

## Newspaper Clips

### July 18, 2014

Business Standard ND 18/07/2014 P-22

# India's first virtual tech university taking shape

Seven IITs & Indian Institute of Science team up for the project

KALPANA PATHAK  
Mumbai, 17 July

Seven Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) have teamed with Indian Institute of Science (IISc) to set up India's first home-grown virtual technology university. The IITs involved are those based in Mumbai, Delhi, Guwahati, Chennai, Kanpur, Kharagpur and Roorkee.

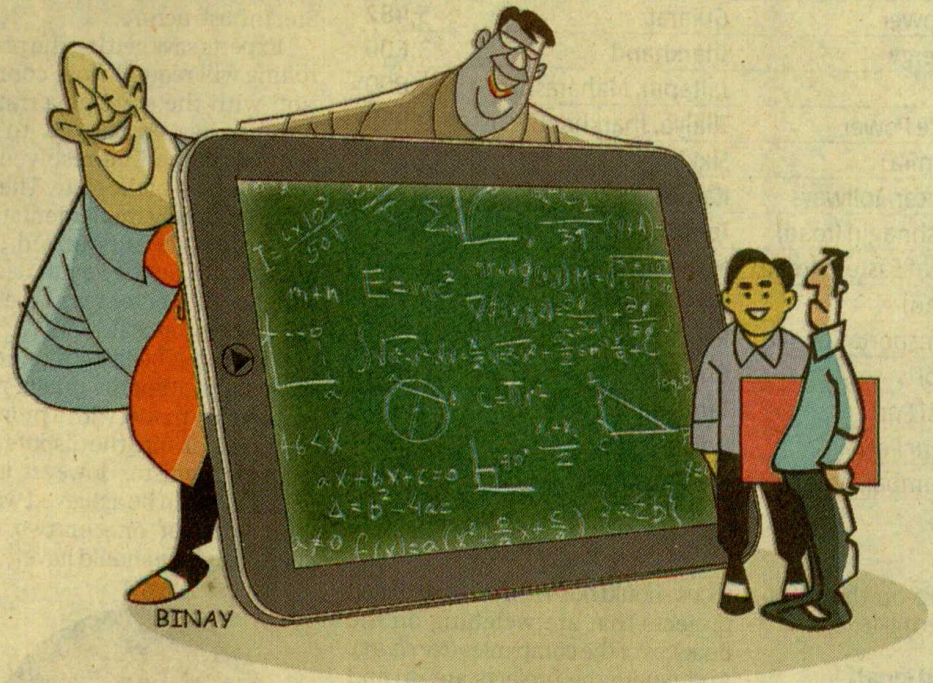
Officials of these IITs have said they will meet in Delhi next month to firm up the details of the project, which could be a reality in the next two-three years. "This will purely be an effort of Indian technology institutes. We have learnt a lot from our international counterparts; we have also been running NPTEL (National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning) successfully for all these years. This is a step forward for us," said Kushal Sen, professor, IIT-Delhi.

The virtual university could work at two levels — provide a degree directly and second, tie up with other universities to transfer credits for a degree.

Initially, the online NPTEL content delivered by the IITs (on the website <http://nptel.iitm.ac.in>) could serve as the base for the proposed university. NPTEL is a joint venture between the seven IITs and IISc. The programme offers web- and video-based course material for basic sciences, engineering and humanities. It was started along the lines of

the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's OpenCourseWare programme.

Students from 887 engineering, tech-



nology, science and management institutes in India use NPTEL courses. As of June this year, NPTEL had 372 web courses and 398 video courses. These courses are accessible freely through the YouTube channel.

So far, students across the world could download NPTEL courses, without the IITs being given any credit for this. Now, students can seek credits, certificates and degrees for all that

they learn on the NPTEL platform. The virtual university will allow engineering students who cannot make it to the IITs to have access to these premier institutions'

learning material and bag online engineering degrees.

The IITs are also in talks with information technology and engineering companies for them to provide employment value to the degrees offered by the proposed university. "In India, the problem is when you give degrees, there is an employment value attached to it. We are thinking we should have on board some employers to give weightage to the degrees and certificates provided," said an IIT professor.

To support the project, the IITs will seek grants from the ministry of human resource development.

# वर्चुअल विवि से आईआईटी की डिग्री!

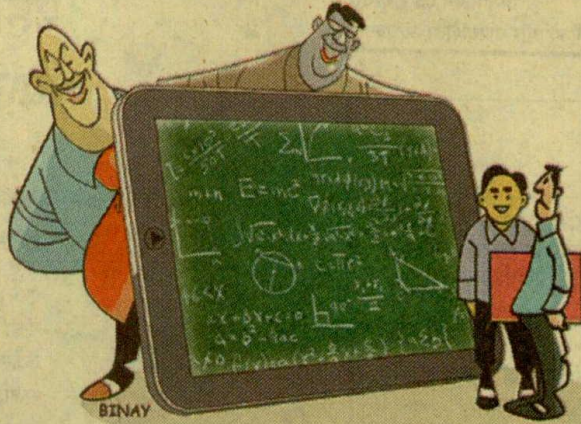
कल्पना पाठक  
मुंबई, 17 जुलाई

देश में पहली वर्चुअल टेक्नोलॉजी यूनिवर्सिटी विकसित करने की योजना पर काम शुरू हो गया है। इस योजना को हकीकत में बदलने के लिए 7 भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (आईआईटी) और इंडियन इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ साइंसेज ने हाथ मिलाया है। ये आईआईटी हैं बंबई, दिल्ली, गुवाहाटी, मद्रास, कानपुर, खडगपुर और रुड़की। सभी आईआईटी का कहना है कि इस परियोजना के बारे में विस्तार से बातचीत करने के लिए सभी संस्थानों के प्रतिनिधि अगले महीने दिल्ली में मुलाकात करेंगे और इस परियोजना को अगले दो से तीन साल में पूरा किया जा सकता है।

आईआईटी दिल्ली के प्रोफेसर कुशल सेन ने कहा, 'इस परियोजना को पूरी तरह भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थानों की कोशिश से विकसित किया जाएगा। हमने अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर के संस्थानों से काफी कुछ सीखा है और हम पिछले कई साल से एनपीटीईएल (नैशनल प्रोग्राम ऑन टेक्नोलॉजी इन्हेंस्ट लर्निंग) पर सफलतापूर्वक काम कर रहे हैं।'

यह वर्चुअल यूनिवर्सिटी दो स्तर पर काम कर सकती है : पहला सीधे डिग्री मुहैया कराए और दूसरा डिग्रियां देने के लिए अन्य विश्वविद्यालयों के साथ करार करे। आईआईटी इस उद्देश्य के लिए अन्य विश्वविद्यालयों और कॉलेजों को भी योजना में शामिल करने की योजना बना रहे हैं।

इस परियोजना की शुरुआत में एनपीटीईएल पाठ्यक्रम ही वर्चुअल



यूनिवर्सिटी का आधार बन सकता है। एनपीटीईएल, सात आईआईटी और इंडियन इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ साइंसेज का संयुक्त उपक्रम है। इस पाठ्यक्रम के तहत बेसिक साइंस, इंजीनियरिंग और मानविकी विषय वेब और वीडियो आधारित पाठ्य सामग्री मुहैया कराई जाती है। यह पाठ्यक्रम मैसाचुसेट्स इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ टेक्नोलॉजी के ओपन कोर्सवेयर प्रोग्राम की तर्ज पर ही विकसित किया गया था।

देश भर के करीब 887 इंजीनियरिंग, प्रौद्योगिकी, विज्ञान और प्रबंधन संस्थानों के छात्र एनपीटीईएल पाठ्यक्रमों का इस्तेमाल करते हैं। जून 2014 तक एनपीटीईएल के तहत 371 वेब पाठ्यक्रम और 398 वीडियो

पाठ्यक्रमों का संचालन किया जा रहा था। इन पाठ्यक्रमों तक छात्र यूट्यूब चैनल के जरिये आसानी से पहुंच सकते हैं।

अभी तक दुनिया भर में मौजूद छात्र एनपीटीईएल पाठ्यक्रमों को डाउनलोड किया करते थे, लेकिन इसके लिए आईआईटी कोई प्रमाणपत्र नहीं दे रही थी। लेकिन अब छात्र इस एनपीटीईएल के जरिये जो भी सीखेंगे उसके लिए उन्हें प्रमाणपत्र और डिग्री भी मुहैया कराई जाएगी। इस वर्चुअल यूनिवर्सिटी के जरिये ब्रे इंजीनियरिंग के छात्र भी आईआईटी की पाठ्य सामग्री से पढ़ाई कर सकेंगे, जो इस प्रीमियम संस्थान में दाखिला नहीं ले सके। अब इन छात्रों को आईआईटी से ऑनलाइन इंजीनियरिंग डिग्री प्रदान की जाएगी। आईआईटी संस्थान इंजीनियरिंग और आईटी क्षेत्र की कंपनियों से भी बातचीत कर रहे हैं, जिससे कि वे इन ऑनलाइन डिग्रियों को रोजगार से जोड़ सकें।

Jul 18 2014 : The Times of India (Delhi)

## Green tribunal raps Metro

New Delhi

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

The National Green Tribunal directed DMRC to explain why they dumped construction waste on Yamuna floodplains and why they shouldn't be fined Rs 5 lakh for it.

NGT had issued a show-cause notice to DMRC after petitioner Manoj Misra submitted several photographs of concrete dumped on the riverbed along NH24, opposite CWG Village.

The bench also co-opted two new members--professors from IIT Delhi and IIT Roorkee--to a committee that was formed earlier to study drains in Delhi that directly discharge waste into the Yamuna.

The terms of reference (ToR) for the committee was to study drains and gather data on stormwater drains, natural drains, and how many of them carry sewage. On Thursday, the bench broadened the TOR for the committee and asked them to deliberate on two major points--whether it is advisable to install sewage treatment plants in all outlets, or is it more beneficial to prohibit discharge of any sewage into the Yamuna by connecting all drains to a new major drain which can carry all the waste of Delhi to a treatment plant.

The bench also directed the committee to file its report on the issue within two weeks. "In the event, submission is not within requisite time, we shall treat it as violation of the orders of the Tribunal," the order said.

## IIT-B launches campus map App

Thursday, 17 July 2014 - 6:20am IST | Agency: DNA

<http://www.dnaindia.com/mumbai/report-iit-b-launches-campus-map-app-2002687>

As Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT-B) gears up to welcome the new batch of students next week, it has come up with an app which gives a detailed map of the 550-acre campus at Powai, which houses hundreds of buildings confusing the newcomers.

More than 1,500 undergrad and postgrad students will arrive this week in the residential campus to start a fresh innings. The mobile app would help them to locate the departments, hostels, clubs, grounds, hospital, bank, eateries and stores. The institute has slated orientation for new PG students on July 17 and July 19-20 for undergraduates.

The 2D isometric map is designed by faculty member Prof Mandar Rane from the Industrial Design Centre.

The map which is available in English and Hindi can be downloaded from: <http://mrane.com/iitbmap.php>.

## Infosys co-founder donates USD 1.8 million for Carnegie-IISc brain project

[Express News Service](#) | Bangalore | July 17, 2014 6:58 pm



The CBR at the IISc was set up earlier this year with funding from a charitable trust set up by the former Infosys CEO. (Source: PTI photo)

Infosys co-founder and former CEO Kris Gopalakrishnan has announced a donation of USD 1.8 million for the Carnegie Mellon University in the US to establish a research tie-up with the Centre for Brain Research (CBR) at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in Bangalore for studying aging related disorders of the brain like Alzheimer's and Parkinson's.

“Carnegie Mellon University is a world-renowned leader in many areas of research and education. I am very pleased to support President Subra Suresh's strategic vision for the collaboration between CMU and IISc through this gift so that we can address one of the grand challenges of our times by understanding the human brain,” Gopalakrishnan said.

The CBR at the IISc was set up earlier this year with funding from a charitable trust set up by the former Infosys CEO.

The partnership between the Carnegie Mellon University, one of the foremost in brain research and the Centre for Brain Research at the IISc aims to leverage the research strengths of the two premier research institutions.

“This partnership will provide opportunities for applying new technologies from fields ranging from imaging to machine learning to address critical questions about neuro-degeneration and one of the most pressing challenges facing humanity is to understand the human brain. Our hope is that this new research collaboration will lead to discoveries about neuro-degenerative diseases that afflict the aging population, and that those findings help improve our diagnostic and treatment capabilities for such diseases,” Carnegie Mellon University president Subra Suresh said. Gopalakrishnan who was instrumental in taking Infosys from a start up in 1981 to a USD 8 billion revenue company, has a personal wealth valued at USD 1.4 billion and is among the top 1500 billionaires in the world at present.

## President Pranab Mukherjee to attend NIT Trichy golden jubilee celebrations

[B Sivakumar](#), TNN | Jul 17, 2014, 04.52 PM IST

[http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chennai/President-Pranab-Mukherjee-to-attend-NIT-Trichy-golden-jubilee-celebrations/articleshow/38549234.cms?utm\\_source=newsletter&utm\\_medium=referral&utm\\_campaign=digest\\_section](http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chennai/President-Pranab-Mukherjee-to-attend-NIT-Trichy-golden-jubilee-celebrations/articleshow/38549234.cms?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=digest_section)

CHENNAI: President Pranab Mukherjee will participate in the golden jubilee celebrations of the National Institute of Technology (NIT), Trichy, on July 19.

"The President is the chief guest for the function, which will start at 1.30pm on July 19. Apart from the President, Tamil Nadu Governor K Rosaiah, state highest education minister P Palaniappan and others will also participate in the function," NIT director S Sundarrajan told TOI over phone from Trichy.

The Regional Engineering College (REC) was set up on a sprawling campus near Trichy in 1964. The REC has been upgraded as National Institute of Technology (NIT) in 2003.

"Distinguished alumni will be honoured on the occasion and some of them are travelling from the US to attend the function," said Sundarrajan.

Deccan Herald ND 18/07/2014 P-12

## Nasa app to improve spacing between planes

WASHINGTON, PTI: Nasa has developed a new air traffic control software to better manage the spacing between planes to help save both time and fuel and reduce emissions.

The computer software tool designed to aid air traffic controllers was presented to the Federal Aviation Administration during a ceremony at the agency's headquarters in Washington. The Terminal Sequencing and Spacing (TSS) technology will enable air traffic controllers to better manage the spacing between aircraft as they fly more efficient approaches into airports, saving both time and fuel and reducing emissions. The software enables the routine use of what are called Performance Based Navigation procedures, resulting in fewer

course and altitude changes, while also reducing the frequency of necessary communications between controllers and pilots.

The TSS tool provides information to controllers about the speeds they should assign to aircraft as they follow fuel-efficient, continuous-descent arrival procedures while passing through a region of airspace surrounding an airport called the Terminal Radar Approach Control, covering a distance from an airport of about 80km.

TSS is the another step in Nasa's support of the development of a Next Generation Air Transportation System, or NextGen, which is a joint multi-agency and industry initiative to modernise and upgrade air traffic control system.

Business Line ND 18/07/2014 P-19

# IIM-C trims contact hours

## Credits hiked to make PG programme attractive for executives

**ANIL URS**

Bangalore, July 17

IIM-Calcutta (IIMC), which has been conducting PGPEX (Post Graduate Programme for Executives) programme for the last eight years, has reduced its contact hours by 15 per cent to 690 hours in an attempt to make the course more attractive for prospective students.

PGPEX is a one-year programme offered by IIMC to for the middle and senior level executives. Contact hours involve physical attendance by students for classes.

### Credits increased

"In addition to reduced contact hours, another attractive feature is the increased credits from 66 to 78," Parthapratim Pal, Chairperson of PGPEX, IIMC, said.

"To make PGPEX more attrac-

tive, we have offered more optional courses so students will have more options to choose from. It also continues to give emphasis on soft skills," he added.

PGPEX provides a combination of theoretical knowledge, innovative problem solving skills, orientation of ethics and human values, case discussions, experience sharing and networking opportunities.

### Batch strength

Pal said the strength of the current batch stood at 50, with functional areas as varied as oil and gas, power and renewable energy, mining, steel, manufacturing, NGO, banking and finance, IT and IT services.

The average GMAT score is 702 and average experience eight years. There are three female students in the batch, four post-

graduates and 45 engineers. Science and arts graduates are three each in the batch, said Pal.

An IIMC team was in Bangalore to clear the doubts of aspiring candidates and offered an opportunity to meet the faculty and alumni and discuss the programme details, admission processes, and expected take-aways from the programme.

### Global acceptance

Talking about the changes made in the last few years, Pal said, "The programme has evolved a lot since its inception in 2006. Over the past seven years, we have made changes in the programme's policies, infrastructure, and processes. Our application process has gone online and we use Skype to interview overseas applicants."

On global acceptance of PGPEX, Pal said, "About 66 per cent of the batch has international experience. The average international work experience of our students is 14 months."