

Newspaper Clips
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Boost Make In India: Modi at IIT Guwahati

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
GUWAHATI, JANUARY 19

PM NARENDRA Modi Tuesday asked IITs, IIITs and other technical institutions to create an atmosphere to boost the government's Make In India campaign.

Interacting with over 2,500 students of engineering colleges and universities from all over the Northeast at the IIT campus here, PM Modi said that the nation's youth had the potential of leading the world in cyber-security.

"The biggest challenge before the world is how to ensure cyber-security. We have the highest number of people working in Silicon Valley. We are the only country in the world to be successful in its first Mars mission attempt. Can't our IITs, IIITs and other technical institutions create an atmosphere for boosting Make In India so that we can take on the cyber-security challenge worldwide?" asked Modi.

He also regretted that India was still importing scientific and electronic goods despite having so many world-class institutions. "Our biggest import bill after petroleum products is electronic goods... I have come to you with a big challenge. We must not only take to manufacturing electronic goods but also supply them to the whole world. Only you can take the Make In India programme forward," said Modi.

बीएसएफ के चीफ सिग्नल ऑफिसर को भाया आईआईटी कानपुर का उपकरण

'लेले' दुश्मनों की खबर लेगा

कानपुर | त्रिष्ठ संवाददाता

सीमा पर हो रहे हमलों और घुसपैठ को देखते हुए बीएसएफ ने बॉर्डर का सुरक्षा चक्र मजबूत करने की कवायद तेज कर दी है। इसके तहत सीमा की पल-पल की मॉनीटरिंग के साथ दुश्मन देशों पर भी कड़ी निगाह रखी जाएगी।

नगरानी में आईआईटी कानपुर बॉर्डर सिव्योरिटी फोर्स (बीएसएफ) की मदद करेगा। आईआईटी का 'लेले' (लॉ एंटीट्यूड लॉग इन्ड्योरेन्स ऑटोनामस) यूएवी (अनमैन्ड एरियल व्हीकल) दुश्मनों और सीमा की हर हलचल की

कड़ी निगाह

- सीमा पर होगा फील्ड ट्रायल, बॉर्डर की सुरक्षा को अभेद्य बनाएंगे
- ट्रायल सफल रहा तो सीमा पर लगने वाले यूएवी में शामिल होगा

खबर बीएसएफ को देगा।

बीएसएफ के चीफ सिग्नल ऑफिसर ने 'लेले' यूएवी को उपयुक्त करार दिया है। इसका फील्ड ट्रायल खुद बीएसएफ सीमा पर करेगी। टेस्टिंग में लेले सफल रहा तो सीमाओं पर लगाए जाने वाले यूएवी में इसे शामिल कर लिया जाएगा।

मंगलवार को बीएसएफ के चीफ सिग्नल ऑफिसर साउथ (वेस्ट कमांड जयपुर) मेजर जनरल संदीप शर्मा और रैपिड सिग्नल रेजीमेंट इलाहाबाद के (कमांडिंग ऑफिसर) मनु जोशी आईआईटी की एयर स्ट्रिप पहुंचे।

यहां एक घंटे तक आईआईटी के प्रोफेसरों के साथ रक्षा उपकरणों के रिसर्च पर चर्चा की। अपनी जरूरत बताई और आईआईटी के मौजूदा रिसर्च को देखा। उन्होंने लेले और हैन्ड लांच यूएवी के बारे में जानकारी हासिल की। एयर स्ट्रिप पर उसकी टेस्टिंग भी की। डिजाइन को परफेक्ट बताते हुए कहा कि यूएवी का

बीएसएफ फील्ड टेस्ट भी कराएगी। आईआईटी के एयरबेस सैन्य अधिकारियों ने अमेरिका समेत कई देशों के हेलीकॉप्टरों की डिजाइन और तकनीक को भी समझा। यूएवी प्रोजेक्ट को ऑर्डिनेटर प्रो. दीपू फिलिप ने उनको लैब में यूएवी का प्रेजेंटेशन दिया।

उन्होंने बताया कि बीएसएफ अफसरों को आईआईटी का यूएवी पसंद आया है। बारिश के कारण फील्ड ट्रायल नहीं हो सका। अब बीएसएफ के समय के मुताबिक आईआईटी की टीम सीमा पर लेले यूएवी का फील्ड ट्रायल देगी। तब इसका विस्तृत परीक्षण होगा।

Times Of India ND 20/01/2016

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IIT-M girl 'leaves for the Himalayas'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: A 26-year-old student of IIT-Madras went missing from her hostel on Tuesday, bizarrely leaving behind notes in her hostel room that said she was heading to the Himalayas to attain sainthood.

The city police said Vedantam L Prathyusha, from Brodipet in Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh, was a second-year MS student in the IIT-M's department of engineering design.

Students said they last saw Prathyusha on Sunday morning. Police said that some of the students had complained about her disappearance later on Sunday, following which the hostel warden opened her room and found two notes — a two-page note in English letter and another of three pages in Telugu.

A police officer said Prathyusha's notes stated that

she wanted to have an adventure and do research in spirituality. Her pages on social networking sites also indicate that she had an avid interest in spiritual texts like Ramayana, Mahabharata and Bhagavad Gita.

"As far as we know, Prathyusha informed no one about her plans," an official said. "Her friends tried calling her on her cellphone but couldn't get through. They later contacted her parents who said she hadn't returned home."

IIT-M director Bhaskar Ramamurthi said Prathyusha's parents had requested them to file a police complaint as they could not locate her as it would take them some time to come to Chennai.

"Based on the family's request, we filed a complaint with the Kotturpuram police," he said.

The Kotturpuram police registered a missing person complaint and are attempting to locate her.

HRD'S 4 LETTERS TO AVOID PRIVILEGE NOTICE

Irani Didn't Err: Babus say Dattatreya Should have Spoken to HRD Minister Instead of Writing

Aman.Sharma@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: HRD minister Smriti Irani is expected to cite a set of rules in defence of the four letters her ministry wrote to the Hyderabad Central University, following Bandaru Dattatreya's letter to her office. The labour minister's letter triggered a chain of events that ended with Dalit researcher Rohith Vemula's suicide.

A senior government functionary questioned Dattatreya's letter: "There was no need for Dattatreya to write a letter... he could have spoken to the HRD minister if he had an issue," a senior leader told ET. Officials said the HRD ministry had just followed the Central Secretariat Manual of Office Procedure on correspondence



from MPs/VIPs. In event of noncompliance, bureaucrats may attract Parliament's privilege notice.

Dattatreya's letter to Irani on August 17, complained against "casteist, extremist and anti-national politics" of Ambedkar Students Union. "The letter was to be replied within 30 days, by September 16 in this case, and since it

was addressed to the minister should have been replied by the minister/secretary. HRD bureaucrats hence followed it up," an official said. An email was sent to the university registrar on September 3 by Ramji Pandey, an under-secretary in the HRD ministry, asking for issues raised by Dattatreya to be "examined" and "facts intimat-

ed" to the ministry "to enable us to submit reply to MoS (Dattatreya)."

"No communique asked for action to be taken on Dattatreya's letter; only facts were queried so that HRD could reply to Dattatreya," an official said. Although the subject line of the letter was: 'Anti-national activities in Hyderabad Central University Premises — violent attack on Nandamam Susheel Kumar, ABVP president,' the official said it was a standard bureaucratic way of framing a subject, based on content cited in Dattatreya's letter to Irani. "This was followed by three more letters, the last two to the V-C by HRD deputy secretary SK Ghildiyal, as there was no response. A reply finally came on January 7, detailing the chronology of events and action taken.

A philosopher's death to purify the higher education system

BY INVITATION



KANCHA ILAIAH

The Dalit student whose suicide has generated political waves was a brilliant man. His letter to Prof Appa Rao, the newly appointed vice-chancellor of the university who was once believed to be anti-Dalit by the government, shows that at the time of his suicide, he was angry, upset and depressed.

In his letter to the VC, written on December 18, 2015, Rohith Vemula had said, "Give us poli-

son or long ropes to hang ourselves". His suicide note was far more gracious — he blamed no one but himself to have been born in such a society.

Even in his final moments, Vemula made a major point. The institutions of higher education in India do not allow the Dalits to study and live with dignity. Obviously, what shocked him most was the letter of labour minister Bandaru Dattatreya that characterised his organisation — the Ambedkar Student Association (ASA) — as anti-national, casteist and extremist.

It was on the basis of this letter that the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) requested action against the five Dalit students who had alleg-

edly organised a film show on the Muzaffarnagar communal riots and also held a discussion on Yakub Memon's hanging. Let us not forget it was just an academic discussion.

Yet, members of the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) first disrupted that meeting and then set the political machinery in motion alleging an attack by the Dalit students on one of their activists.

Since the Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) stormed into power in 2014, this was the fourth major assault on Dalit rights and dignity in the country. First, the ban on the Ambedkar-Periyar Study Circle of IIT Madras, then the burning alive of Dalit children in Haryana and, finally general

EARLIER, UNIVERSITIES WERE THE PRIVILEGE OF UPPER CASTES, BUT THE RESERVATION SYSTEM HAS CHANGED ALL THAT FOR THE BETTER

VK Singh allegedly referring to them as animals. Now, it is Rohith's death and Dattatreya and the HRD ministry's perceived involvement in it.

The fact that the University of Hyderabad administration took action after the MHRD letter has raised questions on the autonomy of central universities and universities in general.

If vice-chancellors had a free

hand to deal, without external pressure, with campus issues impartially, universities would not have become the den of suicides and violence that they are today. In the absence of such autonomy, there will be many more Rohiths.

Unfortunately, however, ever since the BJP came to power, political interference in learning institutions has seen an exponential increase.

Earlier, universities were the privilege of the upper castes, but the reservation system has changed all that for the better. Non-political student organisations with modern ideologies today trump traditional, conservative groups like the ABVP in both talent and mod-

ern thinking — the creativity and dynamism of the ASA is just one example.

These small but effective student groups do not need guidance from a political party to take up contentious issues such as the beef ban or to write a new cultural idiom. Rohith was a by-product of this new cultural idiom. And, he gave up his life to spread the message that such discrimination and social boycott of Dalits/tribals can no longer be tolerated.

(The views expressed in this article are personal. Kancha Ilaiah is the author of 'Why I am Not a Hindu' and director of Alberuni Centre for Study of Social Exclusion and Inclusive Policy at Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Hyderabad.)

P-10

HRD min sent 5 letters to varsity

HT Correspondent

• letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Human resource development (HRD) minister Smriti Irani came under opposition fire on Tuesday after it emerged that her ministry had written five letters, including four reminders, to the University of Hyderabad asking for its response on labour minister Bandaru Dattatreya's allegation of anti-national activities on the campus.

Dattatreya's controversial letter, coupled with HRD ministry's reminders to the university, purportedly led to the suspension of five students and subsequent suicide of one of them, triggering massive protests by students who alleged that he took the extreme step because of discrimination and social boycott by the university.

Dattatreya in his letter addressed to Irani in August last year had called the institution a "den of casteist, extremist and anti-national politics" and accused the university of being

"a mute spectator" after a group of Dalit students, including Rohith, clashed with an ABVP leader.

The HRD ministry forwarded labour minister's letter on September 3 asking it to respond to the allegations. Subsequently it sent four reminders on September 24, October 6, October 20 and November 19.

After first three letters sent by the under secretary and deputy secretary went unanswered, joint secretary in the ministry, Sukhbir Singh Sandhu, wrote the fourth letter to the vice-chancellor of the university asking for facts that could be provided to the labour minister.

"I would appreciate if you could kindly look into the matter personally and get the facts provided at the earliest to enable the ministry to reply to the MoS," he wrote.

The university finally replied on January 7 this year informing the ministry the students were suspended and asked to vacate the hostel.

Hindustan Times ND 20/01/2016 P-05

Proud of my students, says JNU V-C

PROUD MOMENTS SK Sopory says harassment cases increased due to platform for students to come up and complain

Heena Kausar

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NEW DELHI: Outgoing Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) vice chancellor SK Sopory on Tuesday said he was very proud of his students who had actively participated and excelled in politics, academics, social work and sports.

"People think that students in JNU are only involved in politics. But there are so many things they have been doing. Students are very active in sports and have won accolades for the university. I am very proud of JNU students," Sopory, whose term ends on January 27, said.

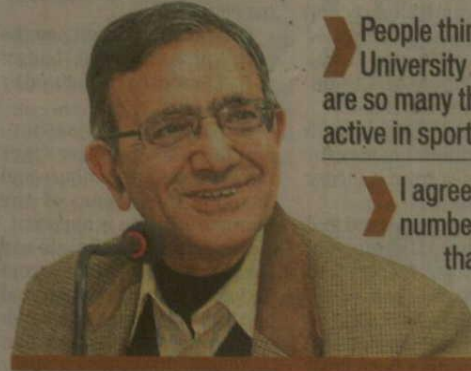
Sopory, who is the 11th JNU V-C, said that during his tenure he was able to complete most of the tasks on his list, apart from construction of more hostels. He said the construc-

tion of the on campus hostels could not be completed despite having requisite funds.

"It was something I could not complete. We have had funds for two years but we were not able to get permission for construction for over 20 months now. We had support from the L-G and DDA but the plan got stuck again with the Union ministry of environment and forests," he said.

Sopory said that the construction of a new hostel was sanctioned by the UGC under its 12th plan and the Union ministry for development of north eastern region (DONER) had provided funding for a separate hostel for north-east students. But the projects never took off.

Commenting on recent reports that JNU had reported the maximum number of sexual harassment cases, the



People think that students in Jawaharlal Nehru University are only involved in politics. But there are so many things they have been doing. Students are active in sports and have won accolades.

I agree that the varsity reported maximum number of harassment cases last year, but that happened because we offered them a platform to come forward and complain

SK SOPORY, outgoing JNU vice chancellor.

V-C said that the university had zero tolerance for such incidents and the sexual harassment policy at JNU encouraged victims to report such incidents without fear.

"I agree that the varsity reported maximum number of harassment cases last year, but that happened because we offered them a platform to

come forward and complain," he said.

Talking about students' union elections in JNU, Sopory said that having a students' union is a healthy platform to give an opportunity to students for raising their voice. "I am glad the process resumed during my tenure. It gave me many opportunities to interact

with the students closely and understand issues raised by them," he said.

Sopory, who took over as the V-C in January 2011, is an eminent plant molecular biologist. He began his academic career in 1973 as a faculty at the School of Life Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University.

Don't just be a winner, be a champion: Uber boss

Wraps up IIT-Bombay meet by sharing his e-mail ID with students

PATANJALI PAHWA

Mumbai, 19 January

It almost felt like a prelude to a party, as house music boomed through the speakers and around 500 students and faculty filled up the IIT-Bombay's convocation hall in Powai. Everyone was waiting for Travis Kalanick, co-founder and chief executive of the most valued transportation company Uber, to have a fireside chat with former UTV top boss Ronnie Screwvalla.

There was no fire, but Kalanick was in no mood to be mellow. The University of California, Los Angeles, dropout started the meet by insisting that every entrepreneur needs to have the mindset of not a winner but a champion. "A champion is someone who puts every ounce of energy into the field. When you get knocked down, get back up... until you get success," said Kalanick.

The 39-year-old skipped forward and asked the students at IIT to take risks when getting jobs at start-ups.

"You are smart, you have a roof over your head... if this doesn't work out, there are a thousand companies who will hire you," he quipped in what



Uber CEO Travis Kalanick (left) on his way to IIT-Bombay in a BEST bus on Tuesday

PHOTO: OFFICIAL TWITTER PAGE

soon became his trademark style.

The former boss of RedSwoosh, however, warned budding entrepreneurs to know when to call it quits. "If keep on going means you are doing severe mental and physical damage to yourself, then move on," he said. He then tried to make light of what had become a serious moment by saying his biggest failure was when he got sued for \$250 billion.

The entrepreneur, who is valued at \$6 billion by *Forbes*, said he ran Uber

with one motto: always be hustling. In Hindi, he roughly translated it to *jugaad*. In India, Screwvalla tried to explain, it meant frugal innovation but Kalanick's "always be *jugaading*" worked as well.

The CEO of the \$50 billion company said Asia had taught him a few lessons. He explained that in the US he was always convinced about making profitable businesses but China taught him about the value economy.

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Don't be...

"Subsidies and large burning of cash is a Chinese invention," he said.

He came up just short of criticising the discount-induced war for customer acquisition among Indian e-commerce players and said that discounting made sense

only if there was return at the end of it. "You don't want to spend money that doesn't have positive ROI," he said.

What was noticeable about Kalanick was his ability to switch gears to pander to the crowd that was hanging on to his every word. With eyes surveying the crowd, Kalanick said innovation was now not just centric to Silicon Valley. "R&D and innovation isn't just a Silicon Valley thing. It will happen in three Bs. Bay area, Beijing and Bangalore," he said to huge applause. The Uber boss continued to talk up India and said that investors now had a primary agenda of investing only in India, which is why the country had a great future. "India will be 1 billion smartphones by 2019," he said.

Last year, Uber committed \$1 billion investment in India. When Screwvalla asked him what next now that the money was running out, Kalanick refused to comment if more investment was needed but did insist that if he felt there were returns to be made more capital investments could be made.

He asked students and heads of start-up firms to stay a few steps ahead of their investors. He told entrepreneurs to think faster in their business and anticipate suggestions and have answers to them ready before they were asked. He explained that he was coaxed out of trying to crack the Chinese market but convinced everyone that opposed him that the odds would probably be in his favour as at least one non-Chinese company could succeed in that country and he could be that one firm.

At the end of the session, before the selfies, Kalanick announced his email address and asked students to email him if they wanted to work for Uber.

Hindustan Times ND

20/01/2016 P-11

Students can't do two degrees together: UGC

HT Correspondent

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NEW DELHI: The University Grants Commission has said students will not be able to undertake two degrees simultaneously. Clarifying on this, the UGC has come out with a public notice after taking comments of the statutory councils.

“The responses, so far, do not endorse the idea of allowing the students to pursue two degrees simultaneously. Therefore, the universities shall conduct their pro-

grammes in accordance with the first degree and master degree accordance regulations, 2003 prescribed by the UGC,” a notice issued by the UGC reads.

In 2013, UGC had given the go-ahead to students to pursue two degree programmes simultaneously. The UGC expert panel had made these recommendations “in view of the changing scenario and flexible guidelines, more choices to the students need to be given”. The panel was of the view that joint degree programmes need to be encouraged by the UGC.

IIT: HC refuses to interfere

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/bangalore/iit-hc-refuses-to-interfere/article8126942.ece>

Observing that it can't interfere in policy decisions, the High Court of Karnataka on Tuesday dismissed a PIL petition, which had questioned grant of an Indian Institute of Technology to Dharwad instead of Raichur.

A Division Bench comprising acting Chief Justice Subhro Kamal Mukherjee and Justice Ravi Malimath passed the order, while dismissing the petition filed by Citizens Action Forum, Raichur, and others. The petitioners had contended that the IIT should have been established in Raichur and an Indian Institute of Management (IIM) in Dharwad as per recommendations of the late D.N. Nanjundappa committee. However, the Bench pointed out that the recommendations of the Nanjundappa committee were not binding on the State government, and moreover courts cannot interfere in the policy decision of the government to set up IIT in Dharwad.

“What is Hyderabad-Karnataka, Bombay-Karnataka and Madras-Karnataka? Karnataka is one... That is why it is said Bharatha Jananiya Tanujate... [in the State's anthem],” the acting Chief Justice reacted orally when counsel for the petitioner argued that the decision of setting up IIT in Dharwad had hurt the interests of people of backward regions such as Hyderabad-Karnataka.

IIT-Kgp opens research option for greenhorns

[Jhimli Mukherjee Pandey](#) | TNN | Jan 19, 2016, 11.05 AM IST

<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.

Latest Comment

If Innovation and research have always been strong points of IIT-Kharagpur, where are the outputs it is like cut...
Read MoreA Siva

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

IIT-R develops satellite-based crop monitoring system, app

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/dehradun/IIT-R-develops-satellite-based-crop-monitoring-system-app/articleshow/50644646.cms>

Tapan Susheel | TNN | Jan 19, 2016, 10.37 PM IST

ROORKEE: The Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee (IIT-R) claims to have developed a satellite-based online information system and mobile app for crop monitoring at district level in Uttarakhand.

The electronics and communication engineering department of the institute, which developed the system, says that they may be able to extend the online platform country-wide in a year or more after uploading data from other states.

"The online information system is called 'satellite-based agriculture information system' (SBAIS). The website will soon be in the public domain for general users," Dharmendra Singh, professor of microwave imaging & space technology and the principal investigator (PI) of the project, told **TOI**.

The institute has also developed an app for mobile users to access the online information system.

The state agriculture authorities have expressed satisfaction over the development of the online information system as it can allow them to inspect land for settlement of crop insurance claims.

"To settle cases of crop insurance of farmers, we have to gather data from our personnel time to time but if entire information of vegetation in every district is available online, the actual damage would be assessed faster," said JP Tiwari, chief district agriculture officer, Haridwar.

RailTel, a Miniratna enterprise of Government of India, has reportedly provided a funding of around Rs 80 lakh to the institute for the project.

The institute has been working on the project for two years and has collected data on various agricultural factors beginning from 2011 and including all 13 districts of the state. The salient features of the project, under two main modules, are monitoring crop health district- and tehsil-wise, and image classification of vegetation of a particular area.

IIT Gandhinagar introduces dual catering system in hostel mess

<http://www.pagalguy.com/articles/iit-gandhinagar-introduces-dual-catering-system-in-hostel-me-39063429>

19 January 2016

How many students do you know who complain about hostel food in college? While institutes would like to provide students with healthy food, they do not want to compromise on its taste or variety. IIT Gandhinagar(IITGn) has brainstormed an idea to appeal to the taste buds of their students and also keep a check on the quality of food offered in the hostel mess.

Mess caterers at IIT Gandhinagar will be indulging in an ongoing catering competition as a part of their daily job. This year, for the first time an IIT has sent out tenders notices for two mess caterers. While the existing caterer at the institute was hired last year during October on a one year extendable contract, the new caterer shall commenced service in the institute mess from next month. Both the caterers are expected to cook myriad varieties of food daily for the hostel students. Prof Jaison Manjaly, Student Affairs Dean, IITGn, says, "This idea was brought up by some institute faculty, students and our Director. The purpose of introducing such a system was to ensure higher quality and more variety of food for students." This means that students at IITGn will not have to compromise with limited types of food everyday.

When students at IITGn initially heard about this competitive system, they thought it was a rumour. Ritika Jain, a first year MTech student, said, "I didn't believe this news when to got to know about it. I thought it would be a temporary arrangement. But I realised that the institute is keen on making this a permanent system." Some other students were also impressed by the initiative, as such arrangements are very rare to find in other institutes in India. A third year student at IITGn said, "When I lived in a coaching institute hostel during my JEE preparations, we were offered simple and light food at the mess with only a limited variety. Our warden usually told us to make peace with the quality of food. This is the first time an institute is asking us not to compromise."

Through this new system, the caterers will now compete to attract a larger proportion of the student crowd to eat their food. Over time, this may indirectly lead to an improvement in the quality of food thus fulfilling the institute's objective behind starting a dual catering system. According to Prof Manjaly, the institute is also planning to further implement an assessment system for the caterers. "We are planning to introduce a criteria wherein if any caterer fails to attract more than 20-25% of the student crowd by the end of the semester, then his contract will be terminated. This should help to toughen the competition," he said. However, the 25% floor criteria is still being discussed and may be introduced by next month.

As of now, the students are content with the increase in the choice of food available. However, it will be too early to gauge the improvement in quality until the next semester.

Duke and IIT Gandhinagar Partner for Research, Education

January 19, 2016

<https://global.duke.edu/duke-and-iit-gandhinagar-partner-research-education>

Duke and the Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar (IITGN) are building a partnership grounded in a shared vision for excellence in higher education.

IIT Kharagpur students win prestigious award

[Jhimli Mukherjee Pandey](#) | TNN | Jan 20, 2016, 10.11 AM IST

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kolkata/IIT-Kharagpur-students-win-prestigious-award/articleshow/50649339.cms>

Team 'Aces' comprising of four 4th year undergraduate students, Anubhav Goyal, Anush Gupta, Lakshya Kalra and Shreshtha Mundra of IIT Kharagpur secured 1st place in the finals of the PAN India HULT Prize competition held at IIM Ahmedabad on January 9. Top 30 teams from all over India had pitched their ideas to a panel of 13 eminent judges.

They will be competing against 50 other teams from across the globe at the Regional Finals of HULT Prize Competition 2016 being held at Boston, for a prize money of \$1 million. The other finalists include teams from other prestigious colleges and universities like Harvard, MIT, and Yale.

The teams were asked to suggest ideas to double the income of people living in crowded urban areas within 5 years. The winning team 'Aces' had come up with a mobile application along the lines of Mechanical Turk to provide these people with a means of stable income by utilizing their non-productive broken time. The app basically has simple questions based on image categorization and text verification. The team will provide this data to research groups and companies that require this preliminary data processing and transfer the monetary benefits to the people in crowded slums. Yes we are planning to initiate these ideas. Firstly the team will conduct a pilot in the month of Feb and this pilot will be the integral part of our pitch at Boston. The development of the mobile app is in the beta stage and is being handled by one of our team members.

The entrepreneurial spirit of Kharagpur can be estimated from the fact that 5 of the 30 teams at IIM Ahmedabad and 2 of the top 3 teams were from IIT Kharagpur. Team Sanyojan comprising of Ayush Garg, Kartik Pal, Pradeep Kumar Mittapally and Pradyumna Mishra bagged the 3rd prize and will be competing at the Shanghai Regional Finals.

The idea of Team 'Sanyojan' was to provide B2B Services and promote local entrepreneurship along a Co-operative Society Model Supported by an Extensive Tech Platform and Micro-financing Schemes. Sanyojan' works on a cooperative society model to provide a holistic solution. Our enterprise focuses on providing B2B services by connecting people, both skilled and unskilled, with businesses like Contractors, Security Agencies etc. Workers, employed through our enterprise, give back to the community by training other people for similar jobs.

The HULT Prize is organized by HULT International Business School in partnership with the Clinton Global Initiative and is largest student competition globally to solve the world's toughest social challenges. The Hult Prize Foundation is a start-up accelerator for budding young social entrepreneurs emerging from the world's universities. Named as one of the top five ideas changing the world by Former US President Bill Clinton and TIME Magazine, the annual competition for the Hult Prize aims to create and launch the most compelling social business ideas—start-up enterprises that tackle grave issues faced by billions of people. Winners receive USD1 Million in seed capital, as well as mentorship and advice from the international business.