

Newspaper Clips July 18-21, 2015

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■ The right wing publication said that the Left and Congress still 'control' premier institutes. (Above) IIT Roorkee

RSS mouthpiece says IITs turning 'anti-Hindu'

Bhadra Sinha

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NEW DELHI: Right wing publication Organiser – seen as the mouthpiece of the RSS – has courted controversy by publishing an article claiming that top government-funded institutes were being turned into places for “anti-India and anti-Hindu” activities.

The article complained that despite IIT Roorkee being in “Devbhumi” (Hardwar district), non-vegetarian food began to be served there in the UPA days. It added that a “mosque for employees” in IIT Roorkee was converted into a “community mosque”. It also complained that students at NIT Rourkela were “stopped” from holding a puja in the community hall during UPA days.

“Faculties with low morals are

misguiding students... The board of governors should also be made responsible for anti-India and anti-Hindu activities being carried out at the institutes,” the article said.

The article said that the Left and Congress still “control” premier institutes through boards of governors and directors. It attacked the IIMs’ opposition to the draft IIM Bill.

It hit out at eminent scientist and former chairman of IIT Bombay’s Board of Governors Anil Kakodkar and chairman of IIM Ahmedabad AM Naik for criticizing the HRD ministry.

The article said that while Kakodkar had accused HRD minister Smriti Irani of taking IIT directors’ recruitment casually, he hadn’t protested against the ‘Kiss of Love’ protest by IIT Bombay faculty and students.

This saffron tint is not pleasant

The RSS is devaluing the IITs and IIMs by branding them anti-Hindu and anti-national

Is it just a cultural outfit or does it have a role in guiding the political destiny of India? The RSS really needs to make up its mind. After saying that it had no role in running the government, the RSS has missed no opportunity to make its views heard on a number of issues which are not in its purview as a non-political cultural outfit.

And many of these pronouncements have harmed the image of the BJP government, in whose name it often claims to speak. The latest salvo is against some of the IITs and IIMs by the RSS mouthpiece, the Organiser. It says that these institutions are promoting an anti-Indian and anti-Hindu sentiment. It singled out eminent nuclear scientist Anil Kakodkar for criticising the HRD ministry on certain issues. It then bizarrely asks why Mr Kakodkar did not criticise the Kiss of Love movement by IIT Mumbai students even as he accused Union HRD minister Smriti Irani of recruiting directors to the IITs casually. The other pieces of evidence of anti-national and anti-Hindu activity consist of the introduction of non-vegetarian food in IIT Roorkee's canteen and the apparent low morals of the faculties in IITs, which were misleading students.

The IITs and IIMs are by all accounts India's calling cards in educational excellence. Scientists and other top academics have every right to question the actions of the ministry, but this in no way amounts to any attempt to undermine these institutions. It beggars belief that an institution of learning should have to prove its Hindu credentials. The government should step in and tell the RSS to stay out of these institutions and stop damaging the morale of the faculty and students. The mouthpiece has also meddled in the FTII imbroglio, dubbing those protesting against the appointment of Gajendra Chauhan as chairman as anti-Hindu. The RSS is clearly way out of line with these remarks. It is not the custodian of Hinduism and being pro-Hindu cannot be a qualification for any institution. By interfering like this, it is devaluing the brand of these places where the best and brightest of our students study. If the RSS contention that the Left and Congress sought to undermine these institutions by introducing an ideological tilt to them, then it is doing the same by its remarks. The RSS can well be a guide for the BJP, but it has to leave the running of institutions to elected representatives. In recent times, it has sought to communalise many issues to the detriment of our social fabric. It must confine itself to its avowed claim that it is a cultural organisation and refrain from intruding into areas where it has no expertise or knowledge. This might be something it could ponder at its meeting in Nainital which begins this week.

talkingpoint

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Dainik Bhaskar ND 21/07/2015 P-11

न्यूज

आईआईटी एडमिशन: सेकंड राउंड के बाद करीब 80 सीटें खाली

आईआईटी संस्थानों में अंडरग्रेजुएट कोर्स की करीब 90 फीसदी से ज्यादा सीटें सेकंड राउंड के सीट अलोकेशन के बाद भर चुकी हैं। शुक्रवार को समाप्त हुए दूसरे चरण के अलॉटमेंट के बाद देशभर के आईआईटी संस्थानों में करीब 80 सीटें ही खाली हैं। शनिवार से शुरू तीसरे चरण में इन सीटों के भी भर जाने की संभावना है। अधिकतर खाली सीटें आईआईटी, खड़गपुर और आईएसएम, धनबाद में बची हैं। दिल्ली में 1, कानपुर में दो और चेन्नई में छह सीटें खाली हैं, जबकि आईआईटी, बॉम्बे की सभी 903 सीटें दूसरे राउंड में ही भर गईं। इस साल आईआईटी, एनआईटी और सरकार द्वारा सहायता प्राप्त इंजीनियरिंग कॉलेजों में प्रवेश के लिए संयुक्त प्रक्रिया अपनाई गई है।

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Another IIT aspirant kills self in coaching hub Kota

KOTA: An 18-year-old youth, who was taking coaching classes for IIT entrance test, allegedly hanged himself in his hostel room here, days after the National Crime Records Bureau released data saying that 45 students committed suicide last year in this coaching hub.

Avinash Singh, a resident of Allahabad, committed suicide at his hostel in Rajiv Gandhi Nagar colony, police said.

ourview

A first-world yardstick of progress

More than innovation, India has to make technology diffusion a priority

The legendary Japanese businessman Akio Morita made Sony a household name across the world through a string of innovative products. He pushed for original research even as his country was emerging from the ashes of military defeat after World War II.

The bulk of Japanese products in that era were based on borrowed technology. It took many decades for the Japanese to shed the tag of being smart copycats (rather than imitators). Other countries have since made the same transition. The South Koreans are one recent example. The Chinese are trying to follow in their footsteps.

These examples matter. Infosys founder-chairman N. R. Narayana Murthy recently lamented that India has not produced a single noteworthy invention since independence. "Is there one invention from India that has become a household name in the globe? Is there one technology that has transformed the productivity of global corporations? Is there one idea that has led to an earth-shaking invention to delight global citizens? Folks, the reality is that there is no such contribution from India in the last 60

years," he told graduating students of the Indian Institute of Science last week.

There is more to this statement than rhetorical flourish. There is absolutely nothing wrong in wanting India to emerge as a home of global innovation. And Murthy in that sense did well to ask tough questions. However, the problem is that he failed to grapple with a clear historical reality: countries such as Japan, South Korea and China became innovative only after they reached a certain level of income, when their economic model began to shift from resource intensity to innovation.

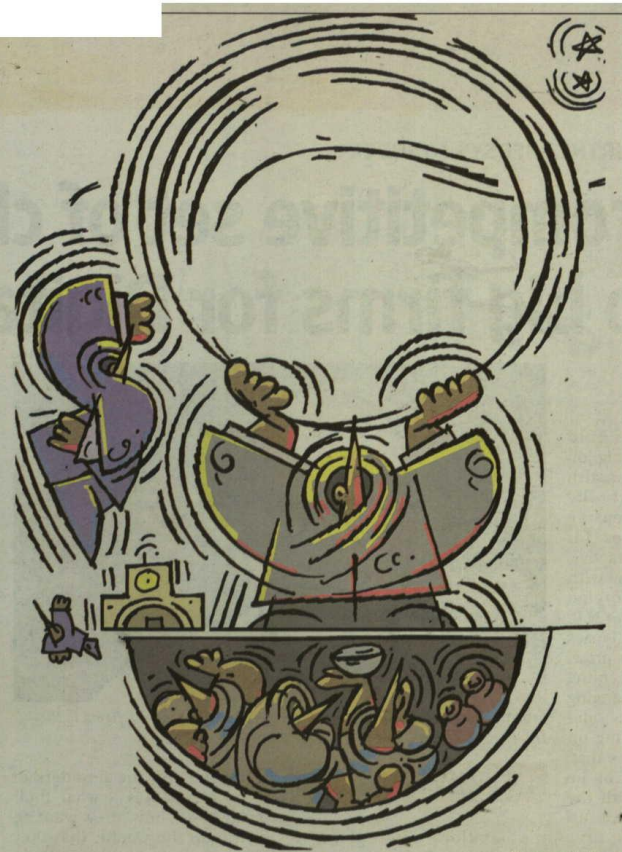
One imperfect measure of innovation capacity is global patents. Data from countries such as China, South Korea, Singapore, Indonesia and others showed that the number of their global patents only rose very slowly, and that too from the late 1990s to the first decade of the 21st century. The progress is never linear. There is a point when the number of patents granted per citizen begins to rise more rapidly than the underlying economy. That is also the point when there is a shift to a more innovative economy.

Technological progress is not

necessarily the best measure of how well a developing country such as India is doing. Such countries lie within the global technology frontier; they are often better off bringing in the best global technology, either to use it directly or figure out ways to use it for frugal engineering. India has not done too badly on that score.

There is an important lesson hidden in what Murthy said. India needs to prepare for a time when it too will have to make innovation rather than higher capital investment or a growing labour force its main engine of economic growth. Are we prepared? For example, the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) were established with foreign help as institutions that could help India build a techno-

India needs to prepare for a time when it will have to make innovation its main engine of economic growth



JAYACHANDRAN/MINT

logical base. These institutes, well-known for the quality of the engineers they churn out, were left to their own devices when it came to solving the country's pressing problems.

The government never thought it worthwhile to use them in a systematic way. What compounded all this was the weak interface between these institutes and private industry when socialist thinking made the private sector a pariah. The government did not care and the private sector was too hampered to make use of what these institutes offered. The engineers produced by IITs were trained in the frontiers of technology and

left India for greener pastures abroad.

There is nothing wrong in being a smart adapter: the diffusion of global technology has a certain logic rooted in historical experience. Ultimately the story is not about the lack of India's technological prowess but more about the poor choices and the lack of linking institutions that could take technology to the people of India. Their welfare is more important than whether what they use has been developed in India or abroad.

Have Indian technology institutes lived up to their promise? Tell us at views@livemint.com

Mail Today EDUCATION CONCLAVE 2015

Continued from page 1
"I have been selectively targeted. There has been a selective outrage against what I have been doing as is the convention. It is also convenient sometimes not to challenge easy clubs. After a very long time I am asking the academics to be accountable. They are just reacting against it. You are bound to be attacked when you challenge the status quo," Irani said while addressing the Mail Today Education Conclave 2015 on Monday.

"The Ministry of Human Resource Development had political goals to serve in the past... to serve the goals of some chosen academics and also to serve the goals of a few select institutions. Since I took charge a year back, the goal has been to change this so that the HRD ministry serves the best interests of those who are affected directly by it... the students and their parents," Irani asserted.

Suggestions taken

The minister also said that while framing the new education policy, suggestions of people from villages and districts have been utilised, and the draft education policy shall be ready by the end of 2015. "Our last education policy had been formulated over two decades back, but the world has changed a lot since then. We launched a project to formulate another one last January and made people participate in it. In the process, a select band of bureaucrats, academicians and politicians used to make this policy, but we have been asking people what they want. The responses have been staggering across India. This is the first such endeavour in India," she said.

"The goal of education is the empowerment of self and that of the nation. There have been academics in India who have long been forgotten, such as KP Jaiswal, who died in 1937 and who wrote on Indian history. He was the one to excavate the Nalanda University. He has been forgotten. Rather, we remember Plato when someone says 'Plato'." Irani said.

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Smiti Irani Human Resource Development Minister



'EDUCATION POLICY WILL BE READY BY 2015 END'

called temperamental. This is a prejudice," she said.
"On many occasions, I had been advised on several occasions to see the difference of students at state. For example, someone told me to compare the future of students in private medical colleges and I could not do that," Irani said.
"In the NCERT books my child studies that Tikah was an extremist. Now, today the extremist he seen on television is someone who is associated with terror. So what association will he make? So don't you think NCERT books need to be rewritten?" Irani asked.

Defence

Rather than parrying queries, Irani took questions lead on the defended a series of powers that questioned her preferences. "Devika Dethabadi was not removed from the CAG. Whenever a new government comes to power the books is reconstructed. Once the new one comes into being, there's no question of removing anyone," Irani retorted.
The minister also defended decisions of appointments to academic bodies that already accused her of proposing to RSS-affiliated persons. "Several appointments have been illegals of funds from the Indian establishment for these projects and yet, for example, since 1973 ICAR projects have been hanging fire despite talks and crosses that they have drawn," Irani said.

'No creative freedom at govt universities'

By Mail Today Bureau in New Delhi

THE deplorable condition of state universities in India and the "poor quality of students they are churning out" was discussed at length at the Mail Today Education Conclave 2015.
Talking at the event, Ansal University Vice-Chancellor Professor Raj S. Dhankar said, "Twenty per cent of our children study at state universities, but look at their condition. There is no funding to pay salaries to the faculty. There is so much government control in a state university, the VC is completely at the mercy of the chief minister."
Professor Dhankar also spoke on the government versus private university divide in the country. "It's impossible to create great

Ansal University V-C says there's too much govt control at state universities



Foreign students form a substantial force in our curricula, but the right policies are required for India to become the true vishwa guru.

Vasant Valley principal says learning should not be restricted to books

By Mail Today Bureau in New Delhi

STEREOTYPING the need for students to achieve "real success in life," Vasant Valley School principal Rekha Krishnan on Monday said that children should be able to learn and unlearn. She added that physical, mental and emotional health of a child should also be fostered by schools.
"Talking about the big test for students? It's not just about scoring good marks in CBSE or ICSE exams," she said, addressing the Mail Today Education Conclave 2015.
While students are always focusing on books and curriculum, Krishnan said it was extremely important to have an overall qualified education system. "The need of the hour is a qualified education system. The curriculum of school studies should actually go beyond CBSE learning. It's always about gaining knowledge and not just mugging up books. Pre-determined ideas shouldn't exist, rather mindsets should be broadened," she said.
"Smart Valley school has been able to hold on to its core principles for 25 years. At Vasant Valley school, we teach how to work with teams," Krishnan added.
Long school hours usually stand as a conflict between parents and schools, but Rekha believes that these are not meant to burden the student. "Our long school hours are not to burden students. It's about washing off the typical tutorial ideas which are highly taking over the students who wish to learn. We make action plans to work with the students in every possible way and condition them for a 'warrior tomorrow'." To deal with the challenges offered by life is what the students are to be prepared for, she said, adding that the journey from kindergarten to high school cannot be entirely restricted to securing jobs in the economy, which is quite a traditional outlook in India.
"We make our students write and write more as communication has become important. Life is all about multi-tasking and students should be encouraged to do that," Krishnan added.

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July 20

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IIT-Delhi's invite to Ramdev for deliberations raises eyebrows

NEW DELHI, PTI: Amid a raging controversy over saffronisation of education, IIT-Delhi's decision to invite yoga guru Ramdev and an RSS affiliate for deliberations on a programme to leverage the technical strength of the IITs for development of rural areas has raised eyebrows.

Ramdev and members of RSS' Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram had attended the meeting on implementation of Unnat Bharat Abhiyan in January this year along with other stakeholders and professors associated with the programme including chairman of IIT-Delhi Board of Governors, Vijay Bhatkar.

The meeting, during which involvement of cows to address rural issues were discussed, came at a time when the then IIT-Delhi Director R Shivgaonkar had stepped down from his post amid allegations of interference of the HRD ministry. His resignation was accepted in June this year.



Ramdev

While Union HRD minister Smriti Irani had consistently denied saffronisation of education, on Saturday she held deliberations with RSS affiliated bodies on the new education policy during which they are understood to have also discussed the appointments of possible candidates in various institutes and varsities in the country.

However, IIT-Delhi sought to downplay the presence of Ramdev saying he was invited as he wanted to collaborate with the rural development initiatives. Meanwhile, officials in

the HRD ministry said they were not aware of Ramdev's presence in that meeting.

"He wanted to collaborate with rural development activities and we had invited him since he was in Delhi during that period. He also wanted to explore technologies which we wanted to establish in his clusters," said Professor Virender Kumar Vijay of the Centre for Rural Development and Technology at IIT-Delhi, which is considered as one of the brainchild behind the programme.

Professor Vijay also sought to play down reports that they have collaborated with some spiritual gurus in taking ahead the programme.

"We have in fact collaborated with about 100 agencies in our mission which also comprised other spiritual gurus. They are having their people connect and if they are connected with the people and want to do something for rural technologies then only we will be considering," he said.

IIT's move to invite Ramdev stokes debate

OUR CORRESPONDENT

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istry. Though his resignation has been accepted by the HRD ministry in June this year, President Pranab Mukherjee has expressed displeasure over the Centre's last-minute request to approve the resignation of Shivgaonkar.

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'IITS BEING USED FOR 'ANTI-INDIA, ANTI-HINDU' ACTIVITIES'

NEW DELHI: A piece in the RSS organ has alleged that prestigious institutes like IITs were being turned into places for "anti-India and anti-Hindu" activities. Suggesting that political motives were behind opposition by some IITs to the government's moves, the article said the Left and Congress "still control the premium institutes" and both parties are "masters" at "ideological control" of an institute through the board of governors and directors.

आईआईटी विशेषज्ञों ने फॉल्ट से दिलाई निजात

मिडास तकनीक से गर्मियों में लोकल फॉल्ट में 45 फीसदी आई कमी, कंपनी की ताजा सर्वे में हुआ खुलासा

बलिराम सिंह | नई दिल्ली

दिल्लीवालों को इस बार गर्मी में बिजली फॉल्ट से काफी हद तक राहत मिली। कारण आईआईटी दिल्ली द्वारा इजाद की गई मिडास तकनीक, इसका सहारा लेकर बिजली कंपनियों ने खराबी से पहले ही यह जान लिया कि लाइन में कहां डिफॉल्ट होने वाला है। तीन महीने की ताजा स्टडी में पाया गया कि पिछले साल के अपेक्षा इस बार गर्मियों में दिल्ली के लगभग 35 लाख बिजली उपभोक्ताओं

को लोकल फॉल्ट से 45 फीसदी तक राहत मिली।

बता दें कि हर साल गर्मी में बिजली की मांग बढ़ते ही लोकल फाल्ट में भी इजाफा हो जाता है, जिसकी मूल वजह ट्रांसफार्मर का जलना अथवा ग्रिड का फेल हो जाना है। इसी तरह बारिश के दौरान फीडर में पानी चले जाने की वजह से भी लोकल फॉल्ट की दिक्कत बढ़ जाती है। लेकिन इस बार दिल्ली की लगभग दो-तिहाई बिजली उपभोक्ताओं को मिडास तकनीक के जरिए लोकल

फाल्ट से काफी हद तक राहत मिली। कंपनी प्रवक्ता के मुताबिक मिडास तकनीक के जरिए बिजली चोरी के अलावा लोकल फॉल्ट में बड़े पैमाने पर सुधार हुआ है। चाहे गर्मी का मौसम हो या बारिश, दोनों मौसम में इस तकनीक ने दिल्लीवालों का साथ दिया है।

यू कार्य करता है मिडास : इस तकनीकी के तहत कंपनी ने अपने सभी 10 हजार ट्रांसफार्मर्स पर एक डिवाइस लगाया है और सभी ट्रांसफार्मर्स एवं सभी छोटे-बड़े ग्रिड को ऑनलाइन कनेक्ट किया गया है।

सचेत करता है मिडास : कंपनी प्रवक्ता के मुताबिक मिडास के जरिए किसी भी ट्रांसफार्मर के गर्म होते ही ऑनलाइन स्क्रीन पर संदेश आ जाता है, जिसकी वजह से ट्रांसफार्मर का लोड किसी अन्य ट्रांसफार्मर पर शिफ्ट कर दिया जाता है। ऐसे में ट्रांसफार्मर जलने से बच जाता है। यह जानकारी ट्रांसफार्मर जलने से 4 घंटे पहले ही मिल जाती है। इसी तरह ट्रांसफार्मर में तेल कम होते ही 10 दिन पहले ही संदेश आ जाता है। ऐसे में ट्रांसफार्मर बंद नहीं हो पाता है।

Deccan Herald ND 20/07/2015 P-1

IITs, IIMs don't need Cabinet nod for foreign tie-up

Govt reverses order to relax rules

NEW DELHI: Prior permission from Union Cabinet is not required for IITs, IIMs and other higher educational institutions for signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with a foreign university from now on as the Narendra Modi government has reversed its own order issued five months ago.

Such institutions, however, must be vested with powers to enter into such agreements under the Act they have been established. They can sign an MoU with a foreign institution with the approval of their board of governors (BoG), "provided it (MoU) conforms with the national education policy, Acts of Parliament and any other laws of the land in vogue," the Human Resource Development (HRD) Ministry said, issuing an office memorandum on July 17 following the Cabinet decision.

"If there is no provision in the Act of the institution for signing an agreement with a foreign agency, the agreement may be signed with the approval of the ministry," it added.

In February, the Cabinet Secretariat had issued a direc-

Giving institutions a free hand

- After HRD Minister Smriti Irani questioned legality of IIT-Delhi's MoU with a foreign varsity, the government in February made prior permission from Cabinet mandatory for such approvals
- HRD Ministry issues new rules on July 17 exempt-

ing higher education institutions, vested with powers to sign such MoUs, from taking prior permission

- If there is no provision in the Act governing the institution to sign such an MoU, approval of the ministry is needed

tive to all the ministries and the organisations functioning under them to seek Cabinet's prior permission before entering into an agreement with any foreign agency, referring to the provisions of the transaction of government business rules.

Though it had exempted agreements related to culture or science and technology, the cabinet secretariat had, however, said that the MoUs on the two subjects should be "duly approved" by the minister in charge of the department concerned and the external affairs minister followed by an inter-ministerial consultation. Such agreements should not affect the national security or India's relations with other countries.

As per the old directive, the institutions under the central government, while seeking permission, had to provide "rationale" behind the MoU with a foreign institute. Official sources said the Union Cabinet reversed its order and exempted many institutions from seeking approval as the HRD Ministry expressed difficulty in scrutinising all MoUs.

The Cabinet's earlier order came in February after HRD Minister Smriti Irani questioned the legality of an MoU between the IIT-Delhi and the Mauritius Research Council for setting up an International Institute of Technology Research Academy in Mauritius in 2013.

DH News Service

Deccan Herald ND

20/07/2015 P-7

IIT-Bombay to focus more on aerospace

MUMBAI, DHNS: As a step towards realising the vision of the “Make in India” initiative, and in accordance with its goal of creating a world-class aerospace manufacturing ecosystem in India, the National Centre for Aerospace Innovation and Research (NCAIR) along with DMG Mori India launched its Advanced Machining Excellence Cell (AMEC) at Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT Bombay) on Saturday.

Dr Greg Hyslop, vice president and General Manager of Boeing Research and Technology, USA, inaugurated the cell in the presence of H K Mittal, Advisor, Ministry of Science & Technology; Dr Pratyush Ku-

mar, president, Boeing India; Prof Devang Khakhar, Director, IIT Bombay, and other dignitaries from NCAIR partner industries.

Prof Asim Tewari, Professor in-charge of the NCAIR said, “NCAIR came into existence in November 2010 and since then we have focused on developing aerospace manufacturing capability through related training, technology transfer, R&D, and shared infrastructure. As of now we have 22 invention disclosures towards patenting under our name and we wish to create a world class aerospace manufacturing ecosystem in the country in the years to come”.

Times of India ND 20/07/2015 P-7

IIT hotbed for 'anti-Hindu', 'anti-India' activities: RSS

New Delhi: After an Organiser article termed as "anti-Hindu" the protests against Gajendra Chauhan's appointment as FTII chairman, another piece in the RSS organ has alleged that prestigious institutes like IITs were being turned into places for "anti-India and anti-Hindu" activities.

Suggesting that political motives were behind opposition by some IIMs to the government's moves, the article said the Left and Congress "still control the premium institutes" and both parties are "masters" at "ideological control" of an institute through the board of governors and directors.

It has also taken potshots at former chairman of the board of governors, IIT Bombay, and noted nuclear scientist Anil Kakodkar, and IIM, Ahmedabad, chairman A M Naik for their criticism of the



IN HINDUTVA FIRING LINE

ministry over various issues.

Claiming that non-vegetarian food began to be served at IIT Roorkee "in the holy city of Haridwar" and students at NIT, Rourkela, were "stopped" from holding Puja in community hall, both under the UPA rule, it said these incidents show that "these government-funded institutes from tax payers money are becoming a place for anti-India and anti-Hindu activities."

"Faculties with low moral are misguiding students. These activities either don't come to notice of

board of governors or are being ignored... board of governors should also be made responsible for anti-India and anti-Hindu activities being carried out in the institutes," it said.

Taking a dig at Kakodkar, the article in the RSS weekly said he accused HRD Minister Smriti Irani of taking IIT directors' recruitment "casually" but did not say a word over celebration of 'Kiss of Love' by IIT Mumbai faculty and students.

The RSS weekly has been strongly arguing for the government to bring in changes in the education sector in line with the Hindutva outfit's views and has hit out at those opposed to its policies.

Several older IIMs have also criticised the draft bill prepared by the HRD Ministry that would give sweeping powers to the government in running the institutions. PTI

Virat Vaibhav ND 20/07/2015 P-8

IIT से निकाले गए छात्र को पैनिक अटैक, अस्पताल में भर्ती

वैभव न्यूज

रुड़की। आईआईटी से बाहर निकाले गए गए 72 छात्रों में से एक पर आखिरकार तनाव भारी पड़ गया। शनिवार को तनाव के चलते वह बेहोश हो गया। छात्र को आईआईटी अस्पताल से एक निजी नर्सिंग होम में भर्ती कराया गया।

करीब ढाई घंटे के इलाज के बाद छात्र की हालत में सुधार शुरू हुआ। डॉक्टर के मुताबिक छात्र को तनाव के कारण बेहोश हुआ था। जिसे पैनिक अटैक भी कहा जाता है।

आईआईटी से बाहर निकाले गए 72 छात्र मानसिक रूप से तनाव में हैं। इनमें से एक छात्र अभिषेक मंडल पुत्र हलधर मंडल निवासी पुरुलिया, पश्चिम बंगाल की शनिवार की शाम करीब चार बजे अचानक बेहोश हो गया। अभिषेक अपने सीनियर साथी के साथ हॉस्टल में ठहरा हुआ था।



छात्रों ने पहले उसे आईआईटी अस्पताल में भर्ती कराया।

इसके बाद अभिषेक दिल्ली-हरिद्वार हाईवे स्थित गोठी अस्पताल के लिए रेफर किया गया। करीब ढाई घंटे बाद अभिषेक की हालत में सुधार होना शुरू हुआ।

सूचना मिलते ही आईआईटी के छात्र अस्पताल पर जमा होने लगे। वहीं

एनएसयूआई के जिलाध्यक्ष सचिन चौधरी भी कार्यकर्ताओं के साथ अभिषेक का हालचाल जानने पहुंचे।

अभिषेक के अचानक बीमार होने के चलते आईआईटी के छात्र भी सकते में थे। इनमें से एक छात्र ने बताया कि निष्कासित किए गए सभी छात्र तनाव में हैं, क्योंकि छात्रों को यह नहीं सूझ रहा है कि यदि आईआईटी उन्हें वापस नहीं लेती है तो उनके करियर का क्या होगा।

डॉक्टर प्रवीण गोठी ने बताया कि अभिषेक की हालत में सुधार है। वह तनाव के कारण बेहोश हुआ था। जिसे चिकित्सकीय भाषा में पैनिक अटैक कहा जाता है। वहीं, अभिषेक की तबियत खराब होने की सूचना मिलने पर चेन्नई रहने वाला उसका भाई वहां से रुड़की के लिए रवाना हो गया है। छात्रों ने बताया कि इलाज के दौरान कोई आईआईटी अधिकारी उनसे मिलने नहीं पहुंचा। ■

Millenium Post ND 20/07/2015 P-13

Private universities woo aspirants... with Jacuzzi, beauty salons, malls

NEW DELHI: As the lure of fat pay packets draw thousands of students to the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) and prestigious colleges of Delhi University, private varsities seek to woo the aspirants with sprawling campuses, heated pools, beauty salons and even shopping arcades. The admission brochures and advertisements of various private universities besides promising "world-class education" and "100 per cent placement record", also offer facilities like on-campus retail therapy and luxury fitness services.

While public universities such as Tezpur University, Banaras Hindu university, Annamalai University and Chhatrapati Shahu Ji Maharaj University in Kanpur have their helipads, private universities such as Symbiosis' Lavale campus near Pune and Munar Catering college in Kerala also feature in the list. For the



fashion enthusiasts, the universities which are like "mini-townships", have shopping malls on campus to offer some retail therapy.

The 600 acre campus of Lovely professional University in Jalandhar which often graces full page advertisements in newspapers, has residential facilities for over 30,000 students, an open air theatre, 40 ATM machines and six bank branches. Its shopping com-

plex known as Uni-mall has elite supermarkets, departmental stores and even a photo studio. The varsity says the mall, which is completely managed by its students, has been set up to encourage entrepreneurship skills of students.

"Though education quality is of prime importance to any student but having a beautiful campus which has all the facilities for a comfortable life, help us focus better on stud-

ies," says a Rohan Bhalla, a LPU student.

Another student Himanshi Mehta says, "Having all the facilities on campus, from necessities to hangout zones, is important from safety point of view, especially for girls. We do not have to worry about going to the market late in the night after classes get over to fetch things".

The 63 acre campus of Sharda University in Noida

has a world class cafeteria with outlets such as Caf?-Coffee day, Sagar Ratna, Bikano, among others. Manav Rachna International University in Faridabad has similar facilities.

Amity University, which has sprawling campuses in Noida, Jaipur and Lucknow among other cities have Loreal Beauty Salons and laundry services provided by a London firm. World class hair and skin care solutions are not only available at Amity campuses but also at Lovely University, Pravara Institute of Medical Sciences in Maharashtra and Sathyabhama University in Chennai, among others.

"Why waste time and energy to go to a far off salon whenever you have a birthday party or any event at college," says Ridhima. "Institutions are not just for imparting theoretical education, the facilities on campus help you in overall grooming of personality," says Anukriti, a student at Galgotia University. P11

IIT-P: An island of excellence this

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/patna/IIT-P-An-island-of-excellence-this/articleshow/48127911.cms>

YOU drive through the gates of this 501-acre campus at Amhara village, near Bihta on the outskirts of Patna, and you find yourself in a different world altogether. This lush-green permanent campus of Indian Institute of Technology-Patna (IIT-P) is currently being decked up for its grand opening by PM Narendra Modi on July 25. The construction work of only phase-I of the project is on the verge of completion though.

For the D-Day a week on, a waterproof 'pandal' that can accommodate a 2000-strong gathering is coming up in front of the administrative building. "The PM will fly into the campus by a chopper for the 75-minute function," IIT-P registrar Subhash Pandey said, adding however that the institute was yet to get the minutes of the programme.

The [Patna](#) IIT opened in 2008, operating to start with from a transit campus at Pataliputra Colony. The construction work on its Bihta campus started in December 2012. The phase-I of the project, scheduled to be completed in 18 months, was delayed due to several reasons, including an agitation by farmers who gave land for the project.

Almost a year after its phase-I deadline, however, the campus is ready to host students, staff and faculty members. "The arch-shaped administrative building, three academic blocks for different departments, a tutorial building comprising classrooms and separate civil, mechanical and electrical engineering workshops are ready," said an engineer at work on Thursday.

While the students and faculty members may have to leave the perks of a capital city behind on shifting to Bihta, the very grandeur of the campus will for sure give them a metropolitan feel. The four blocks of boys hostel have 940 single-occupation rooms. There are a common room, a music room and a mess. The entire campus is equipped with Wi-Fi and fire-safety devices, and all the buildings are painted in eye-soothing cream and beige.

The four blocks of the faculty quarters are painted in purple, however. One of these four blocks for now will be used for providing accommodation to 100-odd girl students. The institute director's residence and a hospital are also ready. So are the 2-BHK staff quarters. For uninterrupted power supply, the campus will have a dedicated 33kV electrical line for which a receiving substation and two 11kV distribution substations are ready. Of course, there's a 24-hour power backup in the form of a hi-tech genset. Plus, the electrical fittings are equipped with sensors; that is, if lights, fans or other gadgets are left switched on in locked rooms, they will automatically get switched off.

The centrally-airconditioned buildings are earthquake resistant. In fact, the area is prone to quakes measuring 8 on the Richter scale, but these buildings can resist tremors measuring up to 12. Conforming to the GRIHA (Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment) norms, the campus boasts of 25 to 30% green area.

"We tried to keep almost all the trees which existed on the campus; few which had to be felled have been replanted at other places on the campus," an official said, adding the campus would also have at least three small ponds where rainwater would be harvested and boating facilities provided.

The sports zone is ready with separate football and cricket grounds, all fitted with high-mast lights and other utilities. Other playgrounds are also being developed. "This is one of the best-planned IITs with every minor detail from sewerage and water treatment plants to open areas for expansion listed in its Master Plan," the official said, adding the road stretch within the campus measures almost 10km.

A primary school building is also under construction, in which Litera Valley School will be opening a branch. A bank branch is also part of the plan. The marketplace with 24 shops will be ready in the next six months while the girls' hostel, an auditorium, a meditation centre, a children's park, a lotus-shaped library and several other facilities are likely to come up in the next few months. Beside the marketplace lies a huge plot for a mall to come up in future.

However, the saplings planted on the campus will take a few years to blossom into trees; so will the campus to turn into the swanky township as envisaged in its Master Plan.

Waiting for GSLV

ISRO yet to break into the big leagues, commercially

The Indian Space Research Organisation, or ISRO, completed two important missions in July. It operationalised the GAGAN, which is a global positioning system (GPS) aided geo-augmented navigation system. GAGAN will provide air navigation services over the Bay of Bengal, South East Asia, the Indian Ocean, West Asia and Africa. Last week, ISRO also launched five commercial British satellites with a total mass of 1,440 kg in its heaviest commercial launch till date. The space agency has delivered many successes in the past. The most spectacular were the Chandrayaan moon mission in 2008, and the ongoing Mars Orbiter Mission, when ISRO became the only space agency to place a craft in orbit around Mars in its very first attempt. Last year also saw the launch of the solar-powered GSAT-14 (Geosynchronous Satellite-14), which replaces the ageing GSAT-3. That GSAT-14 launch featured the test run of a cryogenic engine. There was also one successful launch of the GSLV-III rocket with a larger cryogenic engine.

Much has been made of the agency's frugality and ability to build technology on a shoestring. But this is a penny-wise, pound-foolish approach, given the stated aims of ISRO and the magnitude of potential returns. ISRO has ambitions to become a big player in the commercial satellite market, apart from nurturing grand plans for manned orbital and space missions. This is in addition to the enormous contribution it makes in enabling communications and broadcasting, weather research, mapping and so on. The commercial arm, Antrix sells a smorgasbord of services and data in those domains, and also offers assistance in satellite design.

But technology for the key GSLV platform has not yet stabilised. GSLV can launch heavier satellites of up to 4,000 kg while the GSLV-III under development could ramp capacity up to around 6,000 kg. This is crucial if ISRO is to be taken seriously as a commercial player. There have been multiple launches with payloads exceeding 4,000 kg by many agencies over the last decade. The heaviest commercial satellite developed, the Terrestar-1, has a mass of nearly 7,000 kg. ISRO can currently handle only a fifth of that. The challenge lies in stabilising cryogenic technology. The GSLV was originally developed with borrowed Russian engines. Development of an indigenous cryogenic engine and the associated control systems has been slow. As a result, there has been a reliance on the dated technology of the PSLV (Polar satellite launch vehicle), which lacks power. The Mars mission for instance, needed a complicated slingshot manoeuvre, using gravity to build momentum, because the PSLV could not directly take a spacecraft to Mars. The recent British launch also involved a PSLV operating at its capacity limit.

Cryogenic technology is dual-use and being able to deploy it doesn't hurt given the sensitivity of India's strategic environment. The sooner a stable cryogenic platform is developed, the better. Reportedly, the GSLV-III will need at least two more launches before it can be relied on, and ISRO must then move onto developing even bigger launch vehicles. It would make eminent commercial sense to give ISRO the financial wherewithal to do the R&D as fast as possible.

Business Standard ND 20/07/2015 P-10

Don't pick on the IITs



This refers to Anjali Bhargava's column, "Indian Institutes of Trouble" (July 16). Let us start with the facts: About 50 per cent of the B Tech curriculum at the Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT) consists of engineering courses. The rest comprises maths, science (that is not engineering, please), humanities and the liberal arts, management and diverse electives that you need to take to complete your degree. Next, how many of those who study BA in history, B Com or BSc in zoology actually pursue them later? So let us stop picking on B Tech graduates — and that too from the IITs — as easy targets.

On the issue of suicides, in the absence of nation-wide figures (college-wise, year-wise), let us not jump to conclusions based on statistics put out by TV channels. It is unfortunate that we have not developed community awareness on dealing with psychological lows, which are common at that age. Asking students to leave the IIT is a good step, rather than letting them succumb to the pressure. Go to Massachusetts Institute of Technology or Stanford University — the situation is the same. As for putting pressure on 14-15-year-olds to prepare for the IIT joint entrance examination, the entire society is to blame.

All the IIT directors have categorically stated that the IIT system is not designed or aligned to the methodology of QS World University Rankings. As long as the IITs are

free of interference from the Executive, and only have pacts on performance with the Ministry of Human Resource Development, they will do all it takes to stand alongside the best in the world.

'Collapse' is a big word. As long as we stem the mushrooming of IITs, the current ones would not implode in quality. Let us focus on elementary and higher education, which are actually on the verge of a collapse.

Srikant Mallela Hyderabad



शिक्षा में समानता का सपना

रुड़की में 73 छात्रों को आगे पढ़ाई के लिए अयोग्य माने जाने के पीछे शिक्षा व्यवस्था की खामियों को उत्तरदायी मान रहे हैं जगमोहन सिंह राजपूत

रुड़की के प्रसिद्ध आइआइटी ने एक वर्ष के बाद 73 छात्रों को आगे पढ़ाई के लिए अयोग्य मानकर उन्हें निष्काशित कर दिया है। इन युवाओं ने आइआइटी की प्रवेश परीक्षा पास कर प्रवेश पाया था। आगे क्या होता है, उससे अधिक महत्वपूर्ण है यह विश्लेषित करना कि ऐसा हुआ क्यों? आरक्षित वर्ग के छात्रों को अन्य के समकक्ष लाने के लिए आइआइटी संस्थानों ने एक तैयारी पाठ्यक्रम की सही संकल्पना कर इसके द्वारा चयनित छात्रों की स्कूल शिक्षा के दौरान रही कमियों को पूरा करने के सफल प्रयास किए। रुड़की में इस सबके बाद भी निष्कासन की स्थिति क्यों बनी? अब यह अच्छी तरह उजागर हो चुका है कि उच्च तथा व्यावसायिक शिक्षा में सामान्य श्रेणी में प्रवेश मुख्यतः उन्हीं के खुला है जो अंग्रेजी माध्यम से तीन या चार वर्ष की महंगी कोचिंग से गुजर चुके होते हैं। अपवादस्वरूप गाहे-बगाहे कुछ बच्चे अपने दम पर कठिन परिस्थितियों में भी प्रवेश परीक्षा उत्तीर्ण कर लेते हैं। यदि मीडिया उनका नाम छाप देता है तो अनेक लोग सहायता के लिए आगे आते हैं। देश की बौद्धिक संपदा के पूर्ण प्रस्फुटन की स्थिति तो तभी बनेगी जब हर बच्चे को कार्यकारी स्कूल मिले और उसको सीखने तथा सफलता की बराबरी का अधिकार भी मिले। ऐसा होने के लिए प्राथमिक आवश्यकता तो उन स्कूलों की है जहां भवन हो, पीने का पानी हो, शौचालय हो, उचित संख्या में अध्यापक हों और जो समय से आते हों और पढ़ाते हों। 65-70 प्रतिशत बच्चों को यदि इतना भी नसीब न हो तो वे उनसे कैसे बराबरी करेंगे जिनके स्कूल हर प्रकार से संसाधन तथा सुविधा संपन्न हों? एक अन्य बड़ा अवरोध है भाषा। मातृभाषा में शिक्षा प्राप्त करने वाले विद्यार्थी को आगे की शिक्षा में जाने पर हर समय यह अहसास दिलाया जाता है कि वह कक्षा एक से अंग्रेजी माध्यम से पढ़कर आए सहपाठी युवा से बहुत पीछे है।

स्पष्टतः शिक्षा व्यवस्था दो ऐसे वर्गों में बंट गई है जिनके बीच की दूरियां लगातार बढ़ती ही जा रही हैं। ऐसा होने पर एक बड़े वर्ग में हताशा, निराशा, आक्रोश इत्यादि का बढ़ना अपेक्षित ही है और ऐसा हो रहा है। भारत के कुछ राज्यों में जाकर यदि वंचित वर्ग के लोगों से शिक्षा संबंधी बातचीत की जाए तो उनकी पीड़ा को आसानी से समझा जा सकता है। वे अब शहरों की चकाचौंध से नावाकिक नहीं हैं। वे जानते हैं कि सत्तासीन, नौकरशाह तथा धन्नासेठ किस प्रकार अपने और अपनों के लिए सभी सुविधाएं और हर प्रकार की अच्छी शिक्षा का प्रबंध बिना किसी हिचक के कर ही लेते हैं। दो वर्गों में विभाजित



कमजोरियों का प्रमाण

◆ आइआइटी जब विशेष पाठ्यक्रमों की व्यवस्था करते हैं तब भी कमियों का पूरा न हो पाना स्कूल शिक्षा की कमजोरियों को ही दर्शाता है

व्यवस्था का ही परिणाम है कि एक तरफ दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय में प्रवेश लेने वालों के प्राप्तांक शत प्रतिशत तक पहुंच गए हैं और दूसरी तरफ आइआइटी में उन बच्चों का प्रवेश आरक्षित श्रेणी में हो रहा है जिन्होंने प्रवेश परीक्षा में 6 प्रतिशत से भी कम अंक प्राप्त किए हैं। पिछले वर्ष यह 8.8 प्रतिशत था यानी इस वर्ग के बच्चों की शैक्षिक उपलब्धियों में ह्रास तेजी से हो रहा है।

राज्य सरकारें कितनी ही शिकायतें करें, लोग जानते हैं कि वंचित वर्ग की शिक्षा में गुणवत्ता लाने की बड़ी-बड़ी घोषणाएं कागजों पर ही अधिक विश्राम करती हैं और वहां से केवल कुछ तथाकथित प्रगति के आंकड़ों में उतरकर रह जाती है। निम्नतम प्राप्तांकों में गिरावट का मुख्य कारण है शहरों के बच्चों द्वारा कोचिंग से अपने स्कूली शिक्षा की कमियां पूरी कर लेना और गांव के बच्चों के लिए ऐसा न कर पाना। आइआइटी जब विशेष पाठ्यक्रमों की व्यवस्था करते हैं तब भी कमियों का पूरा न हो पाना स्कूल शिक्षा की कमजोरियों को ही दर्शाता है। आरक्षण के प्रावधान अर्थहीन हो जाते हैं यदि विद्यार्थी को उचित स्तर की स्कूल शिक्षा केवल खानापूति के रूप में ही मिलती है। छोटे-छोटे कस्बों तथा गांवों में अब निजी स्कूल खुलने लगे हैं। गांव वाले यहां भी उगे ही जाते हैं। बड़ी फीस वाले निजी स्कूलों में पिछड़ों के बच्चों के लिए लालीपाँप जैसे प्रवेश के लिए नियत स्थानों का जिस

प्रकार विरोध हुआ और उस पर जो लीपापोती होती रहती है वह दोनों वर्गों के बीच के अलगाव को ही स्पष्ट करता है। दिल्ली में जिस प्रकार का घोटाला इन सीटों को लेकर उजागर हुआ है उसे लोग पहले से ही जानते थे। सुविधा संपन्न वर्ग सदा ही अपने लिए ऐसे प्रावधान अवश्य कर लेता है कि उसकी विशेष स्थिति किसी अन्य द्वारा बाधित न हो सके। यह विश्वव्यापी प्रवृत्ति है। भारत में शिक्षा में निकट भविष्य में समानता के अवसर उपलब्ध होने की कोई संभावना दिखाई नहीं देती है। इसका एक प्रबल कारण शिक्षा का हर स्तर पर तेजी से हो रहा निजीकरण है। ऐसा होना अवश्यभावी है, क्योंकि सरकारें तो कक्षा आठ तक की अनिवार्य और निःशुल्क शिक्षा देने में अपनी असमर्थता व्यक्त कर चुकी हैं। शिक्षा की सरकारी व्यवस्था तथा समाज का मध्यम और उच्च वर्ग निजीकरण को ही प्रश्रय देने को उत्सुक है। नीति निर्धारक और उसे क्रियान्वित करने वाले इसी वर्ग के होते हैं और उनके सामने कोई समस्या नहीं है। सितंबर 2014 में संयुक्त राष्ट्र की साधारण सभा को एक प्रतिवेदन प्रस्तुत किया गया था जिसमें विश्व स्तर पर यह दर्शाया गया है कि निजीकरण शिक्षा के मूल अधिकार तथा सशक्तीकरण पर विपरीत प्रभाव डालता है। अभी हाल में एक ऐसा ही प्रतिवेदन संयुक्त राष्ट्र मानव अधिकार परिषद के समक्ष भी प्रस्तुत किया गया है।

इंटरनेशनल फाइनेंस कारपोरेशन नामक संस्था ने निवेशकों के लिए बनाई गई अपनी निर्देशिका में शिक्षा को अति लाभकारी तथा बढ़ने वाला क्षेत्र निरूपित किया है। कुल मिलाकर सरकारें अब इस निजीकरण के सामने झुक चुकी हैं। नए निवेशक किसी भी प्रकार के दिशा निर्देश की अवहेलना कर सकते हैं। संदर्भित प्रतिवेदनों में सुझाव दिया गया है कि चूंकि निजीकरण से निजात पाना संभव नहीं है इसलिए कम से कम प्रारंभिक स्तर की शिक्षा में प्रवेश देने के लिए नए निवेशकों पर सख्त दिशा निर्देश प्रयत्नपूर्वक लागू किए जाएं और इसका ध्यान रखा जाए कि किसी की भी वित्तीय स्थिति उसके बच्चों को इन स्कूलों से दूर न करे। यह भी सही है कि ग्रामीण इलाकों में निजी निवेशकों की रुचि क्यों होगी? अतः वहां तो रास्ता एक ही है और वह यह कि सरकारी स्कूल को हर प्रकार की प्राथमिकता देकर सुधारा और संवारा जाए। उसे केंद्रीय विद्यालयों के स्तर पर लाना सरकारों का कर्तव्य तथा आम आदमी का अधिकार है।

(लेखक एनसीईआरटी के पूर्व निदेशक हैं)

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Human Resources Development minister Smriti Irani to discuss education reforms at RSS meet

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/human-resources-development-minister-smriti-irani-to-discuss-education-reforms-at-rss-meet/articleshow/48120147.cms>

NEW DELHI: Human Resources Development minister Smriti Irani is expected to meet senior functionaries of the RSS, along with representatives of six affiliated outfits, on Saturday to discuss education reforms, making this her first formal meeting with the Sangh this year and the second since the Modi government took over.

According to sources, Irani will attend RSS' 'Shiksha Samooh' (education group) meeting on Saturday in which she will interact with members of Vidya Bharti, Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP), Rashtriya Shaikshik Mahasangh, Bhartiya Shikshan Mandal, Sanskrit Bharti and Shiksha Bachao Andolan in the presence of RSS joint general secretary Krishna Gopal.

RSS members told ET on the condition of anonymity that the agenda is to share Sangh's inputs regarding the new education policy and to plan measures to instil nationalism, pride, ancient Indian values in modern education.

This government-organisational interface assumes significance in the backdrop of the ministry's effort to hold grassroots-level consultations for drafting the new education policy and the NCERT recently conducting a workshop last month to review history textbooks.

"Yeh meeting samanway ke uddeshya se aayojit ki gayi hai (This meeting has been organised for better coordination with the government)," said an RSS functionary, who did not wish to be identified. "We will update her (Irani) about the work being done by the Sangh in education, give our inputs and flag our concerns," he added. Sources said that the issue of vacancies at several important educational institutions including NCERT, CBSE and universities may also be raised with Irani.

The 'Shiksha Samooh', organised just days ahead of RSS' three-day annual meeting in Nainital next week, was first meant to be held on July 8, but cancelled at the last minute owing to Irani's ill health.

The minister underwent a minor surgery for a boil on her leg last week in Medanta Hospital in Gurgaon, which forced her to skip the conference of central university vice-chancellors conference and the launch of the Rashtriya Avishkar Abhiyanand. She was discharged only on Thursday. "Although she is still recuperating, she has agreed to attend the meeting tomorrow (Saturday)," another RSS functionary added.

July 19

IIT Delhi, PU among top 2 per cent institutions of higher education worldwide

There are sixteen institutions from India in the top 1000 that include 6 universities and 10 institutes including IITs, IISc, AIIMS and TIFR.

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/panjab-university-iit-delhi-center-for-world-university-rankings/1/452378.html>

IIT-Delhi and Panjab University (PU), Chandigarh have been ranked among the top 2 per cent institutions of higher education worldwide, a Center for World University Rankings (CWUR) report said.

PU has been ranked second among Indian Universities and 4th among all Higher Education Institutions of the country. The university is among the 25,000+ degree-granting institutions of higher education worldwide in this year's CWUR World University Rankings.

There are sixteen institutions from India in the top 1000 that include 6 universities and 10 institutes including IITs, IISc, AIIMS and TIFR.

IIT-Delhi tops among the Indian institutions with a rank of 341 and an overall score of 45.54. IIT-Delhi is followed by Delhi University(DU), Indian Institute of Science(IISc) and Panjab University. Thus, PU is second among Indian Universities and fourth among all the higher education institutions in the country. Previous year, PU ranking was 543 in the world and 5th in India. In 2014, PU was ranked after IIT-Delhi, DU, IISc and IIT-Bombay. This year, PU has an overall score of 44.8. Harvard University from USA tops the overall list.

The Center for World University Rankings (CWUR) publishes the only global university ranking that measures the quality of education and training of students as well as the prestige of the faculty members and the quality of their research without relying on surveys and university data submissions.

"It is great to know that Panjab University continues to be adjudged among the premier most academic institutes of India in numerous national and international surveys that assign different weight factors to a variety of parameters. An analysis of details of different rankings shall provide us guidance to set our priorities in attending to different sectors, where improvements are urgently required if we are to retain our competitive position, given our own limited resources and uncertain and inadequate Governmental support. The material contributions from our alumni who have done well and the Corporate Sector are our hope for support, if we have to bridge the gap between us and the rest of the Universities in China and South Korea. The PU faculty has new confidence and enthusiasm today, I am looking forward to work with them during my second term," Vice Chancellor, Punjab University Prof Arun Grover told Mail Today.

आईआईटी-जेईई प्रवेश परीक्षा की गिरती साख बनी चिंता का सबब

6% बना बोझ तो कैसे हो खोज...

हम विभिन्न प्रोफेशनल कोर्सेज में प्रवेश के लिए परीक्षाएं क्यों लेते हैं? उनमें प्रवेश लेने वालों का गुणवत्ता प्रबंधन करने के लिए। यानी उन पाठ्यक्रमों की गुणवत्ता को बनाए रखने और बढ़ाने के लिए पर यदि हम आईआईटी अथवा मेडिकल जैसी परीक्षाओं में मात्र 6 फीसदी अंक पाने वालों को प्रवेश दें तब कैसे उस कोर्स का नाम रहेगा और कैसे पेशेवर वहां से तैयार होकर निकलेंगे? जाति, धर्म और वोटों की राजनीति से ऊपर उठकर यहां यह सवाल भी मौजूद है कि आखिर उन प्रयासों का क्या हुआ जो समाज के कमजोर और पिछड़े तबकों को आगे लाने के लिए पिछले 68 साल से कर रहे हैं? क्या देश को इन नीतियों पर नये सिरे से विचार नहीं करना चाहिए कि कमजोर वर्ग आगे आए और पाठ्यक्रमों की गुणवत्ता न सिर्फ बरकरार रहे बल्कि आगे भी बढ़े। इन्हीं मुद्दों पर आज का संडे जैकेट।

17 आईआईटी हैं देश में, आईएसएम, धनबाद को मिला कर

13.03 लाख छात्र शामिल हुए इस बार आईआईटी (मेन) में।

1.50 लाख छात्र ही शामिल हो सकते हैं आईआईटी (एडवॉंस) परीक्षा में।

विश्व के श्रेष्ठ **200** में भी जगह नहीं बना पाया है भारत का एक भी विश्वविद्यालय (2014-15 की क्वॉल कर्ड यूनिवर्सिटी रैंकिंग के अनुसार)

टाइम्स रैंकिंग के श्रेष्ठ **300** विवि में केवल आईआईएस बंगलूरु ही आ सका 276वें स्थान पर।



10,000 से ज्यादा सीटें हैं सभी आईआईटी में

सभी केवल धन कमाने की तालसाजी नहीं रखते। यदि मौका मिले तो अधिकतर प्रतिभाएं घर में ही रहेंगी।

दो स्तरों पर होती है यह प्रवेश परीक्षा

हर छात्र को पहले आईआईटी मुख्य परीक्षा में शामिल होना होता है। इसके बाद एडवॉंस परीक्षा में सफल होने पर मिलता है प्रवेश। कोई छात्र सिर्फ दो बार ही दे सकता है परीक्षा। प्रत्येक सामान्य/ओबीसी श्रेणी के छात्र के लिए 12वीं में 75 फीसदी और एसीटी/एससी के लिए 70 फीसदी अंक अनिवार्य।

रिसर्च पर खर्च

- 3.4** लाख रु. सालाना खर्च होते हैं आईआईटी के एक छात्र पर
- 6.0** लाख रु. सालाना खर्च होते हैं एमबीबीएस के एक छात्र पर
- 5.0** लाख रुपये सालाना खर्च होते हैं आईआईएस के एक छात्र पर

अब होने लगा है रिवर्स ब्रेन ड्रेन

हार्ड लॉ स्कूल के सर्वे के मुताबिक अमेरिका में केवल 10 फीसदी ही प्रबंधन कार्य में उभरे स्तर पर पहुंच पाते हैं और 44 फीसदी को भारत के स्तर के मुताबिक काम करने को मिलता है। 79 फीसदी अभियंताओं को लगता है कि उनके कौशल की जरूरत भारत में है और यहां अवसर भी हैं। 88 फीसदी मानते हैं कि भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था सुधर रही है। 53 फीसदी को लगता है कि भारत में व्यापार करने के बेहतर अवसर हैं।

एशिया में भी पीछे

टाइम्स रैंकिंग के अनुसार परीक्षा के श्रेष्ठ 100 विश्वविद्यालयों में भारत के केवल नौ विश्व हैं। वहीं योज के 21 और ताइवान के 19 विश्व के नाम इस सूची में शामिल हैं। श्रेष्ठ 50 की सूची में एक भी आईआईटी का नाम दर्ज नहीं।

देश	रैंकिंग
आईआईटी रुड़की	55
आईआईटी मुंबई	57
आईआईटी दिल्ली	65
आईआईटी खडगपुर	69
आईआईटी मद्रास	78

2006 : अंक कम थे फिर भी मिला प्रवेश

दूसरे साल आईआईटी खडगपुर द्वारा संचालित 'जेईई' की धांधली ने प्रवेश परीक्षा पर गहरा सवाल खड़े किए थे। जिन विद्यार्थियों के क्रमशः 231, 251 या 279 अंक आए, वे तो विफल रहे पर जिन विद्यार्थियों के 154, 156 या 174 अंक आए थे, वे सफल हो गए। ऐसा इसलिए हुआ क्योंकि चयनकर्ताओं ने भौतिक शास्त्र, रसायन शास्त्र व गणित में न्यूनतम अंकों की जो सीमा तय की थी, उसका कोई तार्किक आधार नहीं था। यह भी पता चला कि आईआईटी कानपुर, खडगपुर के रसायन शास्त्र के प्रोफेसर्स के बच्चों को रसायन शास्त्र विषय में 184 में से 130, 130, 125 या 120 जैसे उच्च अंक प्राप्त हुए। जबकि उनका अन्य विषयों में प्रदर्शन काफी निम्न स्तर का था। पृष्ठ 2006 @ पृष्ठ 05

2006 : अंक कम थे...

फिर भी उनका चयन हो गया। जब बार-बार चयनकर्ताओं से केन्द्रीय सूचना आयोग ने चयन की प्रक्रिया पर असुविधाजनक सवाल पूछे तो हर बार उसे विरोधाभासी उत्तर दिए गए। जाहिर है, चयनकर्ता तथ्यों को छिपा रहे थे क्योंकि उन्हें पकड़े जाने का भय था। सबसे ज्यादा चिंतनीय बात तो यह हुई कि जब सूचना आयोग का दबाव बढ़ने लगा तो आईआईटी-खडगपुर ने अपने ही नियम के विरुद्ध न्यायक 2006 के परीक्षार्थियों की उरर पुस्तिकाएं नष्ट कर दीं, ताकि कोई प्रमाण ही न बचे। जबकि नियमानुसार उन्हें एक वर्ष तक सहायता रखना चाहिए था।

2007 : एक अजीब निर्णय के शिकार छात्र

दूसरे साल जेईई का संचालन मुम्बई आईआईटी ने किया था। इसमें गणित में मात्र 01 अंक, भौतिक शास्त्र में 04 अंक और रसायन शास्त्र में 03 अंक प्राप्त हुए थे। वर्ष 2008 में भी कोई सुधार नहीं हुआ। गणित में 15 फीसदी और भौतिक शास्त्र में 5 फीसदी अंक पाने वाले को भी आईआईटी खडगपुर में दाखिला मिल गया। एक छात्र को भौतिक शास्त्र में 104 अंक, गणित में 75 और रसायन शास्त्र में 52 अंक मिले। उसका योग 231 था पर चयन नहीं हुआ, जबकि कुल 174 अंक वाले छात्र का दाखिला हो गया। वजह थी इस साल चयनकर्ताओं द्वारा रसायन शास्त्र में 55 अंक से कम पर प्रवेश न देना। 174 अंक वाले छात्र के भौतिक शास्त्र में 50, गणित में 51 अंक थे पर रसायन में 73 अंक थे।

वे इंजीनियर क्यों नहीं बनना चाहते...

आईआईटी ब्रांड पर ही क्यों हो जोर

कि सी प्रतिस्पर्धी परीक्षा में कितने प्रतिशत नंबर पाकर छात्र उत्तीर्ण होंगे, यह कई कारणों पर निर्भर करता है। छात्रों की तैयारी या गुणवत्ता के साथ यह इस पर भी निर्भर करता है कि किस तरह का परीक्षा पैटर्न था (जैसे वस्तुनिष्ठ या व्यक्तिनिष्ठ प्रश्नपत्र तथा माइनस मार्किंग) और किस तरह का प्रश्न पत्र तैयार किया गया था। फिर भी एक सवाल पूरी प्रणाली पर ही खड़ा तो होता ही है जबकि किसी प्रतिस्पर्धी परीक्षा में छह प्रतिशत या 24 प्रतिशत पर क्रमशः आरक्षित अथवा सामान्य श्रेणी के छात्र को



प्रो. अनीता रामपाल
शिक्षा विभाग,
दिल्ली विवि

आईआईएस बेंगलूरु जैसे शोध संस्था में पढ़ने-पढ़ाने की हमारे समाज में कोई ललक ही नहीं है, फिर अच्छे शिक्षक कहां से मिलेंगे?

05वां स्थान है ब्रिक्स देशों में आईआईएस, बेंगलूरु का

प्रवेश दिया जाए। सवाल खुद आईआईटी पर भी उठ रहे हैं। यह चिंता तो है ही कि बिना तैयारी के आईआईटी खोल तो दिए गए हैं, पर उनमें वैसी गुणवत्ता पूर्ण फैकल्टी, प्रयोगशाला, सुविधाएं और बुनियादी ढांचा उपलब्ध नहीं कराया जा सका है, जिससे कई छात्र प्रवेश हो जाने के बाद भी दाखिला नहीं लेते।

यह सच है कि रातों-रात अच्छी फैकल्टी तैयार नहीं की जा सकती और इसमें समय लगेगा। पर, असली सवाल यह है कि अधिकांश आईआईटी में जाने वाले छात्र आखिर में इंजीनियर बनना ही नहीं चाहते। वे या तो मैनेजर बनना चाहते हैं या फिर सिविल सर्वेंट।

बेंगलूरु जैसी विज्ञान की शोध संस्था में पढ़ने-पढ़ाने की हमारे समाज में यदि उतनी ललक नहीं है, तो फिर अच्छे शिक्षक कहां से मिलेंगे? इसलिए समाज और सरकार को इस बात पर भी सोचना चाहिए कि हम आईआईटी में किस लिए छात्रों को पढ़ाना चाहते हैं?

पढ़ें आईआईटी क्यों @ पेज 05

आईआईटी ब्रांड ...

क्या वो उद्देश्य हम इन प्रीमियम संस्थाओं से हासिल कर पा रहे हैं, जिसके लिए इनकी स्थापना की गई थी?

इसलिए सवाल यह पूछा जाना चाहिए कि सिर्फ आईआईटी ब्रांड को इतना प्रोमोट करने की जरूरत क्यों है? क्या यह बेहतर नहीं होगा कि हम अपनी राज्य स्तरीय संस्थाओं, रीजनल कॉलेज में वे सुविधाएं और उच्च प्रशिक्षित शिक्षक उपलब्ध कराएं, जो कि हम आईआईटी के नाम पर दे रहे हैं। आखिर देश में काम करने वाले अधिसंख्यक इंजीनियर और शिक्षक तो इन्हीं संस्थाओं से आते हैं।

आरक्षण को रोका नहीं जा सकता...

...पर हो सही प्रतिभा का चयन

आईआईटी को सर्वप्रथम चयन प्रक्रिया में पूछे जाने वाले प्रश्नों के पैटर्न में बदलाव करना होगा। एक ही प्रश्न के उत्तर के कई विकल्प होते हैं, छात्र यदि थोड़ी सी भी गलती करते हैं तो नेगेटिव मार्किंग हो जाती है। सवाल बहुत ही उलझाने वाले, बहुत थकाने वाले और गणनात्मक होते हैं। ऐसी स्थिति में होता यह है कि प्रतिभाशाली छात्र भी पीछे रह जाते हैं। सरकारी स्कूलों से पढ़कर आने वाले दलित और पिछड़ी जातियों के बच्चों का आईआईटी में प्रवेश कर पाना काफी कठिन हो जाता है। इसलिए आरक्षण होना चाहिए लेकिन



आनंद कुमार
सुपर-30 के संस्थापक

यह ध्यान रखना जरूरी है कि सही प्रतिभा का चयन हो। आईआईटी पहले जनरल कैटेगरी में 35 प्रतिशत पर आरक्षण देता था। बाद में इसे 24.5 प्रतिशत कर दिया गया और आरक्षण वाले छात्रों को 16 प्रतिशत पर दाखिला देने लगा। वर्तमान स्थिति यह हो गई है आरक्षण प्राप्त छात्रों को दाखिला छह प्रतिशत

इस समस्या का उपचार बुनियादी ढांचे को मजबूत करने से ही होगा यानी 'क्वालिटी ऑफ एज्युकेशन' प्रारंभिक शिक्षा से ही समान हो।

पर भी दिया जाने लगा है। यह भला क्या तरीका है। इससे तो यही साबित होता है कि आईआईटी की चयन प्रक्रिया ही सही नहीं है।

जहां तक प्रीपेरेटरी कोर्स का सवाल है, वह स्वागत योग्य है। इससे दलित व आदिवासी छात्रों को बहुत फायदा होगा। दरअसल होता यह है कि कई बच्चे आरक्षण के

चलते कम प्रतिशत पाकर भी दाखिला पा लेते हैं लेकिन बाद में वे कक्षा में संतुलन नहीं बना पाते। इसलिए उनको एक वर्ष ट्रेनिंग देना काफी अहमियत रखता है। यह देखा गया है कि ट्रेनिंग देने के बाद कई छात्रों ने आईआईटी की मुख्य धारा में बहुत अच्छा प्रदर्शन दिखाया है।

पढ़ें पर हो @ पेज 05

...पर हो सही प्रतिभा ...

ऐसे में होना यह चाहिए कि प्रीपेरेटरी कोर्स में जिन बच्चों का चुनाव हो उन पर पूरी मेहनत की जाए। ऐसा न हो कि यह योजना भी विफल रहे और आईआईटी का स्तर गिर जाए।

आईआईटी को फिजिकली डिसेबल छात्रों पर भी विशेष ध्यान देना चाहिए। पहले इन छात्रों को अलग से ट्रेनिंग दी जाती थी वो अब बंद हो गई है। यह गलत है। इन छात्रों में भी प्रतिभा होती है। इनको भी मौका मिलना चाहिए और विशेष सुविधाएं भी। इनके लिए अलग से कक्षाओं की व्यवस्था की जानी चाहिए।

कमजोर छात्रों को विशेष तैयारी कराई जानी चाहिए। एक ही कक्षा में जब 70 प्रतिशत लाने वाला छात्र होगा और सात से आठ प्रतिशत लाने वाला छात्र भी तो असमंजस बनेगा ही। उनको एक ही कक्षा में रखा जाना उचित है लेकिन इनको विशेष तैयारी संबंधी कोर्स से भी जोड़ना होगा ताकि वे मुख्य धारा में अपने आप को महसूस कर सकें। ऐसे में प्रीपेरेटरी कोर्स की घोषणा कर देना आईआईटी के लिए जल्दबाजी साबित हो सकती है।

आरक्षण प्राप्त कमजोर छात्रों को

जरूर मौका मिलना चाहिए लेकिन उनका भी एक मापदंड तय कर दिया जाए कि यदि आप एक वर्ष के कोर्स में असहज महसूस करते हो, आप अपने स्तर को सुधारने में अभी भी प्रयासरत हो तो कोर्स को एक वर्ष और बढ़ाया जा सकता है। एक वर्ष बाद भी यदि छात्र के प्रदर्शन में सुधार नहीं होगा और उसे आईआईटी की मुख्यधारा से जोड़ दिया जाएगा तो वो उससे अपमानित हुआ ही महसूस करेगा। अक्सर देखा जाता है कि आरक्षण प्राप्त बच्चों में हीन भावना आ जाती है। इसका बुनियादी उपचार तो यही है कि सरकारी स्कूलों में भी वही सुविधाएं उपलब्ध कराई जाएं जो निजी स्कूलों में होती है। प्रतिभा सभी में होती है, जो छात्र अच्छे स्कूल से पढ़कर आते हैं उनका स्तर सरकारी स्कूलों से आप छात्रों से बेहतर ही होगा। ये बच्चे सरकारी स्कूलों में पढ़ने को मजबूर होते हैं। सरकारी स्कूलों में ज्यादातर दलित बच्चे ही पढ़ रहे हैं और बड़े शहरों में पढ़ने वाले बच्चे उच्च वर्ग के हैं, यह सत्य है। इसलिए जरूरी यह है कि 'क्वालिटी ऑफ एज्युकेशन' पर बल दिया जाए केवल आरक्षण पर नहीं।

यह सही है कि पिछड़ी जातियों को आरक्षण मिलना चाहिए लेकिन यदि उन्हें शुरू से ही अच्छी शिक्षा दी जाए तो उनके हासिले बुलंद होंगे, उन्हें कष्ट नहीं होगा और वे कक्षा में स्वच्छंद महसूस करेंगे, अन्य छात्रों के साथ कदम से कदम मिलाकर चल पाएंगे। पिछड़ी जातियों के कई ऐसे छात्र हैं जिन्होंने जनरल कैटेगरी में रैंक प्राप्त किया है। इसलिए इन्हें कमजोर नहीं समझना चाहिए बल्कि सही दिशा दिखानी चाहिए।

आईआईटी से निष्कासित छात्र की तबीयत बिगड़ी

मूल रूप से पुरुलिया का निवासी है अभिषेक अवसाद के शिकार हो रहे हैं पीड़ित छात्र

रुड़की (ब्यूरो)। भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (आईआईटी), रुड़की से निष्कासित छात्र अवसाद के शिकार हो रहे हैं। शनिवार शाम को इनमें से एक छात्र अभिषेक मंडल की तबीयत अचानक बिगड़ गई। निजी अस्पताल में भर्ती इस छात्र को करीब ढाई घंटे बाद होश आया।

पुरुलिया (पश्चिम बंगाल) निवासी छात्र अभिषेक मंडल उन 72 छात्रों में शामिल हैं, जिन्हें दो सेमेस्टर में पांच से कम सीजीपीए के चलते आईआईटी प्रबंधन ने सप्ताह भर पहले निष्कासित कर दिया था। इन छात्रों के हॉस्टल में आने पर भी पाबंदी लगाई गई है। छात्र गेस्ट हाउस और होटलों में ठहरे हैं। आईआईटी प्रबंधन के साथ कई दौर की वार्ता के बाद भी

मसले का समाधान न होने की वजह से कई छात्र अवसाद में हैं। शनिवार शाम अभिषेक मंडल की तबीयत अचानक बिगड़ गई। घबराहट के साथ ही उसे पसीना आने लगा और कुछ ही देर में वह बेसुध हो गया। यह देख साथी छात्रों के हाथ-पांव फूल गए। कुछ छात्र रोने लगे। आनन-फानन आईआईटी हॉस्पिटल को सूचना देकर एंबुलेंस मंगवाई।

आईआईटी हॉस्पिटल पहुंचने पर डॉक्टरों ने उसे अन्यत्र ले जाने की सलाह दी। इस पर साथी छात्र अभिषेक को सोलानी पुल के निकट एक निजी अस्पताल में ले गए। वहां उपचार के ढाई घंटे बाद उसे होश आया। अभी वह डॉक्टरों की निगरानी में है। अस्पताल के डॉ. प्रवीण गोठी

के अनुसार अभिषेक गहरे अवसाद में है। इसी के चलते वह घबराहट और बेहोशी की स्थिति में पहुंचा। फिलहाल वह ज्यादा कुछ बोलने की स्थिति में नहीं है।

उल्लेखनीय है कि निष्कासित 59 छात्र अदालत का दरवाजा खटखटा चुके हैं। दो छात्रों की याचिका पर सुनवाई करते हुए हाई कोर्ट आईआईटी प्रबंधन को ऐसे छात्रों को सुधार परीक्षा में बैठने की अनुमति देने के दिशा निर्देश जारी कर चुका है, लेकिन प्रबंधन अब भी इसको लेकर कोई फैसला नहीं कर पाया है। 37 छात्रों की याचिका पर सोमवार को सुनवाई होने की उम्मीद है। उस दिन तक आईआईटी को अपना जवाब भी हाई कोर्ट में दाखिल करना है।

Business Standard ND 19/07/2015 p-3

IIM-A centre's bid to create local ecosystems for start-ups

VINAY UMARJI

Ahmedabad, 18 July

The Indian Institute of Management-Ahmedabad (IIM-A)'s technology and business incubator, the Centre for Innovation, Incubation and Entrepreneurship (CIIE), wants that start-ups should stay put in the place of their origin.

For this purpose, the centre is focusing on creating local ecosystems by reaching out to potential partners in other regions. For instance, a year ago, CIIE set up an incubation centre in Jaipur in partnership with Rajasthan Industrial

Corporation. It recently signed a memorandum of understanding with the Maharashtra Industries Development Corporation in Pune for a similar initiative.



**START-UP
STREET**

“If you look at cities such as Bengaluru, Delhi and Mumbai, most of the country's start-ups are flocking to these places because that is where they will find the right ecosystem. But

what will happen to the local economy from where they originally emerged? We have, therefore, started focusing on building a local ecosystem and

are increasingly looking at regional presence and help build these local ecosystems,” says Kunal Upadhyay, chief executive officer at CIIE.

Upadhyay argues that the two most important things that start-ups need today are capital and talent, which they fail to find in their originating towns. “If you won't create an environment of capital and talent, start-ups will not stay put. Thankfully, state governments are realising that if people are being encouraged towards entrepreneurship through policies, they also need to be given the right kind of environment to thrive,” says Upadhyay.

Indian Express ND 19/07/2015 P-2



IIT Bombay

MUMBAI

IIT-B crosses major aerospace milestone

IN A move touted as a "significant milestone" towards creating a world-class aerospace manufacturing ecosystem in India, the National Centre for Aerospace Innovation and Research along with DMG Mori India launched its Advanced Machining Excellence Cell at IIT Bombay on Saturday. Officials said the forte of AMEC is in manufacturing components with complex geometries and sculptured surfaces which are common in modern aerospace applications.

Deccan Herald ND 19/07/2015 P-7

Mobile van to take Internet to students

MUMBAI: Taking the Digital India mission further, Nehru Science Centre in Mumbai and Techfest, the exhibition of IIT-Bombay, launched a new Mobile Science Van (MSV) aimed at taking Internet to the door steps of school students in rural areas.

The MSE is a flagship rural outreach science education programme of the National Council of Science Museums (NCSM), Ministry of Culture, Government of India. NCSM has a fleet of 20 MSE buses, including the MSE van of Nehru Science Centre, at various science centres across the country that take Science to the very door step of rural schools. The

year 2015 is the Golden Jubilee of the MSE programme; the MSE programme was launched from Birla Industrial and Technological Museum, Kolkata in the year 1965.

The MSE van will travel to rural areas fully equipped with equipment and infrastructure providing Internet experience to students in rural schools. There will be one dedicated volunteer from Techfest, IIT Bombay, exclusively for this purpose who will be accompanying the other team members on the MSE van to provide hands-on experience of Internet to all the rural school students.

DH News Service

Prof. Anil Dattatraya Sahasrabudhe took charge as Chairman of All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE)

<http://indiaeducationdiary.in/Shownews.asp?newsid=35194>

New Delhi: Prof. Anil Dattatraya Sahasrabudhe, Professor of Mechanical Engineering at Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati has taken over the charge as the Chairman, All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE). He Took charge yesterday (17th July, 2015)evening.

He served as Director, College of Engineering, Pune since 2006 on deputation from IIT, Guwahati. He has 29 years of teaching and research experience.

Prof. Sahasrabudhe graduated from BVB College of Engineering and Technology, Hubli affiliated to Karnataka University with a Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering and was a gold medalist. Thereafter, he obtained his M.E. and Ph.D. from Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore in 1982 and 1989, respectively.

He also served as Lecturer and Assistant Professor at NERIST, Itanagar before joining IIT Guwahati as Associate Professor in 1995 and has been serving as Professor since 1999. He has taken several new initiatives in NERIST, IIT Guwahati and COEP for academic, curricular and co-curricular activities, research and good governance. He is also Chairman, Basic Scientific Research (BSR), Empowered Committee of UGC.

July 18

Prez unhappy over HRD's handling of IIT director's quitting

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/higherstudies/shevgaonkar-s-resignation-handling-prez-expresses-displeasure/article1-1369607.aspx>

President Pranab Mukherjee has expressed displeasure over the government's last-minute request to approve the resignation of former IIT Delhi director RK Shevgaonkar, who quit last year amid allegations that the Centre was meddling in premier institutions.

The rare show of displeasure came after the human resource development ministry ignored Shevgaonkar's repeated pleas for relieving orders and submitted his files a day before he was due to quit on June 12, information obtained through the Right to Information Act (RTI) showed.

Shevgaonkar's resignation was the first in a series of high-profile departures from top institutions that have rocked the HRD ministry, setting off Opposition complaints that minister Smriti Irani was destroying premier academic establishments.

In March, nuclear scientist Anil Kakodkar quit as chairman of IIT Bombay's governing body following reports of differences with Irani over the selection of three IIT directors.

While expressing "pleasure" in relieving Shevgaonkar of his duties on June 12, Rashtrapati Bhawan sources confirmed the president, who is a visitor at the IITs, noted his "displeasure" for the late request.

But the HRD ministry spokesperson Ghanshyam Goyal said the delay was caused by the IIT-D governing body, which persuaded the ministry to not accept the resignation initially. When the council realised Shevgaonkar was adamant, they reconsidered, the spokesperson added. "We have in writing, the change in boards's position, and we will convey it to the president," he said.

The former director quit in December — two years before the end of his term — after reported tiff with the department over payment of Rs. 70 lakh to BJP leader and former IIT-Delhi faculty Subramanian Swamy as salary arrears.

The ministry denied all allegations and hinted at financial irregularities by Shevgaonkar in setting up an offshore IIT campus in Mauritius.

After no charges were found, the ministry softened its stance and indicated the stalemate could be resolved by allowing Shevgaonkar to join IIT Bombay as a faculty member.

After his resignation, Shevgaonkar wrote to the ministry in February asking it to treat his December resignation letter as three months notice and relieve him on March 22.

When the ministry ignored his plea and relieving orders were not issued, the director once again wrote on March 11 asking the ministry to treat this letter as his three months notice and let him leave the position on June 12.

But Shevgaonkar's file was not forwarded to the president even after former higher education secretary SN Mohanty recommended he should be relieved.

Sources told HT Irani differed with Mohanty, and hence Shevgaonkar's file was kept in her office until almost the end of his notice period.

"An IIT director just four days ago returns from Moscow with the President of India after having an all-expenses paid trip to Moscow to do something on behalf of the IITs as the IIT director. Does that look like a man who wants to resign?" Irani told a television channel in May.

Is there one invention, one technology, one idea produced by them that has helped make the society and the world a better place, asks the Chairman Emeritus of Infosys.

Narayana Murthy questions the contribution of IITs and IISc in the last 60 years

<http://scroll.in/article/741723/full-text-narayana-murthy-questions-the-contribution-of-iits-and-iisc-in-the-last-60-years>

The full text of the 2015 Convocation Lecture delivered at the Indian Institute of Science by NR Narayana Murthy, Chairman Emeritus, Infosys Ltd, titled: **How can you, the graduates of IISc, contribute towards a better India and a better world?**

Dr Kasturirangan, Prof Rama Rao, Prof Anurag Kumar, my friends – Prof Balaram and Prof Ramasesha – Deans, faculty staff, guests, students, parents of the graduating student and, most importantly, the graduating students, thank you very much for your kindness in inviting me to be part of this wonderful occasion. I am truly honoured. Congratulations to the graduating students. This is your day and have a great time. Today, I will speak to you about a subject that is very dear to me. That is, how the students and former students of premier higher educational institutions like IISc can play an important role in making India and the world a better place. I will use *he* to denote both male and female.

Science is about unravelling nature and engineering is about using those discoveries and inventions to make life better for human beings. IISc is at the forefront of scientific and engineering research in the country. IISc has produced students who have gone on to earn laurels in the most competitive places in the world. Your research is well cited. Therefore, IISc deserves to lead in the transformation of India by using the power of science and engineering.

Ideas and inventions

I was presented a book called – *From Ideas to inventions: 101 gifts from MIT to the world* – when I was in Cambridge Massachusetts a couple of months ago. This booklet lists the various inventions that MIT students, alumni, faculty and former faculty have been able to make and transform this world. Let me list out at least 10 major inventions that MIT has created in the last 50 years.

1. Ivan Getting and Brad Parkinson – Global Positioning System
2. Hugh Herr – Bionic Prostheses
3. Robert Noyce – Microchip
4. Ray Tomlinson – E-mail
5. Robert Langer – Slow drug delivery and polymer scaffolds for human tissues
6. Ronald Rivest, Adi Shamir, and Leonard Adelman – RSA encryption
7. Ray Kurzweil – Text/Speech Recognition
8. Shiintaro Asano – Fax Machine

9. Andrew Viterbi – Viterbi Algorithm

10. Norbert Wiener – Cybernetics

These are just the 10 I have selected. These inventions happened because students and faculty at MIT walked the untrodden path, asked the unasked questions, used their intellectual prowess to take huge leaps, and demonstrate unusual courage to achieve the plausibly-impossible. The story is similar at many other western institutions of higher education. It is appropriate to recall that almost all inventions like cars, electric bulb, radio, television, computers, internet Hifi, music players, MRI, ultrasound scanners, refrigerators, lasers, robots and many other gadgets and technology happened, thanks to the research by Western universities. These inventions have made our lives more comfortable, have given us better health, made our lives more productive and brought us pleasure.

One invention, one technology, one idea...

On the other hand, let us pause and ask what the contributions of Indian institutions of higher learning particularly IISc and IITs, have been over the last 60-plus years to make our society and the world a better place. Is there one invention from India that has become a household name in the globe? Is there one technology that has transformed the productivity of global corporations? Is there one idea that has led to an earth-shaking invention to delight global citizens? Folks, the reality is that there is no such contribution from India in the last 60 years. The only two ideas that have transformed the productivity of global corporations – *The Global Delivery Model* and *The 24-hour workday* – came from a company called Infosys.

Yet, let us look at the problems that surround us here in India. We have the largest mass of illiterates in the world. We have the largest number of children with malnutrition. We have the poorest public health service in the world. We have the dirtiest rivers in the world. Our vehicles produce the highest carbon per vehicle in the world. We have the lowest per-capita usable water in the world. Our primary education is one of the lowest quality in the world. I can go on and on. The important thing is to recognise that this country has no shortage of problems to be solved urgently.

What is our hope? Our best hopes are youngsters like you. I do not find any difference in intellect, enthusiasm, energy and confidence between the young students at Western universities and here at IISc. Yet, when our students leave the portals of these institutions, there is not much impactful work they have accomplished in research here. What is worse is that there is not much that they accomplish when they go into the real world here in India. This is an issue that the elders of our society – academicians, politicians, bureaucrats and corporate leaders – must debate deeply, and act urgently if we have to leave a better world for our children and grandchildren.

Recreate the magic

This issue has not received the attention of our Prime Ministers since the time of Nehru. During his visit to the US in 1962, he exhorted the about-to-finish PhDs to come back to India and play a major role in creating an India that the founding fathers of this nation wanted – an India where the poorest child in the remotest village had access to decent education, healthcare, nutrition, and shelter. The result: Green revolution, white revolution, advances in atomic energy and the space program. Folks, we have to recreate the magic of the sixties

How do we recreate that magic? For that we have to recreate an environment of utmost respect for scholarship and for our Directors and faculty in the corridors of the government among bureaucrats, politicians and in our society. We have to become more open-minded in welcoming foreign intellectuals and students. We have to create opportunities for our students and faculty to spend time at well-known universities abroad. There must be free flow of ideas between our

intellectuals and foreign scholars. The younger faculty must have full freedom to pursue their line of research without any hindrance.

No higher educational institution can succeed unless it has good focus on research. Research thrives in an environment of curiosity, daring, teamwork and a desire to solve problem around us. Ability to define problems independently by students is an important input. It is a good idea to expose our undergraduates to research. Interactions and benchmarking with global researchers, and attending and holding international conferences would enhance the research mindset.

Next, let me come to what you, the passing out students, can do to enhance the glory of IISc, become useful engineers and scientists, and make this a better country.

The first requirement is to develop an independent, inquisitive and problem solving mindset. Such minds create new ideas. Focus on learning concepts. What is learning? To me, it is the ability to extract generic inferences from specific instances, and use them to solve new and unstructured problems. After all, education is about learning to learn. You have to relate the concepts you learn in the class to understand Ideas, real life events and phenomena around you. Remember that every new problem you solve independently is a small, new discovery for you. They enhance your confidence to solve bigger problems.

Second, democratisation of education is a necessary step in development and I congratulate IISc on its commitment to it. However, it is important that IISc does not lose the interest and zeal of the top ranking students in each class. Many US universities have a good system of doing this. For example in such places, the top 10% to 15% students in Compute Science are allowed to take the Honours version of basic subjects like Operating Systems, Algorithms and Data structures, Automata Theory, Databases and AI. About two to three times the syllabus of the normal version is covered in the class in the Honour versions and the examinations are set at a very high standard.

You should continue the habit of reading technical books and journals even after your graduation. I have created a library of books like George Polya's *How To Solve It*, VJ Arnold's *Mathematical Understanding of Nature: Essay on Amazing Physical Phenomena and Their Understanding by Mathematicians*, the three volumes of Feynman, and Donald Knuth's four volumes on Programming. Please create a library, read at least a few pages every day, conduct thought experiments, and apply that learning to solve problem around you.

While examinations are important to benchmark your level of understanding of a subject, extreme focus on examination tends to reduce the deeper and long-term benefits of any earning. In my interactions with youngsters In India, I have noticed that they tend to forget even basics of any subject once the examinations are over. Basic concepts will have to stay with you throughout your life. You should apply them as often as you can, update them with contemporary advances, and use them in your work to understand new ideas and solve new problems.

Any worthwhile contribution to the nation is only possible if you combine your competence with professionalism. A professional is one who is dedicated to his or her profession and lives by its rules and ethics. He does not let personal relations interfere with his professional dealings. He is fair and is unbiased. He makes objective decisions based on the analysis of data. Everyone in the organisation, no matter how high or low in the hierarchy, is confident and enthusiastic in dealing with him, He works hard and makes all sacrifice necessary to make the lives of the next generation of the society better.

He has high aspirations. He believes in the adage: *A plausible impossibility is better than a convincing possibility*. His

most powerful resources are his intellect, his knowledge and his value system. He keeps his intellect sharp, constantly acquires new knowledge and conforms to his value system.

While he excels as an individual, he also works in full synergy with his team. To me, the best example of teamwork is a symphony orchestra where several accomplished musician work in harmony under the direction of the conductor to produce divine music. This is particularly crucial in today's world where large, complex projects have to be executed through outstanding teamwork.

Just remember that every one of you can be successful. Success is the ability to bring smile on to the face of people when you enter a room. People smile not because you are intelligent, powerful or wealthy but because you care for them and you will use all of your competencies to make their lives better.

Have fun and be happy because only a happy mind can make a positive contribution to the society.

Finally, lead a life that your great alma mater will be proud of. Please show gratitude to your parents and your teacher who have carried you on their shoulders and brought you this far. God bless you all.

Thank you.

Dainik Bhaskar ND 18/07/2015 P-6

आईआईटी, कानपुर के छात्रों को राहत, परफॉर्मेंस सुधारने के लिए दूसरा मौका

इंडियन इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ टेक्नोलॉजी, कानपुर के तीन छात्र फिलहाल संस्थान से नहीं निकाले जाएंगे। अंडरपरफॉर्मेंस के चलते उन्हें निष्कासित करने की तैयारी थी, लेकिन सीनेट ने उनकी दया याचिका स्वीकार कर ली। परफॉर्मेंस सुधारने के लिए उन्हें अब एक और मौका दिया जाएगा। इसी तरह के मामले में आईआईटी-रुड़की के 73 छात्रों को पिछले सप्ताह संस्थान से बर्खास्त किया गया था। इनमें से कुछ छात्रों ने अदालत में याचिका दायर की। अदालत के आदेश के बाद उन्हें गुरुवार को दोबारा परीक्षा में शामिल होने का मौका मिला। हालांकि, यह स्पष्ट नहीं है कि परीक्षा में कितने छात्र बैठे थे। मामले पर अगली सुनवाई 21 जुलाई को होगी और इसके बाद ही छात्रों के भविष्य के बारे में फैसला होगा।

Hindustan Times ND

18/07/2015 P-10

HRD ministry plans to meet IIM heads

Brajesh Kumar

■ letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The human resource development ministry is planning to convene a meeting of IIM directors to negotiate and possibly dilute some controversial provisions of a proposed bill that gives the government sweeping powers over the premier institutions.

Sources said the ministry will tell the IIMs — which have rallied against the proposed legislation — that the Centre intended to employ its powers only in the case of appointment of directors, chairpersons and the functioning of coordination forum.

The contentious section 36 of the draft bill — under which IIMs would need to take ministry approval for fixing fee structure, faculty remunerations and department formation among others — may be watered down in consultation with directors.

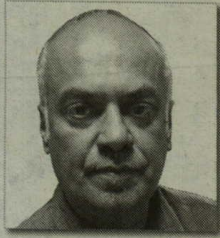
“Under existing practice, the ministry already has the power to appoint directors, chairpersons and therefore there should not be any opposition to section 35 which grants it powers to make rules for

THE MINISTRY HOPES TO MEET THE DIRECTORS TO NEGOTIATE AND DILUTE SOME PROVISIONS IN THE PROPOSED BILL

the same,” an official said. This section also allows the ministry to make rules for the coordination forum which will give policy guidance to the IIMs.

The bill triggered a huge outcry after the HRD ministry sought public feedback on it last month with IIM-Ahmedabad, IIM-Bangalore and IIM-Lucknow writing to the ministry in protest.

“The combination of clause 3 (k) and 36 (1) lead to the central government assuming sweeping powers currently held by the IIM’s boards. By virtue of these clauses, essentially decision-making powers on virtually all issues would rest with the central government and the IIM boards would become recommendatory, not executive bodies” a letter addressed to HRD minister Smriti Irani by IIM-A board chairperson AM Naik said.



**FIFTH
COLUMNIST**
RANJIT BHUSHAN

Education as scam

Vyapam scam underscores the decaying state of India's education system, dominated by fake degrees, phoney universities and fraud teachers

THE Vyavsayik Pariksha Mandal or Vyapam scam in Madhya Pradesh may have had the country riveted for the sheer number of unexplained deaths in one single case, but in doing so, observers have failed to focus on a national malady of epic proportions — the scandal called education.

While the quality of education imparted in India in its highend technical institutions like IITs and top-of-the-line medical colleges is something that the world readily acknowledges, these graduates represent, at best, the elite of the country's basically sound education system, a minuscule minority in an ocean of fraud and deception.

India produces roughly five million graduates annually and more than half of them are unemployable. Reason? They hold degrees from phoney colleges, engineering institutes that exist on paper and medical colleges that survive on fat donations, each one of them mired in corruption and thriving on graft.

Let's face it: since 1947, the education system, a relic of the British Raj, has outlived its utility. The state as educator has proved to be not just flawed but inadequate to meet the demands of a virtually endless stream of graduates. That in turn has led to spawning of a powerful education mafia, which cuts across the political divide, communities and religious affiliations. Question papers are leaked, proxies take tests on behalf of genuine students and cheating in high school and graduate examinations are commonplace and widely accepted.

A bird's eye view of the education mafia in the republic of India:

- The state as educator has proved to be not just flawed but inadequate to meet the demands of graduates
- India produces roughly five million graduates annually and more than half of them are unemployable
- High unemployment and the exorbitant costs of high education fuel such scams

- Haryana teachers' recruitment scam in which former Haryana chief minister Omprakash Chauthala has been convicted for ten years.
- In the MBBS seats scam, Rajya Sabha MP Rasheed

Masood is convicted for four years and disqualified from Parliament.



TURNING A BLIND EYE: Vyapam scam shows the desperation to which both students and their parents can descend to, even in the face of societal warning that the educational institute they are opting in for is fraud, with little hope of unemployment in the future

■ Jammu and Kashmir exam scandal.

■ Rs 1,000 crore Maharashtra education scam.

■ The University Grants Commission (UGC) website has innumerable notices and lists of fake and dubious institutions warning students to proceed with caution. The long list is growing longer by the day.

■ Interestingly, even institutions which are banned by authorities appear in a different avatar.

■ There has been a rash of management institutes, like Arindam Chaudhuri's IIPM, which have turned out to be frauds; IIPM graduates barely manage jobs above floor shop assistants and the institutes have all closed down in due course.

■ As per rough estimates, there are a total of 2,500 fake universities and 7,500 fake companies that exist in India.

■ According to a 2013 background discrepancy survey by the NGO First Advantage, 50 per cent of job seekers

with fake credentials pertain to the BFSI segment and 18 per cent belong to the IT sector.

■ Uttar Pradesh tops the list of bogus universities, Karnataka records the highest number of employment background inconsistency cases.

■ 26 universities across the country have been declared fake and MPhil and PhD degrees accredited by these universities have been designated worthless.

These are but only a very few cases that highlight the existential crisis in the education sector. And there is a good reason why. At mid-levels of recruitment, background checks are perfunctory and only top companies conduct serious screening tests to identify their employees. Educational authorities in Maharashtra, Kerala and several other states have stumbled upon cases of even professors working for reputed educational institutes to be holders of fake degrees.

Why have things reached such a pass? The rising rate of unemployment in India and the exorbitant costs of

high education fuel education fraud, selling forged certificates to students and job seekers. Any decent MBA degree from a well established institute will cost anywhere between Rs 8-9 lakh for a three-year course. But what if you get the same degree from a fly-by-night operator at less than half the cost in a matter of a fortnight? In a country teeming with millions of desperate students, there are many takers among the gullible and the system works to perfection. The Vyapam scam needs to be seen in this light. It shows the desperation to which both students and their parents can descend to, even in the face of societal warning that the educational institute they are opting in for is fraud, with little hope of unemployment in the future.

The BBC recently quoted Craig Jeffrey, professor of development geography at Oxford University and a well known expert on India's unemployment: "In the past India was seen as a country of the bus conductor with a BA. Now it is a

country of the MA manual labourer. It's got much worse."

The rot in the country's education system is not merely a story of scams and venal politicians and educationists; it's a little more than that. Experts fear that the great democratic bulge that politicians rightly refer to, may not yield the dividends a growing economic powerhouse needs. The IMF has said that India's young population has the potential to produce an additional 2 per cent per capita GDP growth each year for the next two decades. But can they? Instead, concerned people are now talking of a 'gargantuan national crisis', a time bomb ticking away, where the unemployed and underemployed youth will be unable to contribute to the economy. If the Vyapam scam manages to put its focus on this critical issue, it would be seen to have done a job that scandals of similar magnitude have been unable to do in the past.

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Chinese toddler is first to get a 3D-printed skull

Groundbreaking Op Completed In 17 Hrs

Beijing: A three-year-old girl in China has become the first person in the world to have her skull reconstructed with the help of 3D printing technology, after a 17-hour-long ground-breaking surgery.

The girl was suffering from a medical condition called hydrocephalus, which causes a buildup of excess cerebrospinal fluid in the brain.

The condition left her with a head weighing about 20 kg, while she herself weighs only 32 kg.

Doctors said she is recovering steadily after the 3D-printed titanium alloy skull was implanted, becoming the first person to have her cranium successfully reconstructed by 3D printers. Han Han underwent the 17 hour surgery on Wednesday at the Second People's Hospital of central China's Hunan Province and is under observation, said neurosurgeon Kuang Weiping, who is in charge of her treatment.

Han was admitted to the hospital two months ago. Since September last year, she has become bedridden as her head grew four times the normal size, taking up more than half of her total

The girl was suffering from a medical condition called hydrocephalus, which causes a buildup of excess cerebrospinal fluid in the brain. The condition left her with a head weighing about 20 kg, while she herself weighs only 32 kg. She also lost sight because her optic nerve was affected

weight, Xinhua news agency reported. Due to the heavy weight, parts of her brain suffered serious infections and she lost sight because her optic nerve was affected.

Kuang said they believed her skull was likely to rupture as infected parts became thinner and only the "brain-shrinking" operation could save her life. During the process, neurosurgeons peeled her scalp and skull, then drained the fluid in her head.

After the swollen structures in her brain returned to the normal size, they implanted the donated artificial skull and covered it with her scalp. ४११

Zomato, India's youngest MNC, turns tech hub for global eateries

Narayanan Madhavan
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GURGAON: Just across the fancy Gold Souk in the suburban glitter of Gurgaon, in an expansive floor of a five-storeyed office building, dozens of youngsters sit around huge tables with laptops. There are no cubicles or workstations.

It is a Saturday, but there is a laid-back buzz. We are inside the headquarters of Zomato, and this is arguably India's youngest multinational – and still a startup. Born only in 2008, the online restaurant guide now has 43 offices worldwide, spread across 22 countries, with staff from 65 nationalities. Though it climbed to fame as a place where foodies share opinions, it now going beyond listings that fetch ad revenues.

Zomato, which has so far raised \$163 million from venture capitalists, is turning into a supplier of point-of-sale payment machines and software-driven transaction services that would automate workflows for eateries worldwide.

Imagine a waiter tapping a menu card on a tablet that beeps an order into the front office machine that processes the order, deducts a payment against a credit card or prints out a bill.

"It is a custom hardware. It will take another six months to start," says Deepinder Goyal, Zomato's 32-year-old co-founder and CEO an IIT-Delhi computer science graduate. The machine would be designed by Indian engineers, but made in China. Last April, Zomato acquired MapleGraph, a Delhi-based cloud (Internet) point-of-sale product for restaurants, and renamed it Zomato Base.

"There are no boundaries anymore," says smiling, chubby-faced Goyal, who has come a long way from being the younger child of schoolteachers in the small Punjab town of Muktsar.

After burning its fingers in 2011 in an events business, Zomato sent some senior execu-



90 mn
No. of visitors per month on Zomato

HUNGRY STARTUP

Zomato is eyeing an Asian boom while building on its strength as an India-based technology player

APPETISING GROWTH

- Zomato plans to be in eight more countries in the next six months. Founded in 2008 as Foodiebay, it changed its name fearing clash with eBay
- 25% of Zomato's traffic comes from cellphones, 45% from mobile apps; traffic is up 300% in a year

10,000 Cities reach of restaurant listings

2,000 Headcount

\$163mn Funding



■ Co-founders Deepinder Goyal (left) and Pankaj Chaddah

REVENUE GROWTH

FY 2011-12: ₹2.04 crore

FY 2012-13: ₹11.3 crore

FY 2013-14: ₹31 crore

SOURCE: ZOMATO, TECHCRUNCH

GLOBAL FOOTPRINT (MAP)



- Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Czech Republic, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Lebanon, New Zealand, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Slovakia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Turkey, UAE, the UK and the US

PHOTO: SANJEEV VERMA/HT

tives including co-founder Pankaj Chaddah to Dubai to test the market. It struck gold, breaking even in six months.

"That gave us the confidence. Then we went crazy and we are now in 22 countries," says Goyal. "We have eight more countries lined up in the next six months."

Technology industry site TechCrunch puts Zomato's valuation at \$1 billion (₹6,300 crore).

Global growth zoomed like a dream last year when Goyal

wanted to expand in New Zealand, where boutique firm MenuMania ran restaurant listings.

"I called the founder and said I want to buy you. He agreed and asked for the price. I had no logic. I said one million dollars. He said yes. That gave me an idea that there must be a lot of boutiques across the world," recalls Goyal.

In that summer of 2014, Zomato clutched a series of deals valued between \$1 and 3 million in the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland,

Italy and Turkey, but the biggest catch was Urban Spoon, with operations in the US, Canada and Australia, for a significantly large sum of \$55 million (₹350 crore). It also acquired Nextable, a US-based table reservation platform, last April — its ninth buyout in as many months. In 15 countries, Zomato has started from scratch.

 **moreonweb**
<http://read.ht/tm9>

Brain implant to help deliver drugs via remote control

Washington: Researchers have developed a new wireless device the width of a human hair that can be implanted in the brain and activated by remote control to deliver drugs.

The technology, demonstrated for the first time in mice, one day may be used to treat pain, depression, epilepsy and other neurological disorders in people by targeting therapies to specific brain circuits, said researchers at Washington University School of Medicine in St Louis and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. They added that with one of these devices implanted, we could theoretically deliver a drug to a specific brain region and activate it with light. This approach could deliver therapies that are much more

targeted but have fewer side effects.

The new devices may help people with neurological disorders and other problems. "In the future, it should be possible to manufacture therapeutic drugs that could be activated with light," said co-principal investigator Michael R Bruchas of Washington University. Previous attempts to deliver drugs or other agents to experimental animals have required the animals to be tethered to pumps and tubes that restricted their movement. But the new devices were built with four chambers to carry drugs directly into the brain. By activating brain cells with drugs and with light, the scientists are getting an unprecedented look at the inner workings of the brain. PTI

The art and science of IIT JEE evaluation

— By Sunil J. Kamat | Jul 16, 2015 12:00 am

<http://www.freepressjournal.in/the-art-and-science-of-iit-jee-evaluation/>



When I appeared for IIT JEE in 1975 — All India Rank (AIR) 31 — there was no objectivity or negativity. After 40 years, in the beginning of 2015, I set off preparing my daughter for the JEE Advanced. The profound sea change was expected. The evolution in the quality and the quantity of the students appearing for the JEE had necessitated the expansion of the syllabus, enhancing the complexity and the introduction of objective questions. To correct the anomalies inherent in the nature of objective evaluation, the IIT Joint Admission Committee (JAC) imposed negative marks, reaching a peak of two negative marks out of four for a set of 30 MCQ in JEE Advanced 2015.

Anomaly is a slippery creature. The more one tries to detach it, the more deeply it entrenches itself. While inflicting two negative marks on the hapless candidate ratiocinating to arrive at the correct answer, the JAC hoped to foil the alarming advice rendered by some coaching institutes and websites, alarming, because a few of the gurus encouraged the students to hone the craft of probability ‘to guess your way’ rather than master the principles of Kirchoff’s Laws, derailing the essence of evaluation of engineering proficiency: ‘tips to cheat’, ‘do a little guesswork’, ‘reverse engineer’, ‘discard highest and lowest outliers because in 60% cases they are not right’ and ‘check the dimensions to filter options’. Though the specter of 50% negative marks might have stopped the wizards of guessology in their tracks, it tripped the intelligent student to the former’s advantage. Sometimes, especially in the JEE 2015, an unprepared student, who has not comprehended the fundamentals of the problem and the topic and who cannot fathom an approach to solve it, nevertheless gains, over a student with a fair idea of tackling the challenge, by guessing or not replying at all.

Consider a typical multiple-choice question with one or more than one correct options, where options ‘A’, ‘B’ and ‘D’ are correct and ‘C’ is wrong. The clueless candidate moves on to the next question without vacillating, wasting no time and no marks, whereas the one having the grasp on the concept solves the problem, darkens the ‘A’ and ‘B’ bubbles, leaves the option ‘C’ untouched and unsure of the option ‘D’, does not mark it. The result? Five minutes wasted and two negative marks awarded. If this were the first question, the first candidate attains a pole position with respect to the later, for the remaining question paper. How this phenomenon affects the ranking in various bands — 1 to 50, 100 to 200, 400 to 500 — is analyzed and can be given in a detailed article.

While the candidates are reeling under the burden of two examinations and the humongous syllabus, befalls the third kneejerk reaction from the JAC — a third examination, a written section for JEE 2017 after the Mains and the Advanced tests, testing subjective skills, no doubt resulting in more coaching, more hours per day and more mess. An unviable attempt by the JAC to develop a machine-readable answerscript that can give credits to part answers will be futile and make the scenario murkier. To vindicate and justify the development, the JAC will force the framing of the questions to suit the half-baked and ill-conceived system, relegating the real purpose of

the evaluation system to the background. The elite JEE Advanced should be demanding, but the students, because we cannot find a simple and efficient evaluation system, should not be pulverized with three tests in addition to the CBSC / A level and TOFFEL / SAT / GRE, all requiring different skill sets, all in one year, the 12th.

In mathematics, it is said, the best solution is the simplest solution. The present or the planned system, I am afraid, is an unwieldy solution. And what is the problem? To rank the students accurately. The IITs, being the sole premium institutes in India, attract the crème de la crème. She is enrolled at IIT before she is conceived. It is this student, not the IIT, who makes the IIT a prestigious institute. The continual presence of AIR 1 to 50, most of whom opt for Computer Science at IIT Bombay, can propel any decent institute into the top league. Do we deserve this constellation of top 50? As a group, I am sure, they would rank within top two or three out of the ensemble of top 50 engineering students of the batch from every country in the world, whereas IIT Bombay ranks 222nd in the World University Rankings and 58th in the World University Rankings by subject 2015 – Computer Science. The political system, though, has also contributed to this disappointing state.

In spite of the alluring prospect of absorbing the brightest students, despite compelling them to go through the toughest training regime and assessment, the simple task of ranking them precisely is a failure. When I walked into my hostel room for the first time on that eventful day in 1975, the message on the wall left by the passing out senior exhorted me: ‘keep the tradition of this room, don’t sweep.’ The question framing committee of 20 professors for each subject seems to take rather seriously the advice: ‘keep the tradition of JEE, err.’ JEE Advanced 2015 stumped the unsuspecting candidates with errors galore. The errors in physics paper alone affected nine marks, enough to compel a student yearning for Computer Science to take up Aeronautical Engineering. If a professor, with unlimited time and assistance of books, references and other professors, goofs up in answering a question he framed, how can we expect a candidate, on his own in the examination hall, to answer the same in three minutes? There is nothing worse that a student can take to the examination hall than a sense that while he prepared well and is confident of securing a top rank, the glitches in the assessment or ambiguity and errors in the questions or the answer keys, to be expected in JEE 2016 in spite of filtering by a squad of 60 professors, might unsettle him, forcing her to tick a fifth option to every confusing question: ‘error in question’.

Hence the quest for an elegant solution, lest the IIT entrance turns out to be a Barmecide feast for the deserving student. When this battle of anomalies has been fought out and won, when an elegant solution has been implemented, when the candidates have been relieved of the yoke of multiple tests and uncertainty, then it seems as though all the suspended sediments and algae of aberrations and excesses, making the evaluation system turbid, have been wiped out and the sparkling stream of the rankings rolls on. The key is to differentiate between an effort succeeding in solving the problem substantially and ‘not attempted’.

In the good old days of the 1975 JEE, the dedicated examiners went through all the steps the student had negotiated to arrive at an answer to assess the candidates accurately. Though ideal, this process is not feasible now. To ameliorate the negative consequences of the objective questions, we can reframe them in the following manner, dispensing with the proposed third test of JEE 2017.

Consider the solution to a multiple-choice question as ten steps of 10% each. In addition to the main question with four options, set another ‘branching question’ with four more options for which the solution branches at some point between step five and nine, traversing a further one to three steps. If the main question carries three marks, the branching question can reward two. If even one of the two answers is correct, negative marks will not be applicable. Otherwise, each attempted wrong answer will be penalized with one negative mark. If both the answers are correct, total six, with an extra bonus mark, will be awarded. One can also eliminate all the options and ask the candidates to write the final numerical answer, which can then be read by a machine.

If this scheme is calibrated, fine-tuned, intensified or diluted based on the question, it will achieve the desired result.

Android chief Sundar Pichai on IIT-Kharagpur alumni honours list

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/tech/software/android-chief-sundar-pichai-on-iit-kharagpur-alumni-honours-list/articleshow/48112820.cms>

KOLKATA: IIT-Kharagpur will honour 11 of its eminent alumni, including Google's Android team head Sundar Pichai, with the Distinguished Alumnus Award at its convocation next month.

Pichai, now the senior vice-president and product chief at Google, had completed his B.Tech in Metallurgical and Materials Engineering from IIT-Kharagpur in 1993. Having joined Google in 2004, he now oversees Android, Chrome, and Google Apps.

Among the honorees on August 9 will also be Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) chief S Christopher, of 1980-batch, former NASA scientist and Bollywood filmmaker, Dr Bedabrata Pain, and world famous bonsai artist, Peter Chan.

The premier engineering institute recognises the professional achievements and contribution of its alumni through the Distinguished Alumnus Award each year on its Annual Convocation Day.

Students from IIT-B develop 'internet vans' for farmers

<http://www.freepressjournal.in/students-from-iit-b-develop-internet-vans-for-farmers/>

Mumbai : IIT Bombay (IIT-B) students have developed an 'internet van' with the aim of teaching basic computer and internet skills to farmers, artists and students in the countryside. Officials said that new-found digital knowledge could be useful for farmers or artists in checking the demand and supply of their products in various cities. The journey of the bus will start in August.

Taking inspiration from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Digital India' programme, Techfest of IIT-B started an innovative project, 'Internet for All', aimed at spreading internet education. Techfest and Nehru Science Centre had joined hands for the same.

Its objective is to spread internet education awareness among villagers and bring them within the mainstream of society.

IIT students had developed a bus equipped with modern science and technology exhibitions to inspire schoolchildren. The bus will travel from Mumbai to Delhi spreading much-needed internet literacy.

IIT not the only goal; JoSAA allocation process still very complex

<http://www.pagalguy.com/articles/iit-not-the-only-goal-josaa-allocation-process-still-very-co-34924299>

We live in a competitive world where students start chanting the word 'IIT' from the age of 16 and 17. Peer pressure and the craze to crack the JEE, is the only thought looming in their minds and the business of IIT has flourished only by inhibiting this dream in adolescents. Yet, there is a certain class of students who don't see anything special in this prestigious institution. In fact, they don't even aspire to be engineers. This attitude towards engineering seems minuscule today but its virility may pose a staunch challenge to several IITs in India in the coming decades.

At the end of Round 1 of the JoSAA allocations, the authority released a list of 12 students in the top 1000 All India Ranks (AIR) of the JEE (Advanced) Common Merit List who were debarred from participating further in the JoSAA process since they had not accepted the IIT seats allotted to. Upon speaking to them, PaGaLGuY has confirmed that some of these students have joined IISC Bengaluru for a 4-year integrated BS Research degree. Here is an account of five candidates from the list about why they decided skip an IIT seat.

Anjishnu Bose: "I got admission in IISC Bengaluru, BS Research in Physics just yesterday. I only applied for IIT but did not accept the seat because I wish to pursue a career in research and IISC is comparatively a better institute for research. I don't want to be an engineer," says Anjishnu Bose, AIR 26 from Delhi.

Paarth Gulati: Another student, Paarth Gulati from Gurgaon, AIR 915 says, "I chose to go to IISC Bengaluru because in terms of research, it is on par with foreign institutes. I gave my KVPY last year and was given a confirmed seat in IISC in as early as February. The only reason why I gave JEE Advanced was because I have been preparing for it since a long time. I wanted to have a broader band of options to consider before I took final admission in any institute. However, since 8th standard I had decided that I wanted to get into research and basic sciences and not be an engineer. I want to work in a research lab in a prestigious university in India."

Prakhar Gupta: Prakhar Gupta from Ghaziabad, AIR 233 also took admission in IISC and aspires to conduct research in untouched areas of Physics. His ambition is to publish research papers for the advancement of society, rather than simply implementing pre-existing research into new machinery.

Arindam Bhattacharya: Arindam Bhattacharya from Bengaluru, AIR 307 has got admission in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, MIT, USA, where he will be pursuing a dual majors in Physics and Electrical Engineering. Unlike the other boys, Arindam was inspired to apply to MIT by his school friends who thought he stood a good chance at getting selected there. Arindam has also won accolades on the international level. He participated in the Astronomy Olympiad in 2012 held in South Korea, where he won a gold medal. In 2013, he attended the Astronomy and Astrophysics Olympiad in Greece and the International Physics Olympiad in Mumbai and has earned a bronze medal in both. "I had been preparing for my JEE since class 9 and gave the exam only because I wanted to see how well I stood at the country level. I didn't think of it as competition. The JoSAA process offered me my first preference of IIT, but I turned it down because I want to make a career in research." When asked about why he didn't chose IISC for his degree, he said "Research facilities in USA are at par with that in India, but the freedom given to undergraduates in experimentation and exploratory studies is more in the US."

Saim Dawood Wani: While all of the above students forfeited IIT for an enhanced opportunity, there is also a student from South Delhi, Saim Dawood Wani, AIR 817, who is not satisfied with the seat allotted to him. He is considering reapplying for the JEE Advanced next year in hopes to get a better rank and get placed in IIT Delhi in Computer Science.

IISC Bengaluru seems to be a popular choice among most students. One of the benefits of IISC is that it allows students to directly apply for a PhD after their graduation. The provision of skipping a Master's degree lets the students save 2 precious years and achieve a doctor's title at a younger age. What is more startling is that all three of them share a common fascination for research in Physics and wish to travel abroad to complete their PhD. On contacting Paarth, he said that he got acquainted with Anjishnu and Prakhar on campus and was glad to find people who share the same passion as his. Hopefully if they all succeed at their ambition, they could bring alive an Indian version of the Big Bang Theory.

Money, pressure, passion, ambition; several factors sway students' considerations of an institute. But knowing about the choices of these students, it sure seems that the craze for IIT is not as widespread as we think it is. These students made choices that would enable them to fulfill their passion. But what about the several other students who have been burning the IIT candle in their heart for a long time and were left disappointed after the first round of allocations? The JoSAA allocation process is very complex and creates hassles for

students, parents and professors throughout the nation. With these students now out of the JoSAA process, do the others stand a chance to be allotted in an IIT of their choice? Will these 12 vacant seats finally be offered to top deserving candidates? What is even more disheartening for those thousands of students without a seat, is the opportunities lost and the time spent in panic and fear of failure. And at the end of it, they are left with even more confusion and frustration about the entire process of allocations.

UGC prescribes dress code

NEW DELHI, July 18, 2015, dhns:

<http://www.deccanherald.com/content/489899/ugc-prescribes-dress-code.html>



The University Grants Commission (UGC) has prescribing a dress code for students and faculty in varsities and asked the vice-chancellors to ensure that only handloom fabric is used for ceremonial dresses worn on special occasions like convocation.

Issuing a directive in this regard on July 15, the higher education regulator cited Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for working towards welfare of weavers.

“The prime minister has emphasised on revival of handloom and improving earnings of the handloom weavers. Handloom fabric not only forms an integral part of our rich culture and heritage but also provides livelihood opportunity to lakhs of people living in the rural areas. Using ceremonial robes made of handloom fabrics would not only give a sense of pride of being Indian but also be more comfortable in the hot and humid weather. Greater usage of handloom garments for apparel would promote the handloom industry in the country,” it said.

This comes ahead of the Modi government's plan to roll out “India Handloom” brand on August 7, the day Swadeshi Movement was launched on 1905. The objective behind rolling out of “India Handloom” brand is to promote handloom products in international market.

In another directive to the universities, the UGC has asked the vice-chancellors to introduce special chapters in universities' curricula to sensitise students about weapons of mass destruction and disarmament.

The National Authority, Chemicals Weapons Convention (NACWC), which functions under the Cabinet Secretariat, has decided that Education and Awareness should be a thrust area to create mass awareness for chemical disarmament, it said.

The most important target is the youth studying in schools and colleges. The coverage of topics on such important and vital issues such as weapons of mass destruction, disarmament and peaceful uses of chemistry are “grossly inadequate” in curricula at University level, the UGC noted, referring to the recommendation of NACWC.

“The young students who are well conversant and profound with scientific principals and advanced

technological applications are largely ignorant of important international conventions like chemical weapons convention (CWC), which have a bearing on the welfare of the entire humankind. You are requested to kindly take necessary measures for inclusion of vital issues such as weapons of mass destruction, disarmament, peaceful uses of chemistry in the university curricula,” UGC secretary Jaspal S Sandhu said in his letter to vice-chancellors.

The UGC also asked the vice chancellors to sensitise the departments of mass communication and journalism with the recommendation of second administrative reforms commission on combating terrorism.

Irani may open IIM-Nagpur on July 26

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/nagpur/Irani-may-open-IIM-Nagpur-on-July-26/articleshow/48119038.cms>

NAGPUR: The long wait for Maharashtra's first IIM in Nagpur will be over on July 26 when it would be inaugurated in a ceremony to be held at Chitnavis Centre. Union Human Resources Development (HRD) minister Smriti Irani has been invited as chief guest for the event to be held from 11.30am to 12.45pm. She, however, hasn't confirmed her participation so far, sources in VNIT, which is hosting the IIM-N initially, said.

Union minister for road and surface transport Nitin Gadkari and chief minister Devendra Fadnavis would be the guests of honour along with IIM-Ahmedabad director Ashish Nanda and other senior officials from country's premier institution. VNIT top brass, including Board of Governors (BoG) chairman Vishram Jamdar and director Narendra Chaudhari would also be present.

After the function, IIM-A director would interact with the media at 1.15pm, explaining facilities to be offered to the students, plans to conduct flagship 'Post Graduate Programme in Management' and activities to be held by the IIM-Nagpur throughout the year. Jamdar told TOI that all activities were being coordinated by IIM-A. "VNIT auditorium is being renovated for our convocation on September 15 whee President Pranab Mukherjee is expected," he said.