

# Newspaper Clips

## January 15, 2012

Hindustan Times ND 15/01/2012 P-15

### 'Managing diverse situations is in our DNA'

**DON-SPEAK** Brought up on a 'work-hard culture', Indians are born leaders, says Soumitra Dutta, the new dean at Cornell's Johnson Business school

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With a PhD in computer science and MSc in business administration, Soumitra Dutta is a man whose qualifications appear to encapsulate everything that is dynamic and shining about new India — just the ideal candidate, you would think, to head the Johnson Business School at Cornell, the Ivy League university based in upstate New York State. In fact, as Dutta prepares to take up his new assignment, he comes across as a man who is as deeply concerned about addressing the challenges faced by India as he is keen to continue melding the worlds of information technology, computer science and business.

"I see poverty as much more than the lack of access to food, water and resources — it's also about lack of information, dignity and self-respect," says

Dutta, who is professor of business and technology at INSEAD, France. "When a domestic servant in Delhi or Mumbai uses her mobile phone to plan her movements

for the day, by that simple act she gains control over her time and it becomes a fact of poverty alleviation — it's about the hope of improving your life."

An erudite man, he effortlessly builds a link between his vision of India and his plans for Cornell, where he is expected to continue to wear the two hats of computer science and business administration. "Cornell is already a great brand and Johnson is a very strong school. My attempt will be to try and see if Johnson can address some of the bigger issues that society faces, such as energy, aging, food and health."

He plans to do so by building links between Johnson and Cornell's reputed medical and agricultural centres. "I want to take Johnson to the world, and bring the world to Johnson."

Does being Indian give business thinkers an advantage? "It's true that Indians can bring in a better appreciation of global challenges, from an emerging market context. They are much more sensitive to it. Already Indians are talking of inclusive innovation — they will need to position that in the global study of innovation, in the context of global thought." Having grown up in an army-medico family

**INDIANS CAN BRING IN A BETTER APPRECIATION OF GLOBAL CHALLENGES, FROM AN EMERGING MARKET CONTEXT. THEY ARE MUCH MORE SENSITIVE TO IT**

that lived in places as varied as Chandigarh, Guwahati and Bangalore, Dutta, 48, thinks one reason Indians tend to do well in business studies is that they 'get' diversity. "To become a good leader in an organisation, you have to be able to manage in a diverse situation. Indians are able to do that because it's in our DNA."

There are also those well-known ingredients of leadership and success: a "work-hard culture" and the ability to be analytical. "They get noticed," says Dutta, an IIT Delhi graduate who went on to gain three degrees from Berkeley. For the last 10 years, Dutta has been working on technology policy at the level of governments and brings out the annual Global Information Technology report for the World Economic Forum.

As Dutta and other Indian business thinkers take up key positions in west-

ern business schools, more and more young Indians too are heading out to study in these places. "Students want to have that global experience," Dutta says. "But they are going to different kinds of places, such as France, Germany and Holland. This trend is going to increase because Indians will need to work with global customers, in a globalised environment."

The theme of leadership also runs through Dutta's prognosis for India in 2012. He lists the "three Cs" that he says will be needed to guide India through a critical time as it becomes more of a "key player in the global economy."

India will need: 1. Clean leadership that can promote the interests and demands of people from across the country; 2. Collective leadership that will reflect India's "multiple stakeholders" (so that everybody feels they have a stake); and 3. Courageous leaders ("courage in implementing education, infrastructure and foreign policies.") Can such transformation be led by business? Dutta, optimistic as he is, clearly knows the limits. "Business can play a very important role in India and even drive the change," he says. "But it cannot complete the picture."

### FAMILY SPEAK

One can hear the pride in the voices of Tara Dutta and Air Marshal (ret'd) RK Dutta on the news of their son, Soumitra Dutta heading the B-school of Cornell University, the only Indian to do so.

Tara recalls Soumitra's childhood, part of which was spent in Jorhat, Assam. "I used to take my son and daughter Reena to the market every Saturday, to buy whatever they wished. Both of them only bought books." Soumitra always led a routine life, and was loved by his teachers, say his parents. In fact, when the family had to move from Delhi to Bangalore, his father remembers how his school principal refused to let Soumitra leave.

Not wanting his son to keep just to books, his father initiated Soumitra to bodybuilding. "I made him understand the importance of physical exercise. He had to have some time away from books as well," he says.

Soumitra, who graduated from IIT-Delhi in 1985, was known for his love for books and his passion for body building. Ashu Ohri, who studied with Dutta at IIT, says, "He's one of the most amazing guys I've ever met. He could read a 500-page novel within an hour. All he needed was to glance at a page."

Apart from being popular as 'Arnold Schwarzenegger', he was known for his sensitive side. Arun Arora, a friend from IIT, remembers how Soumitra used to write one letter to his mother every day. "When I asked him why do you have to write a letter every day, he just said he had made a promise to his mother," he says.

— Shreyà Sethuraman



# 15-yr-old Indians 200 pts behind global topper

Hemali Chhapia | TNN

**Mumbai:** Tamil Nadu and Himachal, showpieces of India's education and development, fared miserably at the Programme for International Student Assessment, conducted by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development Secretariat.

An analysis of the performance of the two states showed:

- In math, considered India's strong point, they finished second and third to last, beating only Kyrgyzstan

- When the Indian students were asked to read English text, again Tamil Nadu and Himachal Pradesh were better than only Kyrgyzstan. Girls were better than boys

- The science results were the worst. Himachal Pradesh stood last, this time behind Kyrgyzstan. Tamil Nadu was slightly better and finished third from the bottom

The average 15-year-old Indian is over 200 points behind



## KNOWLEDGE DEFICIT

the global topper. Comparing scores, experts estimate that an Indian eighth grader is at the level of a South Korean third grader in math abilities or a second-year student from Shanghai when it comes to reading skills.

The report said: "In Himachal, 11% of students are estimated to have a proficiency in reading literacy that is at or above the baseline level needed to participate effectively and productively in life. It follows that 89% of students in Himachal are estimated to be below that baseline level."

Clearly, India will have to

ramp up its efforts and get serious about what goes on in its schools. "Better educational outcomes are a strong predictor for future economic growth," OECD secretary-general Angel Gurría told The Times of India. "While national income and educational achievement are still related, PISA shows that two countries with similar levels of prosperity can produce very different results. This shows that an image of a world divided neatly into rich and well-educated countries and poor and badly-educated countries is now out of date."

In case of scientific literacy levels in TN, students were estimated to have a mean score that was below the means of all OECD countries, but better than Himachal. Experts are unsure if selecting these two states was a good idea. Shaheen Mistry, CEO of Teach For India programme, said, "I am glad that now there is data that lets people know how far we still have to go."

Times of India ND 15/01/2012 P-1

# Indian students rank 2nd last in global test

## Better Than Only Kyrgyzstan In Math, Reading & Science

Hemali Chhapla | TNN

Mumbai: Across the world, India is seen as an education powerhouse — based largely on the reputation of a few islands of academic excellence such as the IITs. But scratch the glossy surface of our education system and the picture turns seriously bleak. Fifteen-year-old Indians who were put, for the first time, on a global

### ► Way behind world topper, P 16

stage stood second to last, only beating Kyrgyzstan when tested on their reading, math and science abilities.

India ranked second last among the 73 countries that participated in the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA), conducted annually to evaluate education systems worldwide by the OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) Secretariat.



### THE WRITE WAY

#### Toppers

**READING: China (Shanghai),** South Korea, Finland, Hong Kong, Singapore

**MATH: China (Shanghai),** Singapore, Hong Kong, S Korea, Chinese Taipei

**SCIENCE: China (Shanghai),** Finland, Hong Kong, Singapore, Japan

#### What is PISA?

The Programme for International Student Assessment evaluates education systems around the world by testing the skills and knowledge of 15-year-old schoolchildren

The survey is based on two-hour tests that half a million students are put through.

China's Shanghai province, which participated in PISA for the first time, scored the highest in reading. It also topped the charts in mathematics and science.

"More than one-quarter of Shanghai's 15 year olds demonstrat-

ed advanced mathematical thinking skills to solve complex problems, compared to an OECD average of just 3%," noted the analysis.

The states of Tamil Nadu and Himachal Pradesh, showpieces for education and development, were selected by the central government to participate in PISA, but their test results were damning.

# Net addicts' brains like cocaine users

*Most are gamers who get so involved they go without food and water for extended periods*

Internet addiction has for the first time been linked with changes in the brain similar to those seen in people addicted to alcohol, cocaine and cannabis. In a groundbreaking study, researchers used MRI scanners to reveal abnormalities in the brains of adolescents who spent many hours on the internet, to the detriment of their social and personal lives. The finding could throw light on other behavioural problems and lead to the development of new approaches to treatment, researchers said.

An estimated 5 to 10 per cent of in-

ternet users are thought to be addicted — meaning they are unable to control their use. The majority are games players who become so absorbed in the activity they go without food or drink for long periods and their education, work and relationships suffer.



Corbis

Henrietta Bowden Jones, consultant psychiatrist at Imperial College, London, who runs Britain's only NHS clinic for internet addicts and problem gamblers, said: "The majority of people we see with serious internet addiction are gamers — people who spend long hours in roles in various games that cause them to disregard their obligations. I have seen people who stopped attending university lectures, failed their degrees or their marriages broke down because they were unable to emotionally connect with anything outside the game."

Although most of the population was spending longer online, that was not ev-

idence of addiction, she said. "It is different. We are doing it because modern life requires us to link up over the net in regard to jobs, professional and social connections — but not in an obsessive way. When someone comes to you and says they did not sleep last night because they spent 14 hours playing games, and it was the same the previous night, and they tried to stop but they couldn't — you know they have a problem. It does tend to be the gaming that catches people out."

Researchers in China scanned the brains of 17 adolescents diagnosed with "internet addiction disorder" who had been referred to the Shanghai Mental Health Centre, and compared the results with scans from 16 of their peers.

The results showed impairment of white matter fibres in the brain connecting regions involved in emotional processing, attention, decision making and cognitive control. Similar changes to the white matter have been observed in other forms of addiction to substances such as alcohol and cocaine. THE INDEPENDENT

## Caught in that web

### Toddler starves to death as mother plays online

A mother was jailed for 25 years after her daughter starved to death while she played an online game for hours at a time. Rebecca Colleen Christie, 28, from New Mexico in the US, played the fantasy game World of Warcraft while her three-year-old daughter, Brandi, starved. The toddler weighed 23lbs when she was finally rushed to hospital.

### Xbox addict killed by blood clot after 12-hour sessions

Chris Staniforth, 20, died of a blood clot after spending up to 12 hours at a time playing on his Xbox. Despite no history of ill health, he developed deep vein thrombosis — associated with long-haul flight passengers.

Business Line ND 15/01/2012 P-3

# 'Unclear norms on social networking sites can impact investments'

Arun S

New Delhi, Jan. 14

Leading cyber lawyers have warned that total lack of clarity in the rules pertaining to social networking sites/intermediaries was harming e-commerce in the country and could impact financial viability and future investments in Net firms.

Calls have also grown stronger for amending the Information Technology Act (IT Act) to bring it in sync with the growing Internet usage, especially to tackle cases such as the one against social networking sites, including Facebook and Google.

On Friday, the Government submitted before a Delhi Metropolitan Magistrate court its sanction to prosecute Internet companies such as Facebook, Google, YouTube, Yahoo, Microsoft and Orkut on a complaint against them for allegedly allowing objectionable content on their Web sites. The court has asked the accused firms to appear before it on March 13.

Lawyers have questioned the wording of the Information Technology (Intermediaries Guidelines), Rules, 2011, notified under Section 79 of the IT Act.

"These Rules have many inconsistencies and have led to multiple interpretations. It is time that the rules are completely redrafted. Or else, it can have an impact on investments into Net firms and the



financial viability of Internet companies," Mr Apar Gupta, Partner at law firm Advani & Co, told *Business Line*.

## 'UNLAWFUL' CONTENT

For instance, Rule 3 (2) specifies conditions under which a Web site can be asked to remove certain content.

But these conditions do not define offences clearly and since they are generalised, it can be used to curb freedom of speech and expression, Mr Gupta said.

Also, Rule 3 (4) states that the intermediary, on whose computer system the information is stored or hosted or published, can be asked to ensure that the 'unlawful' content is removed within 36 hours of the notice given to it.

Mr Gupta wonders how the intermediary companies can come to the conclusion in just 36 hours as to the legality of the content, give opportunity to the user/owner of the 'unlawful' content to explain their stand and then remove them.

Efforts are on by civil society to ensure that these Rules are referred to the Parliamentary Committee on subordi-

nate legislation to ensure that it is not violative of the rights granted by the Constitution of India as well as the IT Act.

The IT Act was passed in 2000 and was amended once only in 2008, that too only to make some cosmetic changes." Besides, the amendments also made a majority of the cyber crimes bailable.

As a result, there has been no conviction after 2008, and many companies are wilfully violating the law, cyber law expert Mr Pavan Duggal, told *Business Line*.

"None of the amendments made so far pertain to social networking sites," he says, highlighting that social media converts every single user to a publisher or a broadcaster.

"Therefore, the law needs to be clearer as to what are the rights and obligations/duties of these new set of publishers/broadcasters, as they are not traditional broadcasters. Also, there is a need to incorporate the various crimes that are committed using social networking sites," he said.

Besides, the law has to appropriately address issues pertaining to privacy and data protection, Mr Duggal said.

He said until the law makes a majority of cyber/social networking crimes non-bailable offences and provide stringent punishment, it will be difficult to effectively enforce the law.

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Political Express ND  
15/01/2012 P-1



## त्रिपुरा में बनेगा आईआईआईटी

मुख्यमंत्री माणिक सरकार ने कहा कि 12वीं पंचवर्षीय योजना में त्रिपुरा में आईआईआईटी बनाने के लिए केंद्र सरकार आवश्यक कदम उठाएगी। इस मुद्दे पर बात करते हुए सरकार ने संवाददाताओं से कहा, मैंने कपिल सिब्बल से कहा कि हम प्रतिष्ठित भारतीय सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (आईआईआ. ईटी) या भारतीय प्रबंधन संस्थान (आईआईएम) में से कोई एक चाहते हैं। उन्होंने मुझसे कहा कि पहले वाला हमारे राज्य के लिए ज्यादा ठीक रहेगा। तो मैंने उनसे उनकी ओर से इसके लिए इंतजाम करने की गुजारिश की।

Indian Express ND 15/01/2012

P-21

## Datawind opposes test standard of IIT

NEW DELHI: IT device maker Datawind has said the proposed product testing criteria by IIT (Jodhpur) cannot be applied to the first version of Aakash tablets, the world's cheapest, supplied by the company.

PTI

# Improved Aakash in the works

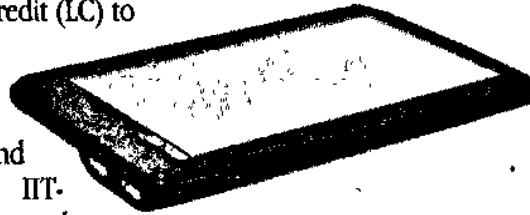
**ranjeet s jamwal**

NEW DELHI, 14 JAN: While the much-hyped Aakash tablet has failed to satisfy users, the human resource development (HRD) ministry intends to float a new tender soon for manufacturing an improved version of the device touted as the world's cheapest tablet PC.

Denying the possibility of the Aakash project getting shelved, senior HRD ministry officials said an improved version of the device will be launched soon. "The project is in no way dead. In fact, several firms are showing interest in working on the project. Moreover, prototypes of two more such devices are ready," said a senior official.

Sources, however, said the ministry might not extend the letter of credit (LC) to

Datawind, the makers of Aakash, due to differences with the manufacturer and complaints by IIT-Rajasthan, which is a tendering authority for the device. The LC will lapse this month-end.



The HRD ministry had initially placed an order for one lakh units for Rs 2,276 each. The company has, sources said, supplied about 8,000 devices and another 22,000 are in the pipeline.

But of late, IIT Rajasthan has been complaining about Datawind taking the credit for the product and securing about 20 lakh bookings for it in the open market, where it costs Rs 2,999 apiece.

Moreover, Datawind refused to upgrade the second tranche of 70,000 Aakash tablets with improved specifications and sought more funds. But the HRD ministry made it clear to the firm that the product won't sell in the open market unless an improved version of Aakash is launched. Following this, Datawind agreed to supply the second tranche of improved tablets at the original price of Rs 2,276. Even then, differences remain on the deadline for supplying the tablet. The ministry wants all the tablets delivered before 31 March. But Datawind, sources said, has said it won't be able to do so; it has promised to deliver the order within 120 days of getting a fresh LC.

The ministry, meanwhile, is exploring the possibility of finding a new vendor for the remaining 70,000 devices. Fresh tenders will in any case be issued after the first order of one lakh tablets is met.

The most common problems reported with Aakash include overheating, slow processing, frequent hangs, poor sound quality, lack of camera or user-friendly touchscreen, absence of support for all formats, and inability to install free software available online. But most of these problems, the ministry claims, have been overcome in the improved version of Aakash without any cost increase.

Asian Age ND 15/01/2012 P-17

# Employability test simplifies job hunt

A common “employability” test makes it easier for DU students to get jobs that match their abilities

SHRUTI BADYAL

THE ASIAN AGE

Scouting for jobs after graduation just got easier for final year students of Delhi University. In a drive to prepare students for the professional world, when DU launched the employability test last month, little did the authorities know that it would find so many takers. For the exam this month, reportedly over 21,000 final year students have registered. As the University's central placement cell (CPC) takes the plunge to create a proper systematic job market for students, those who appeared for the exam tell us their side of the story.

“The test has many advantages. For one, now we don't have to sit for the basic test over and over again for different companies. The test covers all aspects like English comprehension, quantitative and logical abilities. And it's open to students of all streams. So it will benefit students from fields like Computer Science which are not very popular with companies at the freshers' level,” says Shelly, a final year student of Hansraj College.

Some students who are eagerly waiting for the results, don't want the companies to gauge them solely by their test scores. “The only drawback is that now the students have only one chance to prove their mettle as all the companies that come thereafter will rely only on the test scores before selecting students. Sometimes one isn't at one's best on the day of the exam. So I don't think com-



The employability test by DU has raised hopes of students scouting for jobs

## Employability test will benefit both companies as well as students

ANUBHAV SWAROOP,  
STUDENT

”

panies should only depend on these scores,” says Anubhuti, a commerce student who appeared for the test on January 8.

DU has tied up with Aspiring Minds for the employability test, which is called AMCAT (Aspiring Minds Computer Adaptive Test). Students tell us that the company won't interfere with their selection process. “An official told me that every company uses its own criteria based on different AMCAT Module scores to select candidates, so Aspiring Minds will not interfere in the selection criteria,” says Ritwik, a student from North Campus.

Which means, that even if you do not perform well in some modules, there is a chance that you

will be short-listed.

However, Vaishali Narang, a Computer Science student who appeared for the test in December, says that the test only deserves 20 per cent of the total weightage of the interview process. “The difficulty level was mediocre. I just felt that they focused on our mathematical skills, which aren't really important as companies focus more on your personality skills. So those who don't score too well in the quantitative section might just lose out on a job on the basis of just one of the four elements in the test,” she says.

Anubhav Swaroop, a student of Hansraj College who's on the hunt for a job these days, says that sitting for a single entrance has saved him the trouble of visiting the university on a daily basis to check on the recruitment process. He says, “It's convenient for both — companies and students. Now they don't have to spend so much time on first coming here and then conducting their own tests as the university has done that already. I recently appeared for an aptitude test in one of the recruitment firms, and realised that their test was quite similar to the one in DU.”



*This MIT alumni's online tutorials have become so popular that Bill Gates is using the videos to teach his children*

Vrushali Haldipur

Even in the Big Apple, there are some who put people above profit. Salman Khan, a Bangladeshi-American and former hedge fund analyst, is one. In 2004, Khan, an alumni of MIT and Harvard, started Khan Academy, a free online platform with home-made video tutorials in maths and science. This sparked a revolution in education in the US with even Bill Gates, who calls Khan a "pioneer", using the videos to teach his children. Indian students, too, have used his videos to untangle IIT JEE problems.

Khan began these informal tutorials to teach maths to a cousin. He first used just a Yahoo Doodle notepad for scribbling equations over which he recorded his explanations. These easy-to-understand, conversational videos were uploaded on YouTube and quickly became an internet rage. Soon, students were writing in asking for more tutorials on topics like calculus and trigonometry. Adults who need refresher lessons in maths followed suit.

For Khan, this is a kind of catharsis. He says, "I had worked in companies where no one told me they found my work useful. That is when I thought that this could be something I could do full-time." The turning point came in 2009 when traffic to his website became impossible to ignore. He quit his job to work on his tutorials full time, carving out office space in his walk-in closet. And the Khan Academy was born.

Since then, he has worked hard to build an extensive library of more than 3,000 video tutorials, over 240 exercises and a data-rich interactive dashboard platform for teachers and students. Big names began taking notice. Gates mentioned him at the Aspen Ideas Fest and gave him \$5m. Another \$2m came from Google.

In November, the website recorded 3.7m visitors and 42m page views. Khan's approach is a radical shift in education. He has 'flipped' the classroom model by allowing students to watch the video at home and doing exercises in the class, effectively

# When Salman teaches maths



## A CLASS APART

- 70% of traffic to Khan Academy is from the US; 30% from other countries
- The academy has 20 full-time employees and a community of volunteers who help him
- Plans have been announced to translate core videos into Arabic, Bengali, Tamil, French, German, Hindi, Urdu and Mandarin

overturning the idea of 'homework.' Students then tutor their peers as do teachers. Another innovation is helping teachers use performance data to precisely assess students' understanding of topics.

Khan says, "I imagine the school of the future being one, two or three classrooms with mixed age groups working at their own pace, tutoring each other and with teachers mentoring them." He insists this is not radical. "In real life, that is how people learn. The teachers and students are on the same side, not on different sides of the equation."

However, critics say he does not have any teaching credentials and that his chatty videos may under-

Salman Khan (extreme left) with the members of his team

mine a teacher's expertise. "That's like me telling Bill Gates he shouldn't do business because he doesn't have an MBA," says Khan. "Our primary goal is to create resources that make education more engaging."

He also has gurus on art, finance and medicine and art talking about the subjects they love. Topics discussed are as diverse as the French Revolution and the economics of a cupcake factory.

All this content is free. "Every day I feel better about it. For one, we wouldn't have got the traction and the goodwill if we were running for profit. Today, it's clear to everyone what the intention is - not to get rich but teach your child. And that's why we have support," says Khan. "I am happy because I make a living out of my life's passion."

Of course, sharing the same name as the Bollywood superstar has its advantages. He says tongue-in-cheek, "Frankly I wouldn't underestimate how many young South Asian girls did a web search for 'Salman Khan' and inadvertently ended up learning maths."

Advantage Salman.

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e-paper

# India scores low on N-security: US study

## Ranks Country Just Above Iran, Pak & N Korea; Asks Oz To Rethink Decision On Uranium Sale

Indrani Bagchi | TNN

New Delhi: Weeks ahead of the nuclear security summit in Seoul, India has been dealt a blow on its famed nuclear reputation. In the first-ever index of security of nuclear materials, India almost brings out the rear — just above Iran, Pakistan and North Korea.

The index, compiled by a US nuclear think-tank Nuclear Threat Initiative (NTI) and Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU), "is the first Nuclear Materials Security Index, a rating and ranking of the security framework in 32 nations that possess one kilogram or more of weapons-usable nuclear materials."

In its summary, the study says this index "is not a facility-by-facility review of 'guns, guards, and gates'. Instead, the authors of the study say they assessed each state on 'publicly available indicators of a state's nuclear materials security practices and conditions'."

The index is an embarrassment as India is hosting the sherpas for the nuclear security summit in New Delhi on Monday.

India takes a leading position

### NUCLEAR SAFETY INDEX

India ranks a poor 28 among 32 countries on the list

Rank	Country	Indicator Score/100	Rank	Country	Indicator Score/100
1	Australia	94	27	China	52
6	Holland	84	28	India	49
10	UK	79	29	Vietnam	48
13	US	78	30	Iran	46
16	Belarus	74	31	Pakistan	41
19	France	73	32	N Korea	37
25	Israel	56			

### NATIONAL SCENARIO

We fall below average in crucial areas like physical security of nuclear materials

#### ABOVE AVERAGE

- ▶ International legal commitments
- ▶ On-site physical protection
- ▶ Response capabilities
- ▶ UNSCR 1540 implementation
- ▶ Control & accounting procedures

Score 100-80

#### AVERAGE

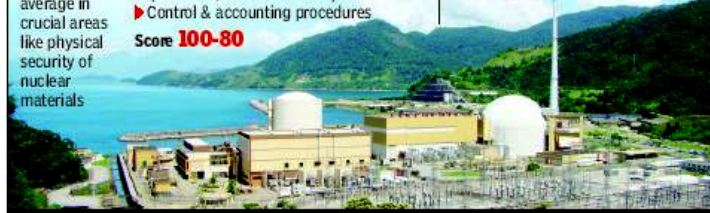
- ▶ Voluntary commitments
- ▶ Political stability
- ▶ Domestic nuclear materials security legislation
- ▶ Group(s) interested in illicitly acquiring materials
- ▶ Safeguards adoption and compliance
- ▶ Security personnel measures
- ▶ Quantities of nuclear materials

Score 60-38

#### BELOW AVERAGE

- ▶ Nuclear security and materials transparency
- ▶ Pervasiveness of corruption
- ▶ Sites & transportation
- ▶ Independent regulatory agency
- ▶ Material production/elimination trends
- ▶ Physical security during transport

Score 33-0



on nuclear security issues, and is also scheduled to establish a centre of excellence for nuclear security in Haryana.

While many in the Indian nuclear sector may scoff at the index, it is

being used as a pressure point — the think-tank is even asking Australia to reconsider its decision to sell uranium to India because of New Delhi's score. Australia and the UK have the highest scores in the index.

"Their judgments do come into play at this stage. In their evaluation, the main negative factors against India seem to have been the absence of an institutionally independent regulatory agency, our continued produc-

tion of weapon material and overall corruption." The problem Indians will have with this index is the fact that there is clearly a lot of value judgment that has gone into putting a score on a country.

Anil Kakodkar, former chairman of DAE, said, "Nuclear security, by definition, is confidential. How do they expect to assess us on what they don't obviously know?"

Rajaraman was one of the four Asians in an international experts' panel, who prepared the various factors and their relative weights for the NTI index.

He said, "I believe the resulting package of indicators is objective and very transparent. Apart from 'rating' countries, it also provides tangible criteria for any country, even if it disagrees with its own score, to constructively examine and enhance the security of its material."

India, Pakistan and Israel are still publicly declared manufacturers of fissile material, which was a negative for the study.

India scored zero on "security of materials during transportation", a score the Indian government is unlikely to agree with.

Judging India's nuclear security by corruption will raise eyebrows as well. Though corruption in India cannot be denied, the fact that only one department is in charge is seen to be an insulating factor.

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