

## **Newspaper Clips** **January 19, 2016**



### **Kumar Mangalam Birla, other India Inc bosses may head IIT boards**

(repeat news)

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/services/education/kumar-mangalam-birla-other-india-inc-bosses-may-head-iit-boards/articleshow/50596216.cms>

NEW DELHI: As it aims to "strengthen the partnership between industry and academia", the Human Resource Development Ministry is understood to have contemplating appointment of leading business captains as chairpersons of Board of Governors of prestigious IITs.

According to sources, the ministry has sought the nod of President Pranab Mukherjee to appoint Kumar Mangalam Birla, chairman of the Aditya Birla group, to head the Board of Governors of IIT-Delhi.

Apart from Birla, the ministry is also understood to have zeroed in on some other leading figures from the industry to head these prestigious institutions.

Sources said that Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Cadila Pharmaceuticals Rajiv I Modi is likely to be appointed as the Chairperson of the Board of Governors of IIT-Guwahati.

In this case too, the approval of the President has been sought, the sources said.

Approval of the President, who is the Visitor of these prestigious institutions, is needed for the appointments.

Another eminent business leader from the pharma sector Pankaj Ramanbhai Patel is understood to have been considered by the ministry to head the Board of Governors of IIT Bhubneswar while Mallika Srinivasan, Chairman and CEO of Tractors and Farm Equipment Limited, Chennai may be appointed as the Chairperson of Board of Governors of IIT Jodhpur.

"It is important that the eminent person who is appointed as the head of Board of Governors of these technology institutes brings a fresh look and government also realises the need to strengthen the partnership between industry and academia. So the intent is to bring someone who can bring expertise and perspective," a senior official said.

Economic Times ND 19/01/2016 P-14

# Putting the Joy Back in Engineering

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**New Delhi:** The terms "joy" and "engineering" may be mutually exclusive for some. However, for second-year student Twinkle Arora and some 200 others, their engineering course promises a combination of these and much more.

Advocates of new-age engineering call our traditional methods of teaching outdated. And, that was one of the issues that professors at Gurgaon's BML Munjal University wanted to address while designing courses for engineers in the making. Their efforts were also at making students enjoy while learning.

While enrolling students, they noticed that most were low-on-morale IIT aspirants and the college needed to get down to serious business to reignite their passion for learning.

So, they came up with innovative learning environment and research techniques. The institution introduced a mandatory course, 'Joy of Engineering', two semesters ago for first-year students where they work in teams to identify a

problem and present and defend the prototype. The college's dean, Amitava 'Babi' Mitra, says engineering education today needs to become more relevant, hands-on and rigorous.

Arora, who finished her schooling from Welham Girls' School in Dehradun, picked the course because the programme caught her attention. In her first year, the class was given a basic topic for product designing to come up with solutions to develop toys for children. This included a wooden toy, a mechanical one and a programmable one. "We learnt from scratch, how things are made and that really helped clear the basics for us since we had to come up with solutions to make these products usable," said the 20-year-old.

Students even create such things in the workshop using 3D printers. The next stages are being designed as 'Spirit of Engineering', in the second year. It focuses on critical reasoning and systems thinking with the theme of "improve, improvise", followed by 'Magic of Engineering'.

They calculated that 37% of a student's time should be spent outside the classroom. This

meant they had to go more hands-on. "Today, we're even teaching calculus and differential equations through Angry Birds," said Mitra, the dean of the School of Engineering and Technology.

**Joy of Engineering, Spirit of Engineering are part of BML Munjal University's courses to ignite students' passion for learning**

Experts point out that a shortage of nearly 40% educators at IITs is letting private universities catch up. "The primary focus and the effort that needs to be put into engineering in the first two years of teaching are lacking. I think

this step will help students who are losing interest in the field back," said Rohin Kapoor, director at consultancy firm Deloitte in India.

According to him, institutes like the IITs are unable to register trademarks and patents - India files for just a third of what China does. "We must let students play with science to be able to bring about more research," he added.

For this institute, since everything was so new - it was founded in 2014 - it didn't want students and parents to feel like guinea pigs as to how the course was being conducted.

The college took online feedback from students at the end of each semester. The second time around when the course was taught, they found that feedback increased by 15% and students were taking well to the holistic approach of problem solving.

The institute is preparing its newest third- and fourth-year course, 'Magic of Engineering'. This will be the last stage and that will be in their third and fourth years including a final semester where they go to industry for 20 weeks of the third practice school course.

Times of India ND 19/01/2016 P-1

## Number of JEE (Main) aspirants shrinks by over 1 lakh in a year

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**Mumbai:** The number of engineering aspirants registering for JEE (Main) has declined for the second year in a row. The numbers have fallen by almost a lakh this year compared to the 50,000 dip recorded last year. CBSE, which conducts the national-level joint entrance examination, received applications from

12.07 lakh aspirants last week. In 2015, 13.04 lakh students had registered for the test.

The fall was even steeper for Maharashtra, where the registrations have dropped by a third over last year. Maharashtra, however, has the highest number of applicants (1.63 lakh) in the country followed by Uttar Pradesh (1.50 lakh).

JEE (Main) is the qualifying exam for admissions to

centrally-funded technical institutions such as NITs, IIITs and institutions in the participating states. Of the total numbers of students taking JEE (Main), the top 1.5 lakh are eligible to appear for JEE (Advanced) for admissions to the premier IITs. This year, the IIT Council has decided to shortlist 2 lakh candidates.

► Continued on P 12

## Students' interest in engg waning: Experts

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**Mumbai:** The number of students taking the JEE (Main) has been falling since last year, but till 2014, the exam used to record a rise in the number of aspirants every year.

Experts attribute the fall to the waning interest in engineering and also to the variety of choices available to students in other professions in the last few years. Vijay Singh,

former national co-ordinator for science Olympiads and a Raja Ramanna Fellow, said, "For the last few years, the impression that an engineering degree does not guarantee you a job has percolated down to students.

Engineering seats are going vacant dramatically in several states. Unless they get admission in a good college, many are not keen." He added that

fancy courses such as hotel management, law, design, maritime, on the other hand, are picking up. "Students who are keen on research in science are completing their undergraduate programme in science and are going abroad for higher studies to reputed foreign universities." IIT-Bombay director Devang Khakhar agreed that students can pursue various interests.

"There are several options

available in humanities too," added Khakhar. IIT-Kanpur director Indranil Manna, however, said that a drop by few percentage points is hardly alarming. "Many students who are serious about pursuing engineering and are motivated will definitely appear for the entrance test. But a few, who realize that engineering is not their cup of tea, will prefer to stay out," he said.

The drop in aspirants from

Maharashtra has contributed largely to the overall drop in registrations. Maharashtra was a participating institute in JEE (Main) till higher and technical education minister, Vinod Tawde, decided to withdraw from the test this year. The state's decision to hold its own common entrance test (MHT-CET) for engineering admissions this year may be one of the important reasons for the drop.

## Dainik Jagran ND 19/01/2016 P-17

# आइआइटी में नए छात्रों के लिए नियुक्त होंगे मेंटर

रीना डंडरियाल, रुड़की

भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (आइआइटी), रुड़की में छात्रों के तनाव को कम करने की कवायद शुरू कर दी गई है। इसके लिए कई कदम

♦ तनाव कम करने की दिशा में गंभीरता से काम कर रहा है प्रबंधन

उठाए जा रहे हैं। काउंसलिंग सेल में वालंटियर्स की संख्या बढ़ाने के साथ ही अगले सत्र से नए छात्रों के लिए मेंटर (परामर्शदाता) की तैनाती भी की जानी है।

गला काट प्रतिस्पर्धा के दौर में बेहतर अंक लाने की फिक्र, अंग्रेजी भाषा की

कमजोरी और अभिभावकों के दबाव में रुचि के विपरीत चुना गया करियर छात्रों को तनावग्रस्त कर रहा है। इसी वजह से 2015 में जनवरी से लेकर मई तक छह छात्र संस्थान से लापता हो गए थे। हालांकि, राहत की बात यह रही कि सभी छात्र कुछ दिनों बाद सकुशल लौट आए, लेकिन इसके बाद संस्थान की चिंता बढ़ गई। पिछले साल की घटनाओं से चिंतित डीन ऑफ स्टूडेंट वेलफेयर कार्यालय अब छात्रों को तनावमुक्त वातावरण मुहैया कराने की दिशा में पहल कर रहा है।

# Times of India ND 19/01/2016 P-14

## BHU sacks Magsaysay winner for 'violating national interest'

**Ashish.Tripathi@timesgroup.com**

**Lucknow:** An RTI filed by Magsaysay awardee Sandeep Pandey has revealed that the Banaras Hindu University (BHU) terminated his service contract as the board of governors felt Pandey's classroom teaching was "against national interest and may disturb communal harmony as well as encourage students to take law into their hands".

Pandey was a visiting faculty to the department of chemical engineering, IIT-BHU, before he

was terminated. The query also revealed that the contract was terminated on the complaint of an MA political science student.

Pandey was hired by the IIT-BHU in August 2013 for three years to teach subjects — control systems, process instrumentation and human values.

The order to terminate Pandey's services did not mention any reason. As a result, Pandey filed an application under RTI seeking minutes of resolution of the board and why a show cause was not issued to him.

Hindustan Times ND 19/01/2016 P-21

# Life sciences to get highest salary hike in 2016

HT ShineJobs Correspondent  
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A 10.5% increase in base salary is expected across industries in 2016 with life sciences, IT and chemical leading the pack, according to Mercer's 2015 India, All Industries Total Remuneration Survey report. As per the report, 48% of the companies are also expected to increase their headcount in 2016.

Among the industries sur-

veyed, the projected salary increase ranges from 10% and 11% overall. Over the years, salary increase differentiation across industries has narrowed down, but there is considerable pressure on talent retention, as budgets remain tight.

"The salary forecasts are the lowest for consumer, auto and shared services, seeing a dip in salary projections for 2016. Companies in India are assertive of their growth plans and

will continue to hire, especially engineers and computer science experts," says Ruchika Pal, principal and India TRS product leader, Mercer.

With regard to variable pay, the survey findings reveal that there is an increase in variable bonus pay across industries, from the actual payout of 14.7% in 2014 to a projection of 15.4% in 2015, indicating that business performance in 2015 is better than in the previous financial year. Variable

bonuses paid out in 2014 were the highest in the hi-tech space, at 22.4% of annual guaranteed cash. This was followed by the consumer sector at 15.5%.

The overall attrition witnessed in 2014 was 12.6%, with highest attrition reported in the shared services sector at 17.8%, followed by the consumer sector at 17.6%. There is an upward trend from last year, where the overall attrition has gone up 2.3%, from 10.3% to 12.6%.

ISTOCK



Mail Today ND 19/01/2016 P-23

# What is new in B-Schools?

By **Surinder Batra**

THE world of business in India is being increasingly characterised by technology-led competition, emergence of techno-entrepreneurs and rapid offering of new products and services in almost all sectors of the economy. These changes in the larger business environment of the country will also get reflected in the management education sector.

To cater to the knowledge and skill needs for these trends, the management education sector will seek greater and vibrant linkages with the industry. The general full-time MBA will still continue but face more challenges of relevance from the industry.

Programmes in the executive education space with industry sponsorship are likely to become more prominent. Programmes or courses modelled on company-specific offerings linked with preferred placement opportunities for students enrolling for such programs or courses will find increasing favour from business schools. Demand for shorter and domain-specific courses such as analytics within established programmes will increase this year.

**‘ Demand for shorter and domain-specific courses such as analytics within established programmes will increase this year ’**



— **SURINDER BATRA**, Dean, Academics, IMT Ghaziabad

Since many B-School graduates are now inclined to have their own start-ups, the demand for courses which help budding entrepreneurs is set to grow. There will be a perceptible shift in pedagogy towards case-based teaching, a trend which has been already visible in the recent years. There will be a greater focus on India-centric cases as students are able to relate themselves more closely to Indian situations.

Much has been written about MOOCs (Massive Open On-line Courses) model of education in the previous years, but this trend has not caused significant disruption in the traditional model of delivering business education. However, delivery of exec-

utive learning programmes through technology based platforms will find increasing acceptability and growth. The clamour among business schools for higher rankings in the rankings published by reputed polling agencies will intensify due to its direct impact on the inclination of prospective students to opt for better ranked institutes. Business schools will increasingly invest in getting themselves accredited through reputed accreditation agencies. They will also substantially invest in aggressive social media campaigns to reinforce their brand identity to attract students.

*The writer is Dean, Academics, and Professor, IMT Ghaziabad*

Times of India ND 19/01/2016 P-10

# 'Flipped' classrooms keep one-way lectures at bay

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**Mumbai:** If teaching is a transaction, its terms are changing. A classroom is no longer just a lecture hall. It's a discussion forum, an amphitheatre, a problem-solving arena and a large laboratory.

Welcome to the concept of a flipped classroom, or the turning-around of teaching that allows re-purposing time. What used to constitute classwork — opening a textbook and reading from it — is now homework, to be done before coming to the classroom.

While contact hours, the academic term that describes face-to-face meeting of a teacher and a student, may have remained the same, course time has expanded exponentially, allowing faculty to do more; lecturing is among the last things now done in class.

When the class congregates, discussions revolve around the deeper aspects of learning. Faculties from top universities around the world have seen value in this experiment and are liberating the classroom by developing their own internal virtual courses.

"The possibilities of teaching, of learning, of evaluating, of discussion, of team work, of problem solving, go-

## WHAT IS A FLIPPED CLASS?

► As the name suggests, it is the turning of the classroom on its head

► Students come prepared with basic knowledge of the topic or concept that is to be studied

► In class with the teacher, they do deeper learning.

They could understand where that concept evolved, do problem solving, work in teams and carry out group discussions



up exponentially," said professor Deepak Phatak, Padma Shri awardee and head of Kanwal Rekhi School of Information Technology, IIT-Bombay. He and professor Sridhar Iyer use the flipped classroom, and their research has shown that the engagement level shoots up by almost twice that of the traditional format of teaching.

In the US, most universities have developed their own internal MOOCs (massive online open courses) so that they can use the blended (online and classroom delivery) model of teaching. In India, a non-profit, The MooCExpress, is working with universities to develop their own digital content and adopt the flipped classroom model. "A teacher is no longer at the centre of the class. Students steer the direc-

tion in which teaching-learning takes place," said CEO Ji-meet Shah.

With students having different interest levels, grasping abilities and attention spans, Shah added, the model allows the teacher to give out basic information beforehand, thus letting students take their own time to understand the basics.

IIM-Bangalore, too, has been using the model; some of their MOOCs are now on edX. The to-be started Bennett University (started by the group that runs TOI) will also be using the model. "We are still debating the amount of content that will be delivered through this mechanism, but it will be between 8% and 15%," said vice-chancellor Yaj Medury.

For the full report, log on to [www.timesofindia.com](http://www.timesofindia.com)

# नासा में लगती है 15 दिन की संस्कृत क्लास

नासा वैज्ञानिकों को  
प्रशिक्षण में सिखाते हैं मय  
दानव का सूर्य सिद्धांत

जोधपुर @ पत्रिका . अमरीकी अंतरिक्ष एजेंसी नासा (नेशनल एकेडमी फॉर स्पेस एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन) में भर्ती होने वाले वैज्ञानिक के प्रशिक्षण काल में 15 दिन की संस्कृत की कक्षा लगती है। इसमें आर्यभट्ट, वराहमिहिर जैसे भारत के विद्वानों की ओर से दिए गए वैज्ञानिक सिद्धांत के अलावा मय दानव का दिया सूर्य सिद्धांत पढ़ाया जाता है। सूर्य सिद्धांत में ढाई हजार वर्ष पहले सौरमण्डल के सम्बंध में दिए गए तथ्य और आज के वैज्ञानिक तथ्यों का तुलनात्मक अध्ययन होता है।

नासा के अतिथि वैज्ञानिक, दिल्ली के डॉ. ओमप्रकाश पाण्डेय ने जोधपुर प्रवास के दौरान 'पत्रिका' से विशेष बातचीत में बताया कि भारत का खगोल विज्ञान इतना अधिक समृद्ध था कि उसे अब वेद और वेदांग के जरिए वैज्ञानिक सीख रहे हैं। मय दानव ने 500 बीसी में सूर्य सिद्धांत के जरिए बताया कि पृथ्वी अपनी धुरी के साथ सूर्य के चारों ओर भी चक्कर लगाती है। मय दानव ने एक साल की अवधि 365.24 दिन बताई। वर्तमान वैज्ञानिक सिद्धांत के अनुसार इसमें केवल 1.4 सैकेण्ड की ही त्रुटि है। मय दानव ने बुध से लेकर सभी ग्रहों और

मन को वाईफाई से  
जोड़ने में जुटे वैज्ञानिक

डॉ. पाण्डेय ने बताया कि वे और ब्रिटेन की वैज्ञानिक दाना जौहार चेतना पर काम कर रहे हैं। ऊर्जा वास्तव में जड़ है। वह केवल चेतना से नियंत्रित होती है। निर्जीव नजर आने वाले कुर्सी व पत्थर में भी चेतना है। उन्होंने बताया कि अगर आप एकाग्र होकर किसी की मानसिक तरंगों को पकड़ते हो तो दूर बैठे दो व्यक्ति भी मन ही मन आपस में बात कर सकते हैं। यह आज के वाईफाई सिस्टम जैसा है।

पृथ्वी के अपने अक्ष पर झुके होने की जानकारी दी थी। मय दानव का सिद्धांत आर्यभट्ट और वराहमिहिर की लिखी पुस्तकों में भी है।

**8 हजार साल पहले  
360 दिन का होता था  
एक साल**

डॉ. पाण्डेय ने बताया कि वेदों के अनुसार आठ हजार साल पहले पृथ्वी अपने अक्ष पर 22.1 डिग्री झुकी हुई थी (वर्तमान में 23.5 डिग्री पर झुकी है) तब एक साल 360 दिन का होता था। वर्तमान में 2016 एडी है। वर्ष 11800 एडी आने पर पृथ्वी 24.5 डिग्री झुक जाएगी तब एक साल 368 दिन का होगा।

## Meet the IIT Madras graduate who has built India's first solar boat ferry

<http://www.dnaindia.com/india/report-meet-the-iit-madras-graduate-who-has-built-india-s-first-solar-boat-ferry-2167266>

Sandith Thandasherry is based in Kerala and has formed a joint venture with a French company to realise his dream.

Thirty-eight year old Sandith Thandasherry has a passion for boats and today is proud to have launched India's first solar ferry. An IIM-Madras graduate who has an MBA from INSEAD, France, this naval architect chose Kochi, Kerala, for his start-up NavAlt Solar & Electric Boats. He spent a lot of time and energy in research and today many of his friends have invested in his company too in order to support his dreams. In an exclusive chat with **dna**, Sandith talks about the solar ferry and what he has achieved so far.

**You did Naval Architecture from IIT Madras. Did you always want to create something new with marine design?**

Right from my IIT days, I always wanted to set up a boat-building facility and come up with some innovative products (having so many smart people around you, it helps you to build the dream).

**How did you come up with the idea of the solar boat ferry?**

As a marine design firm, we have been tinkering with solar boats from 2009 for innovation in the application of solar energy in water transport (which is my area of specialisation). We started with small cruise boats and soon realised that the biggest opportunity was in large passenger water transport boats. We were looking for a business partner. Coincidentally AltEn, the largest solar boat manufacture in the world, was looking for a partner in India. Its founder, Philippe, takes vacations in Kerala every two years and he felt India was a market to explore. He found us through the Internet (we had made smaller boats by then) so we met, discussing the possibility of a joint venture. We then signed the JV to form a NavAlt (50% share each). NavAlt was to design and build solar and electric boats for the Indian market.





*The solar ferry that can seat 75 people.*

### **What makes your solar ferries cost-effective?**

Our solar ferries focus on innovation at two levels. Firstly, the boat is much better designed for passenger comfort (modern, light composites instead of steel/wood, good interiors and design). This can be adopted by conventional ferries. Second and most importantly, our boats are completely eco-friendly with no fuel on board. This is not easy for other firms to replicate and needs a lot of design effort and technology development.

The only capable foreign manufacturer is AltEn ferries in France with a cost that is 2.5 times our price. We have brought complete design and manufacturing to India and kept design validation and a critical power train (lithium-battery, battery management, motor controller, motors) to be supplied by AltEn. With this lower cost, our boats become economically viable in less than two years.

Let's take the case of a 75 passenger ferry. The conventional ferry (steel or wood) costs Rs 60 lakhs while a composite conventional ferry costs Rs 1.5 crore. The solar ferry costs Rs 3 crore which becomes Rs 2 crore after MNRE subsidy. The fuel bill is Rs 20-25 lakhs for the conventional ferry and Rs 0 for the solar ferry. The break-even period is two years whereas it is five or six years for the old steel or wood boats.

### **How will the solar ferries help the environment?**

Solar ferries are free from air, water and noise pollution. There's no smell of diesel or petrol fumes. Since there's very low vibration, it makes it more comfortable for passengers. If we factor in the cost of pollution caused by diesel boats, then solar boats are break-even from day one.

### **How important is research when developing a new product?**

If we have to come up with any innovative product we need to spend a lot of time and money on research. We have been doing ours in water transportation and solar application from 2008. Our JV partner AltEn has been doing research on this from the 1980s.

### **What plans next?**

We are working on two areas: i) designing 150 passenger solar ferry and ii) 50/100 passenger solar hybrid boat (both solar and diesel so that it can be faster, higher range and air-conditioned).

## **Barack Obama to honour IIT Kanpur alumnus Dr Rakesh Jain with National Medal of Science**

[News Agencies](#)

|18 January 2016

<http://www.catchnews.com/social-sector/us-president-obama-to-present-national-medal-of-science-to-indian-american-1453099977.html>

President Barack Obama will present the prestigious National Medal of Science to an Indian-American scientist on January 22 for his outstanding contribution to science.

Dr Rakesh K Jain is among 17 scientists, engineers, mathematicians and innovators who will be awarded by Obama at a White House ceremony.

The Medal of Science - awarded annually - recognises individuals who have made outstanding contributions to science, engineering, and mathematics.

Jain, an IIT-Kanpur alumnus, is professor of tumor biology at Massachusetts General Hospital in the Harvard Medical School.

He has received numerous awards for his work on tumor biology, particularly research on the link between tumor blood vessels and improving the effects of chemotherapy and radiation treatment.

The National Medal of Science was created by statute in 1959 and is administered for the White House by the National Science Foundation.

## **Govin Capital inks MoU with IIT-M Incubation Cell**

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-andhrapradesh/govin-capital-inks-mou-with-iitm-incubation-cell/article8123135.ece>

Govin Capital (Singapore) which launched accelerator service at Sunrise Startup Village here last year has signed MoU with IIT-Madras Incubation Cell to offer bio-entrepreneurial education and accelerate med-tech and life-sciences startups from the wider IIT-M community. Govin Capital will also be mentoring startups at IIT-M's bio-incubator and med-tech incubator and organise events such as boot-camps in venture financing and private equity.

CEO and MD of Govin Capital Anand Govindaluri said: “We are excited that the MoU with IIT-M Incubation Cell has been signed at a time when India is shaping its vision for an entrepreneurial economy and in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s vision of StartUp India and StandUp India.”

He said they would be committed to make this initiative a grand success and add value by providing IIT-M community access to the Singapore innovation ecosystem in med-tech and life sciences.

## World University Rankings blog: time to submit your data

<https://www.timeshighereducation.com/blog/world-university-rankings-blog-time-submit-your-data>

If you want to join our exciting global project, get in touch, says Phil Baty



The portal is open. We’ve started collecting data for the 2016-17 *Times Higher Education* World University Rankings – and it is our most ambitious and inclusive exercise to date.

Last year, THE’s data team, in partnership with the global higher education sector, collected comprehensive institutional data from 1,126 universities from 88 countries, gathering more than 100,000 separate data points. Added to about 400,000 data points collected through our annual Academic Reputation Survey and an analysis of more than 50 million citations to 11.3 million research papers, we were able to build our biggest and best global rankings to date.

But this year we want to do even more.

The database we are now building will not only fuel the 2016-17 *THE World University Rankings* (and remember, we can not rank any institution that does not submit data through our portal), it will also allow for a much deeper series of analyses.

The database will provide the information we need for the 2017 [BRICS & Emerging Economies Rankings](#), which will be published at a summit in Johannesburg from 30 November to 2 December 2016. It will also power the *THE* [100 Under 50 Rankings](#) for 2017, the [Asia Rankings](#) as well as new rankings for Latin America, the Middle East and elsewhere. We also plan to develop new metrics to capture a wider range of institutional missions and priorities, for example in knowledge transfer and teaching, and develop special data-led reports on different aspects of global higher education.

So we are seeking partnership with an ever-increasing range, and number, of institutions.

Only universities that published more than 1,000 research papers (in journals indexed by Scopus) between 2011 and 2015, and which also teach at the undergraduate level, are eligible for inclusion in the next World University Rankings. And such institutions will be prioritised for data collection as the world rankings continue to be dominated by indicators of research excellence.

But we want to be more inclusive. As we extend and deepen our rankings and analyses, more and more institutions can be included. This will allow us, over time, to recognise a wider range of activities and missions. After all, there is no single model of excellence in higher education and one of the great strengths of our sector is its sheer diversity. *THE* wants to celebrate that.

### **Changes for 2016-17**

We are aware that we impose a significant burden on institutions when we request data each year, and we are very conscious of the ever-increasing demands from external bodies. So we have worked hard this year to keep the burden to an absolute minimum. The data collection portal design has been streamlined, we've removed requests for some data points, and we've added new tools to help smooth the process – for example, providing warning signals when we detect a possible submission error.

We are delighted that institutions across the world recognise the benefits of taking part – voluntarily – in this exciting exercise, and we appreciate the cooperative approach that has been established. Our full-time team of data editors are on hand to help with any institutions' submission.

### **Housekeeping**

From this week, existing data partners should look out for an email from "*Times Higher Education*" with the subject line: "*Times Higher Education* World University Rankings – Data Collection Portal Now Open".

If you are expecting the email, but do not receive it, please email [Profilerankings@timeshighereducation.com](mailto:Profilerankings@timeshighereducation.com)

And if you want to join our exciting global project, even if you do not meet the criteria to join the World University Rankings, get in touch too. Email [Profilerankings@timeshighereducation.com](mailto:Profilerankings@timeshighereducation.com) and help us to build the biggest and most comprehensive database of university performance information in the world.

# Dalit student suicide: Case filed against Union Minister, Vice-Chancellor

Social media storm forces HRD Ministry to send probe team.

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Hyderabad/four-booked-in-dalit-student-suicide-case/article8120068.ece>

On a day of high drama following the suicide of Dalit research scholar Rohith Vemula of the University of Hyderabad (UoH), a case was filed against four persons, including Union Minister of State for Labour Bandaru Dattatreya and University Vice-Chancellor P. Appa Rao.

Tension prevailed on the UoH campus ever since Vemula committed suicide on Sunday evening. On Monday, police entered the premises and removed his body. Before he took his life, the 25-year-old Ph.D. scholar and four others, who had been suspended 14 days earlier, were sleeping in the open after expulsion from their hostels.

The suicide triggered a social media storm forcing the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) into action. It has sent a two-member fact-finding team to Hyderabad. “We will enquire into the matter in detail,” Shakila Shamsu, joint adviser, MHRD told *The Hindu*.

Union HRD Minister Smriti Irani, condoling the death, said: “Everyone knows that in Central Universities, the administrative control belongs only to the varsity. The government has no role to play.”

## I have no role in this episode: Dattatreya

The five Dalit students of the Ambedkar Students Association (ASA) had been on a sleep-in strike in the open on the University of Hyderabad campus ever since their expulsion.

On Sunday morning, following his 14th night out, Vemula had left the protesters’ camp and spent the day in one of the rooms of the New Research Scholars’ hostel.

The same evening at 7.30 p.m., he was found hanging in the room. The Gachchibowli Police registered a case naming Union Minister of State for Labour and Employment Bandaru Dattatreya, Vice-Chancellor P. Appa Rao and ABVP leader N. Susheel Kumar under the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Act 1989 and 306 (abetment of suicide) of the Indian Penal Code.

“I have not been named in the suicide note. I have nothing to do with it. I just received a petition about activities in the UoH which I forwarded to the MHRD. I have no role in this episode,” Mr. Dattatreya told *The Hindu*.

Vemula’s five-page poignant suicide note, which went viral, triggered grief and much finger-pointing online.

## IIT-Kgp opens research option for greenhorns

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kolkata/IIT-Kgp-opens-research-option-for-greenhorns/articleshow/50635105.cms>

Kolkata: Innovation and research have always been strong points of IIT-Kharagpur but the premier institute isn't resting on its laurels. It has now decided to raise the bar from the next academic session, when first-year students will be allowed to bring their concepts to M N Farooqui Innovation Centre, which has been established after alumnus Arjun Malhotra gave \$1 million fund to his alma mater to incubate ideas, for whetting.

Till now, students were allowed to tinker with ideas only after completing their postgraduation. But the system did not tap the potential of most of the students as they used to leave the campus with a job from campus recruitment.

However, things are going to change from this year. If the research panel finds ideas interesting, even first-year students will be mentored and taken on board for a long-term research project, which can then be developed into an entrepreneurial venture.

The entire cost of the research and product development will be borne by the institute and the student will be encouraged to set up his own startup, assured dean Siddhartha Mukhopadhyay. "Not every idea can be successfully researched on, but it is important to stumble upon an idea and start researching, even if it has to be abandoned midway.

Just studying the syllabus will not help. Our students are very creative and do create products in groups of their own volition and participate in competitions. There is no reason why these products cannot become part of their curriculum. Such initiatives will not be called extra-curricular from now on," Mukhopadhyay said.

Some IITs, like IIT-Kanpur and IIT-Mumbai, have made projects an optional part of their curricula recently but IITKharagpur has decided to increase weightage on projects to encourage students to take up structured research under faculty guidance. "Our students have designed robo-soccer games, autonomously guided vehicles like drones, they have collaborated with Isro to design satellites and have even designed Formula 1 cars. So why can't these be their own projects?" Mukhopadhyay wondered.

"India has reached a stage where we can call ourselves tech-sound but as far as innovations are concerned, our students still have miles to go. It is a matter of imagination and patronising that imagination through a grid of success-failure combos that will help students become not just engineers but creators," said IIT-Kgp director Partha Pratim Chakraborty

## PM stirs start-up dreams for IITians

Kangkan Kalita | TNN | Jan 19, 2016, 09.12 AM IST

GUWAHATI: Students of IIT-Guwahati (IIT-G) are excited about Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the sprawling campus of the region's premier technical institute.

On his maiden visit to IIT-G on Tuesday, Modi is expected to address students of the host institution and those from other higher education institutes of the city. He will also reach out to students of 21 higher education institutes of the northeast through live webcast from the IIT-G campus, an official said.

The vice-president of the student gymkhana council of IIT-G, Bhavin Mandalaywala, said the students of the institute

were eagerly waiting to see Modi. "With the launch of the Start-Up India, Stand-Up India campaign a couple of days ago, budding entrepreneurs on the campus are eager to talk to Modi about the project. This interaction will help motivate the young brains and promote technology in the region," Bhavin said.

Security has been increased in the institute and its surroundings on account of the Prime Minister's visit.

The IITians said they would appeal to Modi to entertain their queries and consider their suggestions for the development of the northeast region.

"We are very excited and can hardly wait to interact with the Prime Minister. The IIT-G has made a mark on our nation by giving the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan symbol. We hope that Modi will highlight the role that IIT-G can play through the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan and Ishan Vikas programmes for the betterment of Assam and the other northeastern states," said Anurag Jhaver, a BTech student at IIT-G.

Another IITian, Kaushal Kumar, said he was expecting students to be motivated to launch start-ups in the northeast as there was huge potential for growth in the region in fields like food technology and hardcore engineering.

"The IITs should allow students to go for start-ups in the middle of their course with adequate funding," Kumar said.

## **Not keeping pace with changing times, says UGC chairman**

**Hindustan Times (Patna)**

**Stresses that state universities must assess themselves with respect to the number of programmes being run there and their quality, enrolment and success rate, fiscal management, research etc., as future lies with quality and innovation**

**NET MUST FOR LECT**

**WE NEED UNIVERSITIES THAT HAVE INSPIRING, LIVING AND LEARNING ENVIRONMENT RELEVANT TO SOCIETAL NEEDS AND ARE ABLE TO PRODUCE TALENTED AND SCIENTIFIC WORKFORCE. WE NEED TO GO IN FOR STUDY OF BIG IMPACT INITIATIVES UNDER SELFFINANCING SCHEMES OR UGC-SPONSORED SCHEMES VED PRAKASH, UGC chairman**

UGC chair man Ved Prakash on Monday asked universities of the state to get their basics right, do what they easily can within their limited resources and strive to ensure inclusive growth of higher education with focus on quality and dissolve boundaries between disciplines.

"Be it curriculum update, implementation of semester system with choice-based credit system, development of up-to-date websites to give students and parents the platform to make an informed choice, vocational orientation to higher education, integration of fine arts, yoga and sports, development of industrial linkages and societal connect - all these can be done by the universities themselves without involving huge funds," he said, underlining the need to evolve norms for professional accountability, which should percolate from top to bottom.

Ved Prakash was speaking at the vice chancellors' conference at the Raj Bhawan, organised at the behest of the chancellor Ram Nath Kovind.

Education minister Ashok Choudhary, principal secretary ( department of education) D S Gangwar, principal secretary ( to the gover nor) Brijesh Mehrotra, all the VCs and P-VCs and senior officials were present on the occasion.

Maintaining that the realm of higher education is undergoing a huge transformation and Bihar universities are unable to keep pace with it, as they are still struggling with academic reforms, Ved Prakash said, “It is time to assess where do Bihar universities stand today with respect to the number of programmes being run and their quality, enrolment and success rate, fiscal management, innovation and research etc, as future lies with quality and innovation.”

Prakash said higher education should not be viewed in isolation, as it has the responsibility of producing teaching workforce for schools and inservice training of teachers to ensure quality intake.

“Today we are producing unskilled workforce and unemployable graduates. Why do the students have to face such a situation after remaining 17 years with the school and university systems?” he asked.

Batting for elimination of fragmentation of higher education, with separate universities for technical education and other spheres, he said it was not a good model and against the spirit of university system. “University is a place where universal knowledge exists. It should be able to promote policy research,” he added.

He said India has reached the initial stage of ‘massification’, but the Gross Enrolment Ratio ( GER) in Bihar continued to be very low and in case of girls it was half the national average.

“Quality is something we cannot compromise with. We are mad after IT, market needs and placement business. But higher education means much more. We need to create a perfect balance,” he added, exhorting the VCs to prepare a perspective plan for their respective universities and make annual assessment.

Pitching strongly for interdisciplinary approach, he said new knowledge is always found at the intersection of disciplines. “We need universities that have inspiring, living and learning environment relevant to societal needs and are able to produce talented and scientific workforce. We need to go in for study of big impact initiatives under self-financing schemes or UGC- sponsored schemes,” he added.

He said that under Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs), UGC had over 13,000 modules ready for 29 undergraduate and 15 postgraduate programmes and they would be provided free of cost to all universities. “But just digital material is not enough. The institutions will have to tighten their belt. One needs to be careful about alternate models of education,” he added, highlighting the need for harmonious co- existence of private and gover nment institutions to ensure that commercialization did not lead to deprivation of opportunities UGC chairman Ved Prakash on Monday categorically stated that there was no looking back on the criteria fixed for appointment of assistant professors and mandatory provision of NAAC accreditation for quality assessment of institutions. He said those PhD degree holders not conforming to the 2009 UGC guidelines would have to clear National Eligibility Test (NET).

“There cannot be any compromise on quality. If candidates from other institutions fulfil the requirement, what is wrong in inducting them? Similarly, NAAC accreditation is a way of giving students and parents an informed choice and a step towards institutional ranking” he said, when some VCs and P-VCs raised certain issues before him.

to the poor.

Earlier, principal secretary, department of education, D S Gangwar gave a power- point presentation to highlight the ground realities, viz. low GER, low college-population index, poor NAAC accreditation, just one-third transition from secondary stage to colleges etc.



He said how the government was trying to give a fillip to higher education with schemes like students' credit card, free wi fi and through other initiatives.



Principal secretary to the chancellor, Brijesh Mehrotra, introduced the subject and the need for the conference.