have put several policies in place which will take AICTE to be a facilitator and I would like that to be taken forward.

I would like a much more enabling regulatory framework, which is funded properly. So that it can reach out to its institutions to improve quality. Quality comes at a price... Today, several hundred government colleges (in technical space) are starved for funds, they are extremely good, but need funds. For some 300 government degree colleges and 1,000 polytechnics, I would like to see an exclusive package so that these institutes can improve their facilities and provide quality as good as any IIT (Indian Institute of Technology). They have the potential.

Third, I would like to see AICTE powers restored as per its Act. It did face tough times in the last 18 months.

More than 90% of the technical schools are in the private sector and many of them are doing well. But they cannot perform better because of several problems in the state mechanism and regulatory process.

I would suggest that identify the best (private) schools and make them eligible for funding. It should happen.

The last one is—productiza-

tion needs to happen through technical institutions. It means research and development (R&D) labs of industries should be linked with a cluster of institutions in particular areas. So that these schools can work and provide R&D inputs and help the cause of "Make in India" mission.

**You talked about restoring the powers of AICTE fully. But the fact remains that you had a tough time negotiating with the legal system and then with the University Grants Commission over your jurisdiction. Your view.**

It was very tough.

But now, instead of talking about the turf war, there should be a talk about rationalization of Acts. There are overlapping provisions in most of these Acts and these must go. It means you must clearly demarcate the line for each education regulator. Once that happens, this turf war will vanish. And (government must) give enough autonomy to each of these institutions to implement the policies of the government.

**Another criticism of AICTE is it never stopped mushrooming of tech schools...**

First, there is need for a perspective plan from the state government. It should very clearly map the requirement vs availability of institutions. Very few states have done that... Secondly, Indian Constitution allows people to practise their profession of choice. If you want to set up a college and (are) ready to follow rules, how can I stop? If I stop by regulation, they will go to court and if court asks me what's the data you have to take this decision, then I will not have any answer. How will you pre-suppose that a new college will not provide quality?

Pioneer ND 13/01/2015 P-5

# NaMo cracks whip on HRD as GIAN draft awaits completion

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■  
NEW DELHI

**H**RD Ministry's slackness in giving a final shape to the Indo-US joint initiative for academic excellence programme in central universities is said to have not gone down well with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, especially since there's just a handful of days left before US President Barrack Obama descends here to take part in the Republic Day function.

The US had agreed to the proposal of Global Initiative for Academic Networks (GIAN) during the Modi-Obama meet in Washington. India had agreed to host about 1,000 science and innovation academicians from the US to teach here. "With this initiative, Indian students could experience the best of Indian scientists and US academicians," said a HRD Ministry official.

The HRD Ministry was tasked to work on the modal-

ities, draft proposals and financial aspects to invite US academicians on short-term basis at various institutions. However, it was on Monday that the Ministry went into an urgency mode after Modi is believed to have asked Irani to expedite the process in view of the fact it is on the agenda of his meeting with the US President.

Following Modi's directive, while Irani cancelled all her meetings for the day, including one scheduled at FICCI on Swami Vivekananda, the Ministry convened an urgent meeting of select IIT and IIM Directors, JNU VC and representatives of a few central universities besides the UGC chairman to deliberate on the issue. HRD Secretary SN Mohanty tasked the IIT Kharagpur Director PP Chakraborty to draft the note pertaining to the crucial GIAN objective and also the financial aspects including honorarium

for the visiting faculty.

However, a close aide of the HRD Minister maintained that she was not well and that is why all her day's meeting had to be cancelled.

The idea of GIAN is a brainchild of Modi and he had personally discussed the idea with Obama, who extended his full support to India. GIAN is a talent pool of eminent scholars from India and abroad to teach at centrally funded institutions of excellence in India.

Following the Modi-Obama meet in Washington last year, a joint statement was issued then which stated: "The President (Obama) welcomed India's proposal to establish the Global Initiative of Academic Networks (GIAN or knowledge) under which India would invite and host up to 1,000 American academics each year to teach in Centrally-recognised Indian universities, at their convenience."

Dainik Bhaskar ND 13/01/2015 P-14

# आईआईएम-आईआईटी के कैंपस अब बड़े नहीं, लंबे होंगे

सरकार जगह की कमी पर आर्किटेक्ट हफीज कॉन्ट्रेक्टर की सेवाएं लेगी

• केंद्र ने नियमों में नरमी लाने का फैसला किया

कंचन श्रीवास्तव|मुंबई

नए आईआईएम, आईआईटी और केंद्रीय विश्वविद्यालयों की घोषणा तो हो गई, लेकिन राज्य सरकारों के पास उनके लिए जमीन नहीं है। इस समस्या का हल निकालने नरेंद्र मोदी सरकार ने जमीन की जरूरत संबंधी नियमों में नरमी लाने का फैसला किया है। यानी अब कैंपस बड़े नहीं, लंबे होंगे। सरकार इसके लिए ख्यात आर्किटेक्ट हफीज कॉन्ट्रेक्टर की सेवाएं लेने की तैयारी में है।

केंद्र सरकार ने पांच सदस्यों की कमेटी बनाई है। दो महीने में रिपोर्ट आएगी। उच्च शिक्षा सचिव सत्यनारायण मोहंती इस कमेटी के अध्यक्ष हैं। और आईसीआईसीआई बैंक के बोर्ड ऑफ डायरेक्टर्स के चेयरमैन केवी कामथ, पुणे के कॉलेज ऑफ इंजीनियरिंग के डायरेक्टर अनिल सहस्रबुद्धे, गुजरात केंद्रीय विश्वविद्यालय के कुलपति सैयद बारी समिति के सदस्य। समिति को लगता है कि नियमों में जितनी जमीन की जरूरत बताई है, उससे कम में भी काम

**यह है नियम**

आईआईटी के लिए 100 एकड़, आईआईएम या इंडियन इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ साइंस एजुकेशन एंड रिसर्च के लिए 200 एकड़, एनआईटी के लिए 300 एकड़ और केंद्रीय यूनिवर्सिटी के लिए 500 एकड़ जरूरी है।

**अब ये करेंगे**

सरकार ने पांच नए आईआईटी (जम्मू, छत्तीसगढ़, गोवा, आंध्र प्रदेश और केरल) के साथ ही पांच नए आईआईएम (बिहार, पंजाब, हिमाचल, महाराष्ट्र और ओडिशा) की घोषणा की है। साथ ही तय किया है कि एयरपोर्ट, व्यापारिक और औद्योगिक हब इनके पास होने चाहिए। इसलिए राज्य सरकारों को जमीन तलाशने में दिवक्त आ रही है। ऐसे में बहुमंजिला इमारतों में इन संस्थाओं को शुरू करने की कवायद चल रही है।

चल सकता है। आठ दिसंबर को कमेटी की बैठक में कहा गया कि आईआईएम के लिए 80 से 100 एकड़ जमीन काफी है। कामथ ने सिंगापुर, हांगकांग, अमेरिका के विश्वविद्यालयों के कैंपस साइज का अध्ययन भी किया है। (डीएनए से साभार)

## **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.

## **KAKODKAR STRESSES ON RESEARCH**

Hindustan Times (Lucknow)

Padma Vibhushan Professor Anil Kakodkar, chairman atomic energy commission, said research was the only key to national development and technical universities could make a substantial contribution to it. "Our universities have enough potential to contribute to the national development. What we have to do is to identify individuals and groups who are the best researchers," said Kakodkar while addressing the gathering.

## Centre names Kiran Kumar as Isro chief

Hindustan Times (Kolkata)

AHMEDABAD: AS Kiran Kumar, director of Ahmedabad-based Space Application Centre ( SAC), which is an arm of Isro, was appointed chairman of the Indian Space research Organisation (Isro) on Monday.

The appointments committee of the cabinet (ACC) headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi cleared his name and subsequently the order was issued.

“The ACC has approved the appointment of AS Kiran Kumar, director, space application centre, as secretary, department of space and chairman of space commission on reemployment on contract basis for tenure of three years,” stated the ACC order.

## JEE exams witness a drop of 52,500 students this year

Hindustan Times (Mumbai)

MUMBAI: Around 13.035 lakh students have registered for Joint Entrance Test, Main (JEE Main-2015), the first leg of the two-stage examination process for engineering admissions, scheduled in April.

However, there is a drop of around 52,500 students compared to last year when around 13.56 lakh students registered for exam.

The last day for registration for JEE (Main) was on December 27, but the dates were extended up to January 10 for aspirants from Manipur. The state had recently joined the national level exam.

JEE Main, an all-India engineering entrance exam is conducted by the Central Board of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education (CBSE) for admission to centrally funded engineering institutions like National Institute of Technology (NIT) and others.

It is also the first screening test for IIT admissions.

While there has been a constant increase in number of candidates since 2012 (see box) this is the first time the number has dropped.

“Poor quality of faculty in the engineering colleges and increase in job opportunities in other streams could be the reasons for decrease in the number of people registering for JEE Main,” said an IIT aspirant.

However, in Maharashtra, for the academic year 2014-15, more than 40% of engineering seats remained vacant, according to data presented by the state’s higher and technical education minister during the recent winter session.

GT Thampi, principal, Thadomal Shahani College of Engineering, Bandra said, “This trend seems temporary. The interest in engineering education is decreasing because of the higher fees charged in engineering institute compared to other courses. However, placements in engineering institutes have suffered leaving many engineers unemployed.”

# With the GATE exams around the corner, engineering students and professionals are gearing up for the tough battle

By Nitin Rakesh Prasad

**E**NGINEERING is considered a lucrative career and hence has been one of the most sought-after options among students in India. The increasing number of engineering graduates in the country has raised the yardstick of good job requisites in many companies. The market in the past few years, too, has been witnessing cutthroat competition.

No wonder, more and more students now aspire to further their qualification with a master's degree in engineering. Inevitably, the number of students preparing and appearing for GATE (Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering) has increased. It has become an essential footstep for students aiming to pursue their masters in engineering, besides being the gate-

GATE has become an essential footstep for both engineering students and professionals to get an instant recognition in the job market.



**GATE 2015 exams will be held during forenoon and afternoon sessions on alternate weekends (Saturday and Sunday) between January 31 and February 8. Examination for some of the papers in GATE 2015 will be held in multiple sessions**

# GATEWAY TO SUCCESS

way to the top engineering and science colleges in the country. To begin with, students must realise that GATE is not a cakewalk as it requires a lot of dedication and diligence. While preparing for it, students cannot afford to allow deviations and should concentrate entirely on it. Working professionals often resign from their jobs to

prepare for GATE, while students should start preparing for it from the third year of their engineering. Working professionals find it a little difficult to prepare for this exam as they lose contact with books during their professional tenure. Therefore, it is advisable for them to join GATE coaching classes to recollect the engineering concepts

that they learn during their engineering days. The mock tests help them improve their speed during the exams. It is of utmost importance for them to read and understand and rebuild a strong concept. Solving previous years' papers also go a long way in

improving the necessary skills. The students should focus on mathematics. These exams are also about logic and reasoning, which is why the basic concepts should be clear to students. The books from the engineering days are Bibles for the students preparing for GATE. Apart from this, the standard books available in the market for GATE preparation by foreign authors are also good material for reference.

For students, however, the ideal time to start preparing for GATE is the third year of engineering; these students should focus on mathematics and basic engineering sub-

The ideal time for hardcore preparation starts nine months before the exam

### FIVE TIPS FOR STUDENTS

- For GATE, a good understanding of the basic concepts is required. While solving the problem, students must ensure there's balance between speed and accuracy.
- For students, the ideal time to start preparing for GATE is the third year of engineering; these students should focus on mathematics and basic engineering subjects (Electronics, Electricals or Mechanicals). Students whose fundamentals are good can qualify in GATE with even six months of preparation.
- As the exam comes closer, you should focus more on solving the previous 10 years of questions and do selective study.
- Any problem can be tackled in a number of ways. So being innovative and intuitive can help you reach the correct option quickly. This means, it is not compulsory to solve question in typical way.
- Leave all the books few days before the exam. Have some good time and relax.

jects like electronics, electrical or mechanics. These students should spend around 4-5 hours per week in the beginning and slowly increase the study hours by 20-25 hours per week during the last six months. A lot of engineering students start their preparation in their final year. But since the final year is quite hectic with several projects to complete, they might not find enough time for either of the two. Nevertheless, they can be successful if they have invested time on subjects from their first year. Students whose fundamentals are good can qualify in GATE with even six months of preparation. Those in

their final year should focus more on solving the previous 10 years of questions and do selective study. The ideal time for hardcore preparation should start nine months before the exam. During the first three months, students should work towards clearing the basics. This is of utmost importance for every student as the GATE questions are not direct questions, but they tend to check the basic knowledge of the students. The next six months should be utilised to solve problems and getting into the depth of the topic. Trying to finish the syllabus could be a futile attempt. Instead, they

are advised to select 4-5 subjects in which they are strong. Solving the last 10 years' GATE question papers in those subjects could do wonders for them to assess their abilities. Another important thing is to ensure that they focus on mathematics. This way, a student can easily get 60 marks out of 100 — this would easily get them a chance at the IITs or a PSU as per their preference.

Three months before the exams, students should definitely appear for the all-India mock tests and evaluation. However, it is not enough to just appear for the mock tests. It is extremely important to sit after every test and analyse the strengths, weaknesses and work towards weaker sections. If required, students should go and brush their basics again to ensure a better performance. Each one should remember accuracy is the key in GATE exam.

Retrospection is important and that should be left for the last month. Students should evaluate as to what has been done in the past 6-8 months. Revision plays a crucial role in it. Students should revise the basics once again, read definitions, and go through the formulae. They should be cautious and realise that the last month is not the time to work on weaker sections as then they would end up with low self-confidence which at the 11th hour is not good news.

—The writer is co-founder, THE GATE ACADEMY



HT.Com ND 13.01.2015 P-8

# EQUATION OF VEDIC MATHS

**ALGEBRA** Forgotten branch of mathematics that would ease tough calculations

Indi-Asian News Service

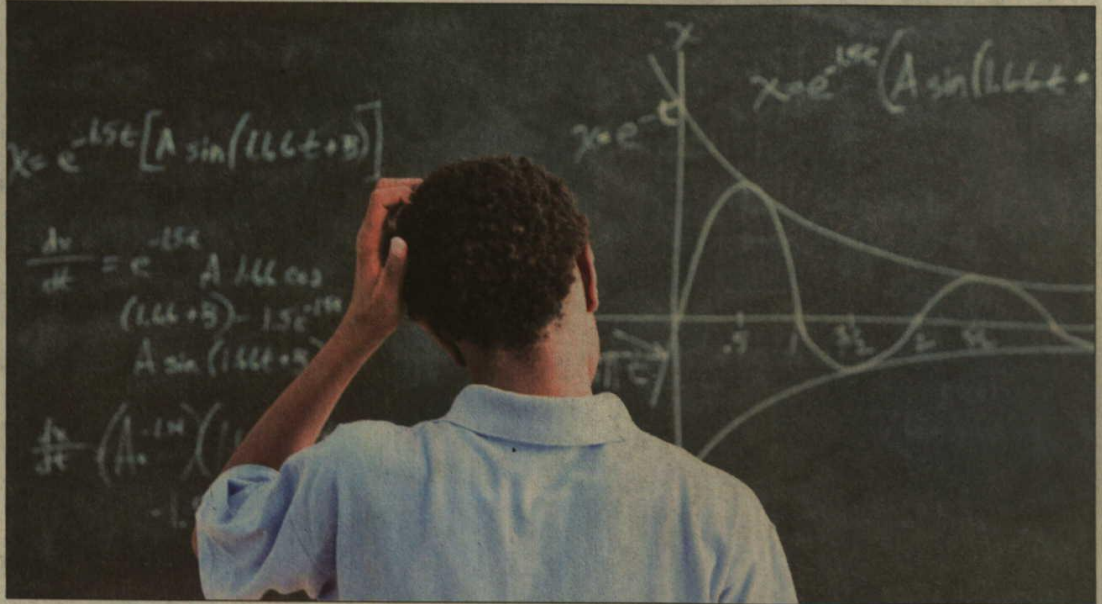
It takes 11-year-old Aditya Ray only seconds to multiply a five-digit number with a four-digit one. This, he says, is because of Vedic mathematics, "which has made my calculations quicker and accurate". By traditional method, Ray would have taken over a minute to get the answer.

"It takes me around one and a half minutes to multiply such large numbers using the conventional method. However, if I take the Vedic maths route, I can solve it in 30 seconds," the Class six student said.

Vedic mathematics, which came into focus after the Narendra Modi, government put emphasis on India's ancient and forgotten knowledge systems, is a branch of mathematics based on 16 Sanskrit sutras (word formulae) which make mathematical calculations 10-15 times faster as compared to the traditional methods.

Discovered by Hindu seer Swami Bharati Krishna Tirthaji in the early 20th century, it is also said to be easy to remember, offers multiple ways of doing the same calculation, creates inquisitiveness and improves analytical thinking.

According to the School of Vedic Maths (SOVM), Tirthaji was born in 1884 in Tirunelveli in Tamil Nadu. After completing his Master of Arts at age 20, he was briefly a college principal. He quit that to embrace a spiritual path. It was during deep meditation that he got inner revelations on the 16 sutras from the appendix of Atharva Veda, one of the four vedas, the ancient Indian spiritual and scholastic texts. Tirthaji declared that any mathematical problem can be solved using them. Gaurav Tekriwal, president of the Vedic Math Forum India, said Vedic



■ Teachers believe that there is no harm in introducing Vedic Maths in primary classes

FILE PHOTO

maths was a collection of methods to calculate faster when compared to traditional.

"With a little practice in Vedic maths one can make mundane calculations easier, simpler and quicker so much so that you can call it 'World's Fastest Mental Maths System'. It has applications primarily in arithmetic and algebra and hence is a favorite of competitive exam aspirants who want to tackle maximum problems in less time," Tekriwal said.

The Forum holds online classes spread over 30 hours for students and 40 hours for teachers. The classes are one on one.

Pradeep Kumar, founder director of Magical Methods, provides training in Vedic maths, shared that using such calculations, finding the square of any number ending with five becomes extremely easy. "Say you

want to find square of 85. You multiply 5 by 5 and put 25 as your right part of the answer. Then, multiply 8 by the next higher digit, 9, and put 72 as your left part of the answer. Your answer is 7,225," he said, adding the same formula can be used to find square of any number ending with five.

The branch is slowly gaining popularity among students "because it is very useful, especially for those planning to take competitive examinations", Kumar said.

"Today, there are a lot of competitive exams. Speed is one of the key factors to crack any exam which tests numerical ability. Vedic maths is a very good tool. It gives a good sense of numbers for all working professionals who do a lot of number-crunching in their jobs," Vinay Nair, founder of School of Vedic Maths (SOVM), said.

Nair added that from a teacher's point of view, it gives "immense possibilities to explore learning mathematics from many angles and in innovative ways".

But S.G. Dani, professor in the department of mathematics at the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, believes Vedic maths was "just a bunch of tricks, devoid of coherence. It has little significance. We might as well forget it. Though it may have a few useful bits, the aura around it makes it very damaging," Dani said over email.

Vedic Maths is favoured by those who have benefited from it and want it introduced in education. Sapna Jain, assistant professor in the department of mathematics in Delhi University, said that, those who study it will also get to know about a lot of things which have remained buried.