

Newspaper Clips

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Times of India ND 18-Jan-12
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IIT-M blocks Facebook on campus

M Ramya | TNN

Chennai: Indian Institute of Technology-Madras has blocked access to social networking site Facebook on campus. The move has nothing to do with moral policing, said faculty members, but is meant to free up a congested network.

Access to Facebook has been blocked in the institute's hostels since last week. IIT-M dean of students L S Ganesh said, "It has been blocked for some time. The network was getting severely clogged because of the amount of traffic." But tech-savvy students have found a way to access the website. "We can use Facebook through a proxy website or by making a small change to the URL," said a student.

अब अपनी डेट चुनिए आईआईटी-आईआईएम से

नई दिल्ली | आगिर शकील

वैसे तो आमतौर पर यही माना जाता है जोड़फं ऊपरवाला ही बनाता है लेकिन आज के आधुनिक परिवेश और सोशल नेटवर्किंग साइट के जमाने में यह स्वरूप थोड़ा बदल गया है। आजकल हर कोई यह चाहता है कि उसका लाइफ पार्टनर हर तरह की खूबियों से लैस हो। एक अच्छा जीवनसाथी होना भी किसी ब्रांड सरीखा हो गया है।

इसी संदर्भ में आईआईटी और आईआईएम के छात्रों ने डेटआईआईटीअन्स रूपी एक नई पहल की है। डेटआईआईटीअन्स एक सोशल डेटिंग साइट है जो लोगों को आईआईटी और आईआईएम से अपना जीवन साथी



संदीप, पूर्व छात्र आईआईटी दिल्ली

दुंदने में मदद करेगी। इस वेबसाइट को इस लिहाज से भी अन्य सोशल नेटवर्किंग साइटों से अलग माना जा रहा है क्योंकि यह साइट खास आईआईटी और आईआईएम के छात्र-छात्राओं के लिए है। इस नई पहल को छात्रों से अलग अलग तरह की प्रतिक्रिया सामने आ रही है। कुछ छात्र जहां इसे महज मनोरंजन का माध्यम मान रहे हैं वहीं



राधिका, आईआईटी दिल्ली

कुछ का मानना है कि पूरे देश के आईआईटी और आईआईएम के स्टूडेंट्स के लिए नेटवर्किंग का बेहतरीन साधन होगा।

आईआईटी दिल्ली के पूर्व छात्र संदीप राजोरा कहते हैं कि सोशल नेटवर्किंग साइट फेसबुक की शुरूआत भी हार्वर्ड यूनिवर्सिटी में कुछ इसी तर्ज पर हुई थी। आईआईटी में पढ़ने वाले

छात्र ज्यादातर अपने प्रोजेक्ट्स में व्यस्त रहते हैं। यहां का माहौल दिल्ली यूनिवर्सिटी जैसा नहीं होता। ऐसे में इस तरह की वेबसाइट से देशभर के सभी आईआईटी में पढ़ने वाले युवा एक दूसरे को जान सकेंगे और दोस्ती कर सकेंगे। आईआईटी दिल्ली की फाइनेल ईयर छात्रा राधिका का मानना है कि यह लड़कों के लिए किसी खुशखबरी से कम नहीं। राधिका कहती हैं कि सोशल डेटिंग साइट का यह कंसेप्ट अपने आप में बहुत ही अलग और मजेदार है। आईआईटी और आईआईएम जैसे संस्थानों में लड़कों कि तुलना में लड़कियों कि संख्या कम होती है और ऐसे में यह वेबसाइट लड़कों के लिए ज्यादा कारगर होगी।

अगल है राय

आईआईएम रोहतक की छात्रा ऐना अग्रवाल की राय इस मामले पर थोड़ी अलग है। ऐना कहती हैं कि इसमें कोई दो राय नहीं कि यह एक बेहद पॉजिटिव शुरुआत है। इसमें कोई शक नहीं की यह पूरे देश के आईआईटी और आईआईएम के स्टूडेंट्स के लिए नेटवर्किंग का बेहतरीन साधन होगा। हालांकि यह कहना थोड़ा मुश्किल है कि कितने लोग इस साइट का इस्तेमाल डेटिंग के लिए करेंगे।

Pioneer ND 18-Jan-12

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Edu resources workshop

A two-day workshop on 'Educational Resources Planning (EdRP)' was organised by the Indra Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU). It was attended by about 150 participants from nine partner institutions. The Educational Resource Planning mission project is a part of National Mission on Education through ICT (NMEICT) under the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD).

The collaborative project is lead by IIT-Kanpur with the other teams being Aligarh Muslim University, Amrita University, Dayalbagh Educational Institute, IGNOU, IIT-Roorkee, Jamia Millia Islamia, NIT-Hamirpur and SMVDU Jammu. Under the leadership of IIT-Kanpur, each partner institution is actively engaged in development of



various modules using Open Source tools.

The workshop was inaugurated by NK Sinha, Additional Secretary (TEL), MHRD. While delivering the inaugural address, Sinha announced that 50 more new educational DTH channels are

being planned to be introduced by the MHRD.

The function was presided over by Prof M Aslam, Vice-Chancellor, IGNOU. Anant Kumar Singh, Joint Secretary, MHRD, distributed certificates of participation to the participants in the concluding session.

ICAI convocation

The Northern region of Institute of Chartered Accountants of India recently organised its convocation at the Talkatora Indoor Stadium, New Delhi. Rank certificates to the meritorious Chartered Accountants were awarded by chief guest, Dr Farooq Abdullah, Minister of New and Renewable Energy, Government of India. The Membership Certificates to newly enrolled Chartered Accountants were awarded by CA G Ramaswamy, president, ICAI during the ceremony.

Dr Abdullah, while addressing the members said: "I extend my best wishes to the new entrants to the profession as well as rank holders and congratulate all of them on becoming a successful CA professional."

"The profession is in the best position to promote financial inclusion of rural poor, not having access to finance from formal sources, through micro finance or other innovative measures," he said.

Addressing the gathering CA G Ramaswamy said: "The secret of your success in life lies within each and every one of you. It is your effort, your determination to succeed, your consistent hard work that will propel you to greater heights."

"We are living in an era of globalisation and liberalisation. There are no geographical borders for trade and commerce. The interdependence and linkages have become closer and dense. This places a large responsibility upon the profession as one transacts and audit business." he stressed.

Tribune ND 18/01/2012 p-8

Ombudsmen for education

Reforms held up in Parliament

THE appointment of an ombudsman in every recognised and Central institution of higher education will help address student grievances such as denial of admissions, violations of rules during admissions, withholding of documents and non-refund of charges. An ombudsman will act as a guardian of student and public interest. By sorting out complaints locally it will reduce the rush of litigation in courts. The step was earlier part of the Bill on educational tribunals but it has got stuck in the Rajya Sabha where the ruling UPA does not have a majority. Human Resource Development Minister Kapil Sibal, impatient for reforms, has got it through with an executive order.

The HRD Ministry has moved a number of Bills which are held up at various stages of law-making. This is because parliamentarians spend more time on disrupting work than clearing the piled-up legislative work. These include the Copyright Amendment Bill and the Architects Amendment Bill. The National Education Tribunals Bill is opposed on the ground that it does not include any of the recommendations of the parliamentary committee. It is seen as infringing on the rights of private educational institutions. Critics point to the UPA government's tendency to centralise powers and put everything under some bureaucrat.

The appointment of ombudsmen in top institutes and universities will help clear only part of the mess in the education sector. The practice of charging capitation fee is illegal but still rampant in private medical and technical institutions. The country has a number of regulators like the University Grants Commission, the Medical Council of India and the All India Council of Technical Education. Yet malpractices continue. Parliamentarians should rise above narrow interests and speed up the passing of education Bills. Public as well as private institutions have a vital role to play in a growing India and their need for functional autonomy should be respected, while violations of laws and rules should be sternly dealt with.

Managing India, managing itself

Management education in India needs to consciously and continuously focus on maintaining excellence and quality

■ VIKRAM CHAUDHARY

"WHAT are the upcoming trends in management education globally?" I had once asked the dean of a famous B-school. He replied, "That's a very broad question. And especially in this dynamic world, what with the subprime crisis, eurozone troubles, etc, trends keep changing." Nevertheless, what we can see, especially over the last decade, is that the world is becoming multi-polar and

the centre of gravity for economic activity is shifting. A trend business schools are adapting to.

If we talk about Indian management education, if on one side we see proactivity on the part of the government, on the other we also see management schools mushrooming across the country. There are more than 3,500 management or related schools in India, according to AICTE! However, the quality of management education lags behind the escalation

in quantity. Here we must mention the dearth of quality teachers in the country. To improve the academic standards of management education, it is important to have well-trained and highly-qualified teachers. Most upcoming schools fail to attract good faculty with any industry experience. Most of these teachers are not permanent; a large number are visiting faculty, paid by the hour and who teach at multiple schools. Although some believe that

the mushrooming number of business schools with proper accreditation is a positive aspect, this should not happen at the cost of the standard of teaching.

So how was the last decade for management education? As the dean told me, internationalisation became glamorous, be it as a strategy for building reputations or actual excellence in the form of better research, student/faculty exchange programmes or coming up with new campuses. Another notable trend is that global collaborations have now gone beyond American and English universities. Now, universities from Europe, Australia and Southeast Asia have started collaborating with Indian universities. Things should become really interesting after the foreign university Bill is passed.

What we have also seen is man-

agement education incorporating a holistic approach, moving away from concepts like profit maximisation. Over the last few years, we have been seeing issues such as corporate social responsibility, business ethics, corporate governance, sustainable development and work-life balance gaining prominence. Management education has also, more or less, incorporated all these trends. At the same time, some of the new areas that have emerged in management education are management of business during financial/economic crises, management of risks arising out of international relations, management of micro, small and medium enterprises, as well as new fields such as automobile management. The point is, with the world dealing with new problems, management education is

providing novel solutions.

Lastly, entrepreneurship has always been an enigmatic option for graduates, especially those belonging to the good management schools. Entrepreneurship has always remained a high risk-high reward career choice. There has been an increase in the number of students taking this route, a good sign considering the fact that the economic growth of any country is directly connected to entrepreneurship. Management schools should heed this.

Overall, the rise of India as an economic superpower has increased the demand of quality managers who can supervise, manage and increase the growing businesses of India and the world, at the same time management education itself is reaching higher levels of maturity, sustainability and excellence.

Centre-sponsored programme to boost higher education on cards

■ Scheme would incentivise states to invest in institutions with help from private partners

Kirtika Suneja & Subhash Narayan
New Delhi, Jan 17

TO make higher education more accessible, the government will roll out a new centrally sponsored scheme (CSS) in conjunction with the 12th Plan period. The scheme looks to incentivise states to invest in new institutes and in the expansion of existing ones, so that the supply-side bottlenecks in higher education are eased.

The scheme is also aimed at increasing the gross enrollment ratio (GER) in higher education to 30% by 2020, which currently stands near 15%. GER is an indicator of the actual number of students enrolled in higher education as against potential students.

"The Planning Commission has finalised the new scheme and once finance ministry's approval is obtained it could be



NEW CHAPTER

- The govt will roll out a new centrally sponsored scheme in conjunction with the 12th Plan period
- Scheme aimed at increasing gross enrollment ratio in higher education from 15% to 30% by 2020
- Plan panel has finalised the scheme and is waiting for the finance ministry's nod before announcing it
- For general category states, the CSS would have funds from the Centre and the state in a 75:25 ratio

announced in this year's Budget," said a Planning Commission official privy to the development. The new scheme would be part of a major restructuring exercise of CSS.

For general category states, the proposed CSS for higher education would involve funds from the Centre and the respective state government in a 75:25 ratio. For special category states, the Centre's share will be at 90%. Further, the states would be free to mobilise a part of their share from private partners by means of innovative PPP schemes. The Centre

would also dole out incentives, in the form of soft loans or grants, to states that take up the project on a priority basis.

According to the Planning Commission, the process of setting up new institutions and expanding existing ones would be incentivised for states. The list includes state universities, general degree colleges and professional and technical educational institutions.

"We moved the idea of a CSS in September last year and the Planning Commission is seeing if it can be included in the next plan. The scheme is in-

tended to increase enrollment in higher education with greater participation from private partners," said a senior HRD ministry official.

Private sector participation in higher education has been on the government's agenda since last year when it mulled new financing schemes whereby private parties could help in setting up institutes.

The HRD ministry has already mooted the idea of setting up 14 Innovation Universities (IUs) in the PPP mode in which private parties will promote ideas and the government will fi-

nance them. In fact, it has already zeroed in on five such universities for the IUs, which will have the freedom to formulate their own policies on admission to programmes, and offer scholarships to the top 20% of the students at the undergraduate and post-graduate levels.

The proposed CSS, if implemented, would help the sector which is looking for investments of ₹10 lakh crore by 2020 to create an additional capacity of 25 million seats. The private sector, which accounts for 52% of the total enrollment, would be investing ₹50,000 crore this per year, according to the annual Ficci-Ernst & Young report on higher education.

At present, the state private universities are concentrated in a handful of states, with the top five states accounting for about 65% of such universities as they have favourable regulatory environment and provide government support.

FINANCIAL EXPRESS ND

18/01/2012 P-8

Have another try

The idea behind Aakash is still a sound one

The government's decision to upgrade the Aakash tablet instead of scrapping the whole project is a sensible one. Even if the first version of the ultra low-cost tablet had its share of problems—unresponsive touchscreen, low battery life, poor image quality, etc—what it was supposed to achieve still remains important. At ₹2,500-3,000, and further subsidised for students, the tablet was to bridge the digital divide so entrenched in India. With technology rapidly becoming essential for greater productivity, increasing tech-literacy through a cheap tablet for the masses is really a good idea. It is unfortunate, then, that the first version had so many flaws, but the government is keen to rectify that with Aakash 2. The new tablet, commercially sold as the UbiSlate 7+ by Datawind, will incorporate specifications presented by 600 IIT and engineering students, and it is reported that the ministry of human resource development has roped in more players to help develop the product. Now, it must be said that creating a \$50-odd tablet is a remarkable achievement, but perhaps the government is aiming too low in terms of price. There is only so much the companies can do to improve the tablet if the price is so low. Instead, even if the price was raised by half, say, to ₹5,000, it would still be cheaper than its alternatives and would be able to incorporate better hardware. That said, the government should refrain from going overboard in trying to make the tablet optimal for everybody. In an interview, Suneet Singh Tuli, chief executive of Datawind, said that the specifications he received from IIT-Jodhpur (one of the IITs that found problems with the first version) were on par with those in a ₹1 lakh Hewlett-Packard laptop—able to withstand rain, a jeep driving over it, etc. These are unreasonable demands for a ₹2,500 tablet.

To put things in perspective, note that One Laptop Per Child has just released its version of a low-cost tablet—the XO-3.0—priced at \$100, twice the cost of Aakash. Jumping down Datawind's throat for an inferior product is not the answer. It has created a product, now let the company improve it. The potential benefits are still huge.

Sony outranked by LG, Samsung

Nokia, Tata retain the top two slots in the most trusted brands list; Reliance slips to 10th position

BS REPORTER

New Delhi, 17 January

South Korean chaebols LG and Samsung have gone past Japanese electronics giant Sony in the list of India's most trusted brands, compiled by Brand Trust. While Sony has slipped to the fifth position this year, LG has moved to the third slot followed by Samsung in the fourth position.

Nokia and Tata have retained their first and second positions in the report which lists India's 1,000 most trusted brands. Reliance has slipped to the 10th most trusted brand this year from sixth last year. Bajaj, ranked 12th last year, is a new entrant in this year's top 10. LIC and Airtel are unchanged from last year, at eighth and ninth ranks, respectively, while Titan could not make it to the top 10. Maruti Suzuki has improved its position by one notch and is India's sixth most trusted brand this year.

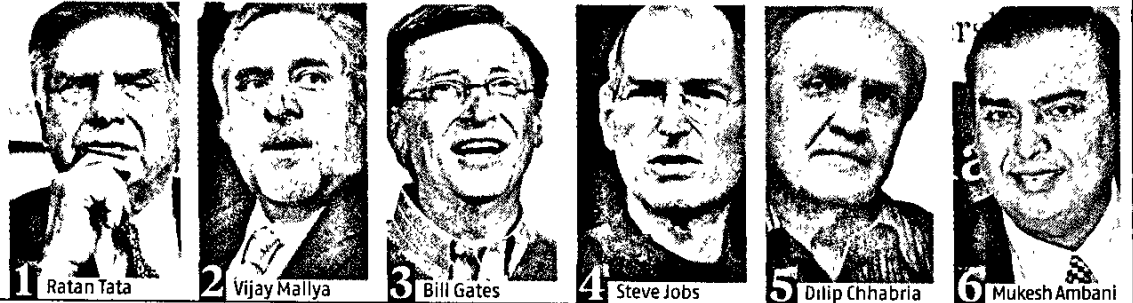
The Brand Trust report is based on primary research conducted on 61 components of trust — a proprietary tool of Trust Research Advisory. The research is conducted with 2,718 'influencer' respondents from 15 cities, generating more than two million data-points from 12,000 hours of research.

Among automotives, Hyundai Motor and Tata Motors — the second and third biggest car makers — did not make it to the top 10 list. The winner, Maruti Suzuki, is followed by BMW, Hero Honda, Toyota and Honda in the list. Other automobile brands such as Ford, Audi, Skoda, Hero and Yamaha also feature in the list of top 10 trusted automotive brands, the report said.

While Maruti Suzuki Dzire has been rated as the most trusted car, BMW has been rated as the most trusted luxury car brand.

When it comes to branded fashion, Indians swear by

BRAND TRUST REPORT: THE TOP SIX BUSINESS PERSONALITIES



THE TOP 10 BRANDS

Rank	Last Year (2011)	Current year (2012)
1	Nokia	Nokia
2	Tata	Tata
3	Sony	LG
4	LG	Samsung
5	Samsung	Sony
6	Reliance	Maruti Suzuki
7	Maruti	Bajaj
8	LIC	Life Insurance
9	Airtel	Airtel
10	Titan	Reliance

Armani, rating the Italian label as the best, followed by Gucci and Diesel. Esprit, Dolce & Gabbana, Playboy, Denim, Tommy Hilfiger, Dunhill and Calvin Klein are the other brands in the top 10 list.

In the consumer products segment, respondents rated Lux at the top spot, followed by Ponds and Dove.

In foods and beverages, Pepsi, Cadbury's and Parle are rated as number one, two and three respectively. Dabur has been rated as the most trusted brand in healthcare business followed by Johnson & Johnson and Himalaya.

In education, IIT comes after Aptech and NIIT. When it came to hospitality, people rated Taj as the best brand, followed by Hyatt and Marriott, the report said.

In retail, KFC won people's trust with Big Bazaar and McDonald's at number two and three respectively.

In banking and financial services, LIC, State Bank of India, ICICI Bank, HDFC and HSBC (in that order) have been rated as the most trusted.

The report suggests that people in North India differ from the rest of the country in their brand preferences. People from five cities — New Delhi, Chandigarh, Jaipur, Lucknow and Indore, which comprise 26 per cent of the total respondents — gave a thumbs down to certain big brands that are otherwise popular nationwide. Tata, for example, may be second ranked nationwide, but in the north, it is in the sixth position. Other brands which have scored nationally but lost out in North India include Titan (all India rank - 12th; North India rank - 31st); Vodafone (all India rank - 17th; North India rank - 32nd), Raymond (all India rank - 21st; North India rank - 33rd) and Hewlett Packard (all India rank - 22nd; North India rank - 37th).

North India has also shown significantly greater trust on some brands as compared to rest of India. For example, Pepsi (All India rank — 16th; North India rank — 8th), Hero Honda (all India rank — 25th; North India rank — 10th); and Levis (All India rank — 47th; North India rank — 14th).

Although North India has the highest growing and the largest internet user population in the country, the report

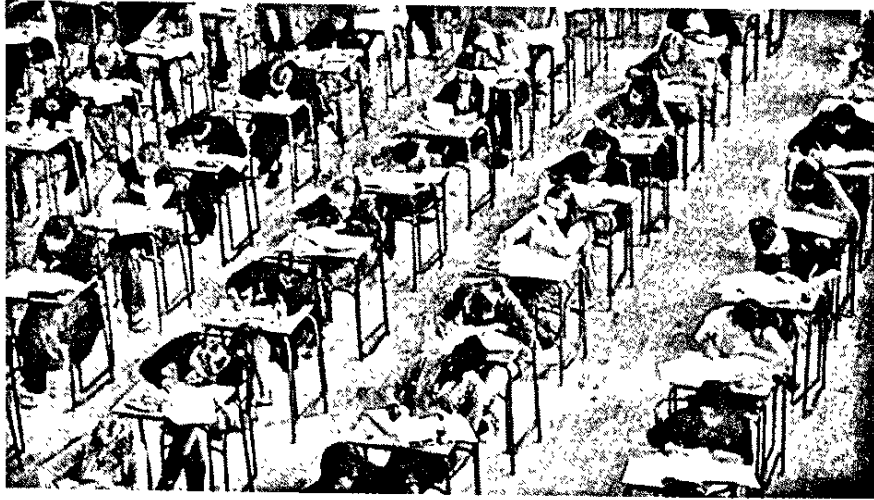
CATEGORY-WISE TOPPERS

S.No.	Categories	1st Rank
1	Alcoholic Beverages	Kingfisher
2	Automotive	Maruti Suzuki
3	Apparels-Fabric	Raymond
4	Insurance	LIC
5	Beauty	Ponds
6	Branded Fashion	Armani
7	Construction	DLF
8	Diversified Consumer Products	Hindustan Unilever
9	Diversified Business	Tata
10	Bath	Lux
11	Appliances	LG
12	Electronics	Sony
13	Internet	Google
14	Paints	Asian Paints
15	TV News Channels	Aaj Tak
16	Footwear	Bata
17	Watches	Titan
18	Camera	Canon
19	Retail Multi Brand Outlet	Big Bazaar
20	Technology	Hewlett Packard
21	Domestic Airlines	Air India
22	Foreign Airlines	Emirates
23	Mobile Telephony	Airtel
24	Sports Accessories	Reebok
25	Food & Beverage	Pepsi
26	Entertainment	PVR
27	Soft Drinks	Pepsi
28	Tea	Tata Tea
29	Healthcare	Dabur
30	Retail	Kentucky Fried Chicken
31	Four-wheelers	Maruti Suzuki
32	Car brand	Maruti Suzuki Dzire
33	Luxury Car brand	BMW

suggests some sharp contrasts to the fact. For example, Google, which ranks 31st all India, came down to 46th in the North. Same is the fate of others such as Facebook.

The survey was conducted between August and November last year.

The report also lists 22 personalities. Predictably, Anna Hazare tops the list.



All about CMAT

With the announcement of the first national level CMAT exam for admission into management institutes, students are not clear about the exam. **CHARU BHARTI** dispels some doubts about the test

In order to reduce the rigours of multiple examination process for admission into management institutions, All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE), the statutory body and a national level council for technical and management education in India announced first national level Common Management Admission Test (CMAT-2012).

The test aims to help institutions to select suitable students for admission in all management programmes approved by AICTE for year 2012-13.

CMAT is another exam along with CAT, MAT, XAT, ATMA and JMET for students aspiring to take admission to more than 4,000 management colleges across India. The examination is being widely speculated as the only other exam other than CAT for admission to the management institutions in future thus reducing the amount of stress faced by students.

ADVANTAGE CMAT

The CMAT will facilitate institutions to select suitable students for admission in all management programmes approved by AICTE for the year 2012-13.

The list includes Government colleges and universities running management courses, private management

colleges or group of institutions running management courses approved by the AICTE.

CMAT will hold an edge over other examinations like MAT, XAT, SNAP, ATMA, *et al*, in terms of wider acceptance. MAT and ATMA are accepted largely by private institutions which have higher fees. SNAP, XAT and other individual examinations cater to only one institution or a group of institutions.

CMAT will make students eligible for admission into any Government-run MBA programme.

The test will also enable students to compete for larger number of seats available for admission process (four lakh seats) and thus an opportunity for better self assessment.

TEST PATTERN

The computer-based CMAT test will comprise four sections. The sections in the test — quantitative techniques & data interpretation, logical reasoning, language comprehension and general awareness.

Each section will have 25 questions with maximum attainable score of 100.

One can move back and forth between the four sections. The duration of test will be 180 minutes. There will be negative marking in CMAT exam. For each wrong answer, one mark shall be deducted.

SCORE ACCEPTANCE

There is much talk about acceptance of CMAT scores by top B-schools for the 2012-13 session. Many colleges have their compulsions in terms of their pre-released admission notification. Though they are not against unified testing system, neither they are against the CMAT. However, the timing of CMAT notification and delay in its announcement made the situation difficult for the colleges. Students should take CMAT along with other entrance exams so that if they score better in CMAT, then they may be eligible for admission in those colleges which will accept the CMAT scores in this session.

SMART TIPS

- Relax before taking the test. Take enough rest and sleep well
- Arrive at the test centre 30 minutes before the scheduled time
- Avoid last-minute discussions with your friends about your preparations
- Complete all your mock tests at least three days before the test date
- Don't take any mock test just before the examination
- Don't carry mobile phones, and calculators for your examination. They are not allowed inside the examination hall.

(The writer is Assistant Professor, Asia Pacific Institute of Management, Delhi)

MHRD nod to MoA will give IIM in Kozhikode operational autonomy

Kirtika Suneja

New Delhi, Jan 17: The Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Kozhikode, is set to enjoy greater operational autonomy with the ministry of human resource development approving its amended memorandum of association (MoA). Under the changed MoA, the institute will be able to appoint its own director and board of governors (BoG) besides revising the remuneration of the faculty.

"The amended MoA will help us in managing and raising funds, recruiting and compensating the faculty besides setting up new campus-



THE AMENDED MOA WILL HELP US MANAGE AND RAISE FUNDS, RECRUIT AND COMPENSATE THE FACULTY. IT WILL ALSO HELP SET UP NEW CAMPUSES IN INDIA AND ABROAD, SAYS IIM-K DIRECTOR DEBASHIS CHATTERJEE

es both in India and abroad," said Debashis Chatterjee, director, IIM-K.

IIMs are societies established under various Societies Registration Acts, and each society has an MoA which lays down the objects and rules of governance of the IIM. The general superintendence, direction and control of the affairs of the society and its income and property are vested in the board of governors. As per the revised MoA, the IIM's BoG -- and not the ministry -- will set up a search-cum-selection committee on its own and this committee will then shortlist three candidates for the post of the IIM director. At present, the government takes all these decisions.

With the changed MoA, making faculty pay more flexible is on the institute's agenda and it is discussing the matter with the board. "We are looking at excellent faculty and ways of retaining them by topping up their salary," Chatterjee added.

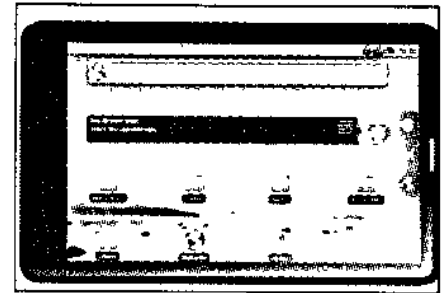
टैबलेट को लोकप्रिय बनाने के लिए सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्रालय नए कदम उठाने में जोर-शोर के साथ जुटा

आकाश के निर्माण में जुटेगी कई कंपनियां

नई दिल्ली | विशेष संवाददाता

कुछ और कंपनियों को जल्द आकाश के निर्माण की अनुमति दी जाएगी। आईआईटी जोधपुर को इसके लिए आदेश जारी कर दिए गए हैं। आकाश पर उत्पन्न विवाद को लेकर मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री कपिल सिब्बल ने आईआईटी जोधपुर के निदेशक के साथ बैठक की जिसमें मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय तथा सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्रालय के अधिकारियों ने भी शिकरत की। सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्रालय भी आकाश को लोकप्रिय बनाने के लिए कुछ नए कदमों की सोच रहा है, क्योंकि कंप्यूटर साक्षरता बढ़ाने का यह बेहतर जरिया हो सकता है।

मंत्रालय के सूत्रों के अनुसार, सिब्बल ने आकाश मामले की नोडल एजेंसी आईआईटी जोधपुर को कहा कि वह और कंपनियों को भी आकाश बनाने के लिए आमंत्रित करे। इसके लिए निविदा निकाले जो मंत्रालय द्वारा तय दाम 2,250 रुपये में आकाश का निर्माण कर सकें। कम से कम पांच और कंपनियों को आकाश का निर्माण का कार्य सौंपने की योजना है, ताकि नए सत्र में ग्रामीण क्षेत्र के सभी विश्वविद्यालयों और कॉलेजों में छात्रों को यह उपलब्ध हो



निर्माण की जल्दी

- आकाश की नोडल एजेंसी आईआईटी जोधपुर के साथ सिब्बल की बैठक
- नए सत्र में सभी विवि और कॉलेजों में इसे पहुंचाने की योजना

सके। बैठक में यह भी तय किया गया कि यदि डाटाविंड निर्धारित समय में 70 हजार आकाश टैबलेट की आपूर्ति नहीं कर पाती है तो उसे कुछ समय और दिया जाना चाहिए। लेकिन मंत्रालय 31 मार्च से आगे यह तिथि नहीं खिसका सकता है, क्योंकि वित्तीय वर्ष खत्म हो रहा है।

दूसरे, यह भी तय किया गया है कि आईआईटी जोधपुर के साथ-साथ मंत्रालय में तकनीकी शिक्षा विभाग भी इस परियोजना की निगरानी करेगा।

आईआईटी खड़गपुर ने अपने पूर्व छात्रों को सम्मानित किया

वाणिज्य संवाददाता

नई दिल्ली। भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान, खड़गपुर (आईआईटी-के) ने नौवें एलमनी मीट के तहत अपने 6 पूर्व छात्रों को प्रतिष्ठित सेवा सम्मान से सम्मानित किया।

समारोह में फिनलैंड की कंपनी आउटोकंप के भारत में प्रमुख और स्टेनलेस स्टील गुरु कहे जाने वाले यतिंदर पाल सूरी भी सम्मानित होने वालों में शामिल हैं। ये आईआईटी खड़गपुर एलुमनी एसोसिएशन, नॉर्ड इंडिया के अध्यक्ष भी हैं। इन्हें आईआईटी खड़गपुर एलुमनी एसोसिएशन को वापस खड़ा करने में उनके सहयोग के लिए भी पुरस्कृत किया गया। श्री धर्मवीर, हरियाणा के पूर्व मुख्य सचिव रह चुके हैं और वर्तमान समय में राज्य के चुनाव आयुक्त हैं। ये आईआईटी-खड़गपुर पर लिखी किताब 'सिक्सटी ईयर्स इन द सर्विस ऑफ द नेशन-एन इलेस्ट्रेड हिस्ट्री ऑफ आईआईटी खड़गपुर' के सह-

लेखक भी हैं। जयदीप सरकार (आईएफएस) प्रधानमंत्री के निजी सचिव के तौर पर सरकार में अहम भूमिका निभाने के साथ नागरिक समाज की सेवा कर रहे हैं। वे विदेश मामले, रक्षा एवं सुरक्षा, परमाणु ऊर्जा और अंतरिक्ष, विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी, पर्यावरण, स्वास्थ्य, स्थानीय स्वयं-शासन और क्षेत्रीय विकास जैसे विभागों से जुड़े मामले देखते रहे हैं।

इसके अतिरिक्त, प्रणोब कुमार गुहा, प्रबंध निदेशक, गिबेटलर असेप्रिग्स प्राइवेट लिमिटेड और आईआईटी फाउंडेशन इंडिया के सचिव को भी सम्मानित किया गया। इसके अलावा रॉय दासविला और श्यामल रॉय चौधरी को भी पुरस्कार मिला।