

Newspaper Clips

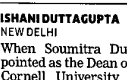
January 23, 2012

Economic Times ND 23-Jan-12 p1

US Colleges Learn Business Mantra from Indian Gurus

Business As Usual for IITians

Other Indian Deans At US Universities

 Professor Nitin Nohria Harvard Business School	 Pradeep K Khosla Carnegie Mellon College of Engg	 Dipak C Jain Kellogg School of Management in 2001
 Yash P Gupta Johns Hopkins Carey B-school	 Anand Anandalingam Robert H Smith School of Business, University of Maryland	 Jaishankar Ganesh Rutgers School of Business-Camden
 Sunil Kumar Chicago's Booth School of Business		



HIGH BAR: Indian students are making their presence felt in other countries

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Though they have made their mark as undergrad engineering colleges, the IIT experience is also about high standards in teaching and research, as many former IITians have found out. "You want to put emphasis on academic excellence, you take pride in setting a high bar for teaching and research, you want students to have a transformative and career path-changing experience—that is what IIT did for me," said Pramath Sinha, an IIT-Kanpur alumnus and the first dean of India's global B-school, ISB, Hyderabad. He points out that IITians became deans at the top US technology col-

leges long before they gained visibility at the B-schools. "Subra Suresh was dean at MIT's engineering school before he was appointed as head of the US National Science Foundation while S Shankar Sastry is dean of engineering at Berkeley. Last year, Pradeep Khosla was appointed dean of the Carnegie Mellon College of Engineering. All of them are IITians," said Sinha. For now, however, it's B-schools where Indians are making their presence felt. Last week, the president of Harvard University, Drew Faust, announced the appointment of Krishna G Palepu, who has taught at the HBS for almost three decades, to the position of her senior adviser for global strategy.

It's never easy to break the glass ceiling, as Renu Khator, the president and chancellor of the University of Houston since January 2008, found out. "With my appointment, three ceilings were broken; the curry ceiling (first India-born to head a research university in the US), glass ceiling (first woman to become chancellor in Texas), and passport ceiling (first foreign born to head the University of Houston)," Khator told ET. She feels that Indians who have reached top positions in the US academia have to always give their 125% to be noticed. With five Indians now deans at US B-schools, the path will be easier for more to follow.

ISHANI DUTTAGUPTA NEW DELHI

When Soumitra Dutta was appointed as the Dean of Ivy League Cornell University earlier this month, he joined a small, influential and growing club of Indian-origin professors heading American business schools. Among them, five have risen to top jobs in the US management education circuit in the last four years.

A year-and-a-half ago, Harvard Business School appointed Professor Nitin Nohria as its dean. Forty-three-year-old Sunil Kumar took the dean's chair at Chicago's Booth School of Business, another top US B-school, early last year. And now, 48-year-old Dutta, from France's top business school INSEAD, is at the helm at Cornell.

SHOWING THE WAY

There are other Indian Americans too who run B-schools in the US: 46-year-old Jaishankar Ganesh at Rutgers School of Business-Camden and Anand Anandalingam at the Robert H Smith School of Business, University of Maryland. The spate of appointments signals a few changes. First, Indians are finally breaking through the glass ceiling in global management education. And secondly these highly influential men will now exercise India's 'soft power' over swathes of global B-school students.

Top management thinker and professor of international business at the Tuck School of Business, Dartmouth College, Vijay Govindarajan, agrees that Indian management professors have an edge in being educated in English and well-versed in Western pedagogies. "We are masters of data and facts," he said.

THREE-LETTER KEY

Another reason behind this success is a three-letter word — IIT. Many of the stars at management schools in the US come from the Indian Institutes of Technology.

"The IIT system is about the best people," said Dutta. "While the professors and faculty members, who helped in creating the foundation for research, innovation and entrepreneurship, remain an important part of my life, the competition with peers always motivated me to do better."

Till recently, Indians were finding it hard to crack the top job in US B-schools. Dipak C Jain was the first when he became the dean of the prestigious Kellogg School of Management in 2001. Yash P



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SOUMITRA DUTTA

Dean, Ivy League Cornell University

Gupta, who was the first permanent dean at the Johns Hopkins Carey Business School from 2008 to 2011, before quitting to take up a CEO job, is another. But there were not too many names beyond them. Many like the late Dr CK Prahalad of the University of Michigan's Ross School of Business achieved great recognition in management classrooms and corporate boardrooms, but didn't make it to senior positions of deans or presidents.

Dipak Jain, who is now the dean of INSEAD, attributes the success of Indian educationists to a number of factors. "Of all the BRIC nations, India alone counts English as its lingua franca and is well-grounded in Western administration and business. Also, in India one learns flexibility and how to achieve goals in an environment that is less than organised," he said.

Former IITian and Indian-American entrepreneur Vinod Gupta, who set up the first business school within the IIT system at Kharagpur, believes the advantage for IITians as business school professors comes from their problem-solving abilities that are honed at the alma mater.

Asian Age ND 23-Jan-12

DATAWIND TO PUSH FOR 'MADE IN INDIA' AAKASH

New Delhi, Jan. 22: Datawind, the maker of the lowest priced tablet 'Aakash', on Sunday said it will request the human resource development ministry to include 'Made in India' clause in the proposed tender for the low-priced device.

"Datawind successfully made the \$49.48 tablet Aakash in India despite various pressures. We will make a request to the ministry (MHRD) that they should consider 'Made in India clause' and encourage indigenous production," Datawind CEO, Mr Sunit Singh Tuli said.

He said that the most critical components, chips and software are being designed in India and the tablet has been manufactured in India and hence there is no reason why the tablet should be made outside India. The government plans to procure large numbers of low-cost computing devices to leverage benefits of broadband connectivity in universities and colleges in a phased manner. — PTI

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NATION

Prepare plans for grants, varsities told

New Delhi: In a step towards granting more autonomy to universities, the UGC has asked them to prepare their own proposals for seeking funds from it for development purpose.

So far, expert panels deputed by the University Grants Commission (UGC) would visit the varsities to assess their financial needs, based on which funds were allocated to them. "The past experience shows us that this procedure invariably resulted in delayed communication of financial allocations to the universities by UGC due to a variety of factors," UGC chairman Ved Prakash said in a letter to the vice chancellors. PTI

Plasma cloud heading towards Earth: Nasa

Brian Vastag

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WASHINGTON: A huge sunspot unleashed a blob of charged plasma Thursday that space weather watchers predict will blast past the Earth on Sunday.

Satellite operators and power companies are keeping a close eye on the incoming cloud, which could distort the Earth's magnetic field and disrupt radio communications, especially at higher latitudes.

"Our simulations show potential to pack a good punch to Earth's near-space environment," said Antti Pulkkinen of the Space Weather Laboratory

at Nasa's Goddard Space Flight Center in suburban Greenbelt, Md. But "we're not looking at an extreme event here."

The front edge of the burst should arrive Sunday morning, said Joseph Kunches, a spokesman for the Space Weather Prediction Center, part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in Boulder, Colo.

"At first glance, it was, 'Oh my God, it's at the center of the (sun's) disk, it ought to go right to the Earth,'" Kunches said.

But upon further review and "head-scratching" Thursday, NOAA's space weather team calculated that most of the plasma

SATELLITE OPERATORS AND POWER FIRMS ARE KEEPING CLOSE EYE ON THE INCOMING CLOUD, THAT COULD DISRUPT RADIO COMMUNICATIONS

blob should pass harmlessly over the top of our planet.

"It's more of a glancing blow," Pulkkinen said.

At their most intense, solar discharges, known as "coronal mass ejections," can disrupt satellites, radio communications and the power grid, and force airlines to reroute transconti-

ental flights that pass near the North Pole. Solar activity can also generate dancing auroras, the northern and southern lights.

Spit out by the sun Thursday morning, the huge blob of charged gas spotted by Nasa satellites is speeding toward Earth at more than 2 million mph.

The most damaging solar discharges, which are very rare, can zoom at speeds more than twice that fast.

The ejection appears to be the most threatening since the sun spit out three large blobs in quick succession last August. Such discharges shoot out of

sunspots, which are dark areas on the sun's surface where tangled magnetic fields sometimes discharge massive spurts of energy.

Solar activity ramps up and down on a roughly 11-year cycle. Over the past year, the number of solar flares has jumped up as the sun approaches its predicted maximum activity in 2013.

While the Earth appears to have dodged this particular solar bullet, the roiling sunspot could generate more activity over the coming week before it rotates out of the view of the Earth.

"We are keeping a close eye on the event," Pulkkinen said.

Besides sparking pretty auroras, heightened solar activity has a more tangible benefit: It cleans up space junk.

As the sun acts up, the Earth's atmosphere expands, increasing friction on dead satellites, rocket parts and other trash in low Earth orbit, pulling them down.

The amount of debris in Earth orbit "actually decreased during 2011 as solar activity increased toward an anticipated maximum," Nasa's chief space junk watcher, Nicholas Johnson, wrote in the January issue of the agency's Orbital Debris Quarterly Newsletter.

WASHINGTON POST

Schooling not Enough

Higher spending on education is not improving dismal outcomes

India came 72nd of 73 nations in the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) competition, despite fielding students from its best states, Himachal Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. The dismal quality of Indian education is confirmed by the latest Annual Status of Education Report (ASER). Throwing money (Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan) and legislation (Right to Education Act) at education has produced no quality gains at all. Abhiyan spending is up from ₹7,166 crore in 2005-06 to ₹21,000 crore last year, yet parents are shifting wholesale from free government schools to private options (schools and tuition). In the last five years, private school enrolment has gone from 18.7% to 25.6% of the total, with Kerala already at 54%. The shift has not, however, improved dismal learning outcomes. Half the Class V children cannot read Class II texts, and 40% of Class V children cannot solve a two-digit subtraction. This represents a fall in outcomes, especially in government schools in the Hindi belt. Higher spending by the government and parents has not yielded better outcomes. Many studies suggest that private schools have better outcomes, but the shift to private education has not achieved that at a macro-level. In 13,000 schools visited by surveyors, student absenteeism was 50% and teacher absenteeism 45%: neither seem motivated.

RTE mandates much higher spending on playgrounds, infrastructure, teacher recruitment and training. Yet, this does not improve outcomes. At best, RTE attempts only access to schooling, not to education. Worse, RTE expects all private schools to attain impossible norms (playgrounds in areas with sky-high land prices, salaries on par with government teachers) by 2013. Will the government dare close down defaulting schools? Not a chance: defaulting schools serve half the country. Instead, we will once again have a stupid law that is then violated widely, with *netas* and *babus* collecting kickbacks for overlooking violations. There is no accountability to students by state governments that fail to provide facilities or of teachers who fail to teach. Such a country will not overtake China any time soon.