

Newspaper Clips

January 7, 2011

Busines Standard ND 07/01/2012 P-14

Education needs a profit motive

The government should urgently liberalise the regulatory regime governing the sector and permit a 'for-profit' model.

HEMAL ZOBAIA

MA 117/PV

As the West struggles to overcome the global recession, India remains one of fastest growing economies in the world today. Such rapid economic development and the transformation to a knowledge-based economy have resulted in increased demand for educated and skilled workforce. To meet this demand, the government has set itself a formidable target of achieving a gross enrolment ratio (GER) of 21 per cent by the end of the 12th Five-Year Plan in 2017 against the current GER of 12.4 per cent, which is one of the lowest in the world.

The government's ambitious target coupled with lack of adequate infrastructure for education facilities makes India one of the largest emerging education markets. Despite this, the education sector is not getting the kind of investment it should attract, especially, at the formal K-12 and higher education level. The catch lies in the heaps of regulatory hurdles one has to clear for establishing a formal educational set-up.

Education in India has traditionally been regarded as a philanthropic activity and is primarily driven by the government or few large Indian corporations as part of their corporate social responsibility (CSR) on a "not-for-profit" basis. Against this backdrop, the formal education sector is governed by a number of regulations framed by the Centre and state governments and regulated by a number of bodies like the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), the University Grants Commission, the Medical Council of India, the Central Board of Secondary Education and so on. Accordingly, such regulations require an educational institution to be set up either as a trust or a society or, in certain cases, as a Section-25 company (for instance, recently the government has allowed corporations to start AICTE-approved courses by setting up separate non-profit companies under Section 25 of the Companies Act). The regulations further require that any surplus generated while running an educational institution needs to be ploughed back to further educational objectives.

Though these regulations are in place, it is common to find institutions running on models in which a number of companies are



BS PHOTO

set up alongside the trust or the society. Such companies provide services like school management, cafeteria, school stationery, uniform and so on. Nothing more than common sense is needed to understand that this is an indirect means of deriving profits, which is not possible in a formal set-up given the stringent regulatory provisions.

In the current situation in which it may not be lucrative for private sector players to invest in a formal "not-for-profit" set-up, the unregulated "for-profit" entities are attracting the bulk of investment. These entities are mostly engaged in providing educational services like test preparation, tutorials, corporate training, teacher training and so on. Career Launcher, Educomp, TutorVista, to name a few, are some of the biggest players in this sector. From the amount of investments that these companies have attracted in the recent past, it is evident that investors are bullish on the Indian education sector.

The ever-increasing demand for quality institutions also creates a need for foreign universities to set up shop in India. Foreign players would not only raise the bar as far as educational infrastructure is concerned, but would also provide the much-needed funds.

Under the extant guidelines, few options exist for foreign collaborations in technical education whereby AICTE permission is required to provide diplomas or degrees by a

foreign university or institution or through a twinning arrangement in collaboration with an Indian university or institution. However, a number of stringent conditions regarding the mode of the set-up, accreditation, fee, student intake and so on need to be fulfilled.

Another issue that merits attention is the ambiguity surrounding the permissibility of foreign direct investment (FDI) in the education sector. There is no express provision that restricts FDI in education and, therefore, under the residuary head, 100 per cent FDI under the automatic route may be considered permissible. However, ambiguity arises since regulatory provisions require a regulated educational institution to be set up only as a trust or a society, wherein no FDI is permitted. This adversely impacts the fund-raising capability of a trust or a society from foreign sources. The only options left are contributions or donations that are subject to stringent conditions imposed by the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act, 1976.

The much-awaited Foreign Educational Institutions (Regulation of Entry and Operation) Bill, 2010, is a welcome legislation and an example of the forward-looking mindset of the Ministry of Human Resources and Development. The Bill is aimed at regulating the entry and operation of foreign educational institutions that are imparting or intend to impart higher education in India.

The Bill, if passed, would enable foreign universities to set up campuses in India and offer degrees.

Besides, four more Bills aimed at reforming the education sector are on the cards. These are (a) The Prohibition of Unfair Practices in Technical Educational Institutions, Medical Educational Institutions and Universities Bill, 2010, (b) The National Accreditation Regulatory Authority for Higher Educational Institutions Bill, 2010, (c) The Education Tribunals Bill, 2010 and (d) National Commission for Higher Education and Research Bill, 2010. These legislations have the potential to change the education sector's entire legal and regulatory framework.

Though regulatory challenges are one side of the coin, educational institutions have to comply with the income-tax legislation as well.

Since a formal educational institution may be established only as a trust, a society or a Section-25 company for "not-for-profit" purposes, Section 10(23C) of the income-tax law provides tax exemption subject to the fulfillment of stipulated conditions like application of income, modes of investment of surplus and so on. For claiming the exemption, the institution has to get itself registered with the income-tax authorities. Challenges are faced at the time of obtaining the registration since it needs to be established before the tax authorities that the institution exists solely for educational purposes. The institution is also required to obtain an approval from the income-tax authorities to enable donors to claim tax deduction under the commonly referred Section 80G.

Given the amount of funds and the number of "quality" institutions the education sector needs to bridge the demand-supply gap and the inability of the government to cater to such demand, the government should liberalise the regulatory regime governing the education sector and adopt a pragmatic approach permitting a "for-profit" model for educational institutions. It may also consider promoting public private partnership (PPP) in the sector similar to the one implemented successfully in infrastructure projects.

The author is Partner Tax and Regulatory, KPMG, India

Online Journal Controversy: Delhi High Court grants interim relief to EPSI... <http://www.mbauniverse.com/article/id/5379/Interim-relief-to-EPSI-again...>



Online Journal Controversy: Delhi High Court grants interim relief to EPSI members against AICTE

MBAUniverse.com News Bureau | 06 Jan, 2012 0542 hrs IST

Education Promotion Society of India (EPSI) has got interim relief from the Honourable Delhi High Court on the matter related to 'Mandatory Subscription of Online journals', prescribed by the AICTE for all Technical Institutions

This is a big relief by the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi. This arbitrary decision of the AICTE would have created extraordinary financial burden on technical institutions: Dr. H Chaturvedi, Director, BIMTECH & alternate President, EPSI

Education Promotion Society of India (EPSI) has got interim relief from the Honourable Delhi High Court on the matter related to 'Mandatory Subscription of Online journals', prescribed by the AICTE for all Technical Institutions viz. Engineering Colleges, Management Institutes, Architect Institutes, Pharmacy, MCA institutions etc. MBAUniverse.com has learnt that the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi has on January 6, 2012 stayed the AICTE's notification to compulsorily subscribe to some mandatory online journals. The Hon'ble High Court of Delhi has issued an Interim Order stating that the AICTE Order under Approval Handbook for 2012-13 will remain stayed till January 31, 2012, when court will hear this matter again.

Speaking to MBAUniverse.com, Dr H Chaturvedi, Alternate President, EPSI, and Director, BIMTECH said, "This is a big relief by the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi. This arbitrary decision of the AICTE would have created extraordinary financial burden on technical institutions and also lead to siphoning of Rs.1600 crores to US and UK based multinational publishing companies."

EPSI says that now all technical institutions are not under any compulsion for buying online journals for extension of approval, or to increase in intake.

EPSI has been fighting for this issue since November 18, 2011, when a letter was sent to Shri Kapil Sibal, Hon'ble Minister of HRD. With no relief coming from the ministry, EPSI moved Delhi High Court on the matter.

The main plea by EPSI was that all AICTE approved institutions have a fundamental right to administer their respective institutions and buy books, journals, softwares, machines and equipments as per their requirements and choice. In this case, AICTE not only imposed the list of journals from foreign companies publishing those journals, but also prescribed subscription rates in US dollars. Further, on December 20, 2011, AICTE has notified on its website that institutions subscribing DELNET/INDEST may not be required to subscribe an online journal.

The final hearing on this matter will now be held on January 31, 2012.

Business Line, ND 07/01/2012 P-4

IIT-Madras students offered Rs 76 lakh a year

T.E. Raja Simhan
Chennai, Jan. 6

In a record at any of the Indian Institute of Technology, an annual compensation of \$135,000 or Rs 76 lakh has been offered by an American multinational company to three computer science fresh graduates of IIT Madras. These students were hired in the just concluded campus recruitment and will be working in the US.

In comparison, the annual salary package offered by many companies to the students ranged between Rs 4 lakh and Rs 15 lakh.

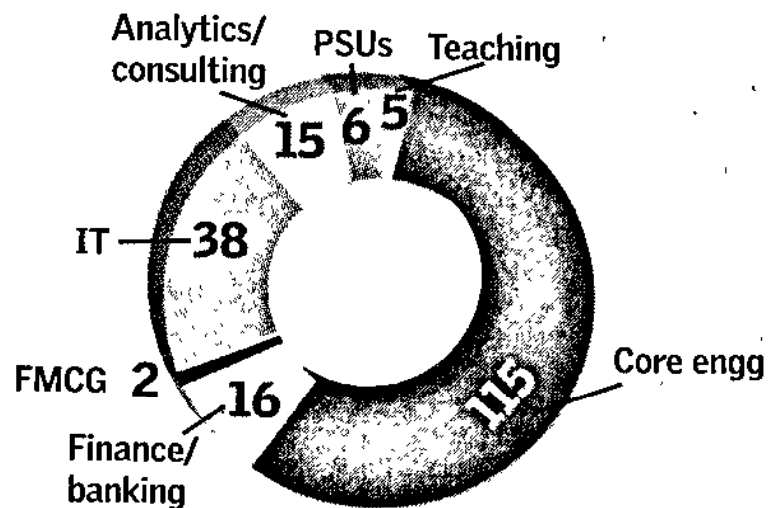
The US-based Pocket Gems, which is into mobile gaming, has offered the package.

"To my knowledge, this could be the maximum salary at any of the IITs," said Mr B. Nagarajan, Deputy Registrar of Training, Placement and Public Relations at IIT Madras.

Pocket Gem, which has investors like Sequoia Capital and Harrison Metal, has also picked up a couple of students from IIT, Kanpur, he said.

The earlier record compensation offered at IIT Madras was Rs 28 lakh, he told *Business Line*.

PLACEMENT BONANZA



The campus recruitment for the 2012 batch passing out students began on December 1, with 1,208 students having registered for placement.

About 330 companies have consented to come for placement out of which 209 companies have completed their selection process.

As on December 23, 769 students, including students of BTech, MTech, MBA and MSc, were placed.

Last year, 172 companies recruited 627 students.

Students placed in Hyundai Motors will be sponsored for a two-year post-graduate program in a top manage-

ment or engineering school in South Korea. On successful completion of this program, they will have the opportunity to work at their headquarters in South Korea for two years as part of a professional development program.

They will also have an opportunity for a global assignment for two years at any of their overseas corporations.

Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company Ltd, Taiwan, has recruited MS and PhD scholars for their R&D division, the release says.

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World's largest solar telescope to be set up in Ladakh

PBD BUREAU/PTI

JAMMU, JAN 6

JAMMU and Kashmir will have the distinction of having the world's largest solar telescope in Ladakh region of the state.

The world's National Large Solar Telescope (NLST) is being set up in Ladakh region's high altitude Pangong Tso Lake Merak by Department of Science and Technology, Government of India (GoI), Jammu and Kashmir

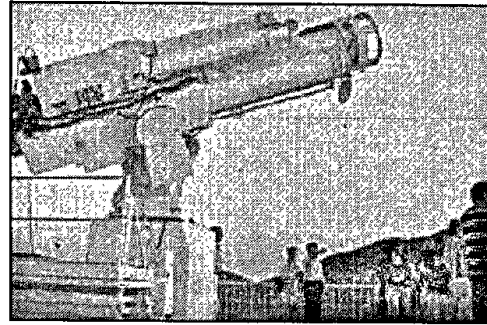
Chief Secretary Madhav Lal revealed this here today.

While chairing a meeting to discuss the modalities for setting up the solar telescope, Madhav Lal said that the state government will extend full cooperation to the department of Science and Technology, Government of India in its endeavour to set up NLST at Pangong Tso Lake Merak in Ladakh region.

He said the site selected for setting up of the world's largest solar tele-

scope fitted with a 2m reflector will permit scientists to carry out cutting edge research to understand the fundamental processes taking place on the sun.

The solar telescope will help the scientific community study the long term changes in earth's climate and environment and also provide useful data to carry out research in order to minimise or remove disruptions to communications network and satellites due to periodic solar



winds, he said.

The Chief Secretary said

that the facility will also provide employment

opportunities to the local population in the area.

Giving details of the project, Professor Tushar P Prabhu from Indian Institute of Astrophysics Department of Science and Technology (GOI), said that the site was selected after carefully studying various scientific and environmental aspects.

It emerged from the studies that the Pangong lake site at Merak was very promising and offered longer sunshine hours, he said.

Asian Age, ND 07/01/2012 P-11

Students of online schools are lagging: Study

JENNY ANDERSON
THE NEW YORK TIMES

The number of students in virtual schools run by educational management organisations rose sharply last year, according to a new report being published Friday, and far fewer of them are proving proficient on standardised tests compared with their peers in other privately-managed charter schools and in traditional public schools.

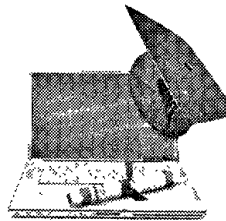
About 1,16,000 students were educated in 93 virtual schools — those where instruction is entirely or mainly provided over the Internet — run by private

management companies in the 2010-11 school year, up 43 per cent from the previous year, according to the report being published by the National Education Policy Centre, a research centre at the University of Colorado.

About 27 per cent of these schools achieved "adequate yearly progress," the key federal standard set forth under the No Child Left Behind act to measure academic progress.

By comparison, nearly 52 per cent of all privately managed brick-and-mortar schools reached that goal, a figure comparable to all public schools nationally.

"There's a pretty large



gap between virtual and brick-and-mortar," said Gary Miron, a professor of evaluation, measurement and research at Western Michigan University and a co-author of the study.

"E.M.O.'s" — educational

management organisations, a term coined by Wall Street in the 1990s — now operate 35 per cent of all charter schools, enrolling 42 per cent of all charter school students, according to the report. "Charter schools are publicly funded and they are serving public school students," Dr Miron noted. "But they are increasingly privately owned and privately governed."

Some of the management companies are nonprofit organisations — the largest is the KIPP Foundation, with 28,261 students — while others are for-profit companies (K12 Inc. leads this sector,

with 65,396). The report focuses on those that have full-service agreements to run schools, as opposed to vendors that offer ancillary services like curriculum development.

The number of schools — virtual as well as brick-and-mortar — managed by for-profit E.M.O.'s dropped 2 per cent in 2010-11 from the previous year, but the number of students leaped 5 per cent to 3,94,096.

In the nonprofit sector, there was a 12 per cent increase in the number of schools to 1,170 and a 62 per cent increase in students to 3,84,067.

Nonprofit E.M.O.'s have a better track record of aca-

demical success than for-profits, and smaller E.M.O.'s in general perform better than larger ones, at least defined by the federal standard of adequate yearly progress — a metric Dr Miron called "very crude."

Data was not available for about 10 per cent of the schools run by for-profit E.M.O.'s and 20 per cent of those run by nonprofits. Among those that did provide data, 48 per cent of the schools run by for-profits met the federal standard, as did 56 per cent of those run by nonprofits. About 52 per cent of traditional public schools meet the standard.

HindustanTimes

Title : 1.4 million orders for Akash in India

Author :

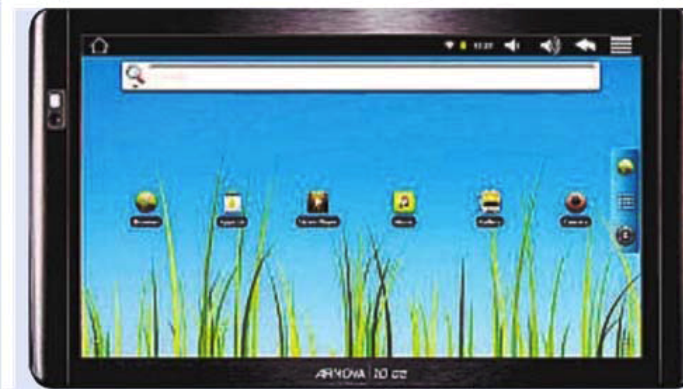
Location :

Article Date : 01/07/2012

1.4 million orders for Akash in India

The world's cheapest tablet computer has clocked 1.4 million bookings since it was put up for sale online two weeks ago in India. Bookings for the long-awaited Aakash, pegged at ₹2,500 (\$41), began on December 14, two months after it was unveiled as the "computer for the masses" in India. Datawind, the British company contracted by the Indian government to manufacture Aakash, said it had been taken by surprise by the response in India, where Apple's iPad computers costs a minimum of \$600 (₹31,790 approx).

The current response is overwhelming, according to reports. Datawind is now taking orders for an upgrad-



ed version, called Ubislate 7 for March, and it will establish three new factories in 2012 to cope

with the rush of orders.

"We plan to produce 75,000 units per factory per month from around April,"

the spokesperson said.

There were also reports that the makers had run out of stock of Aakash, which

Tablet's features

Aakash is priced at ₹2,500. It has a seven-inch (18cm) touchscreen, Wi-Fi Internet function, a multimedia player and 180 minutes of battery power.

It has a seven-inch (18-centimetre) touchscreen, Wi-Fi Internet function, a multimedia player and 180 minutes of battery power.

The business daily said with around 400,000 pre-sales bookings for the Aakash, sales of the device were more than sales for the entire Indian tablet market last year which numbered about 250,000-300,000 units.

The stylish, locally-made Aakash uses an Android 2.2 operating system and has an external 2GB storage card and two USB ports.

Critics had warned the device might struggle to live up to expectations with its limited 256-megabyte random access memory (RAM).

The price of what has been dubbed "the world's cheapest computer" should fall to \$35 and could even be hammered down as low as \$10, DataWind has said.

The Aakash is part of a push to increase the number of students in higher education and to give them the technological skills needed to further boost the country's recent rapid economic growth.

RELAXNEWS

Publication: The Times Of India Delhi; Date: Jan 7, 2012; Section: Times Nation; Page: 10;

Student enrolment spurt raises brows

Akshaya Mukul | TNN

New Delhi: It has been decided to curtail the higher education cycle to five years from the existing six-year cycle. The jump in Gross Enrolment Ratio pegged at 17.2% from 12.5% at the beginning of 11th Plan has been ascribed to the new method of calculation.

But even as the Planning Commission's sub-group that was tasked to put the GER issue to rest by arriving at a standardized procedure is working for acceptance of the new formula, NSSO's 2009-10 data on employment showing GER of 27.7% has caused consternation about its efficacy. Economist Ravi Srivastava, who is part of Plan panel's

sub-group and has worked on political economy of education for long, has raised questions about NSSO's 2009-10 data and written to the organization asking how did attendance (NSSO does not call it enrolment) grow from 17.8 million in 2004-05—the previous survey on employment—to 31.8 million in 2009-10.

As for arriving at the five-year higher education cycle, Srivastava explains that as per the UNESCO's International System of Classification for Education, there are six stages of education. While stage one to three relates to school education, stage four is about vocational education and stages five and six are in the realm of higher education.

Hindustan Times

Title : All India Council for Technical Council get a new Chairman

Author :

Location :

Article Date : 01/07/2012

All India Council for Technical Council get a new Chairman

Dr. S.S. Mantha, Vice-Chairman and Chairman (Actg.) of All India Council for Technical Education, has assumed the Charge as Chairman, All India Council for Technical Education.



Hindustan ND 7/01/2012 p-2

होनहारों ने बनाई सपनों की सवारी

ऑटो एक्सपो में जहां दुनियाभर की ऑटो कंपनियां एक से बढ़कर एक गाड़ियां लेकर आई हैं वहीं दिल्ली के कॉलेजों में पढ़ाई कर रहे ऐसे होनहार भी खुद के तैयार किए वाहनों के साथ यहां मौजूद हैं जो किसी सपनों की सवारी से कम नहीं हैं। पेश है अनुराग मिश्र की रिपोर्ट



गुरु गोविंद सिंह इंदरप्रस्थ विश्वविद्यालय के इंदिरा गांधी इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ टेक्नोलॉजी की छात्राएं अपने खास सवारी के साथ। • हिन्दुस्तान



ऑटो एक्सपो में 'एक्सट्रीम' के साथ डीटीयू के छात्र। • हिन्दुस्तान

आईआईटी का डब्ल्यू-यूनो

आईआईटी के छात्रों ने एक ऐसी डिवाइस का डिजाइन तैयार किया है जो एयरपोर्ट पर ट्रॉली खिसकाने की परेशानी को हल कर सकता है। डब्ल्यू-यूनो नाम से बनाई गई डिवाइस पूरी तरह से ऑटोमैटिक व्हीकल के तौर पर काम करेगी। इस ट्रॉली में आप मौजूदा ट्रॉली की तुलना में तीन से चार गुना अधिक काम कर सकेंगे। यही नहीं इस ट्रॉली में आप सामान के साथ बैठ भी सकेंगे। आप इसे ऑपरेट नहीं करना चाहते तो संबंधित कंपनी का सर्वर इसे चला भी सकेगा।

आईजीआईटी की छात्राओं का एटीवी

इंदिरा गांधी इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ टेक्नोलॉजी (आईजीआईटी) की छात्राओं द्वारा बनाया गया एटीवी पथरीले रास्तों पर बखूबी चल सकने में सक्षम है। छात्राएं इस एटीवी का प्रदर्शन 16 से 19 फरवरी तक होने वाली बाहा प्रतियोगिता में दिखाएंगी। टीम से जुड़ी छात्रा सुरभि और अनुभा ने बताया कि इस वाहन को 24लइकियों ने मिलकर बनाया है। इस वाहन की सबसे बड़ी खासियत

है कि इसमें सुरक्षा के पैमानों पर खासतौर से ध्यान दिया गया है। उन्होंने कहा कि अमूमन एटीवी में रोल केज नहीं होता है, जिससे कई तरह की परेशानियां आती हैं लेकिन हमने एटीवी में रोल केज का प्रयोग किया है। साथ ही इसकी स्टीरिंग को नए तरीके से डिजाइन किया गया है। जिससे इसका वजन किसी कार की स्टीरिंग की तुलना में काफी हल्का हो गया है। एटीवी का मतलब होता

है ऑल टैरेन व्हीकल। ये ऐसी गाड़ियां होती हैं जिनको किसी भी सतह (पथरीली, दलदली, रेतीली सतह) पर आसानी से चलाया जा सकता है। ऑटोमैटिक रिसर्च एसोसिएशन ऑफ इंडिया के डिप्टी डाइरेक्टर डॉ. के.सी. वोहरा ने बताया कि इस बार वाहा प्रतियोगिता में ट्रैक को और मुश्किल बनाया गया है। इस बार की थीम इन्वेंशन रखी गई है।

डीटीयू का 'एक्सट्रीम'

दिल्ली टेक्नोलॉजिकल विश्वविद्यालय (डीटीयू) के छात्रों द्वारा बनाए गए इस सवारी को किसी भी सतह पर चलाया जा सकता है। दल के कैप्टन आदित्य कृष्णा ने बताया कि इस व्हीकल का बांडी फ्रेम स्टील के पाइपों से बना हुआ है। उन्होंने बताया कि उनकी गाड़ी को खासियत है, सीवीटी (कंटीनुअसली वेरिअबल ट्रांसमिशन)। इसने गाड़ी को पूरी तरह से ऑटोमैटिक बना दिया है। इस व्हीकल को डीटीयू के आठ छात्रों ने बनाया है।

आदित्य ने बताया कि इसे बनाने में चुनौतियां कम नहीं आईं। पहले पैसों की दिक्कत और बाद में फेब्रिकेशन ने मुश्किलों को बढ़ाया लेकिन बाद में लोगों की तारीफ ने सारी तकलीफों को दूर कर दिया। एक्सट्रीम नाम से बनाए गए इस व्हीकल को दक्षिण अफ्रीका में हुई प्रतियोगिता में सर्वश्रेष्ठ इन्वेंटिव और ओरिजनल व्हीकल हासिल हुआ है। रक्षा, कृषि, प्राकृतिक आपदाओं में, इसका उपयोग हो सकता है।

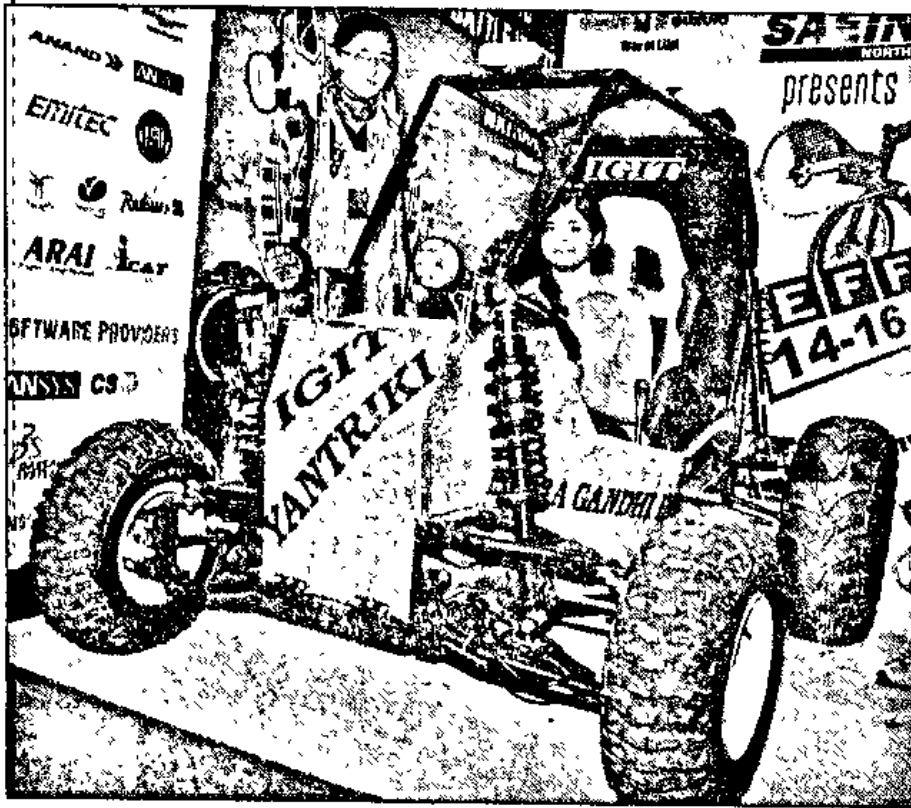
एनआईटी का रिफ्रेश स्कूटर

नेशनल इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ डिजाइन के छात्रों द्वारा बनाया गया स्कूटर न सिर्फ चलाने वालों को बेहतर एहसास देगा बल्कि राह में चल रहे लोगों को भी ताजगी का आभास कराएगा। इस स्कूटर को एनआईटी के छात्र सोरभ गर्ग ने बनाया है। स्कूटर की खासियत यह है कि इसकी आगे वाली और पीछे की प्लेट पर मोबाइल में भावनाएं प्रदर्शित करने वाले सिंबलों का प्रयोग किया गया है।

Dainik Jagran ND 7/01/2012 p-1(JC)

प्रतिभा : अंतराष्ट्रीय प्रतियोगिता में भी होगा प्रदर्शन

‘एन्ड्रोमेडा’ से छाई लड़कियां



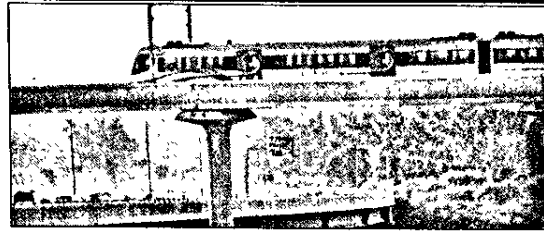
प्रगति मैदान में चल रहे ऑटो एक्सपो-2012 में प्रदर्शित एटीवी (ऑल टेर्रेन व्हीकल)। इसे दिल्ली की छात्राओं के एक समूह ने तैयार किया है। जागरण

नई दिल्ली, जागरण संवाददाता : प्रगति मैदान में चल रहे ऑटो एक्सपो-2012 में इंजीनियरिंग की कुछ छात्राओं द्वारा प्रदर्शित ऑल टेर्रेन वीकल (एटीवी) अलग ही आकर्षण का केंद्र बनी हुई है। इस एटीवी की खासियत सड़क पर

इसकी पकड़ और तीस डिग्री तक की ऊंचाई पर आराम से चढ़ने की क्षमता है। इसके अतिरिक्त इस एटीवी में दुर्घटना के दौरान चालक की पर्याप्त सुरक्षा की भी व्यवस्था है। काबिल-ए-गौर है कि वाहन को सिर्फ छात्राओं ने तैयार किया है और इसे नाम दिया है 'एन्ड्रोमेडा'। एन्ड्रोमेडा का मतलब 'महिला शक्ति' होता है। इंदिरा गांधी इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ टेक्नोलॉजी की छात्रा व टीम लीडर सुरभि ने बताया कि इस वाहन को अंतराष्ट्रीय प्रतियोगिता 'बाहा' में प्रदर्शित किया जाएगा। इंस्टीट्यूट से मैकेनिकल इंजीनियरिंग की छात्रा अनुपमा के मुताबिक, टीम की सभी 24 सदस्य लड़कियां ही हैं। अनुपमा ने बताया कि 50-60 किमी प्रतिघंटा की गति वाले इस वाहन को चार स्पीड गीयर युक्त बनाया गया है। यह वाहन फ्यूल एफिसिएंट भी है। 'द आटोमोटिव रिसर्च एसोसिएशन ऑफ इंडिया' के डिप्टी डायरेक्टर डॉ. केसी वोरा के मुताबिक, इस वाहन की खासियत इसके चालक को मिलने वाली सुरक्षा भी है।

एयरपोर्ट लाइन पर मेट्रो की स्पीड से घरों में दरारें!

रुड़की की टीम करेगी गांव में जांच



लोगों की मुश्किल बढ़ी

- ▶ शाहबाद मोहम्मदपुर गांवों के लगभग 100 घरों में आई दरारें
- ▶ गांव के पास से ही अंडरग्राउंड एयरपोर्ट लाइन गुजरती है
- ▶ मेट्रो के इंजीनियरों ने अलग-अलग स्पीड में ट्रेन चलवाकर जांच की
- ▶ दिल्ली सरकार भी अपने इंजीनियरों से इसकी जांच करवाएगी

विशेष संवाददाता ॥ नई दिल्ली

एयरपोर्ट की एक्सप्रेस मेट्रो की स्पीड की वजह से भले ही द्वारका के लोग चंद मिनटों में ही नई दिल्ली पहुंच जाते हों लेकिन ट्रेन की यही स्पीड शाहबाद मोहम्मदपुर गांवों में रहने वाले लगभग 100 घरों के लिए मुसीबत बन गई है। ट्रेन की स्पीड से होने वाले कंपन से इन मकानों में दरारें आ गई हैं। स्थानीय लोगों की शिकायत पर अब दिल्ली मेट्रो ने रुड़की स्थिति सीआरआरआई के इंजीनियरों से कहा है कि वे इन मकानों की जांच करें और देखें कि यह दरारें मेट्रो की वजह से आई हैं। मुख्यमंत्री शीला दीक्षित ने भी कहा है कि सरकार की ओर से भी गांव में इंजीनियरों को भेजा जाएगा, जो जाकर देखेंगे कि एक साथ इतने मकानों में दरारें क्यों आयी हैं और उसके लिए कौन जिम्मेदार है।

नई दिल्ली से एयरपोर्ट होते हुए द्वारका के सेक्टर 21 के बीच पिछले साल एयरपोर्ट एक्सप्रेस मेट्रो लाइन चालू की गई थी। इस लाइन पर ट्रेनें 105 किमी की रफ्तार से चलती हैं। शाहबाद मोहम्मदपुर गांव में रहने वालों का कहना है कि जब से इस लाइन पर ट्रेनों की आवाजाही शुरू हुई है, तभी से मकानों में दरारें आनी शुरू हो गई हैं। इसी गांव में रहने वाले सोनू नामक युवक का कहना है कि गांव के लोगों ने इस बारे में दिल्ली मेट्रो को शिकायत भेजी थी। हालांकि शुरू में

दिल्ली मेट्रो ने इस ओर ध्यान नहीं दिया लेकिन जब गांव वालों ने मेट्रो अधिकारियों से मिलकर उन्हें इस बारे में जानकारी दी तो उसके बाद मकानों की दरारों का पता लगाने के लिए शीशे के कुछ उपकरण लगाए गए लेकिन इनमें से भी कुछ दरार बढ़ने पर चटक गए। ये गांव एयरपोर्ट के टर्मिनल श्री के पीछे की ओर है और गांव के समीप से ही अंडरग्राउंड एयरपोर्ट लाइन गुजरती है।

गांव वालों का कहना है कि गुरुवार रात भी दिल्ली मेट्रो के इंजीनियरों की टीम गांव में पहुंची थी और इस टीम ने बाकायदा मेट्रो को अलग-अलग स्पीड पर चलवाकर यह जांचा कि मकानों में कितनी कंपन है। जब सबसे पहले 55 किमी की रफ्तार से ट्रेन को उस हिस्से में चलाया गया तो भी मकानों में कंपन महसूस की जा रही थी।

दिल्ली मेट्रो के मुख्य जनसंपर्क अधिकारी अनुज दयाल का कहना है कि जिस जगह मकानों में दरारों की शिकायत हुई है, उस एरिया में मेट्रो जमीन से 17 मीटर नीचे से गुजरती है। ऐसे में उसका असर मकानों पर नहीं होना चाहिए। लेकिन पब्लिक की शिकायत को देखते हुए मकानों की दरारों की जांच के लिए सीआरआरआई के विशेषज्ञों से कहा गया है और उन्होंने जांच पहले ही शुरू कर दी है। उनकी रिपोर्ट आने के बाद ही दिल्ली मेट्रो आगे इस दिशा में कार्यवाई करेगी।