

Newspaper Clips

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AAJ SAMAJ ND 30.1.12 P-4

दिल्लीवासियों को भाया सौर-ऊर्जा आधारित पंप

बीएसईएस की सहायक कंपनी बीएसईएस यमुना पावर लिमिटेड ने आईआईटी दिल्ली के साथ मिलकर सौर ऊर्जा आधारित जल पंप को बनाया है।

आज समाज, नई दिल्ली

बीएसईएस के सौर-ऊर्जा आधारित जल पंप में दिल्लीवासियों ने दिलचस्पी दिखाया है। बीएसईएस की सहायक कंपनी बीएसईएस यमुना पावर लिमिटेड ने आईआईटी दिल्ली के साथ मिलकर इस पंप को बनाया है।

इसे पर्यावरण के लिए बेहतर विकल्पों के रूप में देखा जा रहा है। इससे बिजली की खपत में कमी आएगी। दावा किया गया है कि नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा चालित पंप (आरईएपी) देश में पहला पंप है। सौर पैनल समेत पूरी आरईएपी प्रणाली को लगाने में

कुल चार लाख रुपए का खर्च आएगा। ग्राहक इसके लिए बीएसईएस के कॉल सेंटर के माध्यम से अपना ऑर्डर दे सकते हैं। इस प्रणाली की शुरुआत पिछले सप्ताह मुख्यमंत्री शीला दीक्षित ने किया। अभी तक बीएसईएस यमुना पावर लिमिटेड के 250 ग्राहकों ने इसमें दिलचस्पी दिखाई है।

बीएसईएस ने इसके लिए जुलाई 2010 में आईआईटी दिल्ली के साथ समझौते पर दस्तखत किया था। आरईएपी के लिए यह सहयोग शैक्षणिक संस्थान और विद्युत वितरण कंपनी के बीच पहला समझौता है।

बीएसईएस के अधिकारी ने बताया कि आरईएपी में देखरेख में बहुत कम खर्च लगता है और इसका उपयोग दिल्ली को कार्बन मुक्त शहर बनाने में मदद करेगा। इसे खासतौर पर किसानों की सिंचाई आवश्यकताओं को ध्यान में रखकर डिजाइन किया गया है।

कारोबारी शिक्षा

एक इम्तिहान से होगा बेड़ा पार!

कल्पना पाठक

इंजीनियरिंग संस्थानों में प्रवेश के लिए एकल प्रवेश परीक्षा को लेकर छाए आशंका के बादल जल्द छंट सकते हैं।

भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थानों (आईआईटी), राष्ट्रीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थानों (एनआईटी) और भारतीय सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थानों (आईआईआईटी) के निदेशकों ने बिजनेस स्टैंडर्ड को बताया कि इस साल फरवरी के अंत तक इस बात पर सहमति बन सकती है कि 2013 में एकल प्रवेश परीक्षा ली जाय या नहीं। आईआईटी में प्रवेश के लिए आयोजित की जाने वाली संयुक्त प्रवेश परीक्षा (जेईई) और केंद्रीय वित्त पोषित तकनीकी संस्थानों में प्रवेश लेने के लिए होने वाली अखिल भारतीय इंजीनियरिंग प्रवेश परीक्षा (एआईईईई) के बदले एक अकेली परीक्षा का प्रावधान किया जा सकता है।

नाम न छापने की शर्त पर एक आईआईटी के निदेशक ने बताया, 'सभी आईआईटी, एनआईटी, आईआईआईटी और इंडियन इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ एजुकेशन ऐंड

रिसर्च (आईआईएसईआर) के निदेशकों से विचार मांगे गए थे। इसकी औपचारिक घोषणा अगले महीने हो जाएगी। हम सब लगभग एक मत पर सहमत हैं।'

सितंबर, 2011 में आईआईटी परिषद ने टी रामास्वामी समिति के सुझावों को स्वीकार करने का निर्णय

आईआईटी, एनआईटी, आईआईआईटी और इंडियन इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ एजुकेशन ऐंड रिसर्च के निदेशकों से विचार मांगे गए थे। इसकी औपचारिक घोषणा अगले महीने हो सकती है।

लिया था। समिति की यह रिपोर्ट जेईई के सुधारों और आईआईटी, एनआईटी और दूसरे इंजीनियरिंग संस्थानों के लिए एकल प्रवेश परीक्षा के सुझावों के साथ पेश की गई थी।

प्रवेश परीक्षाओं की संख्या को कम करके एक कर देना, ज्ञान के स्तर की जांच करना, 12वीं कक्षा के पाठ्यक्रम में सुधार, कोचिंग पर बढ़ती निर्भरता और विद्यार्थियों पर

पड़ने वाले दबाव को कम करना और दूसरी चीजों के बजाय योग्यता पर ध्यान दिये जाने जैसे कई सुझाव इस रिपोर्ट में दिये गए हैं।

आईआईटी का कहना है कि परीक्षा के प्रारूप के साथ इसकी औपचारिक घोषणा कर दी जाएगी। एक विद्यार्थी को एक सीट पर प्रवेश देने के लिए 50-60 फीसदी प्राथमिकता उसके द्वारा बोर्ड परीक्षा में हासिल किये गए अंकों और बाकी जेईई के स्कोर को दी जाएगी। केंद्र से वित्तीय सहायता प्राप्त तकनीकी संस्थाओं, डीम्ड विश्वविद्यालयों में एआईईईई के जरिये प्रवेश मिलता है। पिछले वर्ष कुल पंजीकृत 11,14,541 परीक्षार्थियों में से 10,53,807 ने परीक्षा दी थी। सभी संस्थानों को मिलाकर बीई और बीटेक के लिए कुल 34,311 सीटें, बैचलर ऑफ आर्किटेक्चर और प्लानिंग के लिए कुल 1070 सीटें उपलब्ध हैं।

देश भर में चार आईआईआईटी और 20 एनआईटी हैं। इसके अलावा 11वीं पंचवर्षीय योजना में 10 नए एनआईटी स्थापित होने हैं। एनआईटी राष्ट्रीय स्तर के तकनीकी संस्थानों के समकक्ष होते हैं।

Deccan Herald ND 30/01/2012 p-1

Govt to hear punished scientists

PMO wavers as Madhavan Nair receives sympathy from his peers

NEW DELHI: The Centre on Sunday said it is ready to hear the views of four scientists, including former Isro chief Madhavan Nair, who have been barred from occupying any government posts in connection with the controversial Antrix-Devas deal.

"We are ready to hear their points of view. Let them give their views," Minister of State in Prime Minister's Office (PMO) V Narayanasamy said.

Asked if there was a move to revoke the decision, he said: "How can I say that now. Let them give their points of view first."

The government will consider the version of the scientists, he told PTI.

The government had earlier this month barred Nair and

three other senior space scientists from all current and future government jobs for their role in Antrix Corporation's deal with Devas Multimedia for leasing out bulk transponders on two satellites for launch of digital multimedia services. The contract related to allocation of scarce S-band space segment to the Bangalore-based company.

Taking serious exception to the move, Prof C N R Rao, Head of the Scientific Advisory Council to the Prime Minister, on Saturday said Nair and three fellow space scientists were "thrown out like garbage."

Rao had targeted Narayanasamy for his reported comments that the government decision was taken to send a strong message to the

scientific community that no wrongdoing would be tolerated.

Reacting to the decision, 68-year-old Nair had hit back at the government for taking action "in violation of principles of natural justice and tarnishing the image" of people like him. He had also accused the incumbent Isro chief K Radhakrishnan of misleading the government. Radhakrishnan has chosen not to react.

The deal was signed during the tenure of Nair as Isro chairman. Nair was also the moving force behind India's maiden moon mission, Chandrayan I.

The government had taken action after considering a report of the high-powered committee (HPC) that went into the Devas deal and that of an-

other panel which examined the HPC report. The prime minister on May 31, last year, constituted a five-member high-level team under the chairmanship of former Central Vigilance Commissioner Pratyush Sinha to examine aspects of the agreement between Antrix and Devas.

Following the order, Madhavan Nair has stepped down as chairman of the Board of Governors of IIT-Patna.

In reply to a question whether he planned to move the court against the government order, Nair said that he had filed an application under the RTI Act to get a copies of the order and reports of the B K Chaturvedi Committee on the Antrix-Devas deal.

PTI

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Lift ban on 4 scientists: Nair to PMO

Former Isro chairman Madhavan Nair late on Sunday said he has forwarded a representation to the Prime Minister's Office seeking revocation of the order banning four scientists from working for the Union government.

The representation follows government's suggestion for the same as an attempt to soothe frayed nerves after it had penalized four Isro scientists for the Antrix-Devas contract.

Earlier, the minister of state in the PMO, V Narayanswamy, who has come in for criticism for his statement that the action against Isro scientists is a warning to the scientific community, struck a conciliatory note for the government saying, "We are ready to consider representation from the scientists." P 8

Asian Age ND 30/01/2012 p-3

Indian behind alcohol distillation method

T. SUDHEESH
ALAPPUZHA, JAN. 29

An Indian scientist headed a path-breaking study that discovered membranes based on the "miracle material" graphene can be used to distil alcohol.

The discovery, widely reported in the British media this week, was conducted by a five-member scientists' team headed by Dr Rahul Nair at the University of Manchester in the UK. The international team also included Prof. Andre Geim, Nobel Prize winner in Physics for 2010. The team created

the membrane from graphene oxide — a chemical derivative of grapheme to distil alcohol.

A paper named "Unimpeded permeation of water through helium-leak-tight graphene-based membranes", published on Friday in the *Science Journal*, says that graphene-based membrane blocks passage of gases and liquids (vacuum-tight) but it lets water through them.

Dr Rahul Nair is a native of Kuttanperoor in Alappuzha district, Kerala. He told this newspaper via his Internet link from UK that the team in

the university created membranes from a chemical derivative of graphene called graphene oxide.

He also asserted that even the most sensitive equipment was unable to detect air or any other gas, including helium, to leak through as a metal container was sealed with the membrane. "We did all works as per the instruction of Prof. Geim who commented on the study that the invention of membranes was so unusual that it could make a new move to the scientific innovation being made by Manchester scientists," he told this newspaper.

Publication: The Times Of India Delhi; Date: Jan 30, 2012; Section: Times Nation; Page: 10;

India's 2011 rights record dismal: Global watchdog

New York: India's human rights record in 2011 got a thumbs down from a leading global rights group for its "failure" to protect vulnerable communities and rapped the government for custodial killings, police abuses, including torture.

Human Rights Watch also criticized the Indian government for its inaction in repealing the controversial armed forces act and for remaining silent on the "gravest abuses" in countries like Syria.

In its World Report 2012, Human Rights Watch (HRW) assessed progress on human rights during the past year in more than 90 countries. In India's case, HRW said it has been a "disappointing year for human rights". "Custodial killings, police abuses including torture, and failure to implement policies to protect vulnerable communities marred India's record in 2011 as in the



MISSING THE MARK

past," HRW said.

Asia director at the city-based organisation Brad Adams said India took a few steps to "prosecute abusive soldiers, undertake needed police reforms, or bring an end to torture. India missed chances to be a leader at the UNSC and Human Rights Council in protecting the rights of people abroad." HRW said. India took no action to repeal the "discredited Armed Forces Special Powers Act, disregarding the recommendations of political leaders and advisers."

We're 125th in environment index

India ranks a low 125 in the environment performance report of Yale University. "India's low rank on the 2012 Environmental Performance Index should be a wake-up call to leaders at all levels," said Daniel C Esty, director of the Yale Center for environmental law and policy. "India faces significant pollution control and natural resource management challenges and its lagging results suggest the need for redoubled policy efforts across the board," Esty said. The report has been produced by Yale and Columbia universities' researchers with the World Economic Forum. ¶¶

HRW, however, said violence in J&K dropped during 2011. ¶¶

DU examiners complain against high marks

New Delhi, Jan. 29: With unusually high marks obtained by students in Delhi University's semester results sparking off allegations of a "marks scam", a group of examiners have written to the Controller of Examinations to register their protest over the "unacademic way of moderating results".

The memorandum of protest, submitted to the Controller of Examinations, says the faulty method has "diluted" academic standards and has made a "mockery" of the evaluation process that was

undertaken seriously and sincerely by the examiners.

Earlier, teachers of the department of Germanic and Romance Studies had separately written to the examination branch, making plain their displeasure and stating that they did not believe in moderation of marks across the board.

Moderation of marks is a process of reviewing assessments to ensure that grades are awarded consistently and appropriately. However, the teachers say it is rare for moderation to lead to large changes in

marks for many students, that has apparently happened this time.

"The results have been moderated to such an extent that they are unrealistic and defy all logic... We fail to understand the method of moderation adopted this time," the memorandum reads.

It says that the process has raised "serious doubts" in the minds of students and teachers alike about the process.

"We would therefore like to know the reason why the university authorities increased the university

scores of the toppers from approximately 73 per cent to 96.6 per cent and 86.6 per cent in the respective papers," they said.

They also pointed out that the quantum-jump in marks attained by students had no bearing to the actual standards observed in the course of the evaluation process.

"We strongly protest against this un-academic way of moderating results that has diluted academic standards and has made a mockery of the evaluation process undertaken seriously and sincerely by us,"

the letter reads.

Some teachers have alleged the the unusually high marks granted to students were aimed at justifying the semester system that was adopted last year across the board despite much protest by the teaching community.

"It is rare for moderation to lead to large changes in marks for many students. When it does happen it is a clear indicator of some serious fault in the teaching or evaluation processes," says Abha Dev Habib, member of Duta executive.

— PTI

Teachers cast doubt over high marks

Evaluation process not transparent: DU teachers

NEW DELHI, DHNS: A group of DU examiners has sent a memorandum of protest to the controller of examinations over the "highly unusual" marks obtained by students in the recent first semester exam.

"The results have been moderated to such an extent that they are unrealistic and defy all logic. We do understand that in certain circumstances it becomes necessary to moderate results at the lower end. However, we fail to understand the method of moderation adopted this time," said a Miranda House history professor, who is also the head of history paper-2. The professor called it a "marks scam" in the memorandum.

The examiners said such high marking pattern has raised serious doubts in the minds of students and teachers alike about the paper evaluation and moderation process.

"Contrary to the understanding reached by examiners that to the best extent possible, candidates should not be failed by giving them marks close to passing marks, a large number of students in Course 1 of BA History (Hons) have scored 27, 28 or 29 out of 75, while the passing score is 30. These are not the scores given by examiners. Thus the apprehension is that the marks of a large number of students who had been failed by the examiners were increased not with the intention of passing them. The arbitrary approach is shocking," she said.

According to Abha Dev Habib, professor of physics and member of Delhi University Teachers' Association, the devaluation of degrees is due to the marking pattern of the first semester exams.

"The marks scam happened at three levels. Meetings were

The results have been moderated to such an extent that they are unrealistic and defy all logic. We do understand in certain circumstances it becomes necessary to moderate results at the lower end'

held in many departments to unofficially decide a reduced syllabi for setting exam papers. The question papers were made easy as the format of the papers was changed, giving students a maximum chance. Then the examiners were instructed to mark leniently. The last act was to moderate all marks similarly," said Habib.

"Earlier, moderation used to be done as per the case. This time, a mindless method of moderation was done," added Habib. The professor also said marks were inflated by 7 to 8 per cent. "A student of Miranda House got 98.70 per cent in Physics (Hons) paper, which is unheard of," she said.

The examiners said almost every paper — they have managed to extract the data — shows generous gifting of marks after the initial checking of the answer sheets. "We want to know why DU authorities increased the scores of the toppers from 73 per cent to 96.6 per cent and 86.6 per cent in the respective papers," said another examiner.

Earlier, teachers of germanic and romance studies department had written to the examination branch, stating that they did not believe in moderation of marks across the board. The office of the controller of examination refused to comment.

Times Of India ND 30/01/2012 P-17

Moon colony may not be mere lunacy

A Permanent Lunar Base Can Be Set Up By Adapting Tech Used In Building ISS

Kenneth Chang

Could the United States establish a moon colony and develop a new propulsion system for going to Mars? All within eight years of a Newt Gingrich presidency, as Gingrich promised this week?

The answers seem to be technologically yes, economically iffy and politically very difficult.

The smallest hurdle is technology. After all, sending astronauts back to the moon by 2020 and setting up a permanent home there was the goal of the last Republican president, George W. Bush, and NASA had embarked on developing new rockets and spacecraft to accomplish that. Few doubted that, given enough money and time, NASA would be able to duplicate its success of more than 40 years ago.

A permanent moon base could adapt technologies used in building the International Space Station. NASA was also developing an RV-like lunar vehicle where astronauts could drive around the surface of the Moon for weeks at a time.

But money was the problem. When the program, known as Constellation, did not receive as much financing as originally promised, development fell behind, pushing up the price tag. A review of experts concluded that it would cost \$150 billion for Constellation to reach its destination close to the original schedule. The Obama administration instead canceled it.

A new NASA program similar to Constellation with brand new rockets would be similarly expensive. But a recent NASA study concluded that the space agency could use smaller existing rock-

GIANT LEAP: HOME AMONG THE STARS

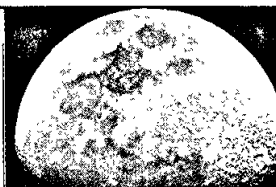
What a moon colony would require:

▶ Rockets capable of carrying astronauts and cargo to the moon. NASA is developing a new heavy-lift rocket. Gingrich suggests smaller existing rockets could suffice. But smaller rockets would make the mission more complicated because moon-lander pieces would have to be assembled in orbit, as was the Space Station

▶ A spacecraft that can land on the moon. Such a craft does not exist, but no big technology leaps

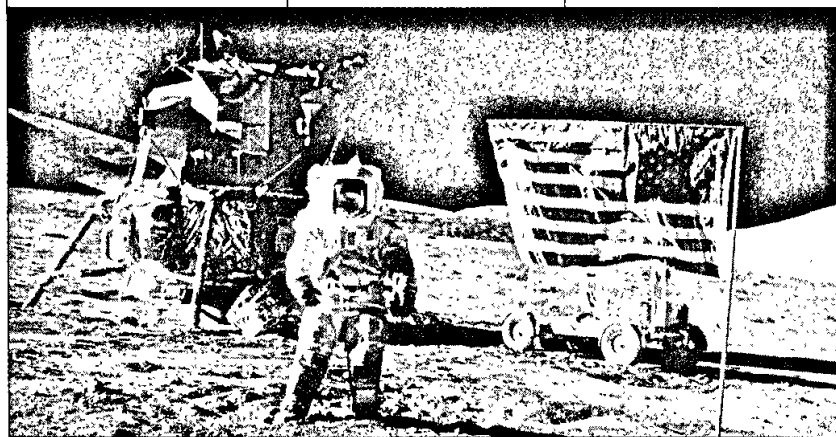
are needed since NASA did this more than 40 years ago when astronauts landed on the moon. For a permanent base, a larger craft would be needed to ferry the pieces

▶ Habitats where the astronauts would live. Years ago, NASA began preliminary designs but did not progress far before the programme was canceled. A commercial company, Bigelow Aerospace, believes its technology of inflatable modules



can be adapted for lunar habitats

▶ Anything built on the moon would have to withstand the sharp-edged lunar dust and large temperature swings, which go from -129 to +93 degrees Celsius



ets, coupled with fueling stations in orbit, to reach the Moon within a decade.

A new propulsion system for going to Mars would likely call for reviving old technology — nuclear-powered rocket engines that were originally developed in the 1950s. NASA has already begun work on nuclear propulsion

— nuclear reactors that provide continuous thrust — but lacks the money to finish.

But Gingrich talked of overturning the status quo at NASA, pushing to work faster, to accept greater risks and let private companies take the lead role.

"It's not something that should be mocked or should be

seen as a remote possibility," said Michael Gold, director of the Washington office of Bigelow Aerospace, a private space company. "The reason this is both possible and economically viable is that many of the systems and technology, if not all, already exist."

Bigelow, using technology li-

censed from NASA, has plans to launch two inflatable space stations, capable of housing 36 people, and the same technology could be scaled up to provide living quarters on the moon.

Gingrich proposed setting aside about 10% of NASA's budget for prizes, similar to the \$25,000 that Charles Lindbergh won for being the first to fly across the Atlantic, or, more recently, the \$10 million X Prize for commercial spacecraft to rise above the 62-mile-high edge of space.

Over eight years, this would create a prize pot of more than \$14 billion. Gingrich suggested offering a \$10 billion prize for the first venture to make a trip to Mars. If no one succeeds, taxpayers pay nothing. If someone does, \$10 billion would be cheaper, by a factor of 10 or 100, than any government-run program.

Large aerospace companies like Boeing and Lockheed Martin would likely pass on the prizes — it would be a tough sell to investors when the payoff could be nothing at all — but Gingrich's allies, like Bob Walker, a former Republican congressman from Pennsylvania, believe that technology billionaires like Jeffrey Bezos, founder of Amazon.com, and Paul Allen, Microsoft's co-founder, would willingly invest their own money in hopes of fame, if not fortune.

Whether any of these ideas could win enough political support is another question. When Obama called for Constellation's cancellation, he proposed NASA rely much more on commercial companies, echoing many of the Gingrich's themes. Gingrich even wrote an opinion piece lauding Obama's proposed plans. NYTimes Service

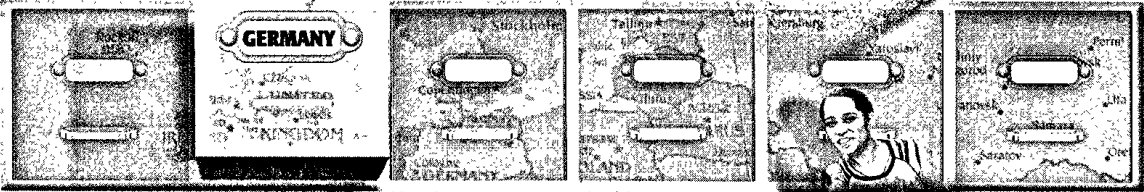
Europe is becoming a preferred destination for international students for its quality education at competitive costs

By KARAN GUPTA

The unpredictable world economy and a more diversity-oriented world today has led Indian students to consider countries other than the US, UK, Canada and Australia to study abroad.

With many European countries offering academic excellence at lower costs and because of simpler visa procedures, study abroad aspirants have found new destinations to explore.

The countries in Europe are diverse and offer a range of courses that are of interest to Indian students. Most of the



warm and welcoming. Some of the well-known institutes in Spain include Universitat de Barcelona, IE University, Universidad Autonoma de Madrid and Universitat Pompeu Fabra. The popular courses for Indian students include business, architecture and language studies.

GOING PLACES

countries are safe and welcoming to international students. Students who opt to study in Europe prefer to learn new languages and enjoy the cultural marvels and food that countries in Europe offer.

In order to streamline the education systems in the EU, the Bologna Process was adopted by most of the countries. After the adoption of the Bologna Process, students can easily move across institutions in different countries within the EU. Also, there is more similarity between the American and European education system and, hence, the education system is now more global.

"All my friends are planning to study in the US. But I am more fascinated with universities in Spain. I think learning a new language and being in a university where there are students from all over the world will be a better bet for me," says Shridhar Mane, a study abroad aspirant.

"Italy has always been a centre for learning historically, and even today it has a wide range of universities that provide specialised and quality education. Architecture, engineering, fashion, design, food, art history, business management and strong research-oriented universities are some of the most popular sectors in education, which attract Indian students to Italy while Milan, Turin, Florence and Rome are some of the main education centres for international students," says Raul D'Souza, Istituto Marangoni.

"International students are important to us. Education today must be about

studying with people from all over the world and learning from each other's cultures and experiences. International students generally work hard and do well in our classes," says William Davila, director for international relations (Asia) at IE University in Spain. Another reason why EU universities prefer international students is because most international students pay full tuition fees as compared to local students, who can avail of several tuition grants and federal loans.

Eligibility & Work Rules

For admissions to the Bachelor's degree programmes, students need to have completed their class XII. Most universities will accept the Indian local boards but a few universities insist that students have IB scores or A Level grade exams before they can be considered for admission; such universities include Oxford University, Cambridge University, London School of Economics and IE University. For admissions to the Master's degree courses, students generally need to have a recognised three or four-year Bachelor's degree. Some universities may need the GRE or the GMAT score as well.

While studying in the EU, students are allowed to work for a limited duration (generally 180 half days in a year). However, in many cases, students may need

additional paperwork and the process may not be easy. Hence, students should not rely on income from employment while studying. After graduation, if students find a job, it may be possible to get a work visa. In most cases, students have to learn the local language in order to find suitable employment after graduation.

New Destinations

Germany: German public universities offer very low or have no tuition fees. This makes them affordable for any academically bright student. Of course, learning German would make the process of studying in Germany easier, although one can find many institutes that teach in English. Among the leading institutes in Germany are Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg, Technische Universität München (TUM) and Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München (LMU). The most popular course for Indian students in Germany is engineering.

Spain: Great weather and inexpensive education make Spain a preferred place to study for Indian students. The crime rates are low and the people of Spain are

that the education offered is of highest quality. The leading universities in Italy include Università di Bologna, Politecnico di Milano and Università di Pisa. **Switzerland:** Often described as heaven on earth and introduced to most of India through Bollywood numbers, Switzerland is a great place for students to pursue courses in hotel management, international affairs and public management. The well-known institutes in Switzerland include University of Geneva, University of Zurich, University of Lausanne and University of Bern. **Scandinavia:** Norway, Sweden and Finland are the new emerging destinations for Indian students who wish to study abroad. One of the main reasons why Indian students choose to study in Scandinavia is because of the safety and lush green surroundings. Most students know that Nokia, the world's leading telecom provider is from Finland, giving the country a reputation of being technologically advanced. The most popular courses for Indian students include technology-related courses, engineering and energy management. Some of the known universities in Sweden are Lund University, Uppsala University and Stockholm University, while in Norway are University of Oslo, University of Bergen and University of Tromsø.

Some of Finland's well-known universities include University of Kuopio and University of Turku. It is important that students now look at their global options before deciding on where to study further. Study your options carefully and then make an informed decision.

(The writer is an overseas education consultant)

Education must be about studying with people from all over the world and learning from each other's cultures and experiences

Times Of India ND 30/01/2012
P-1

MULTIPLE WAYS OF LEARNING

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Howard Gardner, founder of the theory of 'multiple intelligences' is in India. A professor of cognitive psychology at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, 30 years ago, Gardner brought about a radical change in the way the world looked at classroom learning. It redefined intelligence in a way that was not only revolutionary, but also an eye-opener.

A world that was used to treating intelligences as a singular conglomerate — the presence or absence of it determining a child's intelligence — was sensitised to a definition, a 'set' of criteria for what counts as an intelligence and data that supports the plausibility of 'each' individual intelligence.

As far as multiple intelligences is concerned, how does a teacher identify a student's strengths? First, Gardner advises teachers to take students to a children's museum a few times (or to a playground with multiple games) and watch them. This will complement what you observe in class, he says.

Secondly, he suggests, students, their parents, and if possible their last year's teacher, be given a questionnaire about their strengths. To the extent that all three report the same strengths and weaknesses, teachers are on a safe ground. "I don't trust self reports unless they are corroborated," he adds.

SLOT PLOT

If you know that somebody is going to be a great dancer when they are five, should you create culture palaces where they just learn to dance? Gardner says, "It is a value judgment. A scientist can't tell you what to do. If you want your country to win the Olympics, you may



Individuals have many talents that can be of use to society

HOWARD GARDNER
HARVARD GRADUATE SCHOOL OF
EDUCATION

choose to put every five-year-old who is a good racer in a school where you just do racing. But, if you have a different value system, maybe you should not put people into pigeon holes when they are five." Gardner reiterates his theory can reinforce the idea that individuals have many talents that can be of use to society; that a single measure is inappropriate for determining graduation, etc; and that important materials can be taught in many ways, thereby activating a range of intelligences.

On the future of learning, Gardner says that digital media has brought about a revolution. "Today, not only can people learn at home with their device, but learning has the scope to be more individualised. Also, there are many ways to teach and learn. That is where multiple intelligences have opened things up," he adds.

The 'Howard Gardner India Tour' is being hosted by iDiscoveri Education, an education innovation company focussed on learning and leadership.

- With inputs from the
Mindfields journal

Publication: The Times Of India Delhi; Date: Jan 30, 2012; Section: Education Times; Page: 35;

UK schools woo Indian students

Diptiman Dewan/TNN

Till now it has been universities and colleges from overseas sending delegations to woo Indian students for higher education. In a new trend, a delegation of headmasters of UK independent boarding schools are on a visit to India to explore the growing need of parents with means, willing to provide quality education to their children even though it comes at a cost.



A significant increase in the number of enquiries from parents in India about school and secondary education in the UK in the recent past was what prompted the visit. For education that costs a premium, between £20,000 and £55,000 a year, it came as a surprise to the visiting delegation that more than two-thirds of the parents they met in Mumbai and other parts of the country were not worried about affordability.

"What they want is, like a parent aptly mentioned, 'to enable our children to be able to create a better future for themselves than leave them an inheritance,'" says Julie Dowling, headmistress, Abbots Bromley School.



A significant increase in enquiries about school and secondary education in the UK prompted a visit of a delegation of headmasters of UK independent boarding schools to India

Caitriona Redding, head of international admissions, Oundle School, says that besides proficiency in English and in science and mathematics, what schools look for is also talent in a child which might not be fully formed and also not necessarily academic — like dance or arts.

Mark Heywood, headmaster, The Royal Wolverhampton School, says that his school already has six students from India, four hailing from Punjab and two from rural Rajasthan. "Parents in India understand that children will get a global perspective and build future contacts when they study in schools that house children from as many as 23 nationalities," he says.

He adds that similarities in education between India and UK, from similar curriculum and high aspirations of parents, to teachers wanting to give their best for each child, are many. State-of-the-art facilities and advanced technology, besides multiculturalism that a student is exposed to in these schools, help him/her in making the transition to the new environment smoother.

What the members of the consortium are also looking at are partnerships and collaborations for pupil and teacher exchanges with premier Indian schools to provide a first-hand exposure and enable knowledge exchange.

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From empowerment programmes & wellness clubs to teacher quality, CBSE will be focusing on a range of initiatives in 2012

VISION 2012

VINEET JOSHI, chairman, Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), talks to Vishakha Sharma on what the board has in store for students

How many schools come under the CBSE at present and what is the student strength in class X and XII?

There are around 12,300 schools that come under CBSE out of which 150 schools are from outside India. In class X, there are 11 lakh students and eight lakh in class XII.

What are the recent developments in the CBSE?

CBSE-affiliated schools will now also have to be accredited by the board. Affiliation is different from accreditation. For example, by being affiliated to CBSE, schools are entitled to the necessary infrastructure as per the board's norms and can teach courses that are offered by the board. But as to how a school is using the available infrastructure or if the course being taught is satisfactory or not, comes under accreditation, which will help parents and stakeholders to ascertain the strengths and weaknesses of the school. The process of accreditation has already started and we hope to complete it by the end of this year.



Parents' engagement is important because they are a resource whose advice and feedback would be beneficial

What is your agenda for 2012?

Our main agenda for the year is to increasingly involve parents and engage them in planning new initiatives. We want their support and feedback. Parents' engagement is important because they are a big resource whose support, advice and feedback would be beneficial.

What kind of flexibility does the board offer to students?

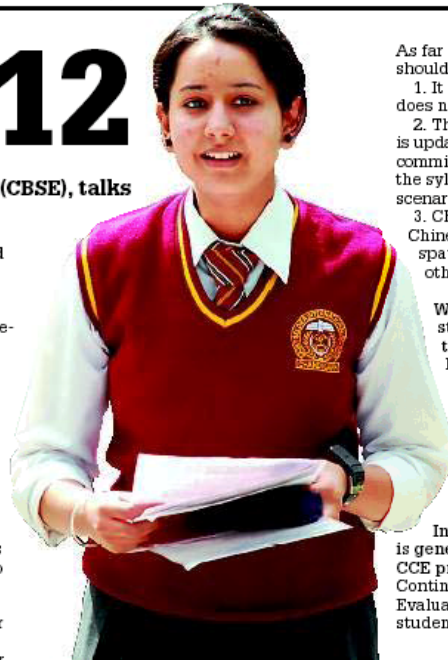
Apart from offering a subject combination of their choice, we are planning to convert the end-term practical exams before the board examinations into either quarterly or six-monthly. This is to help get students more interested in the practicals; with just one practical exam at the end of the year, students do not take it seriously and focus mainly on theory. With the introduction of a number of practical exams throughout the year, students will understand the importance and take them seriously, which will help them. Although this idea is in its planning stage, we plan to implement it soon.

What are the concessions available for differently-abled students?

We believe that every child in his or her own way is unique and important. This is one of the main reasons why we decided to not segregate students with disabilities from the rest.

The CBSE has taken a few steps to eliminate the segregation. We have decided to replace the word disabled for different. This way, a student won't feel segregated and will learn better. S/he would also integrate better with other students.

Another recent development is that CBSE is allowing differently-abled students to take science as a subject if they wish to. This was not allowed earlier since there are practical exams involved in this subject. But from 2012 onwards, for the first time, students of class XI will be able to take science as their subject. As for exams, a multiple-choice question paper will be set for these children. From



As far as CBSE is concerned, students should go for it because:

1. It offers them a lot of flexibility and does not limit their choice
2. The content of the CBSE curriculum is updated every year by a subject committee, which meets annually to keep the syllabus on a par with the current scenario and weed out outdated syllabi
3. CBSE also offers offbeat subjects like Chinese language, mass media, geo-spatial techniques, among many others, as electives

What are the options for CBSE students if they want to change their board?

If a student decides to change his board after class X, s/he has to appear for class X board exam in order to get the required certificate. However, if a student wishes to continue in CBSE till class XII, he has to appear for class XII board exam directly.

In India, where the classroom size is generally large, how successful is the CCE programme?

Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation (CCE) was started for students' progress. Teachers are trained

> AT A GLANCE

- There are 12,300 CBSE schools out of which 150 are from outside India
- Parents' engagement in the board's activities is CBSE's main agenda
- In class X, there are 11 lakh students and eight lakh students in class XII
- Differently-abled students can take science as a subject now

2013, students from class XII, too, would be a part of this new development.

Why should students choose CBSE over other boards?

Students should choose a board that offers a good academic grounding along with other co-curricular activities to make them all-rounders. They should not choose a board thinking it's tougher or easier than others.

to identify the strengths and weaknesses of students and then guide and motivate them to do well. It does not mean that one teacher has to deal with each and every student, spending hours.

They have to understand their psychology by dividing them into small groups and then guide them accordingly. The CBSE is training the teachers and they are responding well to the training and requirements of the CCE.

“Literature, cinema will be the theme of New Delhi World Book Fair”



We need to have more directors who make films adapted from literary novels, National Book Trust Director M.A. Sikandar tells Madhur Tankha

Since Indian cinema is celebrating its centenary this year, the National Book Trust has decided to have literature and cinema as the theme of “New Delhi World Book Fair” that opens in the Capital next month. NBT

Director M.A. Sikandar feels the theme is appropriate for the biennial event as the two fields are closely interconnected

“More than the issue of books inspiring the filmmakers, we at the NBT are interested in taking stock of the status of research and documentation that has happened in various parts of the country and published as books in the area of film studies,” he says. The NBT Director is aware of the fact responsibility towards society. We need to have more directors who make

that Bollywood film-makers have been criticised for borrowing stories from successful ventures, resulting in remakes of classics like the most watchable Hindi film “Sholay” and “Agnepath” that gave Amitabh Bachchan a chance to win “National Film Award for Best Actor” for his scintillating performance of a mafia don.

“Film-makers need to profit from their movies but they must not forget their films adapted from literary novels. I know it is not easy negotiating with authors but



National Book Trust Director M.A. Sikandar

we still have exceptions — Amir Khan’s ‘3 Idiots’ was adapted from Chetan

Bhagat’s novel ‘Five Point Someone — What Not to do at IIT’.

Noting that current lot of filmmakers in the Hindi film industry are voracious readers, Sikandar says: “We need to understand that filmmakers come from different backgrounds. When we read their biographies, autobiographies and memoirs, we quite often come across instances where their persona and perceptions have been defined by the reading of various kinds of books. For NBT our mandate is significant and something we would wish to underline and communicate to the young

generation.” Sikandar says he is not qualified to give a satisfactory answer on how literature has influenced Hindi cinema from the days of Raj Kapoor to his grandson Ranbir Kapoor.

“Well, that is for the film critics to throw light on. I would only say that through this type of theme, we are trying to find connection between apparently different worlds. We will try to explore whether cinema has influenced our literary sensibility.” Sikandar is optimistic that bibliophiles would love reading books that have some connection with the cinema. “Our National Youth Readership survey tells us that nearly 30 per cent of young readers are keen on reading biographies of personalities from all walks of life.

Secondly, a lot of serious literature on film and culture studies, scriptwriting, film and television production is available and has a good reader base.” “Reading habits cannot be inculcated or promoted in isolation. Ultimately books have to be a part of our lifestyle and for that to happen intellectuals and thinkers of the book world need to interact with those from other walks of life like cinema, art and sports. In any case, by taking up such themes, we are able to underline how the world of books permeates every field of activity as without books no human activity can stand on its

own,” he says.

Bollywood is certainly bigger in size than other cinemas, but NBT has made efforts to represent books on regional cinemas too. “We will have over 350 books on Hindi and regional cinema at ‘World Book Fair’. There will also be screenplays of old classics, memoirs of filmmakers, encyclopaedias of cinema, including books on Satyajit Ray, Balraj Sahani and Dada Sahab Phalke. Besides books highlighting Bollywood films, we will also have literary books that will point out the tremendous impact of regional cinema on our social and cultural life.”

During the entire duration of the book fair that begins on February 25 and concludes on March 4, Bollywood actors will be visiting the fair. They will also make valuable suggestions while participating in workshops on different subjects related to literature and films. “We are also in talks with Jamia Millia Islamia’s Mass Communications Department because we want to make debates in the book fair more academic-oriented. Besides film personalities, we will have film critics, students of cinema and media personalities in these debates.”

Set up in 1957, the National Book Trust, India, seeks to inculcate book culture at local, regional and national levels. It has grown exponentially, becoming the biggest book fair in the Afro-Asian Region.

This year, the book fair is expected to attract more foreign exhibitors and delegates than in all its previous editions.

AAJ SAMAJ ND 30.1.12 P-4

देश में बिछेगा कॉलेजों का जाल

भाषा, नई दिल्ली

उच्च शिक्षा में सकल नामांकन दर बढ़ाने की योजना को अमलीजामा पहनाने के लिए केंद्र ने 12वीं पंचवर्षीय योजना में राज्यों में अधिक संख्या में कॉलेज स्थापित करने और वर्तमान उच्च शैक्षणिक संस्थाओं को मजबूत बनाने की योजना बनाई है। मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय के एक उच्चाधिकारी ने कहा कि 12वीं पंचवर्षीय योजना में मंत्रालय ने राज्यों पर ध्यान केंद्रित करने की योजना बनाई है। इसके तहत राज्यों में अधिक संख्या में कॉलेज स्थापित करने पर जोर होगा। उन्होंने कहा कि प्रस्तावित योजना के लिए राज्यों को विश्वविद्यालय अनुदान आयोग (यूजीसी) या मौजूदा व्यवस्था के तहत अन्य एजेंसियों



कॉलेज छात्रों की फाइल फोटो

के माध्यम से धन प्रदान किया जाएगा। अधिकारी के अनुसार, 11वीं पंचवर्षीय योजना में नए विश्वविद्यालय स्थापित करने पर

जोर दिया गया था, 12वीं योजना में राज्यों में उच्च शिक्षा व्यवस्था को मजबूत बनाने पर जोर होगा।

भारत में उच्च शिक्षा का

शिक्षा को बढ़ावा

- 11वीं पंचवर्षीय योजना में नए विश्वविद्यालय स्थापित करने पर था जोर, 12वीं योजना में उच्च शिक्षा व्यवस्था को बनाया जाएगा मजबूत
- 2020 तक नामांकन दर को 30 प्रतिशत करने का लक्ष्य
- गुणवत्तापूर्ण शिक्षा को देश के सभी उच्च शैक्षणिक संस्थान जुड़ेंगे ऑप्टिकल फाइबर केबल

सकल नामांकन दर 12.4 प्रतिशत है, जबकि वैश्विक उच्च शिक्षा नामांकन दर 24 प्रतिशत है। सरकार ने साल 2020 तक

नामांकन दर को बढ़ाकर 30 प्रतिशत करने का लक्ष्य निर्धारित किया है।

अधिकारी ने कहा कि इस लक्ष्य को हासिल करने के लिए काफी संख्या में उच्च शिक्षण संस्थाओं की जरूरत होगी। प्रस्तावित योजना के तहत मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय ऐसे राज्यों की पहचान करेगा, जहां सकल नामांकन दर काफी कम है। मंत्रालय के अधिकारी ने कहा, “इस योजना के तहत हम राज्यों को उच्च शिक्षा आधारभूत संरचना को मजबूत बनाने और नये कॉलेज स्थापित करने के लिए धन देंगे।” इस योजना के तहत राज्यों को उच्च शैक्षणिक संस्थाओं में प्रौद्योगिकी विकास और शिक्षकों की नियुक्ति में मदद करने पर भी जोर दिया जाएगा। मंत्रालय ने अगले तीन वर्ष में देश के सभी

उच्च शैक्षणिक संस्थानों को ऑप्टिकल फाइबर केबल से जोड़ने की योजना बनाई है, ताकि शिक्षा व्यवस्था को गुणवत्तापूर्ण बनाया जा सके और अधिक छात्रों को उच्च शिक्षा के दायरे में लाया जा सके। बहरहाल, विश्वविद्यालय अनुदान आयोग (यूजीसी) देश के शैक्षणिक रूप से पिछड़े 374 जिलों में मॉडल डिग्री कॉलेज स्थापित करने के लिए राज्यों की मदद कर रहा है। राज्यों ने आयोग को 142 मॉडल डिग्री कॉलेज स्थापित करने का प्रस्ताव भेजा है और अभी तक 78 प्रस्तावों को मंजूरी प्रदान की गई है।

यूजीसी की ओर से विश्वविद्यालयों एवं कॉलेजों को प्रदान की जाने वाली अतिरिक्त सहायता के दायरे में अभी 131 विश्वविद्यालय और करीब 5,500 कॉलेज आते हैं।

Amar Ujala ND

30/01/2012

p-11

आईआईटी रुड़की के छात्र ने की खुदकुशी

इलाहाबाद। आईआईटी रुड़की में बीटैक अंतिम वर्ष के छात्र अनमेय मध्याहन ने रविवार शाम यहां सिविल लाइसेंस स्थित पांच मंजिला वशिष्ठ विनायक टॉवर की छत से कूदकर आत्महत्या कर ली। वह दो माह से आईआईटी से लापता था। तब से वह यहां इस टॉवर के एक फ्लैट में किराए पर ठहरा था। रविवार को जयपुर से अनमेय के मामा और चाचा के साथ उसकी मां खोजते हुए यहां उसके पास पहुंची थी। वह लौटने के लिए राजी हो गया था पर अचानक उसने छत पर जाकर छलांग लगा दी। वह दो बार फेल होने के चलते तनाव में था।