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Deccan Herald ND 24/01/2015 P-8

US pledges support to develop IIT Gandhinagar

NEW DELHI: Two days ahead of US President Barack Obama's visit to New Delhi, Washington on Friday formally pledged its support to develop a premier technical institute set up at the capital of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's home state, Gujarat.

The US Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Human Resource Development Ministry signed a declaration of intent here to develop IIT Gandhinagar, sources told *Deccan Herald*.

On behalf of the USAID, its administrator Rajiv Shah signed a declaration of intent while Amarjeet Sinha, Additional Secretary, Higher Education, signed the documents for the HRD Ministry, the sources added.

Though collaboration between the USAID and the HRD Ministry will focus on the development of IIT Gandhinagar, sources said that it will help India set up five new IITs, proposed by the government, and develop other existing IITs in

the long run. Under the agreement, a joint task force will be set up to develop IIT Gandhinagar.

Joint task force

The task force, to be chaired by a person appointed by the USAID and the HRD Ministry with mutual consent, will serve as a platform for dialogue and the exchange of information on technical assistance.

A consortium of US universities will be formed to help set up academics as well as re-

search and development activities at the institute, the sources said. In 1959, a consortium of nine leading US universities, including the world-famous Massachusetts Institute of Technology, University of California, California Institute of Technology, Princeton University, Carnegie Institute of Technology, University of Michigan, and Ohio State University, helped setting up of the IIT-Kanpur.

"IIT Gandhinagar will be developed by a consortium of US

universities," the sources said. The USAID will provide technical support for the development of IIT Gandhinagar in terms of "a range of high level analytics, diagnostic and organisational development services."

It will also play a crucial role in convening expertise of the US higher education institutions and private sector companies in order to facilitate advisories and other resources for the development of the premier institute.

DH News Service

Mail Today ND 24/01/2015 P-7

By **Mahender Singh Manral** in New Delhi

JNU students thrash PhD scholar

IN an apparent case of road rage, a 35-year-old professor of a Uttarakhand-based university, who was pursuing Ph.D from Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) was thrashed by five students inside the campus.

High drama ensued outside the Narmada hostel a few days ago when the culprits — four Ph.D students and an M.Phil student — started thrashing the victim

with sticks. However, onlookers did not rescue him for 20 minutes.

According to the police, the accused have been identified as Ph.D students Ashwini, Aniket, Vishal, Sudarshan and M. Phil student Rohit. "The incident

occurred when the victim Shiv Narayan Singh was returning in his car to Mahanadi hostel.

Ashwini, who was also on the same road, got angry and abused the victim, who had stopped his car to attend a phone call," a police officer said. Before

reaching home, Singh saw Ashwini and questioned him as to why he had abused him. This led to an argument and Ashwini called some of his friends, who were inebriated, from inside the hostel. "The victim had called the chief security officer before talking to the accused but no one came forward to help him," the police officer added.

"I somehow managed to escape and 20 minutes later, the security reached the spot. A PCR van was also there. I was taken to AIIMS and discharged after a day," Singh told Mail Today.

The victim suffered three stitches on his head apart from other injuries and a blackened face.

The culprits had entered into an argument with the victim over a petty issue

IIT-B to launch online courses on R-Day

MUMBAI, DHNS: IIT-Bombay, the extended online educational services from Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Bombay, will be launched on Republic Day.

IIT-Bombay has added significant functionality to the OpenedX platform to create and offer MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses) from IIT Bombay, which was created for the benefit of Indian learners, and training workshops for teachers.

This includes modifications to make it suitable for blended MOOCs, and Indian language interfaces. This functionality will be extended in future to also cover the special needs of school education and vocational training, said Prof Uday Gaitonde, faculty member with the Mechanical Engineering Department of the institute.

“MOOCs provide a very pleasant satisfaction of reaching out to a large number of students—from 15-year-olds to 75-year-olds,” he said.

Despite HRD's decision, Vishwa Bharati VC bats for his man as Pro-VC

DHIRENDRA KUMAR

NEW DELHI: Putting aside Human Resource Development Ministry's decision to nominate a Pro-VC for Visva-Bharati, Vice Chancellor Prof Sushanta Dattagupta has made a move to prevent the appointment of Prof Chakradhar Tripathi as Pro-VC. In the latest development, a group of professors of Visva-Bharati had called on former Lok Sabha Speaker and senior Left leader Somnath Chatterjee and requested the latter to intervene in the matter. However, the former LS Speaker has turned down their request to intervene in the affairs of the university.

This is not the end of the issue; Dattagupta called a meeting of Executive Council (EC) on Saturday to make sure the appointment of one of his own 'favourite' as the pro-VC. To make it happen, the VC, prior to the EC meeting, has nominated two faculty members as the new provost- Prof Sudhendu Mondal as provost of Science and Prof Nirmalendu Das for Kala Bhavana. While appointing Mondal and Das, the January 22 office order by the Registrar said that the term is coterminous with that of the present VC or until further orders whichever is earlier. The EC meeting convened by Dattagupta has maximum number of agenda (89) to be discussed which also includes regularisation of couple of consultants flouting the appointment and recruitment statue of Visva Bharati. The HRD Ministry sources said that several items on the agenda indicate the leftist inclination of Datta Gupta, embroiled in several controversies, including sexual harassment. “Some of the professors of the university had even met Somnath Chatterjee and sought his intervention, which was denied by him,” the sources said. Sources in the HRD Ministry told *Millennium Post* that President Pranab Mukherjee has personally asked HRD Minister Smriti Irani for 'cleansing' of the Shantiniketan, the abode of Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore. Notably, President is Visitor of the Visva Bharati and Prime Minister is the Chancellor, but the university is continuing with former PM Manmohan Singh as the incumbent Chancellor. Sources said that since Datta Gupta is likely to proceed on leave at the backdrop of several enquiries pending against him, the EC meeting has been scheduled at the earliest.

It costs only ₹65 for this car to cover 1,852 km

IIT-BHU students make the cheapest electric car in the world

AJAY MISHRA
Varanasi, 23 January

Imagine a car that could travel a distance of 1,852 km at a cost equivalent to a litre of petrol (assuming the price of petrol is ₹65 a litre).

A group of students of the Indian Institute of Technology-Banaras Hindu University (IIT-B) has given shape to an electric car, which, they claim, is the cheapest in the world, so far. According to them, the new car, Alterno, can cover a distance of eight km at less than ₹1.

The Alterno, with 285-cm length, 100-cm width and 80-cm height, can attain a maximum speed of 35 km an hour.

Rajeev Sangal, director, IIT-BHU, inaugurated the new car. Mechanical engineering students of the third-year batch Ankit, Kanishk, Vivek, Aaditya, Ranjeet, Prateek and Kunal were in the team that made the car. Team coordinator Jevi Tirki said, "The car weighs only 80 kg. The body is made of fibreglass, while aluminium has also been used."

According to him, the three-wheeler car can accommodate only one passenger.

Tirki said, "Alterno uses a 12-volt battery that produces 10 Ampere current. The proj-



The Alterno can attain a maximum speed of 35 km an hour

ect has been completed with a cost of about ₹70,000."

The students want to take the car to the coming Eco Car Marathon at Manila, the capital of Philippines. The students are planning to make a hydrogen gas-powered car.

The Alterno runs on aero-

dynamic principle and does not contain any suspension system. Sangal said this was the first time that such a technique had been used to develop a car. He said by introducing some changes, the car could be commercially manufactured.

COMPARISON OF SMALL CARS



Vehicle	Mileage (km/l)	Kerb Weight (kgs)	Length X width (mm)	Cost (ex-showroom Delhi in ₹)
IIT-BHU Alterno EV	1,852*	80	2,850 X 1,000	70,000
Mahindra Reva e2o EV	120*	813	3,280 X 1,514	5.95 lakh
Tata Nano petrol	25.35	700	3,099 X 1,495	2.04 lakh
Maruti Alto CNG	30.46**	695	3,395 X 1,490	3.61 lakh

*km travel equivalent to a litre of petrol, ** km/kg

(Source: Company websites)

Central team to clear site for first IIT in state

ARTEEV SHARMA

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JANUARY 23

Jammu and Kashmir is awaiting a Central team to finalise the site for the setting up of the first Indian Institute of Technology in Jammu and Kashmir.

The state administration has zeroed in on two sites, one in Kathua district and other in Samba, for the establishment of the prestigious institute and is now waiting for the site selection team of the HRD Ministry to approve the preferable location.

Sources told The Tribune that after a communiqué from the Union Ministry, the divisional administration had started the process of identifying a suitable and adequate land for setting up the sanctioned IIT in Jammu.

The divisional administration had reportedly sought proposals from various Deputy Commissioners, asking them to identify the land for the upcoming IIT.

"After a cumbersome exercise, the divisional administration identified

“We are waiting for the site selection team of the HRD Ministry, which will inspect and finalise the land for the proposed IIT”

An official

land at two different locations in the Jammu province — one in Samba district and the other in Kathua district, measuring 600 kanals,” a source said.

It has been conveyed to the state government that a team comprising senior officers of the HRD Ministry would visit Jammu soon and finalise the land identified by the divisional administration, sources said.

“We are waiting for the site selection team of the HRD Ministry, which would inspect and finalise the land for the proposed IIT,” an official said.

After assuming the office, the BJP-led Central government had announced during the 2014-15 Budget to set up five new IITs in Chhattisgarh, Goa, Andhra

Pradesh, Kerala and Jammu and Kashmir.

Barring J&K, the remaining four states have already identified the land for the proposed IIT and conveyed it to the Centre.

The Centre had made the land identification by the state a pre-condition for allowing the IIT to start courses and it had barred the state from running the institute from a rented accommodation.

Jammu Deputy Commissioner Ajeet Kumar Sahu said: “We have submitted the proposal (about identification of land) to the quarters concerned and the final decision on the site for establishing the institute would be taken up by the Union Government. A team of Central government officials will visit the state and finalise the land.”

The officer, however, said it was not clear as and when the team would visit Jammu for site selection.

The Jammu Divisional Commissioner, Shantmanu, was unavailable for comment.

The Algebra of Growth has a Strong Math Equation: Manjul

Fields Medal winner stresses need to popularise mathematics in India

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Bengaluru: For Indian-origin mathematician Manjul Bhargava, a professor at Princeton University, mathematics is an aesthetically satisfying pursuit akin to music and literature. But he does not forget its utilitarian nature as well, and the significance of math research to national development. "Throughout history, all great civilisations made great contributions to mathematics," he said in an interview. "Both in ancient and modern times, countries that are doing well economically also have very strong fundamental research going on in mathematics and science."

Bhargava has been particularly busy after winning the Fields Medal last year, giving talks and interviews and interacting with students and mathematicians around the world. He has been touring India too, and is using the opportunity given by his sudden fame to excite students about the possibilities of learning math. He was in the country this week partly to release a series of books from the Murty Classical Library of India published by Harvard



ZAHID

Press. But he didn't miss the opportunity to talk about math and India's great tradition in the subject.

India was once a great civilisation and economic power, and ranked high among nations making fundamental contribution to math. "Perhaps the most influential contribution has been to the way we write numerals today," he says.

Bhargava Feels India can Bounce Back >>>

MATH & GROWTH

There is a clear correlation (between math and economic development)...the basic reason is that innovations happen when people think about basic science

CHANGING TIMES

There was a time, not too long ago, when if you wanted to go for pure science you could not support your family well. I think it is not true anymore

Bhargava Feels India can Bounce Back

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"And it's not just the number system. There are fundamental contributions from India to the foundations of algebra, trigonometry and combinatorics," says Bhargava, who is convinced that India can bounce back, both in economic development and math.

He also believes that there is a deep connection between the two — math and economic growth. "(South) Korea has come up technologically in the past 10 years and look at how its mathematical research has come up proportionally," he says. The pattern shows up in other countries as well, west or east, ancient or modern. "The same thing is happening in China. Japan has a long history of being on top technologically — in the past 50 years — and look at its mathematical research." Is there a connection between India's economic decline over the centuries and its weak mathematical achievements?

The link between math and economic development is not direct, but does exist. "There is a clear correlation," says Bhargava. "The reason for the correlation is that innovations happen when people think about basic science." It is more than that. Thinking about science and math allows societies and countries to "put together a repertoire of tools and techniques of understanding". These tools form the foundation of technological development.

"When societal and technological needs arise, there is that repertoire of tools there ready to be applied. So, basic science is important for the long-term success of technology and innovation." The idea is not rocket science, but probably much harder to accept than to understand for many contemporary societies. However, Bhargava offers additional insights that are less easy to appreciate, except for a thoroughbred researcher: it is not always possible to develop the tools just in time, that is, as and when they are needed.

"All fundamental ideas are used at some point; sometimes immediately and sometimes after hundreds of years. But it was very hard for a person to have come up with an idea if he was thinking about the problem to which it would be applied later on. They came up with it because they were thinking freely without any attachment to an application." The flow of ideas is particularly strong in this direction — math, science, engineering,



technology, business. Reverse flows happen and are important, but the main current carries societies forward.

Why did India's world standing in mathematics decline? "It is clear that there is tremendous talent for mathematics in India," says Bhargava. "In the past 50 years, the attitude has been that if a child is good in mathematics, or good in science, you have to send him to engineering and medicine. And it is understandable. There was a time, not too long ago, when if you wanted to go for pure science you could not support your family well. I think it is not true anymore."

It is not true because salaries have improved and jobs are available for good mathematicians and scientists. The Indian research establishment has grown rapidly in the past decade, and there is a short supply of such people. "There are plenty of positions for researchers. In fact, we are short staffed. But the old attitude persists and now is the time to change it." And the way to change it? Stop teaching math in isolation.

Look back to ancient Indian history, Bhargava suggests. Some of the best math happened in connection with language, poetry and music. "Panini was the founder of generative grammar," says Bhargava. This ancient scholar made rules for syntactically correct sentences, and this is what modern generative grammar is all about, and it has applications in computer science and mathematical logic. Similarly, poetry and music inspired the creation of combinatorics, the art or science of combining numbers or other elements.

Math teachers may have to approach the subject this way to inspire their students. "Mathematics should be taught in connection with science and humanities. That will help students appreciate mathematics more, and it will encourage more people to think mathematically," says Bhargava. It is the way he teaches math in his class, combining it with poetry, music and magic. He is now on his way back to Princeton, ready to teach a new course to his students. It's on the mathematics of magic.

At 192, India has 5th most think tanks in the world

Six Organizations Among Global Top 150, Says Report


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Mumbai: India has the fifth most number of think tanks in the world at 192, with six of them among the global top 150. The US tops the list with 1,830 such bodies, followed by China (429), the UK (287) and Germany (194), the recently released Global Go To Think-Tank Index Report (GGTTI) 2014 has said.

The six Indian think tanks in the global top 150 list are the Centre for Civil Society (CCS, rank 50), Institute For Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA, 100), Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (105), The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI, 107), Observer Research Foundation (ORF,

BRAIN BANK

Rank	Country	No. of think tanks
1	US	1,830
2	China	429
3	UK	287
4	Germany	194
5	India	192



114) and Development Alternatives (129).

Seven Indian organizations made it to the list of top 80 think tanks to watch out for. These are ORF (rank 14), IDSA (20), CCS (26), Vivekananda Institute of Technology (32), Centre for Policy Research (41), Gateway House (53) and Council on Energy,

Environment and Water (71).

The annual rankings are compiled under the auspices of the Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP) at the University of Pennsylvania.

The report highlights the valuable role of think tanks in society: "Today, many politicians choose to focus on

short-term issues and crises, rather than addressing the large looming crises that are just ahead... like aging or declining populations, climate change, and sovereign debt... (Politicians) put their nations at risk because they would rather dodge and defer the issue in order to ensure their re-elections.

"Think tanks can alter their tendency for short-termism by determining realistic measurable targets for combating long-term transnational problems. In conjunction with NGOs, they can also function as watchdogs and apply more pressure to governments to act in the long term by producing reports that discuss the grave consequences of inaction."

Nai Duniya ND 24.01.15 P-7

नीदरलैंड से जॉब छोड़कर इंदौर आई डॉ. सुस्मिता भट्टाचार्य ने किया सोलर एनर्जी पर काम

300 सोलर प्लांट से किए गांव रोशन

इंदौर (मप्र)। प्रदेश में सौर ऊर्जा से बिजली बनाने की कवायद शहर से शुरू हो चुकी है। नीदरलैंड से चार साल पहले इंदौर आई डॉ. सुस्मिता भट्टाचार्य ने मध्यप्रदेश के गांवों को सोलर एनर्जी से रोशन करने की चुनौती ली है। आईआईटी खड़गपुर से पीएचडी कर चुकी डॉ. भट्टाचार्य ने 17 साल यूरोप के कई देशों में जॉब किया। वहां उन्हें लगा कि भारत में भी सोलर एनर्जी पर काम किया जा सकता है। इसके लिए नीदरलैंड में अच्छी सैलरी वाला जॉब छोड़ दिया व इंदौर आ गई। उनके प्रयासों से अभी तक मध्यप्रदेश में 40 वॉट से 2 हजार वॉट तक के करीब 300 सोलर पावर प्लांट लगाए जा चुके हैं। 250 से अधिक पावर प्लांट ऐसे गांवों में लगाए, जहां बिजली थी ही नहीं।

शिलांग की मूल निवासी डॉ. सुस्मिता 2011 में इंदौर इसलिए आई, ताकि प्रदेश में सौर ऊर्जा पर काम कर सकें। उन्होंने कहा कि सौर ऊर्जा का क्षेत्र अभी तक अनदेखा रहा इसलिए पावर प्लांट कंसेप्ट को चुना और उस पर काम शुरू किया।



डॉ. सुस्मिता



सोलर प्लांट से चल रहीं स्मार्ट क्लासेस

उन्होंने बताया कि 2011 से अब तक प्रदेश में 300 सोलर पावर प्लांट लगाए जा चुके हैं। इनमें से 250 से अधिक पावर प्लांट ऐसे गांवों में लगे हैं जहां बिजली ही नहीं थी, हालांकि इंदौर में अभी एक ही प्लांट लगाया गया है। इसके अलावा छोटे नगर, स्कूल, मुर्गीपालन केंद्र, सामाजिक संस्थाओं, फार्म हाउस में भी पावर प्लांट लगाए गए हैं। इनमें से देवास जिले के खातेगांव के स्कूल की स्मार्ट क्लासेस इन्हीं पावर प्लांट से उत्पन्न बिजली से चल रही है।

बैंकों को किया रजामंद

डॉ. भट्टाचार्य बताती हैं सोलर पावर प्लांट के लिए हम पहले ऐसे गांवों को तलाशते हैं, जहां बिजली नहीं है। इसके बाद लोगों को सोलर पावर प्लांट के लिए जागरूक करने की बात आती है। तीसरी चुनौती इसे लगाने में लोन मंजूरी को लेकर आती है। इसके लिए कुछ बैंकों को लोन देने के लिए सहमत भी किया गया है, पर सबसिडी को लेकर अभी भी परेशानी है। सरकार छोटे प्लांट के लिए तो सबसिडी दे रही है, पर बड़े प्रोजेक्ट में इस तरह की कोई सुविधा नहीं है।

एक नजर आंकड़ों पर

04 साल में 300 पावर प्लांट लगाए हैं प्रदेश में।	07 पावर प्लांट 1 हजार वॉट के हैं।
100 पावर प्लांट 40 वॉट के हैं।	03 पावर प्लांट 2 हजार वॉट के हैं।
190 पावर प्लांट 2 सो वॉट के हैं।	01 ही पावर प्लांट लगा इंदौर में।
	पावर प्लांट में जितनी क्षमता है उससे 95 फीसदी बिजली बन जाती है।

2 किलोवॉट से बन रही 8 यूनिट बिजली

शहर के प्रो. आशीष दुबे ने डॉ. सुस्मिता की प्रेरणा से डेढ़ वर्ष पहले अपने घर में सोलर पावर प्लांट लगाया। 2 किलोवॉट के इस सेटअप से हर रोज 7 से 8 यूनिट बिजली बनती है, लेकिन वे औसतन 3 से 4 यूनिट ही बिजली की खपत कर पाते हैं। इंसो सोलर पावर प्लांट से जितनी बिजली की जरूरत सामान्यतः होती है न केवल उसकी पूर्ति हो रही है, बल्कि दीपावली की रोशनी भी सोलर पावर प्लांट से बनी बिजली से ही हुई थी।

Times Of India ND 24/01/2015

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Nukes, warming pushing us closer to doomsday

Global Catastrophe Very Probable, Say Scientists

Tom Bawden

© G. Baden/Corbis

The end of the world has come a lot closer in the past three years, with every single person now in danger as climate change and nuclear weapons pose an escalating threat, according to the scientists behind the Doomsday Clock, a symbolic measure which counts down to armageddon.

They moved the minute-hand of their 68-year-old concept clock forward by two minutes on Friday, showing a time of three minutes to 12, to reflect the fact that the "probability of global catastrophe is very high".

"Today, unchecked climate change and a nuclear arms race resulting from modernization of huge arsenals pose extraordinary and undeniable threats to the continued existence of humanity," said Kennette Benedict, executive director of the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists in Chicago, the group of scientists which set the clock.

"And world leaders have failed to act with the speed or on the scale required to protect citizens from potential catastrophe. These failures potentially endanger every person on Earth," she added.

Although the clock is essentially a barometer, it is set by a team that includes 17 Nobel Prize winners and is taken very seriously.

The committee pointed out that greenhouse gas emissions



TIME BOMB: Experts have moved the Doomsday clock, a 68-year-old concept clock counting down to armageddon, ahead by 2 minutes

have soared by 50% since 1990, while more than £660 billion of investment floods into fossil fuel infrastructure every year.

"The resulting climate change will harm millions and threaten key ecological systems on which civilization relies," said committee member Richard Somerville.

The report also raised considerable concerns about nuclear weapons. "Since the end of the Cold War, there has been a cautious optimism about the ability of nuclear weapon states to keep the nuclear arms race in check," said Sharon Squasconi, a member of the clock committee. "That optimism has essentially evaporated in the face of two

trends: sweeping nuclear weapon modernization programmes and a disarmament machinery that has ground to a halt."

The clock was established in 1947, with a debut time of 7 minutes to 12, after the atomic bombs hit Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The latest change is the 19th time the minute hand has been moved — sometimes forward and sometimes backwards — most recently in 2012 when it was pushed forward by a minute, again on concerns about climate change and nuclear arms. The last time the clock read three minutes to midnight was in 1983 when "US-Soviet relations were at their iciest". THE INDEPENDENT

Mint ND 24/01/2015 p-3

T-HUB

Telangana begins construction of capital's technology incubator

BY YOGENDRA KALAVALAPALLI
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HYDERABAD

The Telangana government on Friday began construction of a technology incubator in capital Hyderabad—dubbed T-Hub—to reposition the city as a technology destination.

The state government is initially investing ₹35 crore to set up a 60,000 sq. ft space, labelled the largest start-up incubator in the county, at the campus of International Institute of Information Technology-Hyderabad (IIIT-H). In the second phase, the government plans to invest about ₹200 crore to construct a building spread across 300,000 sq. ft, which when completed is proposed to be the world's biggest start-up incubator housing 1,000 start-ups.

Indian School of Business, IIIT-H and Nalsar University of Law, all based out of Hyderabad, will provide business, technology and intellectual property (IP) mentorship to start-ups at the incubator.

"We are still considered the back-office of the world but we are still not acknowledged for our technology skills, for our entrepreneurship skills," said K.T. Rama Rao, Telangana's information technology minister.

Newly born "Telangana is the start-up state of this country and it's only a logical extension of that argument that Hyderabad is the start-up capital of the country," Rama Rao added.

The government will create an initial corpus fund of ₹300 crore in partnership with venture capital firms to fund companies incubating at T-Hub.

"We are talking to some venture capital firms. Since government is not a for-profit entity, we are evaluating different models, and how government can contribute to this," Rama Rao said.

The fund would be ready by 2 June, when the building opens, he said. The fund will eventually be doubled to ₹600 crore by 2020.

A three-member board comprising **Tech Mahindra Ltd** chief executive officer and managing director C.P. Gurnani, **Cyient Ltd** executive chairman B.V.R. Mohan Reddy and early-stage investor Sashi Reddi, who runs venture fund **SRI Capital**, will scrutinize start-ups that want to

be part of T-Hub. The board will be expanded later.

In the initial phase, T-Hub will house about 252 start-ups that are still ideas, 30 that have an early prototype and 40 that are ready to go to the market.

To be sure, start-ups will need to pay for rental space that will be charged on a cost-to-cost

basis because T-Hub has to be a self-sustaining entity, according to Rama Rao.

The first phase will be completed by 30 May, and will open its doors to 170

start-ups accommodating 800 seats by 2 June.

The facility will be operational for three years before moving to a new building being constructed in the second phase.

A three-acre plot has been identified in Raidurgam locality of Hyderabad for building the second phase. The bigger facility will be a so-called incubator of incubators, with start-ups, fund managers, incubators and mentors under a single roof, said Harpreet Singh, Telangana's principal secretary of IT.

The first phase will be completed by 30 May, and will open its doors to 170 start-ups

Nasa copter to scout for Mars rover routes

Washington: Nasa is working on a small helicopter that could fly ahead of future Mars rovers, checking out points of interest and helping engineers on Earth plan the best driving routes.

Each Nasa rover has delivered a wealth of information about the history and composition of the Red Planet, but its vision is limited by the view of onboard cameras. The images from a spacecraft orbiting Mars are the only other clues to driving routes.

To have a better sense of where to go and what is worth studying on Mars, it could be useful to have a low-flying scout, Nasa said.

The Mars helicopter is a proposed add-on to Mars rovers of the future. It could potentially triple the distance these vehicles currently cover in a Martian day. The helicopter would also determine the best places for the rover to collect key samples and rocks for a cache, which a next-generation rover could pick up later.

The aerial vehicle is envisioned to weigh 1 kilogramme and measure 3.6 feet across from the tip of one blade to other. The prototype looks like a medium-size cubic tissue box.

The current design is a

© Nasa/Science Faction/Corbis



COSMIC VENTURES

100 millionth pic of Sun captured

A telescope aboard a Nasa spacecraft has captured a mind-boggling 100 millionth image of the Sun. The Atmospheric Imaging Assembly (AIA) on Nasa's Solar Dynamics Observatory uses four telescopes working parallel to gather eight images of the Sun — cycling through 10 wavelengths — every 12 seconds. A mosaic of AIA's 100 millionth image, captured on January 19, was created from previous AIA images — each tile in the mosaic is 50 pixels across. PTI

proof-of-concept technology demonstration that has been tested at Nasa's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena, California. PTI

IISc festival Pravega 2015 from January 31

Bengaluru, Jan 24, 2015, DHNS:

<http://www.deccanherald.com/content/455380/iisc-festival-pravega-2015-january.html>

Pravega 2015, the annual technical, science and cultural fest of the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), will be held from January 31 to February 1.

A number of events ranging from technical competitions to cultural programmes, covering subjects such as physics, chemistry, mathematics, biology, engineering have been planned. Besides, several new events such as machine learning challenges, an idea presentation and literary decathlons have been scheduled too.

Performances from popular acts such as the Indian Ocean are also on the cards.

The fest will also have a lecture series open to the public, where three eminent personalities will speak.

An interaction between industry and academia is a popular aspect of the event that will feature talks by various representatives of companies such as Airbus, Microsoft, 3M and GE (General Electric).

Record 11% from IIT-B join start-ups

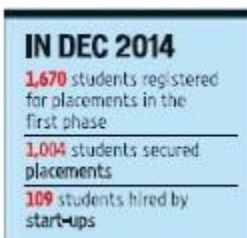
Hindustan Times (Mumbai)

MUMBAI: More than 25 startup companies participated in the first phase of Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay (IIT-B) placements season. But what is more significant is that nearly 11% of the total number of students who got jobs joined these companies – the highest number ever.

Start-ups are newly created companies, which are in a phase of development and in search for markets.

During the first phase held in December 2014, 109 students out of the total 1,004 placed joined the startups. In the previous year (December 2013), 62 — 7% of 898 students who got placed — were hired by start-ups.

“We never had so many students opting for start-ups and getting placed during the first phase. These companies were popular because they have interesting profiles and offered decent packages,” said Avijit Chatterjee, professor in charge, placements, IIT-Bombay.



Start-ups such as Olacabs hired around 50 students and Flipkart hired 20 students from the campus this year. Flipkart was established in 2007, while Olacabs was established by IIT alumnus in 2010 .

“A lot of the recruiters from the start-ups are IIT-B alumni and they know exactly what they are looking for. These companies are offering competitive salaries ranging from Rs10-17 lakh per annum, and many are offering stock options,” said Mohak Mehta, placement manager, IIT-B.

Anurag Kumar, a BTech student of civil engineering, who got placed at Olacabs, said, “Olacabs came to campus on the third day of placements with an offer of a good package. I always wanted to work for a non-core company, and with advice from seniors that working with start-ups could give us more exposure and diversified profiles, I preferred the start-up over other big companies.”

Around 60% of the students registered at IIT-B, who were eligible to take part in the first phase of placements, secured jobs. As many as 1,670 students registered for placements of which 1,004 got placed. This also means there was a 11% rise in the number of students who got placed this time compared with December 2013, when around 898 students got placements in the first phase.

According to the placement analysis of IIT-B accessed by HT , the biggest chunk — 189 students — were placed from the electrical engineering department. However, the computer science department registered the highest percentage — 93% — of students who were placed. Also, most of the students got placed through start-ups belonging to Information & Technology (50 students) and analytics (15), while engineering and technology firms (13), consulting firms (14), sales and marketing (9) saw an increase in takers.

Around 77 % of the students (209 out of 270) pursuing dual degree course (BTech + M.Tech) got placed. While around 75 % of BTech students (384 out of 510 registered) got placed, only 10% of the PhD students (12 out of 120) got placed during the first phase.

“According to our estimates, more than 300 of the registered students will opt for higher studies or may have other plans such as setting up their own enterprises, joining a family business and thus may not actively participate in the programme,” Mehta said.

Phase two of the campus placements will be conducted between January and June. “The numbers of students getting placed in start-ups will further increase because we are going to invite more such firms for the second phase,” Mehta said.