

# Newspaper Clips

January 5-6, 2014

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## **IIT Delhi to get two campuses in Haryana**

January 03, 2014 |

[http://www.indiaedunews.net/IIT/IIT\\_Delhi\\_to\\_get\\_two\\_campuses\\_in\\_Haryana\\_16615/](http://www.indiaedunews.net/IIT/IIT_Delhi_to_get_two_campuses_in_Haryana_16615/)

The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi will soon be setting up two additional campuses in [Haryana](#). They will focus on MBA and chemical engineering programmes, announced Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi director Professor Shevgaonkar last Sunday amidst other reforms.

"We have been in talks with the [Haryana](#) government for the past one and a half years to set up our branch campuses there. Last week only, our deal materialised according to which we will get two campuses ♦ one in Sonipat and the second one in Jhajjar," he announced at the first alumni meet here.

"At the campus in Sonipat, we will run programmes for faculty development and executive MBA programme while at Jhajjar, our campus will be located very close to the [AIIMS](#) campus and we will partner the medical institute in the area of biological science, pharmacology and chemical engineering," he added.

Indian Institute Technology (IIT)-Delhi on Sunday proposed the creation of an endowment pool with support from its alumni to fund world-class faculty development and to finance its research students for international exposure.

Institute Director R K Shevgaonkar also asked the alumni in the industry to engage in developing a 21st century modern curriculum which is in sync with the changing professional landscape.

The institute, he said, is also setting up a Centre for Cyber Security at Delhi and a Science and Technology Park at its Sonipat campus.

"Everything is online and control is remote. It was felt that IIT-D is the most suitable to have a capacity building for cyber security in the country. The centre which shall start in the next session shall also undertake cutting-edge research in this field," he said, addressing the first-ever alumni day.

The event saw a gathering of large number of alumni, who have achieved success in their respective field including NIIT CEO and co-founder Vijay K Thadani, Fortis Healthcare president Daljit Singh, Principal Secretary to [Gujarat](#) Government Sanjay Nandan, Princeton University Head of Department of Electrical Engineering Department Sharad Mallik and Angel investor Deepak Mirza.

According to Shevgaonkar, "This alumni gathering opens a new chapter in the engagement of the alumni with the institute and its students, giving them greater opportunities to contribute to their alma mater's future."

Mallik said, "For any institution to become world-class, it must strive to have a big impact on the society and [IIT Delhi](#) should gear up towards that."

"A large number of alumni having excelled in the corporate, business, government and education fields have expressed their desire to give back to the institute as well as to the society," he said.

"The alumni day meet has opened up various avenues and directions for them to contribute and fulfil their cherished dreams," said Mr Pravin Purang, President, [IIT Delhi](#) Alumni Association.

With inputs from PTI

# Only 10% students have access to higher education in country

Rema Nagarajan | TIG

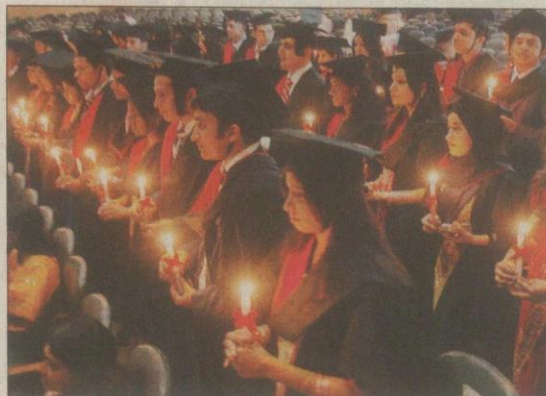
New Delhi: Access to education beyond higher secondary schooling is a mere 10% among the university-age population in India. This is the finding of a report "Intergenerational and Regional Differentials in Higher Education in India" authored by development economist, Abusaleh Shariff of the Delhi-based Centre for Research and Debates in Development Policy and Amit Sharma, research analyst of the National Council of Applied Economic Research.

The report says that a huge disparity exists – as far as access to higher education is concerned – across gender, socio-economic religious groups and geographical regions. The skew is most marked across regions. Thus, a dalit or Muslim in south India, though from the most disadvantaged among communities, would have better access to higher education than even upper caste Hindus in many other regions. Interestingly, people liv-

**Tribals and dalits fare the worst with just 1.8% having any higher education. Similarly, only 2.1% of Muslims and a mere 2% of the rural population is able to go for further learning opportunities**

ing in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal – designated as the north central region – and those in northeast India have the worst access to higher education. Those in southern India and in the northern region – consisting of Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Chandigarh, Haryana and Delhi – are relatively better placed in this regard.

In the age group 22-35 years, over 15% in the northern region and 13% in the southern region have access to higher education. In the north-central region, the number is just 10% for men and 6% for women whereas in the northeast, only 8% men and 4% women have



**DIM SCENARIO:** A huge disparity exists in opportunities available for higher learning based on the student's gender, religion and region

access to higher education.

The report, brought out by the US-India Policy Institute in Washington, is based on data from the 64th round of NSSO survey 2007-08. It throws up quite a few other interesting facts. For instance, among communities, tribals and dalits fare worst with just 1.8% of them having any higher education. Muslims are almost as badly off, with just 2.1% able to go for further learning. Similarly, just 2% of the rural population is educated beyond higher secondary level, compared to 12% of the urban population and just 3% of women got a college education compared to 6% of men.

South India offers the best opportunities for socially inclusive access to higher education including technical education and education in English medium. For instance, the share of Hindu SC/ST in technical education in south India is about 22%, and the share of Muslims 25%. These were the lowest shares among all communities in south India. But this was higher than the share of most communities including Hindu OBCs and upper caste Hindus in most other regions. South India also has the highest proportion of higher education in the private sector at about 42%, followed by western

India where it is 22%. The north-east has the least privatized higher education sector and is almost entirely dependent on government-run or aided institutions.

Not surprisingly, government institutions are the cheapest places to study at, with annual expenditures ranging from less than Rs 1,000 to around Rs 1,500, except in north and south India, where the average is above Rs 2,000. Both private and private-aided institutions are quite costly, making them difficult to access for the poor. With little regulation of the quality of education and cost differentials, the poor and deprived are often trapped in low quality education, the report points out. It adds that although free education is provided at school level, it is almost non-existent at higher levels.

The report also compares India's low 10% access to higher education with Chi-

**Share of those in higher education enrolled in technical courses (%)**

REGION	Hindu SC/STs	Muslims	Hindu OBCs	Hindu upper caste	Other minorities
South	22	25	37	38	33
North	11	8	21	22	35
North Central	4	8	13	19	7
Central	17	16	13	26	21
Western	17	17	20	27	8
Northeast	1	6	9	5	5

**Share of various groups with access to higher education (%)**

South	7	8	12	26	23
North	7	7	11	26	12
North Central	4	3	6	20	15
Central	3	5	6	25	10
Western	5	7	9	25	22
Northeast	3	3	6	13	8

**SOUTH** – Andhra Pradesh | Karnataka | Lakshadweep, Kerala | Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry | Andaman & Nicobar

**NORTH** – Jammu & Kashmir | Himachal Pradesh | Punjab, Chandigarh | Uttarakhand | Haryana, Delhi

**NORTH CENTRAL** – Uttar Pradesh | Bihar | West Bengal

**CENTRAL** – Madhya Pradesh | Rajasthan | Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand | Orissa

**WESTERN** – Gujarat | Maharashtra | Goa | Daman & Diu | Dadra & Nagar Haveli

**NORTHEAST** – Assam | Sikkim | Arunachal Pradesh | Nagaland | Manipur | Mizoram | Tripura | Meghalaya

na's 22% enrolment and the 28% enrolment in the US. Since the early 1990s, China's post-secondary enrolments grew from 5 million to 27 million, while India's expanded from 5 million to just 13 million, says the report, while emphasising that higher education has the potential to enhance productivity and economic value both at the individual and national levels.

"The government has to urgently address the geographical skew in the availability of higher education facilities in the two regions of north-east and north-central," says Shariff. "The central region, comprising Chhattisgarh, MP, Rajasthan, Jharkhand and Odisha, too needs attention. There is so much talk about a Harvard in India. I say, give two hoots to Harvard. What we need are thousands of community colleges that can offer professional courses so that youngsters can improve their skills and become employable."



Hindu ND 05-Jan-14 p-11

# Ministry keen to restore AICTE regulatory powers

Anita Joshua

**NEW DELHI:** Though there is very little time left for the end of the Lok Sabha term, the Union Human Resource Development Ministry is going ahead with its plans to move an amendment to reverse the Supreme Court judgment curtailing the All India Council for Technical Education's powers to approve MBA and MCA courses.

The draft Bill has already

been cleared by the Law Ministry, according to Higher Education Secretary Ashok Thakur. It seeks to restore the AICTE's regulatory powers. The court had said the "role of AICTE vis-à-vis universities is only advisory, recommendatory and one of providing guidance and it has no authority empowering it to issue or enforce any sanctions by itself."

Earlier, the Ministry planned the ordinance

route to restore powers to the AICTE. However, as it is not very optimistic of the amendment being cleared by the current Lok Sabha, the Ministry has put in place an interim arrangement by which the AICTE would set the standards for technical institutions, and the University Grants Commission would provide affiliation. Plus, the institutions would have to be assessed by the National Board of Accreditation.

Dainik Bhaskar ND 05-Jan-14 p-7

## जेईई नहीं, अब आरपीईटी से होंगे इंजीनियरिंग में एडमिशन

भीलवाड़ा . राजस्थान सरकार ने प्रदेश के इंजीनियरिंग कॉलेजों में ज्वाइंट एंट्रेंस एग्जामिनेशन (जेईई) से एडमिशन कराने का निर्णय बदलकर राजस्थान प्री इंजीनियरिंग टेस्ट (आरपीईटी) के जरिए ही राज्य के सभी गवर्नमेंट व प्राइवेट इंजीनियरिंग कॉलेजों में एडमिशन कराने का निर्णय लिया है। 30 दिसंबर को तकनीकी शिक्षा विभाग के संयुक्त सचिव आरके गुप्ता ने बोर्ड ऑफ टेक्निकल एजुकेशन जोधपुर, राजस्थान टेक्निकल यूनिवर्सिटी, कोटा सहित राज्य के सभी गवर्नमेंट कॉलेजों के प्रिंसिपल को आदेश जारी किए हैं। गुप्ता ने बताया कि शैक्षणिक सत्र 2014-15 में राज्य के सभी इंजीनियरिंग कॉलेजों में जेईई के बजाय आरपीईटी के जरिए ही एडमिशन होंगे।

# TCS to set up world's largest training centre in Kerala



(from left) MP Shashi Tharoor, Governor of Kerala Nikhil Kumar, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, Minister for Industries and IT P K Kunhalikutty and CEO & MD of TCS N Chandrasekaran at the foundation stone-laying ceremony of TCS Global Corporate Learning Centre in Thiruvananthapuram on Saturday PHOTO:PTI

## BS REPORTER

Mumbai, 4 January

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), India's largest software services exporter, on Saturday said it would set up the world's largest corporate learning and development centre, with a capacity to train 15,000 professionals at one time and 50,000 professionals annually.

The proposed TCS Learning Campus in Thiruvananthapuram will come up on a 97-acre plot in the Technopark area of the city. To be built over 6.1 million square feet, it will include residences for professionals and faculty.

N Chandrasekaran, chief executive officer and managing director, said, "TCS has been present in Thiruvananthapuram since 1997 and since then it has been the hub of our global learning and development

efforts. The TCS Learning Campus will be the new benchmark for corporate learning worldwide and this iconic facility will produce world class professionals to meet the future needs of the information technology (IT) industry."

During the construction period of four years, the project is expected to provide direct jobs to around 2,000 locals. An integral part of the project will be skill development programmes run by TCS for the local youth.

TCS is one of the largest private sector employers in India, with around 285,000 professionals worldwide, and plans to hire 50,000 in 2013-14. It spends around 15 million hours on learning and development programmes for its employees every year. Over the past five years till date, the company has trained 143,000 IT professionals in India and abroad.

# जेईई मेन में बैठने का अंतिम मौका

## 6 को खत्म हो जाएगी रजिस्ट्रेशन प्रक्रिया

अमर उजाला ब्यूरो

नोएडा। आईआईटी और एनआईटी समेत तमाम इंजीनियरिंग कॉलेजों में दाखिले के लिए होने वाले ज्वॉइंट एंट्रेंस एग्जाम (जेईई) मेन में शामिल होने का सोमवार को अंतिम मौका है। जेईई मेन की ऑनलाइन रजिस्ट्रेशन प्रक्रिया 6 जनवरी को खत्म हो जाएगी।

अभी तक जो छात्र आवेदन नहीं कर पाए हैं वो अगले दो दिन में रजिस्ट्रेशन कर सकते हैं। छात्र एपेजी स्कूल में बने सुविधा केंद्र की भी मदद ले सकते हैं।

दरअसल, जेईई मेन की पेपर पेंसिल बेस्ट परीक्षा 6 अप्रैल को और ऑनलाइन परीक्षा 9, 11, 12 और 19 अप्रैल को होगी। ऑनलाइन पेपर के लिए मॉक टेस्ट जारी किए जा चुके हैं। पेपर पेंसिल वाले छात्र भी इनके आधार पर तैयारी कर सकते हैं।

खास बात ये है कि ऑनलाइन पेपर में इस बार उन सवालों को भी मूल्यांकन प्रक्रिया में शामिल किया जाएगा, जिनके जवाब को छात्र की ओर से रिव्यू करने के लिए चयनित



### एआईपीएमटी फॉर्म में 1 फरवरी से सुधार

ऑल इंडिया प्री मेडिकल/डेंटल एंट्रेंस एग्जाम के फॉर्म 31 जनवरी तक लेट फीस के साथ भरे जाएंगे। अब तक फॉर्म भर चुके छात्रों को रजिस्ट्रेशन में गलतियां सुधारने का मौका मिलेगा। छात्र 1 से 28 फरवरी तक अपने फॉर्म में भरी गई जानकारियां ठीक कर सकते हैं।

छोड़ा गया होगा। दूसरी ओर, पिछले दो बार जेईई मेन (पूर्ववर्ती एआईईईई) की परीक्षा में शामिल हो चुके छात्र इस बार भी आवेदन कर सकते हैं। ड्रॉप आउट छात्र भी यदि किसी विकल्प की तलाश में हैं तो अंतिम मौका भुना सकते हैं।

Rajasthan Patrika ND 5.01.2014 p-12

# यातायात समस्या का समाधान है बीआरटीएस गलियारा:विशेषज्ञ

नई दिल्ली. दिल्ली की बस रैपिड ट्रांजिट सिस्टम (बीआरटीएस) के विस्तार से यातायात संबंधी परेशानियों का हल निकाला जा सकता है और सड़क दुर्घटनाओं में कमी की जा सकती है।

यह बात भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (आईआईटी) के प्राध्यापक और परिवहन विशेषज्ञ दिनेश मोहन ने कही। दिल्ली की इस व्यवस्था की काफी आलोचना की गई है और करीब-करीब सभी राजनीतिक पार्टियां इसे हटाने पर एकमत हैं। इंडियन इंटरनेशनल सेंटर में शुक्रवार शाम एक्सिडेंट्स, माइथोलोजीज एंड साइंस आफ ट्रैफिक सैफ्टी चर्चा के दौरान उन्होंने कहा कि दक्षिण दिल्ली में 5.7 किलोमीटर लंबा बीआरटीएस गलियारा अहमदाबाद से बेहतर है और इसे नहीं हटाया जाना चाहिए।

मोहन ने बताया, 'अगर दिल्ली मेट्रो कुछ किलोमीटर तक चलाया जाता, तो क्या यह सफल होता? परिवहन को बांटने के लिए बीआरटी का विस्तार करने की जरूरत है और तब लोग इसकी कीमत समझेंगे।' आईआईटी दिल्ली के वाल्वो चैयर प्रोफेसर एमेरिटस ने कहा, 'डिजायन में कोई समस्या नहीं है, हालांकि यह तो अहमदाबाद से



भी अच्छा है।' यातायात जाम के सवाल पर मोहन ने कहा कि यह सिर्फ बीआरटीएस गलियारे तक नहीं सिमटा बल्कि यह दिनभर के व्यस्ततम समय में हर जगह दिखाई देता है। 2008 में इसकी शुरुआत से ही यह विवादों में रहा है।

दक्षिण दिल्ली के बीआरटीएस गलियारे को देखते हुए एक अदालत ने इस परियोजना को बंद करने का आदेश दिया था और तब से 14 गलियारों के निर्माण पर रोक लग गई थी। इसकी पक्षधर रहीं दिल्ली की पूर्व मुख्यमंत्री शीला दीक्षित ने आखिरकार चुनाव प्रचार के दौरान इसकी समस्या को समझा और कहा था कि इसे हटा लिया जाएगा।

Deccan Herald ND 5.01.2014 p-3

# 'BRT is the answer to Delhi's traffic woes'

NEW DELHI, IANS: Delhi's much-criticised Bus Rapid Transit, which all its political parties agree should be scrapped, can solve its traffic woes and reduce road accidents, if extended all over the city, Dinesh Mohan, an IIT professor and one of India's acknowledged transport experts, said.

Delivering a talk on 'Accidents, Mythologies and Science of Traffic Safety' at the India International Centre here on Friday evening, Mohan said the 5.7-km-long BRT corridor in south Delhi was better than the one in Ahmedabad and should not be scrapped.

"If the Delhi Metro was built on a stretch of a few kilometres only, would it have been successful? The BRT has to be extended all over the city to segregate traffic and only then will people realise its worth," Mohan said.

"There is no problem with the design and in fact it's better than Ahmedabad," added the Volvo Chair Professor Emeritus at IIT Delhi.

According to Mohan, an uninformed campaign by vested interests, media organisations and senior government officials resulted in the BRT proj-

**DINESH MOHAN: The BRT has to be extended all over the city to segregate traffic and only then will people realise its worth**

ect not taking off in the Capital. When asked about the traffic snarls on the stretch, Mohan said the snarls were not limited to just the BRT corridor and took place "everywhere in the city during peak hours".

The BRT has remained a controversy's child ever since its inception in 2008. Following the initial south Delhi corridor, a court case sealed the fate of the project and construction of 14 similar corridors was put on hold.

The Central Road Research Institute has said commuters would benefit if the BRT was scrapped. Delhi's former chief minister Sheila Dikshit, who was a strong votary of the project, had finally acknowledged its problems during the election campaign and said it would be scrapped despite crores of public money being spent on building it.



# Brainlike computers, learning from experience

New computing approach is based on biological nervous system, specifically on how neurons react to stimuli and connect with other neurons to interpret information

JOHN MARKOFF

**C**OMPUTERS have entered the age when they are able to learn from their own mistakes, a development that is about to turn the digital world on its head.

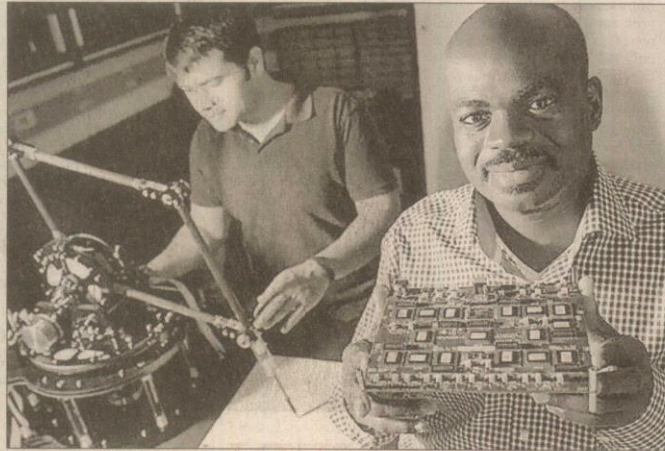
The first commercial version of the new computer chip is scheduled to be released this year. Not only can it automate tasks that now require painstaking programming — for example, moving a robot's arm smoothly and efficiently — but it can also sidestep and even tolerate errors, potentially making the term "computer crash" obsolete.

The new computing approach, already in use by some large technology companies, is based on the biological nervous system, specifically on how neurons react to stimuli and connect with other neurons to interpret information. It allows computers to absorb new information while carrying out a task, and adjust what they do based on the changing signals.

In coming years, the approach will make possible a new generation of artificial intelligence systems that will perform some functions that humans do with ease: see, speak, listen, navigate, manipulate and control. That can hold enormous consequences for tasks like facial and speech recognition, navigation and planning, which are still in elementary stages and rely heavily on human programming.

Designers say the computing style can clear the way for robots that can walk and drive in the physical world, although a thinking or conscious computer, a staple of science fiction, is still far off.

"We're moving from engineer-



Kwabena Boahen holding a biologically inspired processor attached to a robotic arm.

then moved to its main memory.

The new processors consist of electronic components that can be connected by wires that mimic biological synapses. Because they are based on large groups of neuron-like elements, they are known as neuromorphic processors, a term credited to the California Institute of Technology physicist Carver Mead, who pioneered the concept in the late 1980s.

They are not "programmed". Rather the connections are "weighted" according to correlations in data that the processor has already "learned". Those weights are then altered as data flows in to the chip, causing them to "spike". That generates a signal that travels to other components and changes the neural network, in essence programming the next actions.

"Instead of bringing data to computation, we can now bring computation to data," said Dr Dharmendra Modha, an IBM computer scientist who leads the company's cognitive computing research. The new computers, which are still based on silicon chips, will not replace today's computers but will augment them, for now.

IBM and Qualcomm, as well as the Stanford research team, have already designed neuromorphic processors, and Qualcomm has said that it is coming out this year with a commercial version.

"That reflects the zeitgeist," said Terry Sejnowski, a computational neuroscientist at the Salk Institute, who pioneered early biologically inspired algorithms. "Everyone knows there is something big happening, and they're trying to find out what it is."

NYT

ing computing systems to something that has many of the characteristics of biological computing," said Larry Smarr, an astrophysicist who directs the California Institute for Telecommunications and Information Technology.

Conventional computers are limited by what they have been programmed to do. Computer vision systems, for example, only "recognise" objects that can be identified by the statistics-oriented algorithms programmed into them. An algorithm is like a recipe, a set of step-by-step instructions to perform a calculation.

But last year, Google researchers were able to get a machine-learning algorithm, known

as a neural network, to perform an identification task without supervision. It scanned a database of 10 million images, and in doing so, trained itself to recognise cats.

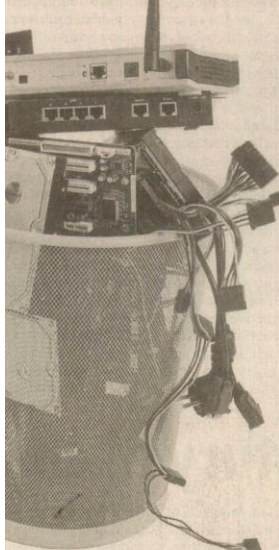
In June, the company said it had used those neural network techniques to develop a new search service to help customers find specific photos more accurately.

The new approach, used in hardware and software, is being driven by the explosion of scientific knowledge about the brain. Kwabena Boahen, a computer scientist who leads Stanford's Brains in Silicon research programme, said that that was also its limitation, as scientists are far from fully understanding how brains function.

Until now, the design of computers was dictated by ideas originated by the physicist John von Neumann about 65 years ago. Microprocessors perform operations at lightning speed, following instructions programmed using long strings of 1s and 0s. They store that information separately in what is known, colloquially, as memory, either in the processor itself, in adjacent storage chips or in higher capacity magnetic disk drives.

The data — for instance, temperatures for a climate model or letters for word processing — are shuttled in and out of the processor's short-term memory while the computer carries out the programmed action. The result is

## END OF THE TECH LINE



In just five years, all of the world's refrigerators, televisions, cell phones, computers and electronic devices destined for disposal or recycling will grow by 33 per cent, according to a recent study released by the United Nations

MILLIONS of tonnes of electronic waste (50 million in 2012) is produced all over the world every year

EVERY DAY worldwide, an estimated 123,000 metric tonnes of damaged, obsolete or simply unwanted electrical and electronic devices become e-waste

THE BASEL CONVENTION of 1992 on e-waste says some of the most hazardous substances — arsenic, cadmium, lead, mercury and PCBs — are found in household e-waste

ABOUT 120 million phones were discarded worldwide in 2010

UN HAS warned that future US exports of e-waste will end up in India, as the only other glass-to-glass furnaces in the world (in China and Malaysia) are scheduled to close by 2013

A GOVERNMENT authorised e-waste recycling company, E-Parasara, which was set up in 2005, aims to convert waste into raw material using cost-effective measures

### Recycling

- To extract the small quantity of gold, capacitors are melted down over a charcoal fire
- Plastic on the electrical cords is burnt in barrels to expose the copper wires
- Each computer yields about US \$6 worth of material



### THE UNITED NATIONS PREDICTION BY 2017

E-WASTE WILL BE 33 PER CENT HIGHER AT 72.09 MILLION TONNES

2012 48.9 million metric tonnes  
2017 72.09 million metric tonnes

200 times the weight of the Empire State Building

40-TONNE TRUCKS END-TO-END 3/4th OF THE WORLD'S EQUATOR

### E-WASTE GENERATED 2012

COUNTRIES	METRO KILOTONNES	KG PER PERSON
US	9,359	29.78
CHINA	7,253	5.36
INDIA	2,751	2.25
JAPAN	2,741	21.49
RUSSIA	1,477	10.41
UK	1,375	21.82
FRANCE	1,337	21.09
CANADA	860	24.72
SOUTH AFRICA	339	6.63
SWEDEN	235	24.86

Source: UN STEP Initiative

NORWAY: In an effort to generate energy, they import waste. Between October 2012 and April 2013, UK paid to send 45,000 tonnes of waste to the country.

Compiled by SAGAR SHAH; graphic by DIPANKAR GHOSH

# THOUGHT BUBBLES

**Brainwave** A growing tribe of global Indians are seeking knowledge, fostering fruitful collaborations at TED-like idea conferences held across India

**Humaira Ansari**

humaira.ansari@hindustantimes.com

"I'm not nervous about speaking in front of so many people. But I was nervous to board an airplane and stay in a five-star hotel for this conference," says Sunil Khandabale, 34, a Marathi-medium post-graduate from Nashik. He has developed digital dictionaries in 22 Indian languages and 16 domains, including agriculture and pharmacy, to make higher education more accessible to non-English-speaking students. "I am a cannabis farmer," says Sanvar Oberoi, 23, an agricultural entrepreneur and founder of Bohoco, a Mumbai-based company that uses industrial hemp to make bricks, oil and fabrics. "Family photos and the stories behind them are our best chance to preserve cultural histories," says Anusha Yadav, 38, a Mumbai-based photographer and founder of the Indian Memory Project, a digital archive of family photos.

These were the opening lines of Khandabale and Oberoi's speeches at the INK ideas conference in October, and Yadav's at Mumbai's TEDx Gateway in December.

A digital linguist, an agricultural entrepreneur and a photographer might seem like an odd combination of speakers, but it is convergence of people such as Khandabale, Oberoi and Yadav on a common platform that is making such inter-disciplinary conferences popular.

Because one thing most speakers have in common, despite their varied backgrounds and specialties, is innovation. And in a world where initiative and creative thinking often determine success, innovation has become a key attribute.

What started in 2009 with global ideas conference giant TED coming to India, followed by a licence to organise local TED-like events under the TEDx label, has proliferated to create a virtual calendar of indigenous organised idea conferences across the country.

The past three years have seen the birth of INK and the United Nations Young Changemakers Conclave, both founded in 2010; Influencer Con Mumbai and the Mindscape Festival, launched in 2012; and The Goa Project, launched last year — all selling themselves as platforms for cross-disciplinary intellectual exchange.

Typically, such summits serve as a sort of 'brain spa' for young entrepreneurs, business people, professionals, artists, doctors, social workers, students, tea sommeliers and technologists. The venues range from fancy five-star hotel auditoriums with mood lights, multi-camera set-ups, and designer stages, to basic conference studios, amphitheatres and pop-up tents. Most organisers rely on sponsors, who are usually allocated free seats.

People talk, listen, schmooze and network, 'get inspired'. Attendees pay anything from ₹500 to as much as ₹1 lakh to attend, with most summits ranging in duration from one to three days. Across the board, organisers have seen a surge in applications.

In 2013, TEDx Gateway, for instance, saw 8,000 applications, up from 350 in 2010; the number of applications at INK rose from 150 in 2010 to 800 plus in 2013. And at the Mindscape Festival, footfalls rose from 125 in 2012 to 850 in 2013.

## LEARNING, RE-LEARNING

So what's working in favour of these conferences, where a carefully curated list of speakers tell their story and share the secrets of their creativity and success?

"In the '50s and '60s, movie premieres were a big thing; in the '90s, it was concerts, and the '90s were all about fashion shows," says Yadav of the Indian Memory Project. "Today it has become aspirational to be part of curated gatherings such as these."

According to Parmesh Shahani, 37, a TED fellow and founder of the Godrej India Culture Lab, a Mumbai-based cultural initiative, such idea events provide context in a world of increasing complexity. "We have facts, but we don't know how to interpret them. Many good conferences help people connect these dots. Directly or indirectly they guide people in their own personal and professional journeys."

Delhi-based sociologist Shiv Viswanathan adds that these conferences signal a commodification of the knowledge of the upwardly mobile.

"Instead of saying I met Shah Rukh Khan, today it's become far more exciting to say I met Noam Chomsky; hasn't it?" he says. "Organisers of conferences such as INK and TEDx are curating a bazaar of ideas. With an assortment of cookies on display, attendees sample what individually appeals most to them."

For Mumbai-based Deepa Thomas, 37, who attended The Goa Project's maiden edition in March and TEDx Gateway in Mumbai in December, such events help foster new connections.

"I would definitely go back to both if the speakers' bios seemed interesting," says the eBay India executive. "I think these forums reflect the emergence of the knowledge economy in India. Many intellectual global Indians with high disposable incomes are well-networked, curious and tech-savvy. They want to see India evolve and change, and they want to be an active part of that change."

Snigdha Manchanda, 29, a Goa-based tea sommelier; a speaker at INK 2013 and a participant at The Goa Project, finds such events

## BRAIN SPA?

"People today are more than their jobs. A person could hold a day job and be an amateur writer or a wine connoisseur. People want to expose themselves to diverse fields. Such multi-disciplinary conferences serve as apt offline platforms to do just that."

- Rajiv Dingra, social media expert

mentally stimulating. "What's exciting is that speakers and attendees have a chance to mingle freely and bounce off ideas," she says. That's how Manchanda collaborated with two designers to create tin boxes for her label, Tea Trunk. "These conferences are a great way to discover others who also think out of the box. Two decades ago, it was all about exchanging business cards. Today people seek inspiration and motivation, which one can find at such conferences."

**Abhilash Tomy, Lt Commander of the Indian Navy, the first Indian to perform a non-stop circumnavigation of the globe, spoke about his journey at the fourth edition of TEDx Gateway, held in Mumbai.**



Illustration: SHRIKRISHNA PATILKAR

## on the menu

### INK

Three-day annual conference launched in 2010 by Lakshmi Pratury, founder of Ixora Media, a Bangalore-based company that aims to strengthen ties in the Indo-US corridor.

**EDITIONS HELD IN** Pune, Maharashtra; Jaipur, Rajasthan; and Kochi, Kerala.

**FORMAT:** Five to seven speakers talk for 3 to 15 minutes each, over nine sessions spread across three days. Speakers and audiences mingle during lunch and tea breaks.

**COST:** ₹33,000 per day; ₹1 lakh for three days

**Next edition** to be held in Kochi in Oct 2014

**"WE LOOK FOR INFLUENCERS, THINKERS, trend-setters and change-makers. There is enough disposable wealth in India. Those who lead a comfortable lifestyle are looking to find meaning in their lives. They also know that, in order to stay ahead in business, they need to innovate and collaborate with future-minded partners from a variety of fields. INK attendees have the foresight to think beyond day-to-day business and short-term networking."**

- Lakshmi Pratury

### The Goa Project

Two-day annual un-conference launched in March 2013 by Vijay Anand, 32, managing partner of The Startup Centre, a Chennai-based company that supports tech startups.

**FORMAT:** Everyone is a speaker and a participant. People vote for topics they would like to discuss and hold workshops on. The final agenda is created based on popular votes. Those who don't make the cut contribute as volunteers, or by blogging and tweeting.

**COST:** ₹4,500 per head for a two-day pass

**Next edition** to be held in Goa in Feb 2014

**"WHEN THERE IS FOOD ON THE TABLE** and peace all around, philosophy and poetry start to flow. I think the Indian boom that started since the 2000s is now getting to the point where we are starting to aspire and think big. There is a surge to find purpose. It's no longer about survival, but about chasing dreams. Here, we encourage people to leave titles behind and bring out that guitar or an unfinished work, and hopefully the pieces of the puzzle will come together."

- Vijay Anand

### Influencer Con

A global ideas community founded by New Yorker Philip McKenzie in 2011. After London and Berlin, Mumbai was the third city to become part of the influencer network, in 2012. Here, graphic designer Maitreyi Doshi has been instrumental in organising day-long annual events where panelists across the fields of arts, culture, technology, marketing and entrepreneurship participate. Soon, the community plans to host smaller events called Amplify, across different Indian cities.

**FORMAT:** There are no barriers between panelists and the audience. Moderators invite the audience to step up and participate.



**COST:** ₹300 per head

**Next edition** to be held in Mumbai in end-2014

### "PEOPLE IN INDIA, ESPECIALLY THE YOUNGER generation, miss having meaningful conversations. In my grad school days in Baltimore, we talked about race, violence, sexuality, public art. When I moved back to India, I missed those discussions. These conferences provide youngsters with a platform to share their perspectives. Many also work in those respective fields. So it's never all talk and no work, but all work followed by discussions and collaborations."

- Maitreyi Doshi

### United Nations Young Change Makers Conclave (UNYCC)

A day-long annual conclave held in two editions, in Delhi and Mumbai, each year since 2010. The conferences are co-organised by marketing executive Sanyak Chakrabarty, 25, and businessman Trisha Shetty, 23. Usually, the team reaches out to students, advertisers, social workers and entrepreneurs and filters their e-applications to offer passes.

**FORMAT:** Seven to eight speakers talk for 10 minutes each followed by a Q&A session; plus two moderated panel discussions.

**COST:** ₹500 per head

**Next edition** to be held in Mumbai in February 2014, and in Delhi in April 2014

**"OUR USP IS OUR CURATED audience; 90% of the audience comprises students, achievers, entrepreneurs, professionals, social activists and people working in the non-profit sector, all aged 16 to 30. The other 10% is made up of diplomats, high commissioners, ambassadors, media people and UN representatives."**

- Trisha Shetty

### MINDSCAPE FESTIVAL

A three-day ideas festival launched by X-PICAN, the alumni association of architecture college PICA, in Navi Mumbai in 2012. The objective is to look beyond the world of architecture and design for new ideas, stories and experiences.

**FORMAT:** About ten to twelve speakers talk for about 25 minutes each followed by a moderated Q&A session.

**ENTRY IS FREE**

**Next edition** to be held in Navi Mumbai in December 2014

**"THE POPULARITY OF TED AND TEDx-LIKE events has contributed immensely to the proliferation of such formats. How long they remain popular needs to be seen, but the sharing of ideas and knowledge, irrespective of the format, can only bring good."**

- Jinu Kurien

VARIETY

# In the human brain, size isn't everything

CARL ZIMMER

THERE ARE many things that make humans a unique species, but a couple stand out. One is our mind, the other our brain. The human mind can carry out cognitive tasks that other animals cannot, like using language and inferring what others are thinking.

The human brain is exceptional, too. At three pounds, it is gigantic relative to our body size. Our closest living relatives, chimpanzees, have brains that are only a third as big.

Scientists have long suspected that our big brain and powerful mind are intimately connected. Starting about three million years ago, fossils of our ancient relatives record a huge increase in brain size. Once that cranial growth was underway, our fore-runners started leaving behind signs of increasingly sophisticated minds, like cave paintings.

But scientists have long struggled to understand how a simple

Krienen said. This relatively simple behavior is reflected in how the neurons are wired. The neurons in one region mostly make short connections to a neighbouring region. They carry signals through the brain like a bucket brigade from the sensory cortices to the motor cortices. The bucket brigade begins to take shape when mammals are still embryos. Different regions of the brain release chemical signals, which attract developing neurons.

After mammals are born, their experiences continue to strengthen this wiring.

Human brains are different. As they got bigger, their sensory and motor cortices barely expanded. Instead, it was the regions in between, known as the association cortices, that bloomed. Our association cortices are crucial for the kinds of thought that we humans excel at. Among other tasks, association cortices are crucial for making decisions, retrieving memories and

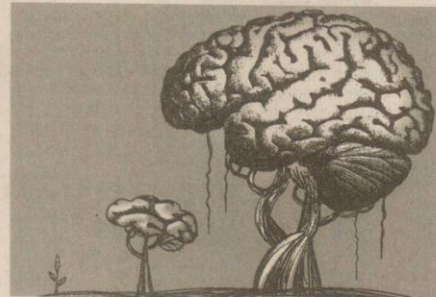


Illustration: C R SASIKUMAR

increase in size could lead to the evolution of those faculties. Now, two Harvard neuroscientists, Randy L Buckner and Fenna M Krienen, have offered an explanation. In our smaller-brained ancestors, the researchers argue, neurons were tightly tethered in a relatively simple pattern of connections. When our ancestors' brains expanded, those tethers ripped apart, enabling our neurons to form new circuits.

Buckner and Krienen have called their idea the tether hypothesis and presented it in a paper in the December issue of *Trends in Cognitive Sciences*.

Buckner and Krienen developed their hypothesis after making detailed maps of the connections in the human brain using fMRI scanners. When they compared their maps with those of other species' brains, they saw some striking differences. The outer layers of mammal brains are divided into regions called cortices. The visual cortex occupies the rear of the brain. That is where neurons process signals from the eyes, recognising edges, shading and other features. There are cortices for the other senses, too. The sensory cortices relay signals to another set of regions called motor cortices. The motor cortices send out commands. This circuit is good for controlling basic mammal behavior.

"You experience something in the world, and you respond to it,"

reflecting on ourselves.

Association cortices are also unusual for their wiring. They are not connected in the relatively simple, bucket-brigade pattern found in other mammal brains. Instead, they link to one another with wild abandon. A map of association cortices looks less like an assembly line and more like the Internet, with each region linked to others near and far.

Buckner and Krienen argue that this change occurred because of the way brains develop. In the human brain, some neurons still receive chemical signals that cause them to form a bucket brigade from the sensory cortices to the motor cortices. But because of the brain's size, some neurons are too far from the signals to follow their commands.

"They may have broken off and formed a new circuit," Buckner said.

This new wiring may have been crucial to the evolution of the human mind. Our association cortices liberate us from the rapid responses of other mammal brains. These new brain regions can communicate without any input from the outside world, discovering new insights about our environment and ourselves.

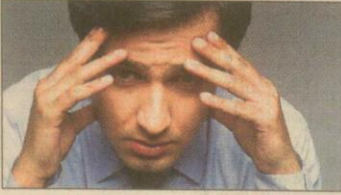
Buckner foresees a number of ways in which the tether hypothesis could be tested. "We're hoping that in the next 10 or 15 years, that might be possible," he said.

NYT

# HEALTHSCAN

# MEDICINE, FITNESS AND LIFESTYLE TRENDS

PHOTOS: THINKSTOCK AND IMAGESBAZAAR



## JOB STRESS LEADS TO ILLNESS IN OLD AGE

A new study has suggested that more mid-life job stress means more health problems during old age. The research from Finland found that both physical and mental job strain were linked to illness later in life.

Mental job strain is generally a result of tight deadlines, high demands and having little control over one's work, while physical strain includes sweating, breathlessness and muscle strain. Occasional feelings of job strain are not necessarily a bad thing, but persistent high job strain is a health hazard. The new findings come from a study of more than 5,000 middle-aged public sector employees who were initially surveyed about two decades ago.

## WHY MOMS-TO-BE NEED NUT-RICH DIET

Children whose mothers ate more peanuts and tree nuts while pregnant are less likely to develop allergies to those foods, according to a new study. The study from Boston Children's Hospital found that children of moms not allergic to peanuts and tree nuts, who ate five or more servings a week of the foods, had a reduced risk of allergies than kids whose mothers ate less than one serving a month. These findings are the first in humans to link increased expo-



sure to peanuts and tree nuts in utero and reduced allergies in children, and it also dispels the fear that eating peanuts/tree nuts during pregnancy will cause peanut allergy in the offspring.

## KICK THE BUTT FOR A SOUND SLEEP

Smoking disrupts the body clock function in both the lungs and the brain, thereby ruining productive sleep, leading to cognitive dysfunction, mood disorders, depression and anxiety, a new study claims. The study links cigarette smoke with both pulmonary and neurophysiological dysfunction.

Tobacco smoke affects clock gene expression rhythms in the lung by producing par-

allel inflammation and depressed levels of brain locomotor activity.

Short- and long-term smoking decreased a molecule known as SIRTUIN1 (SIRT1, an anti-aging molecule) and this reduction altered the level of the clock protein (BMAL1) in both lung and brain tissues that is also seen in lung tissue from human smokers and people with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

## WALK YOUR WAY TO GOOD HEALTH

In the New Year, resolve to take up a fresh fitness regime with a daily walk as an important part of it. Walking is enjoyable, helps in burning fat and is pocket-friendly too. Stepping out for a walk is a cheap and fun way to achieve the recommended 150 minutes of physical activity a week. According to health experts, walking is especially great if you're new to exercise, as it's gentle and can be built up slowly. So forget about the expensive gym memberships and make a resolution you can stick to in 2014: Get walking.



# IITians get drawn into Modi vs Kejri battle

## Guj CM To Step Up Induction Of Bright Youth Into BJP



Chitra Unnithan &  
Harit Mehta | TNN

**Ahmedabad:** If you thought the comment by outgoing Infosys director V Balakrishnan — that Aam Aadmi Party was the best start-up ever by an IIT-ian — would push the best brains towards the winds of political change blowing across the country, pause to ponder. For, alumni of the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) already form the heavy artillery in Narendra Modi's armoury as he draws political strategy to capture power in Delhi.

But the Gujarat chief minister has now competition from AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal, an IITian himself, who is finding support in premier institutes and among the urban, educated middle class — a constituency that Modi has been trying to get on board.

Last year, Modi started

building an army of bright youths through his Citizens for Accountable Governance (CAG) initiative. This was in anticipation that much of the political battle would be fought in the theatre of the youth. Almost half of the 60-odd founder members of CAG are IIT-ians. They quit from renowned organizations like Oracle, AT Kearney, JP Morgan, Google, IBM, Deutsche Bank and McKinsey, just to be part of Modi's think-tank.

The second tier comprises around 200 short-term members — around half of them again IIT-ians — who form the core of Citizens for Accountable Governance, which has 60,000 footsoldiers from good colleges across the country.

After the emergence of Arvind Kejriwal and the groundswell of support for AAP from premier institutes, Modi plans to graft the CAG

army of 60,000 into the BJP apparatus in a dozen important states. Within the next couple of months, almost 20% of BJP's active base will comprise these volunteers.

"Immediately after the win in assembly polls in December 2012, Modi started to build a platform to connect with first-time voters and youths from urban areas. CAG was launched in mid-2013 and the fact that Modi spent eight hours at an event organized by Citizens for Accountable Governance on October 2 suggests how deeply the chief minister is interested," said a Modi aide.

The Gujarat CM is learnt to have advised Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Raman Singh to take help from CAG volunteers during the assembly polls in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. "The interest in these two states on what CAG can do increased after AAP's recent surge," he said.

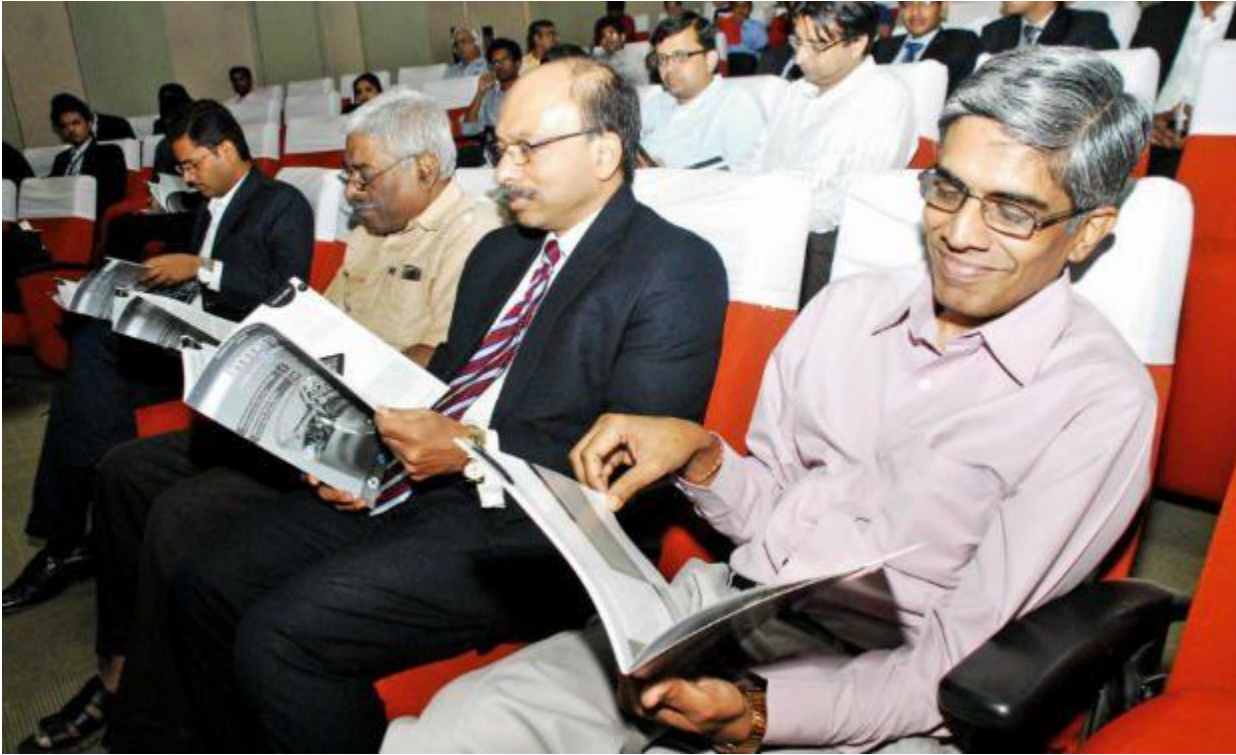
HT Kolkata

## **IIT-Kgp to hold Spring Fest**

**KOLKATA:** IIT Kharagpur would celebrate the 55th edition of Spring Fest from January 23 to 26. More than 80 events have been lined up for the gala event, which will offer students a platform to showcase their versatile talent and competitive spirit. The first edition of Spring Fest was held in 1960, making it one of the oldest cultural festivals in India. Over the last 55 years, it has grown exponentially, encompassing the aspirations and enthusiasm of students from all across the country. The Fest has been successful in raising funds for its activities through corporate deals with companies. The previous edition had over a hundred sponsors and partners. Spring Fest has also aligned with such organisations as CRY, UNESCO, Ministry of Environments and Forests and Green Peace to forward its social causes. **HTC**

## More IIT students take to research

DC | 04th Jan 2014



IIT-M director Prof. Bhaskar Ramamurthi (right), K Ananth Krishnan, CTO of Tata Consultancy Services (centre), and IIT-M dean (students) Prof. L.S. Ganesh, browse through the research magazine launched on Friday as part of Shaastra. —DC

**Chennai:** Students are growing more interested in research of late at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Madras, with 500 of them now actively involved in its research programme, according to its director, Prof. Bhaskar Ramamurthi.

Releasing the second edition of its magazine, Immerse, focusing on the research done by its students and faculty hereon Friday, he revealed the faculty-research scholar ratio was now 1:1 at the IIT-M.

“Some of the work done by the students has had commercial value as well,” he said, noting that the increase in the number of research scholars would lead to greater interaction between them and undergraduate students.

Meanwhile, dean (students) of the IIT-M, Prof. L.S. Ganesh listed the main events of the four-day Shaastra festival that kicks off on January 4.

Envisage, the first student-run tech show, is back in a bigger and better avatar this year as part of the festival.

IITians have geared up to set a world record for the largest colour display and are also ready to take to the sky with Shaastra’s favourite Air Show.

With world-renowned heli-flyers like Gunther Gold and 14-year-old Marian Mader likely to participate in the event, students are hoping it will be one of a kind and hold audiences spellbound.

## Reunion of IIT-K 1979 batch begins

TNN Jan 4, 2014, 12.13PM IST

KANPUR: The three-day reunion of 1979 batch of ex-IITians began at IIT-K on Friday.

The jubilation began, after the arrival of these ex-IITians on the campus. They hugged and greeted each other and moved around the campus to see the changes.

The former students clicked photographs of each other and of the new buildings in the institute. Many of them had come with their families.

The happiness of being back on the campus where they had studied was visible on their faces. Many of them also saw the labs where they used to work and went to the lecture hall complex to recall their good old days spent here.

More and more ex-students kept on arriving on the campus as the day progressed and finally, the alumni meet was thrown open in a programme held in the evening.

It was inaugurated by IIT-K director Indranil Manna and coordinated by Basant Joshi of 1979 batch.

On the occasion, ex-student Jayanthi Murthy was given the alumnus award.

After formal round of welcome and introduction, the ex-students and their spouses moved out to surround the bonfire which had been lit to beat the chill.

Earlier, after lunch, the ex-IITians reached the airstrip of the institute and took a ride on the glider.

The fun and frolic went on for long. Several activities were held to entertain the alumni and their family members.

## Academia-industry gap puzzles IIT-M, leading corporates

TNN Jan 4, 2014, 06.59AM IST

CHENNAI: What happens when a research idea comes out of IIT-Madras? The question and a debate over the answers engaged the panellists at a late-evening discussion on "breaking boundaries in research between academia and industry" at Shaastra 2014 Confluence at IIT-M on Friday.

Chemical engineering professor Raghunathan Rengaswamy said if the issue was about the gap between research and academia, one of the issues may be the lack of excitement on the part of industry. "The moment we present an idea before industry, question is whether the product is global or local. That is the target of industry when there is an innovative idea."

Throughout the discussion, both groups voiced concerns and anxieties, indirectly answering the complaint that research from Indian institutes, including IITs, was not enough. Madhulika Dixit, a biotechnology professor, said the problem was that India being a 'BPO country', eventually spoiled the growth of key research potentials in many other sectors. "For example, we lack large-scale research and development funding in biotechnology,



pharma, agriculture-driven industries," she said. "Industry should consider long-term funding for these sectors and industry should keep revenue for further research programmes too.

Boeing research and technology-India managing director Bala Bharadvaj said researchers should have a clue about the end-user of their product. "Just because a research is interesting (for the researcher or the institution), it need not be purchased by industry. They should always think about an end-user, or a customer for their product," he said. Let research start from problems, and industry will come to you, he told 'academia.' "Relevance is one of the major problems we find with many ideas. Boeing always looks to solutions for problems from Indian institutes and researchers. We will continue to do that," he said.

K Ananth Krishnan of [Tata Consultancy Services](#), who delivered the key-note address, said premium Indian research institutes were already picking up world class research programmes. Indian research campuses would see the integration of various sectors such as computational and experimental, biotechnology research programmes in the coming years and decades.

## Kejriwal sent invite for IIT-Kharagpur alumni meet

[Sabyasdachi Bandopadhyay](#) : Kolkata, Sun Jan 05 2014, 00:54 hrs IE

The alumni meet of the class of 1989 at IIT-Kharagpur would have been a regular get-together of old friends going down memory lane but for Arvind Kejriwal, the new chief minister of Delhi, who has been invited to the meet. Kejriwal graduated from this institute in mechanical engineering in 1989.

While it is yet not known if Kejriwal will attend the meet or not, his hostel mates at Nehru Hall, where he stayed for five years, from 1985 to 1989, have written to him to drop in "at least for a few hours". The three-day alumni meet starts January 17.

"Given his busy schedule we don't know whether he will be able to make it or not. We have requested him to come over and spend some time with us. The meet will be a great moment for us as one of our friends has become the chief minister of Delhi," said Rajeev Sharaf of the department of civil engineering, who stayed at Nehru Hall with Kejriwal and is his good friend.

Saikat Sarkar, another former hostelmate of Kejriwal and friend, said: "We will be very happy if he comes to his alma mater. We will celebrate anyway but If Arvind comes, it will give us more reasons to be happy," Sarkar, who stays in Kolkata, said.

The last time Kejriwal came to Kharagpur was in 2009 when he received the Distinguished Alumnus Award from the institute.

Sharaf, who runs a business and is now in Delhi, said eight inmates of Nehru Hall from the class of 1989 have confirmed their visit to Kharagpur. About 100 alumni of that year are coming, Sharaf added. The alumni meet will have students who have completed 25 years, 40 years and 50 years.

## Ex-IITian develops power converter to prevent energy loss

TNN Jan 4, 2014, 12.10PM IST

KANPUR: Umesh Kumar Mishra, a faculty member of University of California, who had come to attend the 35th reunion of the batch of 1979 at IIT-K, has developed a power converter which is capable of converting AC power into DC and vice versa. The converter had been developed, aiming to lower down the energy loss during the conversion of power.

Mishra said: "We have developed this power converter, realising that around 15% of the power goes for a waste when the conversion is done. The converter reduces the energy loss to just 2%. Therefore, the major property of this converter is that it efficiently converts the power either from AC to DC or DC to AC."

The converter uses a semi-conductor named gallium nitride. The demand for the power converter is on the rise in US. It is being used in Japan since 2012.

People have started using the power converters for domestic use, he added.

He had first demonstrated this product in Japan with a Japanese partner in November 2012.

"My company will start the mass production of the power converters both in US and Japan. The product will be sold in the markets of US, Japan, China and Taiwan," he said.

When questioned about the cost, Mishra mentioned that every new technology costs high in the beginning but costs less when the mass manufacturing begins. Therefore, the cost of the product will come down in the times to come.

Talking about the application at the domestic level, Mishra said that the power converters can be used with solar panels, inverters, laptops etc.

Recalling the first major research work done for NASA in US, Mishra said, "I and three other members of my team had developed an amplifier after a hard work of two-and-a-half-year which was attached with the spacecraft and launched in the space. The amplifier helped in receiving clear signals (images) of the space. This work was done in 1986."

He informed that the spacecraft later moved out of our solar system (went into deep space) but still sometimes at a very slow pace, the amplifier sends the images of the outer space.

The high-end technology used in the amplifier has gone a long way in serving several fields, including its use in the direct to home service which is popularly known as D2H.

"As the time moved ahead, the technology evolved itself and the size of the amplifier became small and its use increased manifold in different products," he said.

Mishra completed his BTech in electrical engineering from IIT-K in 1979. He pursued his PhD from Cornell University.

# Engg Colleges Under UGC Till AICTE Gets its Act Together

By S Mannar Mannan / U Anand Kumar | ENS - COIMBATORE/NEW DELHI

Published: 04th January 2014 07:24 AM

Last Updated: 04th January 2014 07:25 AM

It's official. Engineering colleges and other technical institutions would be governed by the University Grants Commission

for the coming academic year. However, this is an interim measure until such time the Union HRD Ministry sets out to amend the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) Act to give it jurisdiction over technical education programmes.

Affiliation of BE/BTech and other technical courses was in limbo for 2014-15 as confusion had reigned supreme over the regulation of technical education programmes in the country following a Supreme Court verdict divesting the AICTE from governing these courses. In the absence of clear cut directions, all technical universities in the country had deferred granting affiliation to engineering colleges and technical institutions. "The HRD Ministry at a meeting held in New Delhi on December 31 decided to grant the power of regulating technical institutions to the UGC. The draft regulation for technical institutions will be finalised at UGC's next meeting on January 10," UGC Vice Chairman H Devaraj told Express in Coimbatore on Friday. The draft regulations seek to empower respective State universities to receive applications, scrutinise them and grant approval for existing and new technical institutions in the country.

In a related development, Union Higher Education Secretary Ashok Thakur said the AICTE Act would be amended to "basically restore the earlier powers of the AICTE."

# Mumbai University suspends prof for 'exposing' vice-chancellor

Sunday, Jan 5, 2014, 10:36 IST | Place: Mumbai | Agency: DNA

Vinamrata Borwankar

The University of Mumbai on Saturday issued a letter of suspension to its professor from the economics department, Neeraj Hatekar, for allegedly misinforming the media about irregularities by the vice-chancellor and, hence, breaching the code of conduct.

The suspension order has come days after the professor held a press conference on December 12, 'exposing' vice-chancellor Rajan Welukar for mismanagement of the university.

"The university has issued the suspension letter to Hatekar for misinforming the media and not abiding by the code of conduct," said a varsity official.

Hatekar feels the suspension order is the university's way of counter attacking. "All my allegations are supported by documents and, hence, cannot be misinformation. Just because I tried to expose the people in power, they have handed me a suspension letter," he said.

"They will now conduct a departmental inquiry into the matter and take their own sweet time to come to a conclusion. Till then, I have no choice but to wait with my hands folded," he added.

In his press conference, the professor, as part of a group called Joint Action Committee for Improvement of Higher Education, had levelled allegations such as failure to collect its share of annual student fees from colleges, several co-opted members on the boards of studies not being qualified, unusable lecture halls, malpractices in conduct of examinations and dilution of the qualifications for being a PhD guide. The group had urged the governor to demand Welukar's resignation.

The varsity refuted the allegations following Hatekar's press conference and alleged that he had himself violated rules. "The information provided by Neeraj Hatekar has been provided with an ulterior motive and are based only half set of information (sic)," said a statement issued by the university.

The statement said Hatekar, who has been a member of the Board of Studies for the past three years, had attended the meetings only once.

Hatekar has been associated with the university for over 20 years and has over 40 published papers to his credit. He has also been a part of various committees in the university.

**January 6, 2014**

Mint ND 06-Jan-14 p-1

## Govt decides on single-tier exam, counselling for engineering seats

BY PRASHANT K. NANDA  
prashant.n@livemint.com

NEW DELHI

All central government-funded engineering schools, including the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), will select students through a common entrance examination in 2015, merging the existing two-tier joint entrance examination (JEE), the human resource ministry has decided.

As a precursor to the new admission format, all engineering colleges will have to conduct common counselling for students in 2014, according to the government decision.

Currently, the JEE-Main is used as a selection examination for all central government-funded technical schools, including the National Institutes of Technology (NITs) and the Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIITs), while students opting for the IITs need to clear the JEE-Advanced examination.

The top 150,000 students of the main examination are eligible to sit for the JEE-Advanced test for a seat in the 16

TURN TO PAGE 3 ►

# Government decides on counselling, single-tier exam

► FROM PAGE 1

IITs and Indian School of Mines (ISM), Dhanbad.

The human resource ministry has decided to merge the JEE-Advanced and JEE-Main entrance exams from next year and the IITs have been informed about it, said Ashok Thakur, higher education secretary.

In 2012, the government devised the two-tier JEE system, after almost a year of protests and deliberation with the IITs and other top technical schools, to reduce the influence of coach-

ing centres on aspirants for the top technical colleges and making the admission process simpler for students.

"For this year, our agenda is that we want to have common counselling," Thakur said. "We are very keen on joint counselling. That's the issue and we want to get after them (IITs). Last year, we tried but IIT Delhi (the coordinating IIT) was very adamant."

Under the current format, the IITs conduct student counselling first, followed by the NITs and other top schools, which are carried out after a month, especially after the Class-12 school board results are available. India has more than 23 school boards.

While the IITs and ISM admit more than 9,600 students a year at the undergraduate level, other top schools admit more than 25,000 students. At least 1.4 million students appeared for the JEE-Main exam last year and the top 150,000 sat for the JEE-Advanced test.

"This (two separate counsellings) defeats the purpose of a central exam. What we are asking

them is to prepare one merit list," said Thakur. The general perception is that IITs feel that they are a cut above the rest and it's not advisable for them to sit with

other technology and engineering schools.

The students of many NITs are very good and joint counselling will help the students and engineering schools in not just reducing hassles but will also help to reduce the number of seats falling vacant, says Thakur.

About 600 seats at the IITs and the NITs fell vacant in 2012 because of separate counselling that allows a candidate to receive offers from an IIT as well as an NIT at the same time.

A candidate who gets an offer from an IIT and an NIT hangs on to the IIT seat while waiting for his choice of subject in an NIT. By the time the

candidate decides on the final place to join, it is often too late for the colleges to fill up these vacant seats. Under the proposed common counselling system, a student will get only one choice. If a candidate does not accept it, then he will be given the option to join another school.

"The effort should be to make life easier for students. I don't know about common counselling but if that reduces vacant seats, then it's good. But from a student's point of view, a good college with a good subject choice is very important," said Amit Kumar Biswal, a JEE-aspirant from Hyderabad this year.

The IITs said the plan for a joint counselling may not yield the desired results. "Earlier, we used to do one round of counselling for admitting students, the government told us to do twice and then three rounds and we have done that. But has the situation improved? I don't think so. Students take admission and then leave for a better course or leave for a foreign school later. How will you fill up those seats?" said H.C. Gupta, a professor of IIT-Delhi and chairman of the IIT-JEE Advanced exam last year.

A senior administrator from another leading IIT said a one-exam system is not a desirable format. "Once the new government comes, they may take a different view than what the present government thinks," the official said, requesting anonymity.

About 600 seats at the IITs and the NITs fell vacant in 2012 because of separate counselling

# Govt Seeks Common Counselling during IIT & NIT Admissions Again

**URMI A GOSWAMI**  
NEW DELHI

The government is reviving a plan, which has been thwarted before, to hold joint counselling sessions at the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and the National Institutes of Technology (NITs) to avoid seats going vacant.

The IITs have previously blocked such a proposal on the grounds that their admissions process ends a month or so before that of the NITs. Others say the resistance stems from the IITs considering themselves a cut above the NITs and not wanting to dilute this branding. But the human resource development ministry has again asked that the 16 IITs and 30 NITs jointly guide students on course choice.

The current system allows candidates to get admission offers from both the IITs and NITs. With the IIT admission process starting earlier, candidates join courses even though they may not have got the specialisation that they want, they are loath to let go of a confirmed seat. But if they get the course they want at one of the NITs, they may

give up the IIT seat. By this time, it's too late to offer the IIT place to the next student on the list.

The ministry knows that the IITs are likely to resist the directive once again but ministry officials are of the view that this is killing the chances of students lower down the merit list.

"Common counselling will reduce the vacancy of seats," higher education secretary Ashok Thakur said.

Last year, 600 places were unfilled, double what it was in 2012. "Often candidates pay the admission fee for their allotted seats in an IIT and in an NIT, and then decide where they want to join. Very often they don't cancel their admission till the last minute, resulting in vacancies that become clear only after the session starts," a ministry official said. "As a result, many candidates with lower JEE (joint entrance exam) ranks do not get the opportunity for admission."

Common counselling means a student will receive only one offer from the IITs and NITs. A second option will be given only if the candidate rejects the first offer.

"A student will receive an offer

## Testing Merit

The HRD ministry has again asked the 16 IITs & 30 NITs to jointly guide students on course choice

A student will receive an offer from only one institute, either an IIT or an NIT, at a time," says higher education secretary Ashok Thakur

IITs opposed the common exam on the grounds that it would adversely impact "quality"

Ministry officials are of the view that the move to counsel commonly is killing the chances of students lower down the merit list



from only one institute, either an IIT or an NIT, at a time," Thakur said. The IITs said the admission for the two sets of schools being about a month apart makes it difficult to coordinate the process when the joint counselling system was suggested last year.

The IITs have opposed efforts to put in place common processes, be they related to entrance examinations or counselling.

"There is a sense in the IITs that

any such effort would dilute their brand and undermine their image as the country's premier engineering institution," said the administrator of an engineering college that's not an IIT.

The ministry is of the view the qualitative difference between the IITs and NITs is not that wide. "The difference between the IITs and NITs intake marks is a very few percentage points," the higher education secretary said. The min-

istry plans to be resolute this time around, despite the likelihood that the IITs will resist the plan.

Thakur said a joint counselling system was in keeping with the aim of a unified entrance examination for all engineering colleges. "At the last IIT Council meeting, it was agreed that there would a joint entrance examination for all centrally funded technical institutions from 2015-16," he said.

In 2012, the IIT Council decided to move forward with a single exam for admission to centrally-funded institutions.

The IITs opposed the common exam on the grounds that it would adversely impact "quality". They argued that the JEE and the admission process was integral to ensuring that the IITs continued to be the country's top engineering colleges. Over the course of a few months and repeated discussions, it was decided that the IITs would select students on the basis of a second test, the JEE Advanced, while the NITs would use the JEE Main scores and the Class XII board exam results as well.

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## JEE Main, JEE Advanced to be merged from 2015

All engineering colleges, including IITs, will have to conduct common counselling for students in 2014



Currently, the JEE-Main is used as a selection examination for all central government-funded technical schools. Photo: Hemant Mishra/ Mint

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Hindustan Times ND 06-Jan-14 p-6

**Government taking steps to put Indian institutes on top**

Press Trust of India

With Indian academic institutes failing to figure in the global ranking list, government has proposed appointment of nodal professors to coordinate with international ranking agencies to help place the country's institutes among the best.

The move initiated by the HRD Ministry comes amid widespread perception that Indian institutes failed to find a place among the best due to lack of data available with ranking bodies such as Times Higher Education and QS World University Ranking.

Higher Education Secretary Ashok Thakur said a workshop would be conducted soon where a set of guidelines would be finalised for the nodal persons to take into consideration while providing the relevant data to the ranking bodies.

Times Higher Education, he said, has also decided to release an India specific ranking list. So far, none of the Indian institutes feature among the top 100 in the world ranking. Panjab University is the highest ranked Indian institution clubbed in the group of universities ranked between 226-250 ranks by Times.

Absence of Indian institute in the list of the elite group has often been highlighted by President Pranab Mukherjee among others.

After the matter was raised in the IIT council meeting, some of these institutes decided to set up committees individually to engage with the ranking agencies to figure in the ranking list.



■ Panjab University is highest ranked in the global list of top universities FILE

Hindu ND 06-Jan-14 p-11

**Move to put educational centres on global ranking list**

Anita Joshua

**NEW DELHI:** Times Higher Education (THE) — recognised world over for its ranking of higher education institutions — has agreed to draw up an India-specific indicator that would act as a parameter for global education stakeholders and international students to judge Indian educational institutions.

This was disclosed by Higher Education Secretary in the Union Human Resource Development Ministry Ashok Thakur.

With Indian institutions not doing particularly well on the ranking list of both THE and QS — partly because of Indian course structures — an India-specific indicator, it is hoped, would address the structural differences.

**Nodal officer**

Also, all Centrally-funded institutions — be they the universities, Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) or the National Institutes of Technology (NITs) — will have a nodal officer for their respective genres to provide data to the ranking agencies.

Rankings have assumed significance as India is attempting to integrate with the global education market. Though the IITs, IIMs, All India Institute of Medical Sciences and some of the Central and State universities have produced the leading lights in their respective fields world over — contributing to India's brain drain — these institutions do not feature very high on ranking lists.

**Reverse brain drain**

Meanwhile, according to Mr. Thakur, the IITs and IIMs are witnessing a "reverse brain drain" as many expatriates are returning to these institutions as faculty members.



# HRD to push for two ordinances

ANUBHUTI VISHNOI

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 5

THE Human Resource Development (HRD) Ministry is planning to push, in the next few days, two ordinances to enable three new central educational institutes to award degrees to the first batch of students who pass out this year.

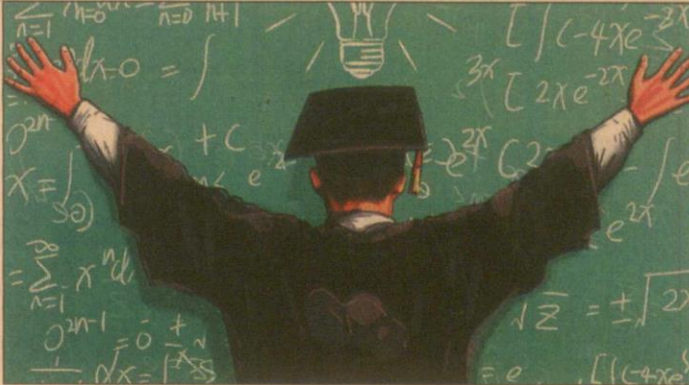
Several education Bills are pending in Parliament and there is little hope of these being passed any time soon. The Pallam Raju-led HRD Ministry is particularly concerned about the Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) Bill 2013, and a Bill to include the new Schools of Planning and Architecture in the list of institutions of national importance, giving them status of independent statutory bodies that can award degrees.

Only if these Bills are passed will students passing out this year from IIIT, Kancheepuram, SPA, Bhopal and SPA, Vijayawada, get degrees. With little scope of the Bills being passed in time by Parliament, the ministry has decided to enable the institutes to award degrees by seeking

the ordinance route, top sources in the ministry confirmed. "These are absolutely non-controversial Bills. That apart, students' interest has to be kept in mind, so we will soon take these ordinances to Cabinet," sources said.

Incidentally, the ordinance route was rejected for restoring All India Council Technical Education (AICTE) powers revoked last year after a Supreme Court order. The Law Ministry, it is learnt, advised an amendment to the AICTE Act to restore the powers. The HRD Ministry as advised by the Law Ministry, will bring an interim arrangement as per which AICTE will continue to set regulatory standards for technical education but it will be the National Board of Assessment that will assess an institute against AICTE standards. Further, powers to approve courses/affiliation will lie with universities. The University Grants Commission (UGC) will issue guidelines on approval of courses. The ministry has called a meeting of UGC and AICTE officials on January 10 to work on these guidelines. s

# Times Higher Education to Add India-Specific Parameters to Ranking



Domestic institutions have long argued that the rankings do not take into account extenuating "Indian circumstances"

**URMI A GOSWAMI**  
NEW DELHI

Indian institutions could improve their scores dramatically in Times Higher Education's globally cited World University Rankings as the British magazine has agreed to develop and include India-specific parameters for assessment from the next time.

Confirming the development, education secretary Ashok Thakur said the human resource development ministry had asked all groupings of domestic institutions such as the IITs, National Institutes of Technology and central universities to appoint a nodal person to coordinate with Times Higher Education to develop India-specific parameters.

Domestic institutions have long argued that the rankings, which give 55% weightage to research indicators and 30% to teaching environment including 15% to the faculty, do not take into account extenuating "Indian circumstances".

No Indian institution has yet made it to the top 100 in the rankings, in which Panjab University is the highest ranked domestic institution clubbed in the group of universities ranked 226-250.

India's premier engineering colleges, the Indian Institutes of Technology, made it to the list last year, with the IITs from Delhi, Kanpur, Kharagpur and Roorkee all ranked in the group of institutions between 351 and 400.

The government has been concerned over the poor performance of domestic institutions in

international rankings and keen to ensure that the rankings take India-specific parameters on board.

There is little clarity on what exactly constitutes "Indian circumstances" except the constitutionally mandated reservation quotas (15% for scheduled castes, 7.5% for scheduled tribes and 27% for other backward classes) and the cross-cutting quota for physically-challenged persons. But issues including intake of foreign students, foreign faculty, marketing and branding of institutions will be addressed while designing India-specific parameters for assessment.

Academics and analysts argue that it is unfair to compare India's top institutions with American or other western institutions. Centrally-funded institutions such as the IITs, which have a national mandate, cannot admit foreign students at the undergraduate level, and restrictions on assistantships for international students make it difficult to attract foreign students at the PhD level.

None of India's publicly-funded higher education institution can hire foreign nationals as regular faculty members since guidelines prohibit hiring of foreigners for jobs with salaries less than \$25,000 a year. Moreover, even at higher salaries, international faculty can only be brought in on contract for up to five years.

The ministry had also approached the widely respected Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) Rankings to develop India-specific parameters for assessment.

# Reliance Jio unveils 4G services at IIT Bombay event



People try out the cricket gaming features at a showcase of Reliance Jio's 4G services at IIT-Bombay on Sunday

PHOTO: SURYAKANT NIWATE

**KATYA B NAIDU**  
Mumbai, 5 January

Wireless machines that measure blood pressure and record data in the cloud so that it can be accessed remotely. Mobile phone-based urine analysis. These were some of the fourth-generation (4G) services displayed by Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Jio Infocomm, the only operator in India with a nationwide licence to provide such services. While 4G services are yet to be rolled out, Reliance Jio gave a sneak peek of what could be expected at Techfest, the annual science and technology festival of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) here.

Also on display were Reliance Jio's entertainment-based services, which included an Android-based set-top box that allows users to view live high-definition TV shows without glitches and breaks. It also has a service called Catch-up TV, wherein one can watch TV shows which are seven days old.

"There is no need for recording TV shows. We store seven days of programming on our server, and a user can access it anytime (within seven days)," said an exhibitor at the company's stall. Jio, which has been procuring entertainment-based content, has around 500 Indian movies and 2,500 episodes of Indian TV shows to be streamed and watched online.

"A user can watch half the show or movie on his or her TV, pause it and watch the rest either on a tablet or a mobile phone, using the same log-in," said the exhibitor. The company also has a Jio Drive service, where 100 GB of storage on the cloud is offered free to subscribers. This could be used to store videos, documents and pictures, and allows for easy peer-to-peer sharing. This service is available across Windows, Mac and Android operating systems.

The operator has tied up with Bharti Airtel and Reliance Communications to spruce up its infrastructure backbone. It has set up test networks of its high-speed 4G connectivity at zones and areas at the IIT campus, to give students a feel of the 4G experience. On a fibre backbone, the speeds were as high as 51 Mbps. Long-term evolution technology, through which tablets and other wireless devices were connected, had speeds of more than two Mbps, as it was spread across multiple devices.

"This is merely to test our networks and get feedback from these young users," said a Reliance Jio official. He added that some of the applications were developed in-house.

Reliance Jio's pilot remote healthcare project, which is now restricted to six Reliance Foundation clinics, was also on display at Techfest.

# Transparency and rules

## Who should regulate business schools?

Should institutions that teach business management (B-schools) be supervised and controlled by the University Grants Commission (UGC), which is an agency of the government? The government and the UGC think they should, so that gullible and anxious students are not cheated by unscrupulous operators; B-schools do not agree. They think the UGC doesn't have the competence to regulate and supervise them; they are pointing to the mess that the UGC has made of the universities. The UGC says if it is going to take over technical education generally, B-schools cannot be an exception. It has been following the Supreme Court's ruling to draft guidelines for the approval of new courses, setting up of new technical institutions and the closure of the old ones, not to mention other regulatory steps.

The need for this arose after the unsupervised growth of B-schools led, inevitably, to the proliferation of fraudulent institutions. During the high-growth years of 2003-10, such was the demand for MBAs that all that was needed to set up a management institute was the "benevolence" of the All-India Council for Technical Education (AICTE). When the economy began to slow, the demand for MBAs shrank. By July last year, almost 100 of them had asked to be shut down, as indeed had several engineering colleges. But a few months before that, in April, came the Supreme Court order, which effectively allowed private colleges to conduct masters of business administration and masters of computer applications programmes without the permission of the AICTE. This also meant that the UGC took over technical education, while the AICTE was expected to play only an advisory role and prescribe uniform standards of education for affiliated members of a university. The UGC, thus, issued guidelines whose original intention was to prevent fraud. But there are other regulations that have led B-schools to fear that their autonomy could be destroyed. This has happened because of overreach by the UGC. So around 100 of them, including some well-known ones, have decided to approach the Supreme Court to hear their case and get a stay order. The matter has acquired some urgency because this is the admissions season.

One typically Indian problem is that if a B-school is affiliated to a university, it can grant a degree; if it is autonomous, it can offer "only" a diploma. The irony is that in 99 per cent of the cases, the diploma has a higher market value than the degree because the university system has many problems. If the diploma courses have to become part of the university system, as is feared, admissions on merit will suffer, and consequently placements. It is not clear whether all autonomous institutions will have to come under the UGC's yoke and what the advisory powers of the AICTE would mean for them. The final decision will have to be taken by the ministry of human resources development. The problem is not all that hard to solve, but it does require the government to know which problems it can solve and which ones are best left to the market. The soluble problem is of infrastructure. These rules can be devised in such a way that tricksters cannot enter the market because of the high capital requirements. Once enough capital is invested, investors will see to it that frauds do not occur. Placements, which depend on the institution's reputation, can then be left to the market.

# Govt to launch Internet spy system 'Netra' SOON

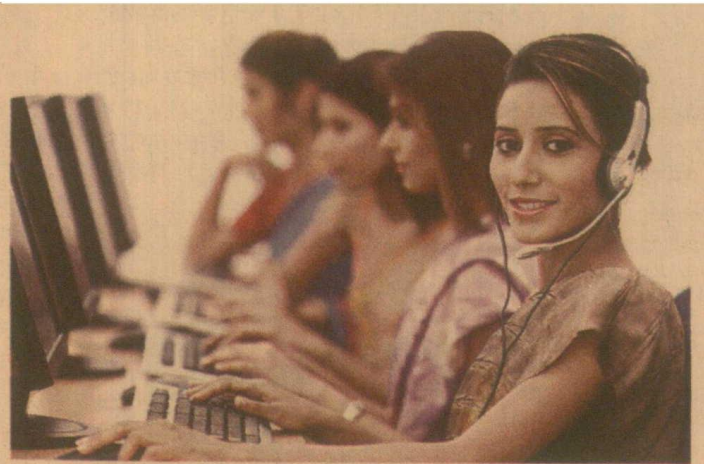
Press Trust of India  
New Delhi, Jan. 5

The Home Ministry is giving finishing touches to 'Netra', an Internet spy system capable of detecting *mala fide* messages. It will be deployed by all security agencies to capture any dubious voice traffic passing through software such as Skype or Google Talk, besides write-ups in tweets, status updates, emails, instant messaging transcripts, Internet calls, blogs and forums.

The 'Netra' has been developed by the Centre for Artificial Intelligence and Robotics (CAIR), a lab under Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

"The specifications of the 'Netra' system can be taken as frozen following tests by the Intelligence Bureau and Cabinet Secretariat, and can be considered for providing multiple user access to security agencies," a Home Ministry note on Netra says.

Economic Times Hindi ND 6.01.2014 p-7



## इस बार इंफोसिस में होगा ज्यादा इंक्रीमेंट!

[ इंदु नंदकुमार | बंगलुरु ]

इंफोसिस इस बार अपने एंफ्लॉयज की सैलरी में 10 पसेंट से ज्यादा बढ़ोतरी कर सकती है। इस मामले से वाकिफ लोगों के मुताबिक, इसके जरिए कंपनी के चेयरमैन एन आर नारायणमूर्ति अपने एक लाख 50 हजार एंफ्लॉयज का उत्साह बनाए रखना चाहते हैं। कंपनी की ग्रोथ के रफ्तार पकड़ने के संकेत मिले हैं, लेकिन हाल के महीनों में बंगलुरु की इस कंपनी से कई सीनियर एग्जिक्यूटिव्स की विदाई हो चुकी है। ऐसे में कंपनी अपने एंफ्लॉयज का हौसला बरकरार रखने के लिए वेतन में अच्छी बढ़ोतरी को जरूरी मान रही है।

एक सीनियर इंडस्ट्री एग्जिक्यूटिव ने नाम जाहिर नहीं किए जाने की शर्त पर बताया, 'इंफोसिस ने न सिर्फ सैलरी में अच्छी बढ़ोतरी का फैसला किया है, बल्कि एंफ्लॉयज को प्रमोशन देने पर भी विचार कर रही है। एंफ्लॉयज को प्रोत्साहित करने के लिए सैलरी में 8-12 फीसदी की बढ़ोतरी हो सकती है। इंफोसिस आमतौर पर जून में सैलरी में बढ़ोतरी का ऐलान करती है।' कंपनी के प्रवक्ता ने हालांकि इस मामले में कुछ भी कहने से मना कर दिया।

पिछले साल इंफोसिस ने मूर्ति के एग्जिक्यूटिव चेयरमैन के तौर पर अपनी वापसी के बाद सैलरी में औसतन 8 फीसदी बढ़ोतरी की थी। इंडियन आईटी सेक्टर से जुड़ी हायरिंग कंपनी आईक्या ह्युमन कैपिटल सॉल्यूशंस के मैनेजिंग डायरेक्टर और सीईओ अजीत इसाक ने कहा, 'मुझे लगता है कि मूर्ति इस बार सैलरी में ज्यादा बढ़ोतरी का ऐलान करेंगे। दरअसल, सैलरी हाइक और कई अन्य फैक्टर्स एंफ्लॉयज को कंपनी में बनाए रखने में बेहद अहम होंगे।'

नौकरी छोड़ने की रफ्तार ज्यादा :

एनालिस्ट्स का कहना है कि सैलरी में अच्छी बढ़ोतरी का फैसला स्वागत योग्य कदम है, लेकिन इससे कंपनी के मार्जिन पर असर पड़ सकता है। एक फॉरेन ब्रोकरेज फर्म के एनालिस्ट ने नाम जाहिर नहीं किए जाने की शर्त पर बताया, 'इस समय एंफ्लॉयज का हौसला बढ़ाना मार्जिन में गिरावट की चिंता से ज्यादा अहम है।' सितंबर क्वार्टर में इंफोसिस में नौकरी छोड़ने वालों की संख्या 17.3 फीसदी थी। यह टीयर-1 आईटी कंपनियों के लिहाज से सबसे ज्यादा है। इससे साफ है कि 108 अरब डॉलर की आउटसोर्सिंग इंडस्ट्री में डिमांड बढ़ने के साथ ही इंफोसिस प्रतिस्पर्धी कंपनियों के लिए एंफ्लॉयि मुहैया कराने का जरिया बन गई है। टाटा कंसल्टेंसी सर्विसेज ने बीते साल अप्रैल में सैलरी में 5-10 फीसदी की बढ़ोतरी की थी और दूसरे क्वार्टर के आखिर में यहां नौकरी छोड़कर जाने वालों का आंकड़ा 10.9 फीसदी था। पिछले साल जून में विप्रो ने कहा था कि वह एंफ्लॉयज की सैलरी में 6-8 फीसदी की बढ़ोतरी करेगी।

# Revived Nalanda University to start functioning next month

China, Singapore have committed \$1 million, \$5-6 million respectively

**NEW DELHI, IANS:** The revived Nalanda University, an international centre of learning coming up in Bihar, is taking a small but positive step towards launching operations from later this year.

The first batch of students, faculty and staff are to move by February-end to Rajgir, about 100 km from Patna, adjacent to where the international university is set to come up.

"By the end of February we are moving to Rajgir. We are taking hotels nearby, exploring all options," an official source said.

Nalanda University at present has 40 students or Nalanda fellows. Along with the faculty

and staff, they would operate out of the temporary campus till the actual structure comes up.

"The Bihar government has offered us use of its health department office. The Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar is personally monitoring the project," the source added.

The university, an initiative of the Indian government and the 18 East Asia Summit countries, is coming up around 12 km from the ruins of its ancient namesake that was flocked by thousands of scholars and thinkers from across the world till the 12th century. It was then destroyed by an invading Turkish army of Bakhtiyar Khilji, a general of Qutbuddin Aibak. It

was set on fire by the invaders and the blaze in the huge library is believed to have raged for several days.

An around eight-km boundary wall marks the 446-acre campus where the modern centre of excellence is to come up. The residential university, due to be completed by 2020, is to have seven schools - all for postgraduate and doctorate students.

The university is to start its first academic session from this year. The first batch of students will be enrolled for two postgraduate programmes in history and ecology and environmental studies.

Last May, the Nalanda board had approved the architectural

plan of the proposed university.

"The government is fast-tracking the university," said the source.

The Nalanda University (Amendment) Bill 2013 was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on Sep 5, 2013, by the external affairs ministry and was referred to a parliamentary standing committee. The committee's report was tabled in the Rajya Sabha during the December winter session of parliament.

The department of expenditure has cleared the Rs 2,700 crore for the university to be spent over 10 years. The approval of the cabinet committee on economic affairs is now being sought.

China has already committed \$1 million for the project. Singapore has pledged \$5-6 million and Australia about \$1 million Australian dollars. All the funds have been committed on a voluntary basis.

During his trip to Brunei in October, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh inked agreements with seven EAS countries that have pledged their commitment to the Nalanda University project.

The memorandums of understanding were signed with Australia, Cambodia, Singapore, Brunei, New Zealand, Laos and Myanmar. India signed the Mou with China during the Prime Minister's visit to Beijing in November.

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# With GSLV blast-off, India a cryogenic rocket power

## Isro Gets Closer To Manned Space Missions

Arun Ram | TNN

Sriharikota: For a nation that has grappled with high-end cryogenics for two decades, Sunday marked the triumphant end of a long wait, one propelled by resilience in the face of repeated failures.

Indian Space Research Organisation's (Isro's) GSLV-DF rocket, powered by an indigenous cryogenic engine, injected into orbit a telecommunication satellite, GSAT-14, with clockwork precision. So precise was the launch that

### FULL COVERAGE: P 15

the satellite reached 40m within the targeted perigee (nearest point from Earth) of 179km and only 50km from the 36,000km apogee (farthest point from Earth).

The successful launch will make one of the cutting edge technological breakthroughs — manned mission to space — a possibility.

## 'NAUGHTY BOY' AT HIS BEST TODAY

**Geo-synchronicity** | Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle fired by indigenous cryogenic engine places communication satellite in orbit in sync with rotation of Earth

**The Launch** | Liftoff at 4.18pm. 17 minutes later, GSLV D-5 rocket injects 1,982kg satellite into highest orbit ever achieved in Indian space history

► GSLV rocket can carry satellites weighing more than 2 tonnes, place them in precise, higher and transfer orbits. Only US, Russia, Japan, China and France have the technology

**Cryogenic Quest** | In early 90s, India received 7 cryogenic engines from Russia; Isro used 6 for GSLV launches. Tech embargo forced India to learn to perfect **cryogenics — handling of materials at extremely low temperatures** — and develop its own cryogenic engine

► Indigenous engine developed over two decades by Isro, Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre and Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre

**Benefits** | India can put heavy communication satellites into higher orbits, fly manned missions, send interplanetary missions or probes

“It was 1,000 days of hard work... GSLV has been the naughty boy of Isro. Now, it has become an obedient boy

K Sivan | GSLV PROJECT DIRECTOR

GSLV-D5 lifted off at 4.18pm from the second launchpad at Satish Dhawan Space Centre, the roar from its engines drowning the applause that reverberated in the mission control room.

“All the stages of GSLV-D5 performed as planned,” Isro chairman K Radhakrishnan said. “The mission is a suc-

cess. We dedicate this proud moment to the country.”

With this, India has become the sixth spacefarer after US, Russia, the European Space Agency, China and Japan to develop a cryogenic engine — a prerequisite for interplanetary probes and manned space missions.

While India's PSLV has

been a roaring success and the workhorse for its space mission, it cannot, unlike GSLV, carry communication satellites weighing more than 2,000kg into a geosynchronous transfer orbit, which would have the same rotation speed as Earth.

► '1,000 tough days', P 15



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# Rainwater harvesting can help AAP

## Focus Should Be On Constructing, Monitoring RWH Systems, Say Experts

Jayashree Nandi | TNN

New Delhi: Aam Aadmi Party may be yet to achieve its goal of equitable water supply in Delhi but this can be worked out in the long run. It is hoped that AAP will take up rainwater harvesting in a big way to meet the massive demand of consumers, especially those in unauthorized colonies. But the trick lies in not just creating rainwater harvesting structures but monitoring them constantly.

Delhi Jal Board is already preparing maps of districts where there are over 2,000 square metres of open space—which may include rooftops, roads, drains and green areas—to create rainwater harvesting structures. “The government should immediately start preparing for the coming monsoons to make sure there is enough water. It costs about Rs 8-10 lakh to set up a rainwater

### RELIEF FROM THE SKY



Delhi has capacity to harvest **5,600** billion litres of rainwater

Even if **50%** of the potential is harvested, there can be huge savings, experts say

COST PER STRUCTURE

₹ 30,000-50,000 for 1,000 litre rainwater harvesting well

₹ 8,000-10,000 for recharge pit (approx 2-3 cubic feet)

Cost per colony of approx 400 households

₹10lakh

for roof-top tanks, pits, wells etc

harvesting system for a colony or block of 400 residents,” Jyoti Sharma of NGO FORCE said.

Estimates of how much water can be harvested in Delhi are mindboggling. According to estimates by Centre for Science and Environment, 5,600 billion litres of rainwater can be harvested in Delhi every year. Even if half of this is harvested, it can meet the needs of more than four crore households. RWH is already mandatory for new buildings in the city but there is no penalty for those who default nor do we have a monitoring system. There is no documentation of how much rainwater has Delhi harvested till date or how many RWH structures are currently present.

“There is no monitoring agency to check if the system is actually implemented or whether it’s effective. AAP gov-

ernment should focus on conserving lakes and ponds because they are very important groundwater recharge zones. The plan should integrate conservation of water bodies with erecting RWH structures across the city,” Sushmita Sen-gupta, in charge of water policy advocacy at CSE, said.

It would be more efficient to work on groundwater recharge than storing the rainwater in tanks. AAP may also try to reuse sewage water more efficiently. Prof A K Mittal of IIT says there will be no water crunch provided bulk users are supplied only treated sewage. “Give only treated sewage to Northern Railways, industries and malls. The water saved can be supplied to people instead. AAP should be utilizing the 750 mm of rainfall we receive every year,” Mittal said.

# Centre sceptical about quota for DU

## DUTA Criticizes Sisodia's Plan To Reserve Seats For Students From Delhi

Akshaya Mukul & Manash Pratim Gohain | TNN

New Delhi: Calling the proposal for reservation of seats in the Delhi government-funded colleges of Delhi University for local students a non-starter, the Union HRD ministry officials said education minister Manish Sisodia's promise to implement the quota will not be easy to fulfil.

Just weeks before the assembly elections, the then higher education minister, A K Walia, had announced that 90% seats in 12 DU colleges which are completely funded by the city government will be reserved for Delhi students. In 16 other colleges, which receive 50% grants and 5% recurring grants, the local quota would be 50%. BJP had also promised reservation for Delhi students in DU colleges.

Within a week of taking over as the education minister, Sisodia told TOI that they will implement the previous government's decision. "The previous government announced it, but didn't act on it. To implement it, you have to come to an arrangement with the Delhi University and human resource development ministry. If people of Delhi are funding something, shouldn't they benefit from it?," said Sisodia.

### CAPITAL BIAS

Delhi government plans to execute the previous regime's plan to introduce quota in DU colleges for students from Delhi. About 12,000 (68%) seats will then be reserved for Delhi students across 28 DU colleges

#### What Dikshit govt proposed on Oct 1, 2013

- 90% quota in colleges funded 100% by Delhi govt
- 50% quota when govt is providing 50% grant for capital work and 5% as recurring grant

#### POSSIBLE OUTCOME

12 colleges slated for 90% quota | Acharya Narendra Dev, Aditi Mahavidyalaya, Bhaskaracharya College of Applied Sciences, Bhim Rao Ambedkar, Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Bhagini Nivedita, Indira Gandhi Institute of Physical Education & Sports Sciences, Keshav Mahavidyalaya, Maharaja Agrasen, Maharshi Valmiki College of Education, Shaheed Sukhdev College of Business Studies, Shaheed Rajguru College of Applied Sciences for Women

Enrolment in these colleges in 2012-13 | 15,937

16 colleges slated for 50% quota | Bharti, Gargi, Kalindi, Maitreyi, Rajdhani, Shivaji, Satyawati, Vivekananda, Delhi College of Arts & Commerce, Kamla Nehru, Laxmi Bai, Moti Lal Nehru, Shyama Prasad Mukharji, Sri Aurobindo, Swami Shradhdhanand, Shaheed Bhagat Singh

Enrolment in these colleges in 2012-13 | 45,719



**HRD officials said education minister Manish Sisodia's promise to implement the quota, which was announced by AK Walia just before the elections, will not be easy to fulfil**

"DU is governed by Delhi University Act, 1922. Reservation of seats is a larger policy matter and for that the Act has to be amended."

DU officials said the issue is between the two governments. "We will continue admissions as per the provisions of DU Act. It is for the government (Centre) and Parliament to take a decision as such a change needs an amendment," said a senior DU official.

An HRD ministry official said, "The funding pattern of 28 Delhi University colleges cannot subsume the DU Act that promises non-discrimination to students from all over the country. There can be no reservation in central universities on the basis of domicile. This could set a dangerous precedent in other central universities. Previous Delhi government had proposed this, but we are still to be consulted. Even Delhi University was not consulted."

Criticizing the move, DU Teachers' Association (DUTA) president Nandita Narain said that "such parochial view and exclusive policy was never expected from AAP". "We will seek an appointment and try to convince the minister on this as well as other issues. This is a central

university and we should not restrict it to Delhi students. There are just a handful of central universities and we should not dilute their character," she said.

Other teacher groups have also criticized the move. Academics for Action and Development (AAD) chairman J

Khuntia suggested that Delhi administration should focus on creating more colleges under state universities rather than tampering with the all-India character of DU.

Delhi University court member and patron of AAD, V K Agrawal, said there is no such provision in the DU Act.



HT Lucknow

# IIT-Roorkee gets notice after mess food sample fails quality check

**Tapan Susheel**

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**ROORKEE:** The state food safety department has issued a notice to the Indian Institute of Technology here after food sample taken from the hostel mess on the campus failed in quality check. The notice said the department would initiate penal action.

However, the IIT has a period of 30 days to appeal against the department's verdict on the sample and get it tested in an accredited laboratory.

If the sample fails the test there as well, the matter will be tried in the additional district magistrate's court in Haridwar.

But the food safety officer Dilip Jain said the action would be quicker as the IIT had admitted in a statement at the time of the raid that its kitchen was unhygienic.

"It is enough for us to take action against the IIT administration or its director," Jain said.

Around 200 students staying at the Rajendra Bhawan hostel of the IIT were reported ill after having food from the mess on September 9 last year. They had complained of severe stomach ache and vomiting.

Many students were diagnosed with food poisoning and were admitted in a hospital. Following this, the food safety department raided the hostel mess and collected certain food samples. While one of these samples failed in the quality test, the result of the others is awaited.

"In a test conducted at the Rudrapur-based state food and drug testing laboratory, a sample of red chilli powder taken from the Rajendra Bhawan hostel mess has not been found to be of the prescribed food standards," the food safety officer said.