Newspaper Clips
July 1, 2015

Hindustan Times ND 01/07/2015   p-9

Diluting a prized brand

The proliferation of IITs and IIMs has done little to create more institutions of excellence

In a country that is starved of good educational institutions, big brands like IITs and IIMs are in great demand. They bring some kind of an economic and social heft to the place where they are located and hence the clamour for more IITs/IIMs. The political classes are aware of such aspirations and have often used new IITs/IIMs as a sop to appease voters. Earlier this month, the Centre cleared a proposal for the setting up of six new IIMs. Since 2008, there has been an expansion drive of the IITs: From seven IITs in 1994, the plan is to have 23 this year and eventually 29 — one in each state. These institutions have a cache brand value. While there is nothing wrong in the demand for and establishment of IIT/IIM 'branches' in smaller towns, what the government needs to review is whether they are spreading these brands too thin? According to a HT story that appeared on Sunday, the IITs that were set up after 2008 are suffering from a host of problems: Many are operating out of borrowed campuses and are plagued by a lack of labs and other infrastructure. The students depend heavily on online lectures sitting in some other IITs. Digvijay Patil, an IIT-Kharagpur student, launched a petition last year, pleading with Union HRD minister Smriti Irani to stop launching new institutes. When older IITs are struggling with teacher vacancies of up to 43%, how would the new ones attract staff? Every good educational institute and faculty needs a flourishing ecosystem to survive and most small towns don't provide that. The same argument holds true for AIIMS. All this has diluted the brand of the established institutions of excellence without adding any value to the new ones. Instead of pandering to the demands of the voters, the government should invest more in other institutions. India cannot afford to have islands of excellence like the IITs and IIMs or institutions that have the brand tag but are actually below par when it comes to quality. In fact, the IIT/IIM brand name will suffer in the long run if the new institutes don't live up to the standards set by the older ones. And the worst suffers will be the students.

Dainik Bhaskar ND 01/07/2015 p-5

बदल सकता है एडवांस्ड परीक्षा का स्वरूप और मुश्किल होगा आईआईटी में चयन

वर्ष 2017 से आईआईटी संस्थानों में छात्रों के लिए दाखिला और मुश्किल हो सकता है। जॉइंट एडमिशन कमेटी जेईई-एडवांस्ड परीक्षा में एक और कंपोनेंट जोड़ने का विचार कर रहा है। मेन्स और एडवांस्ड के बाद आईआईटी में प्रवेश के लिए यह तीसरा स्तर होगा। कमेटी का मानना है कि मौजूदा व्यवस्था में छात्र 10 से 15 फीसदी तक सवाल अनुमान के सहारे हल करते हैं। रिटन टेस्ट में इसकी गुंजाइश नहीं होगी और छात्रों की योग्यता का बेहतर आकलन संभव हो सकेगा। हालांकि, अभी इस प्रस्ताव पर विचार-विमर्श का दौर चल रहा है और कमेटी की अनुशंसा मिलने पर 2017 से इसे लागू किया जा सकता है। एडवांस परीक्षा में शामिल होने वाले सभी छात्रों के लिए रिटन टेस्ट देना अनिवार्य होगा, लेकिन उन्हीं छात्रों की आंसरशीट जांची जाएगी जो पूर्व निर्धारित शर्तों को पूरा करेंगे। कमेटी ने यह व्यवस्था इसलिए की है क्योंकि करीब 13 लाख छात्र हर साल आईआईटी में प्रवेश के लिए परीक्षा देते हैं और इतने छात्रों की आंसरशीट जांचना बेहद मुश्किल है।

Tribune ND 01/07/2015   p-8

Good sense prevails

Draft Bill may not hit IIMs' autonomy as much

THE outrage over the inclusion of two sections in the draft Indian Institutes of Management Bill, 2015, threatening the autonomy of the institutions, has forced the HRD Ministry to dilute the Bill. After the Ministry and top IIM executives had agreed upon what issues to be incorporated in the Bill in October 2014, the ministry, in a surprise move, inserted sections 35 and 36 (1), before putting it online for wider consultations. These sections give sweeping powers to the government, leaving the IIM boards to function as mere operating centres. The ministry had earlier courted controversy with the IITs.

Fuelled by the resignations of two IIT directors — Anil Kakodkar and Raghunath K Shevgaonkar — who had expressed their displeasure over the interference by the ministry, the apprehensive IIMs were quick to flag their concerns about autonomy. In 2012-13 the IIM Bill had proposed a similar provision for a council headed by the HRD Minister to oversee the IITs. It was unacceptable to the IIMs. Since then the 13 IIMs have been fiercely guarding their independence. The rage of the IIM executives and alumni over the Bill stems from the fact that the government has made no case for its intensive proposal. Without the government's head-masterly supervision, the IIMs have done well for themselves, maintaining standards and making some positive contribution.

It can only be a matter of regret that the government has sought to divide the IIMs in order to control them. It is a very unhealthy precedent. The upcoming IIMs, as against the established ones at Ahmedabad, Lucknow, Kolkata and Bangalore, support the contentious sections of the Bill. They are dependent on the government for financial support while the established ones are self-sufficient. It is ironical the government that follows the maxim of "minimum government, maximum governance" had put the provisions that would centralise power in the HRD Ministry for better control. Good sense, it seems, has prevailed. Rather than control and micro-manage these institutions of excellence, the HRD Minister should devote her considerable energy towards improving the standards of education.

# Let's manage IIMs sensibly

Not all political decisions are unjustified, but crude interference in their day-to-day working is unwelcome

DEBASHIS CHATTERJEE

As the member of a committee of IIM directors that was involved in the first few drafts of the IIM Bill 2015, one had every reason to feel optimistic. It is not easy for the proponent of the Bill to be an opponent of it as the draft Bill has surfaced in a modified avatar in the human resource development ministry's site.

No enlightened government would risk its reputation in trying to destroy a golden goose that has helped India shine brighter in the global arena. Nor it is easy to imagine that a segment of our bureaucracy can be so intrusive as to take it upon itself to decide on such functional aspects as (a) the manner of formation of departments of teaching in the IIMs; and (b) the qualifications, classification, terms of office and method of appointment of the academic, administrative, technical and other staff of the institute (Section 36).

I do not think this is the current government's final position on the Bill. I hope the Bill can be salvaged through ongoing conversations be-
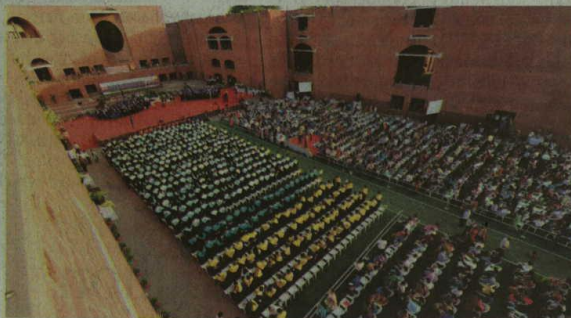
Class of 2015 Leave them be VIJAY SONEJI

tween right thinking people in the government as well as stalwarts in the academic world.

What autonomy means

Ideally, institutional autonomy should enable the IIMs to do several things. They should be able to recruit and employ academic and administrative staff at their own discretion. They should be able to recruit and appropriately remunerate faculty of global standards. They should determine their own academic programmes and content, and open extension campuses

wherever feasible and desirable.

In accordance with their institutional mission, they should frame their unique criterion for admission. It should be possible for them to raise funds from the market and non-governmental sources without compromising their independence. They should manage their own finances and budgets within the framework of the law.

Apart from this, they should have a board of directors to help IIMs negotiate the paradox of being globally impactful, while being mindful of local geo-political interests and

sensitivities. They should institutionalise succession planning for directors and academic leaders so that a leadership pipeline is created and transition traumas prevented. Thus, the quest for excellence within the IIMs would go on unhindered by political interests.

When politics intercedes

The political priorities of the incumbent government and compulsions of bureaucracy have often determined the location, governance and administration of the IIMs. Many IIMs have been forced to locate themselves in remote geographies with the avowed aim of "developing the region". Based on market logic, locating a business school where the market is should be a pragmatic decision unclouded by constituency politics. Yet, there is a non-market view that makes it possible to see IIMs as engines of social aspiration and societal change.

Very often one has seen that a small town with poor air connectivity gets a new identity because of the presence of an IIM. The IIMs in Kozhikode, Indore and Udaipur are cases in point. Not all political decisions are partisan or unjustified. In

fact the creation of six new IIMs taking the tally to 19 navaratnas may actually turn out to be beneficial.

The flip side of autonomy is the question of accountability. To make IIMs accountable on the same parameters of world class Ivy League schools is as impractical as measuring the heart rate with a thermometer. For over 50 years, the IIM mandate was not to compete for talent globally but to produce quality managers for the nation. That is what we were accountable for.

Autonomy and accountability are integral to each other. Accountability is not only to external stakeholders but also to integrity and excellence, the hallmark of IIMs' institutional culture. The key role of an IIM is the conceptualisation and creation of managers, and to create exceptional value for new generations. The primary purpose of the IIMs' quest for autonomy are academic freedom and the power to direct resources in a way that support and sustain our vision for India's future.

The writer was director of IIM-Kozhikode, and now teaches at IIM-Lucknow. The views are personal

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Joint Seat Allocation Authority announces revised schedule

Gauri Kohli

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Officials of the Joint Seat Allocation Authority (JoSAA) 2015 met CBSE officials in the Capital on June 25, 2015 to discuss and finalise the revised schedule of admission activities for JoSAA 2015.

Registration and filling-in of choices in JoSAA portal will begin only after the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) announces JEE (Main) 2015 Paper-1 and Paper-2 ranks. As per the revised schedule, the online filling-in of choices has begun and will be on till July 3. Mock seat allocation will be done on July 2.

The first round of seat allocation will begin from July 5 and the second round will be held on July 11. Seat acceptance of the first round will be done from July 6 to 10 and for the second *round, it will be done between* July 12 to 15. Seat acceptance for the third round will be done from July 17 to 20. Seat allocation for the fourth round for the NITs and preparatory courses at IITs will be done on July 21. The academic sesison at the IITs will being from July 21. Seat acceptance for the fourth round will be done from July 22 to 26. The academic session at NITs start on July 27.

The JoSAA 2015 has been set up by the ministry of human resource development to manage and regulate the joint seat allocation for admissions to 87 institutes for the academic year 2015-16. This includes 18 Indian Institutes of Technology, Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad, 31 National Institutes of Technology, 18 Indian Institutes of Information Technology, and 18 other government-funded technical institutes. Admission to all the academic programmes

■ The Joint Seat Allocation Authority will conduct counselling for institutes, including 18 IITs.   HT PHOTO

offered by these institutes will be made through a single platform from this year.

All candidates who have appeared in JEE (Main) 2015 are eligible to register for seat allocation in the NIT system (except IITs and ISM).

All candidates who have declared qualified in JEE (Advanced) 2015 are eligible to register for seat allocation in all participating institutes, ie the IITs and ISM.

As per the rules, a candidate has to choose and apply to a series of academic programmes in a certain order of priority.

In the context of seat allocation, 'academic programme' refers to the combination of academic programme and institute. For example, four-year BTech in computer science and engineering at IIT Bombay is referred to as an 'academic programme.' Another example of an academic programme is four-year BTech in biotechnology at NIT Calicut.

A seat to the highest possible choice of academic programme is allocated to the candidate con-

sidering the factors including the category of the candidate, the position of the candidate in rank list(s), the prioritisation of academic programmes by the candidate, the availability of seats in different seat categories/seat quotas for which the candidate is eligible for. For details visit www.josaa.nic.in.

Flexible electronics centre at IIT-Kanpur to be launched by Prime Minister today

http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/Flexible-electronics-centre-at-IIT-Kanpur-to-be-launched-by-Prime-Minister-today/articleshow/47888073.cms

KANPUR: As a first in IITs, a flexible electronic centre worth Rs 133 crore is in the process of being set up at IIT-Kanpur. This would be a first of its kind facility across IITs, aimed at pioneering new flexible electronics domain. Prime Minister Narendra Modi would launch the flexible electronics centre under the digital India program on July 1. PM would be doing the needful in Delhi. With PM launching the advance facility at IIT-K, the institute administration is full of enthusiasm. So far the new technology (flexible electronics) is not available in the country but in a few years down the line, flexible electronics would become part of every household.

The Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DIETY), government of India, is assiting IIT-Kanpur in this project. The department has assigned seven projects to the premier institute for developing the equal number of the prototypes of the flexible products. This includes solar cells, solar panels, sensors, display units, secure packaging to name a few.

Talking to TOI, Director, IIT-Kanpur, prof Indranil Manna informed that Prime Minister will be launching the flexible electronics centre in Delhi on July 1. He said that IIT-K is committed to become pioneers in the flexible electronics domain for which dedicated research work would be done in the coming days. He mentioned that IIT-Kanpur after developing some flexible electronics could also partner with the major electronic players such as South Korean or European companies.

Inside this electronics centre, a special high purity fabrication lab will be set up which would be state of the art technology. This initiative of IIT-Kanpur is special in a way that it is being done on lines - 'Make In India'--the ambitious project of Modi government.

"A flexible electronics centre next to the Samtel building is coming up on the institute campus. This would be the first facility to come up on the campus of any of the IIT. IIT-Kanpur wants to champion this new technology. With a sum of Rs 133 crores including Rs 20 crore contribution from the side of the institute, the centre is being developed. As of now this technology does not exist commercially", said Prof Indranil Manna, IIT-Kanpur director. It is expected that the building of the flexible electronics centre may come up in less than two years from now.

IIM-L crisis deepens, interim director wants to quit

Hindustan Times (Lucknow)

SRIVASTAVA CITED HEALTH REASONS AND WANTS TO BE RELIEVED OF THE INTERIM DIRECTOR POST FROM JULY 7, 2015

LUCKNOW: The Indian Institute of Management, Lucknow (IIM-L) seems to be heading for an administrative crisis as Prof Rajiv Kumar Srivastava, who hold additional charge of interim director of the institute, wants to relinquish the additional responsibility.

According to sources, Srivastava cited health reasons and wants to be relieved of the interim director post from July 7, 2015. He was given the job after Prof Devi Singh's tenure ended in September 2014.

JJ Irani, chairman board of governors, IIM-L, in an email to Hindustan Times on Tuesday confirmed that the "information on Prof RS is correct."

When asked about the appointment of a new director, Irani said: "The papers and our recommendation are with the ministry for the past one month." But so far it has not finalized name of a new director.

Sources said Srivastava did not attend the important board meeting held in Noida on June 22 citing health reasons. Srivastava also did not responded to a mail by HT.

Srivastava was given the interim charge of director for a period of six months or till appointment of a regular director. When the six-month term ended in March, he was asked to continue on the post because it was felt that a a new director would be named by June end.

Now, IIM-L officials are keeping their fingers as it is left to be seen whether the government names a new director by July 7 or they will have to face a crisis.

It may be mentioned that Irani, in an interview to HT in March 2015, had categorically said that 'achche din' had not ushered in for IIM-L.

He had then added that in the absence of a full-time director, even the best of institutions suffered and IIM-L was no exception.

In that interview, Irani said, "In the absence of regular director, the institute is not able to take long term decisions."

In fact, Srivastava was not interested to take this additional responsibility since the beginning. He was given the charge by virtue of being the senior most professor of the institute. The search-cum-selection committee constituted during the UPA rule had, before the general elections, selected a few names for the job. But it was not considered by the new government for reasons best known to them, sources said.

The names were proposed to HRD minister Smriti Irani on June 19, 2014 after the BJP came to power. But later the MHRD turned down the names and ordered fresh advertisement for the post and constituted a searchcum-selection committee.

The premier B-School was hopeful that by June-15 end it would get a regular director. The post was again advertised in December-January, 2015 against which IIM-L received 40 applications. Few names were proposed to the MHRD and the new director was due to replace the interim director by June end. But that did not happen.

PMO keeps MHRD waiting for IIT-Patna inauguration

Hindustan Times (Patna)

The inauguration of the new IIT-Patna campus at Bihta, approximately 25km to the west of Patna, has been delayed.

The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) has kept the ministry of human resources development (MHRD) waiting for a convenient date, when PM Narendra Modi would like to perform the ribboncutting ceremony.

The IIT-P brass had received a telephonic intimation from the highest quarters in the MHRD to be ready for its inauguration on June 29.

However, sources say, the date was given a miss, as the construction agencies failed to meet the deadline for completion of the first part of the first phase of the project.

It is understood that the PMO had asked the MHRD to furnish a 'certificate of preparedness' before it put up the request to the PM for a convenient date.

With the construction agencies unable to complete the last-minute finishing, no one was willing to risk giving the certificate, leading to deferment of the inauguration to some time around mid-July. The MHRD has since been silent.

The CPWD and the National Building Construction Corporation Ltd. have been tasked with the construction of the IIT campus. Shapoorji Pallonji and Company Limited is the project contractor.

आईआईटी बनेगा इलेक्ट्रानिक्स रिसर्च का हब

http://www.amarujala.com/news/city/kanpur/kanpur-hindi-news/iit-will-become-the-electronics-reserch-hub-hindi-news/

आईआईटी इलेक्ट्रानिक्स इंजीनियरिंग और रिसर्च का हब बनेगा। डिजिटल इंडिया और मेक इन इंडिया को बढ़ावा देते हुए प्रधानमंत्री ने आईआईटी कानपुर में नेशनल सेंटर फॉर फ्लेक्सिबल इलेक्ट्रानिक्स को स्थापित करने की मंजूरी दी है।

इसका औपचारिक उद्घाटन प्रधानमंत्री बुधवार को नई दिल्ली के इंदिरा गांधी इंडोर स्टेडियम से शाम चार बजे करेंगे। इसका सजीव प्रसारण आईआईटी कानपुर में भी होगा। इस सेंटर की मदद से इलेक्ट्रानिक्स उत्पादों की मैन्यूफैक्चरिंग बढ़ाई जाएगी। औद्योगिक इकाइयों को साथ लेकर रिसर्च और रिसर्च प्रोडक्ट को बाजार में लाने का फैसला किया गया है।

जो प्रोडक्ट बाजार में आएंगे, वह फोल्डेबल (मुड़ने वाले) होंगे। इसके लिए देश, विदेश के तमाम एक्सपर्ट की भी मदद ली जा रही है। डिपार्टमेंट ऑफ इलेक्ट्रानिक्स एंड कम्युनिकेशन ने देश का पहला नेशनल सेंटर फॉर फ्लेक्सिबल इलेक्ट्रानिक्स आईआईटी कानपुर में खोला है। इसके लिए 133 करोड़ रुपये का बजट आवंटित किया गया है। 20 करोड़ रुपये का बजट आईआईटी कानपुर जुटाएगा।

निदेशक प्रो. इंद्रनील मन्ना और उप निदेशक प्रो. एके चतुर्वेदी ने बताया कि यह प्रोजेक्ट पांच साल का है। इसमें रिसर्च और रिसर्च प्रोडक्ट को बाजार में लाया जाएगा। इस दिशा में काम शुरू हो गया है। प्रो. सुधींद्र तत्ती को मुख्य परिचालन अधिकारी (सीओओ) और प्रो. मोनिका कटियार को कोआर्डिनेटर बनाकर रिसर्च कराया जा रहा है। इलेक्ट्रानिक्स रिसर्च में 55 विज्ञानी, अधिकारी और रिसर्च स्कॉलर की टीम लगी है।� नेशनल सेंटर फॉर फ्लेक्सिबल इलेक्ट्रानिक्स से मैन्यूफैक्चरिंग के क्षेत्र में बड़ा बदलाव आएगा। जो एलईडी लाइट विदेश में बन रही है, वह अगर देश में बनने लगी तो एलईडी के प्रोडक्ट सस्ते हो जाएंगे। गुणवत्ता परक उपलब्धता बढ़ जाएगी। उन्होंने बताया कि तकनीक के प्रोटो टाइप डिमांस्ट्रेशन और इसे बाजार में लाने की रणनीति पहले से बनी है।

खराब खाना पहचानने के लिए जो स्मार्ट पैकेजेज बनाए जाएंगे, उसे बाजार में लाने की जिम्मेदारी मनीपाल टेक्नोलॉजी ने उठाई है। सहस्रा इलेक्ट्रानिक्स फ्लेक्सिबल लाइटिंग को बाजार में लेकर आएगी। जापान और कोरिया की कंपनियां भी इस सेंटर से जुड़ना चाह रही हैं।

आईआईटी मुंबई सहित तमाम सरकारी और गैर सरकारी शैक्षिक, रिसर्च इंस्टीट्यूट भी इलेक्ट्रानिक्स सेंटर से जुड़कर महत्वाकांक्षी मेक इन इंडिया और डिजिटल इंडिया का हिस्सा बनना चाह रहे हैं। डिपार्टमेंट ऑफ डिफेंस रिसर्च एंड डेवलपमेंट आर्गेनाइजेशन (डीआरडीओ) ने भी समझौते की पेशकश की है।

आम आदमी तक पहुंचने की कोशिशः नेशनल सेंटर फॉर फ्लेक्सिबल इलेक्ट्रानिक्स के जरिए केंद्र सरकार आम आदमी तक पहुंचना चाहती है। जो

रिसर्च हो रहा है, उसमें ब्रेस्ट कैंसर की पहचान और नकली दवा की पहचान का काम शामिल है। कार्बनिक सोलर सेल के माध्यम से उन क्षेत्रों में पहुंचा जा सकता है, जहां बिजली की कोई व्यवस्था नहीं है। यह तकनीक सेना के काम भी आएगी।

इसकी मदद से दुरुह क्षेत्रों में भी लाइट जलाई जा सकती है। स्मार्ट पैकेजेज में खराब खाने की पहचान करने की व्यवस्था रहेगी। जल और वायु प्रदूषण के प्रबंधन के लिए डिस्पोजबल सेंसर, स्वास्थ्य की निगरानी के लिए लैब ऑन ए चिप बनाने का काम चल रहा है। एयरपोर्ट की निगरानी, पुस्तकालय और परीक्षा की कॉपियों की मानीटरिंग के लिए फ्लेक्सिबल डिस्प्ले एवं लाइटिंग की व्यवस्था की जा रही है।

इलेक्ट्रानिक्स इंक बनाने का काम भी चल रहा है। यह रिसर्च सफल रहा तो सस्ती इंक बाजार में उपलब्ध कराई जा सकेगी। साढ़े तीन साल में 18 बिलियन डॉलर का होगा मार्केट ◌: वर्ष 2014 में फ्लेक्सिबल इलेक्ट्रानिक्स का मार्केट 2.0 बिलियन डॉलर रहा है। ऐसा माना जा रहा है कि वर्ष 2018 तक यह मार्केट 18 बिलियन डॉलर तक पहुंच जाएगा। इसके विश्व बाजार में 500 से ज्यादा कंपनियां काम कर रही हैं। 300 कंपनी उत्तर अमेरिका, 100 यूरोप और 100 कंपनी एशिया पैसेफिक की काम कर रही हैं।

Times of India ND 01/07/2015   P-6

Is CBCS going FYUP way?

Syllabi Not Okayed, Same Mistakes Repeated: DU Teachers

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Is the proposed choice-based credit system going the way of the four-year undergraduate programme? Teachers are alleging similar lapses on part of Delhi University as far as its implementation is concerned.

One of the reasons University Grants Commission in 2014 asked DU to roll back FYUP was that approval to the course is mandatory six months prior to making it effective.

The proposed courses under CBCS are yet to be passed by the academic and executive councils and the new session is starting from July 20, 2015.

Demanding the ministry of human resource development not push for the system from the forthcoming academic session, teacher groups part of DU Teachers' Association say they are in the dark over the syllabus and "there is no reference to CBCS in any of the documents issued by the university administration to the admission committees so far", said AC member Shashi Sekhar

The proposed courses under CBCS are yet to be passed by the academic and executive councils of DU, though the new session is starting from July 20

Singh, who is also admission committee member at Satyawati College.

While former DUTA president and AAD chairman Aditya Narayan Mishra said that teachers will oppose any kind of imposition that will destroy the academic autonomy of universities, incumbent DUTA president Nandita Narain said: "The HRD minister doesn't know about the courses, the UGC secretary claims he has no idea. The UGC chairman claims the President ordered the reforms. But no one actually knows what is happening. UGC seems to be taking orders from DU vice-chancellor who claims consultations have been done without doing any when he implemented FYUP."

If CBCS is implemented from the new

academic session, students will move court as they have been admitted without any information that the courses they are taking admission in might be under a new system, said teachers. They also pointed out that relevant amendments in DU Act have not been brought to the AC and, therefore, not submitted to the Visitor, which was the case in point for rollback of FYUP.

Slamming the proposals of UGC with regard to CBCS, EC member Abha D Habib said: "UGC has only consulted the VC. The model curriculum and structure uploaded is a sham. Nothing is said about how they are being prepared and which committees or experts are involved in the curriculum framework. There are no authors named. Not only DU, even universities from Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala and Tamil Nadu are saying this is not possible to implement now."

UGC should also make public the number of universities which have approved the new curriculum by their respective councils, Habib said.

Indian Express ND 01/07/2015   p-6
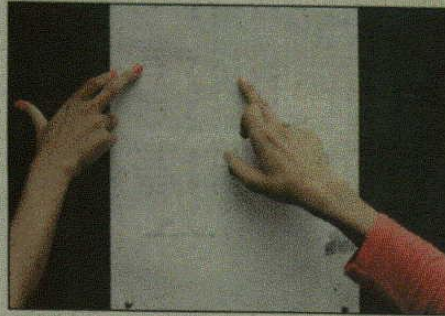
DUTA terms CBCS illegal

ARANYA SHANKAR
NEW DELHI, JUNE 30

THE DELHI University Teachers' Association (DUTA) on Tuesday said the implementation of the Choice Based Credit System (CBCS) at this stage will lead to "grave illegalities" as students were being admitted to existing courses, not the new courses being formed under CBCS.

"I had written to HRD Minister Smriti Irani on June 25 (the first day of admission) to tell her that the implementation of CBCS from July 2015 would be illegal. I told her that students could only be admitted to courses which exist, and no ordinances exist yet for courses under CBCS," DUTA president Nandita Narain said at a press conference.

Under Section 7(4) and Section 30 of the Delhi University Act, "the courses and curricula shall be prescribed by the Ordinances and, subject thereto, by the Regulations." Under Section 31(1), the Executive Council (EC) makes/amends ordinances for courses on the basis of a draft prepared by the Academic Council (AC). But since the courses did not come to the AC, the amendments have not been made.

Narain said she informed Irani that in many colleges, including Kirori Mal College, Ramjas College, Hindu College, Deshbandhu College, Dyal Singh College and Zakir Hussain College, the admission and examination forms were being filled on the basis of existing courses, "We want the CBCS to be deferred for now. You cannot admit students in one course and then tell them that they will be studying something else. That is completely illegal and can be challenged by any student or parent in court," she said.

Former DUTA president Shashwati Mazumdar said the implementation of CBCS was even more hasty than the Four-Year Undergraduate Programme. "One of the reasons for the rollback of the FYUP was that the courses were not put before the Visitor. But the current courses haven't even been put forward before the AC or any other statutory body. Then why is the University Grants Commission (UGC) not intervening?" she said.

Teachers also questioned the UGC meeting with vice-chancellors of various universities scheduled for July 7. "There is a deliberate attempt to not meet teachers. If they can call a meeting of the VCs, why can't they meet elected teachers' representatives?" EC member Abha Dev Habib said.

Former DUTA president Aditya Narayan Mishra and AC member Shashi Shekhar Singh also spoke at the conference. DU VC Dinesh Singh and media co-ordinator Malay Neerav could not be contacted for a comment.

STUDENTS UNAWARE

New Delhi: One round of admissions to Delhi University (DU)'s undergraduate courses is over and another round has begun. But most students are unaware of the Choice Based Credit System (CBCS) under which they are supposed to study this year. Almost all students said they were not aware of what the CBCS was and didn't know they would be taking admission under the new system. The few who had heard of it had done so through hearsay or news reports. The general feeling among them was that it was a rehashed version of the Four-Year Undergraduate Programme (FYUP), but there was no clarity.

In some colleges like Miranda House, even the help desks did not prove helpful as teachers and senior students remained confused. "I didn't know what CBCS was, but the volunteers at the help desk told me about it. They said under CBCS, I have the option of choosing one out of five languages offered but there is no surety whether the faculty for that subject will teach at this college or not," a student said. ENS

Turning data into opportunity

Rozelle Laha

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Big data is watching you! Each time you go to a website, every minute you spend on the Internet, you are being monitored. In fact, a huge amount of data is captured and analysed every second.

According to Big Data - The Next Big Thing, a joint report by NASSCOM and CRISIL Global Research and Analytics, "The Indian Big Data industry is expected to grow from US$200 million in 2012 to US$1 billion in 2015 at a CAGR of 83%... In India, Big Data analytics and related IT services will create an estimated 15,000 to 20,000 specialist jobs by 2015."

As more companies start relying on consumer activities to generate tailored advertisements for them, the market is all set to grow.

"There will be huge demand for qualified data scientists in the coming two to three years. Health care, manufacturing, insurance and banking sectors will be among the top recruiters," says Prof Sobhan Babu, computer science department, IIT Hyderabad.

The upcoming digital era will be largely driven by insights from your activities in the social media platforms, mobile devices and internet of things.

"A data analyst's role can span the entire life cycle of data. If every bite of data had a life, then principally a data analyst could be involved at every touch point within this life. This means looking at work right from a computer engineer's perspective of data management (structured and unstructured data), to data quality, governance, data warehousing and finally reporting and visualisation solutions, to a statistician's perspective of data models and predictive methodologies
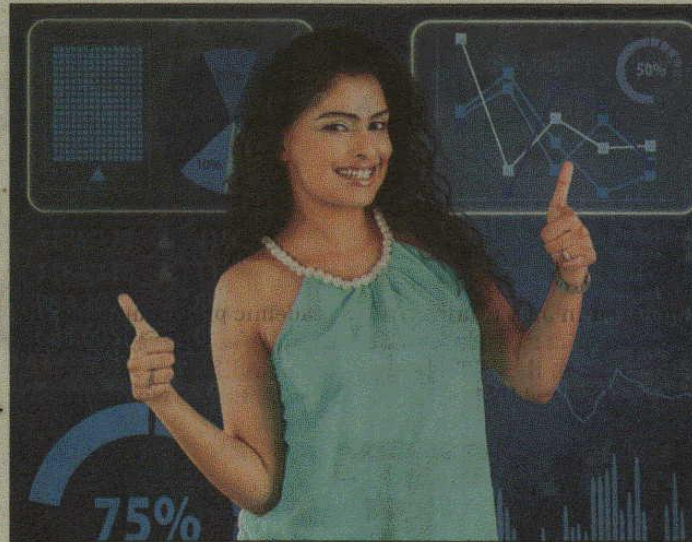
and tools, to finally a business owner's perspective of making sense of the various data points and drawing relationships between them to arrive at inferences and actions," says Shahvir Irani, analytics advisor associate manager, operations at Accenture in India.

"Data equity is becoming even more important than brand equity. Companies can use data analysts to leverage this data equity and help impact revenue, cost and customer experience," says Ajay Kelkar, co-promoter and chief operating officer, Hansa Cequity.

So, what are the skills that employers are looking for? This career is a good fit for technically-savvy people with good analytical skills. They should have strong observational skills. Graduates should ideally have a background in either engineering or a computer sciences.

"Most importantly, we seek graduates with an aptitude for analytical problem solving, to be able to look at the big picture, think out-of-the-box and arrive at logical solutions," says Parag

Pande, managing director for human resources, Accenture, India.

To add to the shortage of trained professionals is the "shortage of tailored courses in the field of data analytics. Most undergraduate and post graduate programmes are too generic in their structure to train students for the big data industry," says Prof (Dr) Bheemarjuna Reddy Tamma, HOD, department of computer science and engineering, IIT Hyderabad.

Several institutes have come up with aligned programmes for training manpower in the field. The postgraduate diploma in business analytics jointly offered by IIM Calcutta, IIT Kharagpur, and ISI Kolkata is a step in this direction.

Similarly, IISC Bangalore is also conducting public lectures for educating people on big data.

The department of computer science and engineering at IIT Hyderabad is launching MTech in data science for industry professionals from August 2015.

Among private players, Great Lakes Institute of Management has been offering a post graduate programme in business analytics since 2013, an executive programme for working professionals.

"We have seen several people taking the course transitioning their profiles to analytics roles in consulting, technology, telecom, e-commerce and financial companies. Candidates with less than five years of experience typically begin at a business analyst or senior analyst level and the salaries offered would be in the range of ₹6 lakh to ₹10 lakh per year," says Dr P K Vishwanathan, professor (analytics), director, PGPBABI, Great Lakes Institute of Management.

"You get to meet brilliant people who have lots of innovative ideas. Some of them have very unique business models. You get to learn a lot and you can apply that learning in your day to day problem solving tasks," says Clarence Wong, alumni of the institute.

PATH FINDER

- Demand growth - Big Data analytics and related IT services will create about 15,000 to 20,000 specialist jobs by 2015

- Basic requirements - Tech savvy people with good analytical and observational skills, with a background in engineering or computer science are best suited

- Salary range - Freshers can expect a package of ₹6 lakh to ₹10 lakh per annum

■ In India, Big Data analytics and related IT services will create an estimated 15,000 to 20,000 specialist jobs by 2015.

ISTOCK

Indian Express ND 01/07/2015 p-11

Technocrat who gave India its first electronics enterprise run by a state govt

SHAJU PHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,
JUNE 30

VISIONARY TECHNOCRAT, industry mentor and institution builder K P P Nambiar died in Bangalore on Tuesday evening. He had been indisposed for some time. He was 86.

Nambiar had been credited with establishing India's first state-run electronics venture Keltron and Inda's first IT park Technopark, both in his home state Kerala.

Nambiar, who had served as Secretary, Department of Electronics when Rajiv Gandhi was the Prime Minister, had been the force behind establishing C-DAC, STPI, CEDTI and VLSI laboratories under the Department of Electronics. As the secretary at the Department of Electronics, he had given a new perspective and direction for country's research and development in the area of electronics.

Born and brought up at Kalliassery in Kannur, Nambiar did his higher studies in Mumbai and London. He did his masters in electronics and communication from Imperial College of Science and Technology, University of London. His area of research was semi-conductor technology.

After a stint with Texas Instruments USA, he returned to India in 1963 to join as projects manager with Philips India. After a stint at IIT-Delhi as a faculty, he joined Tata Group. A key force behind taking Tata to electronics and communications, Nambiar
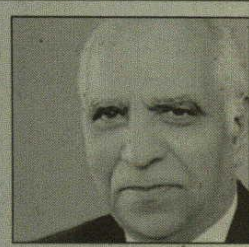
**K P P NAMBIAR
1929-2015**

founded the Industrial Electronics Research and Development Labs under Tata Power Company.

In 1973, Nambiar returned to his home state to establish India's first state government run electronics enterprise, Keltron. The Keltron success story was later replicated elsewhere in the country even as the Kerala venture grew to a major player in electronics and household name in electronic goods. He also took the initiative to establish the research and development centre of Keltron, which was later taken over by Department of Electronics.

In a bid to take electronics revolution to villages, he formed women co-operatives to manufacture consumer durables under the brand of Keltron. As many as 50 such groups were established in Kerala.

In early 80s, he left Keltron after mentoring it for a decade and joined the Indian Telephone Industries, Bangalore, as its Managing Director. It was while serving here that Nambiar moved to the Department of Electronics as its secretary. He served in that post until his retirement in 1989. After retirement, Nambiar returned to Kerala, where then Chief Minister E K Nayanar invited him to prepare the project for Technopark, which is now the single largest IT park in the country. Nambiar was the first chairman of Technopark in Thiruvananthapuram. Later, he became the chairman of governing body of IIM-Kozhikode.

When the CPM was in power from 1996 to 2001, he mooted the Kannur power project, but it did not take off. He had a running feud with V S Achuthanandan, who was then the LDF convener. The CPM was against the project over Nambiar's proposed tie-up with Enron. He later established a telecom venture Namtech in Bangalore.

In 2006, he was conferred the Padma Bhushan.