

## Newspaper Clips

### July 22, 2015

Hindu ND 22/07/2015 P-13

# Has the IIM faculty been sidelined?

Over the years, IIM boards, with mostly non-executive members, have assumed sweeping powers. The IIM Bill might do well to focus on this anomaly

Ramesh Bhat and Sunil Maheshwari

The government's moves to bring accountability to the institutes of management through legislation have raised apprehensions in the IIMs. These fears are chiefly about the loss of autonomy that emanates from the proposed creation of a Coordination Forum with policy-making and oversight powers. IIMs want the appointment of the chairperson, members of the board, and of the director within the purview of the board and they want a full say in the selections. Thus far, the discourse does not make it clear what the role of the faculty and faculty-based governance systems will be.

In the original scheme of things, IIM Ahmedabad, in particular, instituted systems that were governed through a faculty council, faculty committees and activity chairpersons. This was based on Ravi J. Matthai's conviction that academic activities can flourish only when faculty are given full freedom, space to grow and express themselves freely. The council and committees had the autonomy, *inter alia*, to set the fees, design the academic curriculum, and set up academic centres in specific domains. They also had a hand in faculty recruitment and other operational decisions. The faculty's dedication, commitment and ownership at various levels played a key role in strengthening the processes and the IIM brand. Faculty involvement in key decision-making led to a strong sense of ownership and high commitment in implementing the decisions.

### Powerful boards

However, over the years, particularly after 2000, the IIM boards assumed more power, and some of the policies and decisions that were discussed at faculty forums and committees and recommended to the board for final approval started getting finalised at the board or director level and came to the Faculty Council only for information sharing. Many of these decisions followed a top-down approach and had perverse consequences. Thus, in 2008, the board did not take inputs from the faculty even on the important matter of raising fees for the two-year Post Graduate Programme from Rs.4.5 lakh to Rs.11.5 lakh. Faculty members learnt about this decision later through the media. The present fee is about Rs.18.5 lakh.

Procurement and sourcing decisions were centralised and the role of faculty members in administration became marginalised. Many significant programmes were dropped without any significant discussions with professors. During this power shift, faculty members remained un-unionised and had little negotiating powers for collective bargaining.

Autonomous decision-making needs to be accountable. Earlier, faculty members, through their involvement and engagement in internal processes, ensured accountability at all levels. The system-



**NEED FOR ACCOUNTABILITY:** "The systematic removal of faculty members from decision-making has impacted the effectiveness of the IIM boards." In picture, students at IIM, Bangalore, discuss a point.

— FILE PHOTO: K. MURALI KUMAR

atic removal of faculty involvement in decision-making has created conditions that impact the effectiveness of the IIM boards. IIMs are not just business schools; their mission includes establishing professional management practices. Because they understand academics better as well as the needs and aspirations of stakeholders, it may be argued that in the absence of an executive board, faculty members bring an integrated perspective to decision-making. The centralisation of decision-making at the board level creates a situation where there is no accountability in an autonomous environment. It carries the risk of catastrophe in the long run.

Prof Ram Mohan in his article in *The Hindu* on the IIM Bill ("No reason for IIMs to be alarmed", July 1) rightly argues that the IIMs lack the necessary conditions to ensure the effectiveness of the IIM boards. For boards to be effective there must be competition in the market, and a large or dominant stakeholder to monitor their performance. In the case of IIMs, both the internal markets (procurement, outsourcing, faculty recruitment systems, faculty incentive systems) and the external markets (students, parents, and financial institutions) must be transparent and efficient.

IIM boards, consisting primarily of independent members, can be considered non-executive boards. For effective decision-making, non-executive members need information. With no executive except the chief administrative officer participating on the board, its members are dependent exclusively on

the director for all information. Directors may be selective in providing information. In the absence of adequate information, the quality of decisions deteriorates, as they are discussed in a hurry and non-executive members carry no deep insights into issues and facts.

We thus have a situation where the IIM boards enjoy more power and are less accountable. For example, the IIMs have failed to adhere to the tradition of one term for the chairman and members. The selection process of board members has become less transparent.

### Course fees

The problem of leaving matters entirely to boards is best illustrated by focussing on just one important issue — the setting of fees. It has been argued that the government should have no say in fee setting and that the task should be left to the IIM boards. Given the vicissitudes in government funding, IIM boards have exploited the tuition fee route, and have never articulated the rationale for fee escalations. The only argument set forth is that most students can afford to take loans and those who cannot will get varying degrees of financial aid. However, the IIMs have ignored the implications of the rising cost of management education. Faculty involvement would have ensured deeper analysis, due deliberations, and consensus building.

The ability to hike the tuition fee allowed IIMs to incur capital expenditure, outsource procurements, implement a faculty incentive system and take decisions with far-reaching financial and operational implications. The

faculty today is rewarded with low teaching loads for mandatory classes and monetary incentives for publications. From a governance perspective, it is essential for an organisation to be financially dependent on an external source that can ask tough questions about activities and budget. The older IIMs, now financially self-sufficient, are not adequately examined on their strategies, direction and activities by any authentic stakeholder. The absence of a performance-based contract for the director ensures they remain ineffective, and both board members and the chairman cash in on the IIM brand rather than spend effective time strengthening the institutions.

IIM boards have not clarified the institutions' strategy, direction or how resources will be raised and used in the future. One would like to alter the process that gives blanket autonomy to the IIM boards.

The government has the onerous task of bringing back faculty governance and the involvement of executive board members. Key activity heads could be made permanent invitees to the board. The faculty council should first ratify all strategic decisions before they are put up to the board for discussion. This will enhance the sense of ownership leading to better execution. Faculty members understand the needs of the stakeholders better and can bring in an integrated perspective to decision-making in the absence of an executive board. The IIM Bill should focus on issues such as these.

(Ramesh Bhat and Sunil Maheshwari are professors at IIM Ahmedabad. The views expressed are personal)

Times of India ND 22/07/2015 P-20

# NDA's Fault Lines

*Sangh's anti-rational politics of dubbing institutions 'anti-national' subverts Modi's modernising agenda*

Prime Minister Narendra Modi may have an agenda for a modern India. But opposition parties do not represent the biggest hurdle to that agenda, parliamentary storms notwithstanding. Instead, that agenda is being subverted from within the Sangh Parivar itself. Take the PM's eminently laudable Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao campaign, designed to combat the kind of discrimination against daughters that produces skewed sex ratios. This has been perverted by the UP Bajrang Dal, in line with its pet obsessions, into a Beti Bachao, Bahu Laao campaign – with the bizarre intention of preventing Hindu women from falling prey to the charms of Muslim men, while promoting the marriage of women from the minorities with Hindu men.

This communal obsession is also evident in BJP's politics in Bengal, where it has been staging protests over the disappearance of a 14-year-old girl in Magrahat. This was touted, without much evidence, as yet another case of abduction of a Hindu girl by a Muslim boy. However, the girl returned yesterday and declared she had left of her own volition. If playing on communal faultlines is the best idea BJP has for expanding its political base in Bengal, it is not going to get very far.



Recently, RSS mouthpiece Organiser went so far as to dub premier institutions like the IITs and IIMs "anti-Hindu" and "anti-national". This is not only a ridiculous allegation, it also undermines Modi's "Make in India" campaign which cannot work if we trip up institutions that produce high-quality engineers and managers. The same applies to the movie industry, one of the central pillars of India's soft power today. The move to foist Gajendra Chauhan – whose chief qualification is that he played the role of Yudhishtir in the Mahabharat teleserial – as the new chairperson of FTII, India's premier film institute, comes over protests from students, faculty and the film industry. True to form, RSS also dubbed those protests "anti-Hindu".

When UPA was at the Centre its agenda was often derailed by its ostensible allies, the Left. BJP could then use these internal divisions to drive a wedge between various factions of the ruling coalition. NDA faces the same danger if Modi allows leeway to extreme elements of the Sangh Parivar. Chairman Mao formulated the slogan "better red than expert", which produced disastrous results during the Chinese cultural revolution. "Better saffron than expert" will be equally disastrous for India.

## **RSS devaluing IITs-IIMs by branding them anti-Hindu, anti-national**

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/comment/rss-devaluing-iits-iims-by-branding-them-anti-hindu-anti-national/article1-1371380.aspx>

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 misguiding 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.

## India's eroding human capital

Economists involved in the developmental process, have given greater priority to financial capital.

By Pandurang Hegde

The World Economic Forum has released the Second Human Capital Report for 2015. It ranks countries according to five distinct age groups and categories of education, skill and employment conditions. Out of the 124 countries surveyed, India ranks at 100; Finland ranks first.

China is well ahead of us at 64th rank, and our neighbour Sri Lanka is at the 60th spot. The report has also thrown surprises, as the countries we consider weak in human capital like Cambodia and Egypt are ahead of us, including Bangladesh which has notched one rank above us at 99.

Why is India, claiming to be on the path of becoming an economic superpower, lagging behind in nurturing its human capital? We do not need an academic exercise to find the causes behind the erosion of human capital in India.

In order to achieve developmental goals, we need to strike a balance between natural, financial and human capital. However, with economists dominating the developmental process, a false impression is created where financial capital has been given priority over other forms of capital.

Education is one of the important components of human capital. Creating knowledge is the basic purpose of imparting education, with universal access and provision of quality education. Unfortunately, school education, the basic building block of human capital in India, is in deep crisis. The ASER (Annual State of Education Reports) reports brought out annually validate the abysmal learning conditions across the country.

School attendance has increased over the years; however, children have not been able to learn basics skills of reading, writing or mathematical logic. To resolve this crisis, our government has sought assistance from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to improve the quality of mathematics and science education in India. Japanese teachers will teach these subjects to Indian teachers. Ironically, the country that invented the concept of 'zero' is not seeking help to learn mathematics!

The recently released Socio Economic Caste Census (2011) has found that 36 per cent of the rural population is illiterate, and even among the literate section only 4 per cent has graduate degree. This reflects the crumbling state of education in rural India with a population of 884 million. Adding to the woes, almost 48 per cent of children suffer from malnutrition and stunted growth, further lowering the chances of improving human capital in the country.

In addition to providing qual-

ity education, imparting skills helps in building human capital. Unfortunately the political leadership is inclined more towards establishing institutions like the IITs (Indian Institute of Technologies) rather than building the capacities of ITIs (Industrial Training Institutes). It is the latter that can create the blue-collar workforce to enable smooth functioning of the production sector of economy.

According to McKinsey & Company, India needs 500 million skilled people to meet the growing needs of economy by 2020, but it has the capacity to train only 50 million. The Government of India has accepted that only 2 per cent of the workforce has the required skill training. Obviously, this represent the wide gap between the demands for skilled personnel and its supply.

### Failed initiative

In order to bridge to this gap in skill training, the UPA government had established the National Skill Development Corporation in 2010. The objective was "to build skills on a mission mode that will address the challenge of imparting skill required to build growing economy". However, this initiative turned out to be a non-starter and it has since been unable to cater to the growing demands of the industry to equip them with diverse skills.

To harness the demographic dividend of youth population, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given a call to the world to invest in India and deliver through its 'Make in India' programme. Sadly though, the emphasis is more on attracting financial capital, and not on inviting world-class companies to provide skills to train the human resources. Countries like Germany and Switzerland have a great potential to impart these high-level technological skills to lay the foundation for a skill-based economy.

The conditions of employment in India are precarious with 92 per cent of the workforce is in the unorganised sector. Dilution of labour laws by the new government is bound to worsen their conditions further. With meager benefits from employment, in terms of skill development or assured security, there is very little chance to attain full efficiency of workforce.

The industrial sector in India is seeking workforce with ready-made recruits instead of striving towards the enhancement and multiplication of talent. The corporate sector can play a proactive role in bridging the skill gap by contributing towards quality education and building intellectual capital.

The country's human capital endowment needs to be carefully nurtured to attain social and economic prosperity. According to Klaus Schwab, Chairman of the World Economic Forum, "Talent not capital, will be the key factor linking innovation, competitiveness and growth in the 21st century". Are our leaders willing to take this advice and evolve policies towards creating a strong foundation to build the human capital?

## Indian Express ND 22/07/2015 P-6

### BIHAR POLLS

# Modi, Nitish set to share stage at launch of new IIT

SANTOSH SINGH  
PATNA, JULY 21

IN THE run-up to the Bihar Assembly polls, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is all set to play the development card during his July 25 visit to the state.

During his visit, the PM is scheduled to attend the foundation day function of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), being held outside New Delhi for the first time, open a new IIT campus at Bihta and lay the foundation of Haldi-Jagdishpur gas pipeline project in Patna. He will also address a public rally at Muzaffarpur, where a mega development package for Bihar is likely to be announced. This will be Modi's first visit to Bihar after becoming PM.

The PM's visit is being billed as NDA's counter to Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's high pitched poster campaign projecting him as the state's pro-development face.

Union Agriculture Minister Radha Mohan Singh said: "The PM will attend 87th foundation day function of ICAR in Patna and distribute 82 prizes in various categories named after personalities such as Jawahar Lal Nehru, Jagjivan Ram and

Choudhary Devi Lal among others. The PM will also release ICAR's Vision 2050 in presence of agricultural scientists."

Nitish Kumar will share dais with Modi at the opening of the IIT campus at Bihta. This will be the first time that Nitish would be sharing stage with Narendra Modi in his capacity as PM. Nitish on Tuesday said the PM will be "extended a warm welcome in Bihar as the state is known for its hospitality".

To project himself as a leader aggressively pursuing the development agenda, Nitish on Tuesday opened the state's longest road over-bridge on Patna's Bailey Road. Nitish also promised to release his government's report card on July 27.

To balance the development agenda with caste arithmetic, Nitish Kumar's alliance partner, RJD, plans to hold a public meeting at Minapur, Muzaffarpur on July 23. Coming two days ahead of the PM's visit, this is being seen as a bid to mount pressure on Modi government to release the caste census report.

Meanwhile, Leader of Opposition in Assembly Nand Kishore Yadav said the PM was "keen on opening the long-pending Ganga rail and road bridge at Digha, but the state government could not construct the approach road in time for his visit.

## Pioneer ND 22/07/2015 P-13

**P**rof Anil Dattatraya Sahasrabudhe, professor of Mechanical Engineering at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Guwahati has taken over the charge as the chairman, All India Council for Technical Education on July 17, 2015. He served as director, College of Engineering, Pune (COEP) since 2006 on deputation from IIT, Guwahati until becoming the chairman, AICTE. He has 29 years of teaching and research experience.

## New appointee

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 ME and PhD from Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore in 1982 and 1989, respectively. He



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.

## Mail Today ND 22/07/2015 P-16

# French film captures Super 30 girl's success



Anand Kumar, Super 30 founder

By **Giridhar Jha** in Patna

A FRENCH film based on the success story of an autorickshaw driver's daughter studying at the Indian School of Mines (ISM), Dhanbad, is slated for release next month. The Big Day, made by acclaimed film-maker Pascal Plisson, also features four special stories from across the globe.

Nidhi Jha, who had cracked the Indian Institute of Technology-Joint Entrance Examination (IIT-JEE) as a student of Patna-based Super 30 institute last year, is part of the 90-minute documentary.

Super 30 founder Anand Kumar said Nidhi, her family members and he had been invited to attend the film's premiere in France next month. "I am extremely happy for Nidhi who had risen from her poor background not only

to qualify in the IIT entrance test but also to feature in an international film by dint of merit," Anand said.

The famed Bihar mathematician, who has helped 333 students from underprivileged families get admission into the IITs and ISM over the past 13 years, said Plisson and his

### Nidhi is the daughter of an autorickshaw driver

team had visited his institute and shot for the film. "The Big Day revolves around the moving stories of four disadvantaged children whose ability to fight back against all odds and hard work changed their lives forever," he added.

Anand said Nidhi is the third daughter of Sunil Jha, an autorickshaw driver from Varanasi, who was not happy after her birth because of his financial constraints. "But she made him proud by excelling in studies," Anand said.

The young mathematician said she joined Super 30 and stayed at his house. "She slept with my mother. She was like a family member. She was very religious and hard working," said Anand.

He said the film had depicted how students from underprivileged sections of society braved all odds to succeed in their lives. "Nidhi's story inspired the French film-maker to make a documentary on her," he said.

Several international film-makers from across the globe have made films and documentaries on Super 30 in the past.

## Financial Chronicle ND 22/07/2015 P-10

# UPSC topper gets 53 per cent; marks put online

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi

THE topper of civil services examination has got about 53 per cent, thus showing the strict pattern of civil services examination conducted by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) for selecting coun-

try's top bureaucrats.

The commission has made public the marks obtained by the successful candidates. The mark sheets of the candidates who qualified the civil services (main) examination and those who could not, have also been put in public domain.

The civil services exami-

nation is conducted annually in three stages--preliminary, main and interview--to select candidates for the elite Indian Administrative Service (IAS), Indian Foreign Service (IFS) and Indian Police Service (IPS), among others.

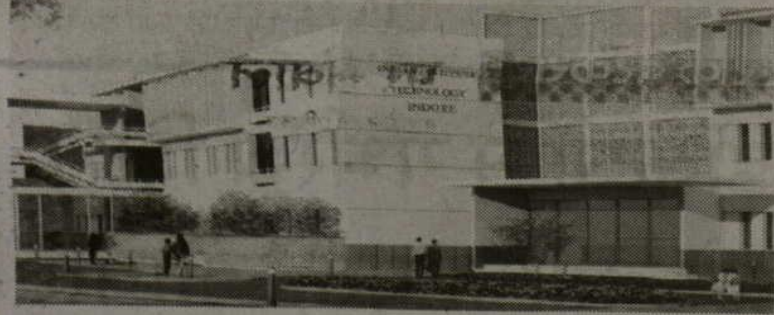
Ira Singhal, a physically handicapped Indian Rev-

enue Service (Customs and Central Excise) officer from Delhi who topped the 2014 exam, got a total of 1,082 marks (53.43 per cent) out of a total of 2,025--comprising 1,750 of main and 275 of interview. Second rank achiever Renu Raj, a doctor from Kerala, got 1,056 marks (52.14 per cent) and

third-rank holder Nidhi Gupta got 1,025 marks (50.61 per cent), according to their marks sheet. The results were declared on July 4. "The marks achieved by the successful candidates show the strict pattern of the examination while selecting country's top bureaucrats," a senior UPSC official said.

# आईआईटी ने चीफ इंजीनियर को निकाला

डायरेक्टर ने दिया था 2018 तक का एक्सटेंशन



इंदौर @ पत्रिका

patrika.com/city

इंडियन इंस्टिट्यूट ऑफ टेक्नोलॉजी (आईआईटी), इंदौर ने निर्माण का कामकाज देख रहे चीफ इंजीनियर को टर्मिनेट कर परिसर खाली करने का नोटिस दिया है। प्रबंधन ने स्टाफ को ई-मेल कर चीफ इंजीनियर से कोई संपर्क न रखने को भी कहा है।

आईआईटी इंदौर में हुई कई नियुक्तियों को लेकर विवाद सार्वजनिक हो चुके हैं। अब चीफ इंजीनियर के टर्मिनेशन को लेकर एक और विवाद खड़ा हो गया है। चीफ इंजीनियर एसपी रघुनाथ को नए इंजीनियर की नियुक्ति के बगैर ही टर्मिनेट कर दिया गया। इससे पहले डायरेक्टर प्रो. प्रदीप माथुर ही चीफ इंजीनियर को 2018 तक के लिए तीन साल का एक्सटेंशन दे चुके थे। चीफ इंजीनियर होने के नाते करीब 600 करोड़ रुपये के सिमरोल कैम्पस का निर्माण कार्य रघुनाथ ही देख रहे थे। एक्सटेंशन मिलने के बाद हुए टर्मिनेशन लेटर पर रघुनाथ ने रजिस्ट्रार डॉ. अरुण सुब्रमनियन से अपील भी की, लेकिन उन्होंने एक्सटेंशन नियमसंगत न होने का हवाला देते हुए और मौका दिए जाने से इनकार कर दिया। मालूम हो, आईआईटी के पूर्व डिप्टी डायरेक्टर प्रो. एस खन्ना भी फैकल्टी के चयन में डायरेक्टर पर मनमानी का आरोप लगा चुके हैं।

नहीं कर सकेंगे संपर्क

रघुनाथ को निकालने के बाद प्रबंधन ने जो मेल जारी किया, उसमें उल्लेख है कि अगर अब रघुनाथ किसी भी फैकल्टी या स्टाफ से संपर्क करने की कोशिश करते हैं तो यह गैर-कानूनी होगा। सूत्रों के अनुसार, सिमरोल कैम्पस की बाउंड्रीवाल के टैंडर को लेकर भी रघुनाथ प्रबंधन के निष्ठाने पर थे। स्टाफ को रघुनाथ से कोई संपर्क न रखने के लिए जारी ई-मेल के संबंध में रजिस्ट्रार डॉ. अरुण सुब्रमनियन ने कुछ भी कहने से इनकार कर दिया।

विवादों में ही थी नियुक्ति

मार्च 2013 में चीफ इंजीनियर और सुप्रिटेण्डेंट इंजीनियर के पद के लिए विज्ञापन जारी किया गया था। इसके लिए सिविल इंजीनियरिंग में फर्स्ट डिवीजन डिग्री के साथ 15 साल का अनुभव मांगा था। विज्ञापन में एक लाइन थी, अगर उपरोक्त पदों के लिए योग्य उम्मीदवार मिलते हैं तो सभी अर्हताएं शिथिल की जा सकती हैं। आईआईटी के ही प्रोफेसर्स ने इस विज्ञापन के आधार पर उम्मीदवार की योग्यताओं पर सवाल उठाए थे।

कार्यकाल पूरा हो चुका है

चीफ इंजीनियर का कार्यकाल 10 जुलाई को पूरा हो चुका है। कोई भी संस्थान छोड़ता है तो सभी फैकल्टी व स्टाफ को मेल के जरिए जानकारी देते हैं। - डॉ. निर्मला मेनन, मीडिया प्रभारी, आईआईटी इंदौर

## AIIMS, IIT team up for research

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/aiims-iit-team-up-for-research/article7445152.ece>

All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Bhubaneswar, and Indian Institute of Technology, Bhubaneswar, have teamed up for innovating low cost automated medical equipment, which would help provide rapid diagnostic findings while reducing human involvement.

The two Bhubaneswar-based premiere institutes will collaborate for at least three projects.

Sources said proposals have been finalised for working on e-Stethoscope, which will be a low-cost audio-visual digital stethoscope, e-Clinic Station, a wellness monitoring device proposed to be run by healthcare data analytics software and a low-cost wireless vital signs monitoring device which could continuously record physiological signals and measurements of main vital signs such as pulse rate, blood oxygen saturation and body temperature parameters.

A senior official said the proposed low-cost wireless vital signs monitoring device could help the Odisha government which is struggling to upgrade rural healthcare and prevent health-related deaths in remote locations.

Both the institutes are preparing to present the proposals to the State Innovation Council chaired by Chief Secretary for securing funding.

AIIMS, Bhubaneswar, Director A. K. Mahapatra confirmed about research collaboration. He also informed that AIIMS, Bhubaneswar, was encouraging junior faculties to come up with research proposals which could get initial funding up to Rs. 5 lakh from the institute.

## At-home Bengalureans feel left out, say IISc researchers

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/bengaluru/At-home-Bengalureans-feel-left-out-say-IISc-researchers/articleshow/48152607.cms>

BENGALURU: Sreepathi Rao, a senior citizen from Malleswaram, loves his daily walks with his granddaughter. But what annoys him is the pathetic state of neighbourhood footpaths.

At-home Bengalureans, be it the elderly or homemakers, feel the authorities are least bothered about people like them who often have to walk to do their chores. In fact, they hardly feature in the city's planning.

To put things into perspective, researches at IISc have highlighted how the transport department and the local government fail to understand the travel patterns of non-working Bengalureans. M Manoj and Ashish Verma from the institute's civil engineering department studied the socio-demographic characteristics and activity-travel behaviour of non-workers using primary activity-travel survey data from a carefully selected sample of 2,400 households.

According to the analysis, non-workers have a lower activity participation level, are highly dependent on walking, have a lower trip chaining tendency (the number of activities they finish in a single trip) and a distinct time-of-day preference to step out only during non-peak hours for various activities, as compared to other developed nations of the world.

Based on the findings, the researchers have listed some useful measures that the civic agencies could adopt. For instance, if activity locations such as shopping centres are brought closer to residential neighbourhoods, it could encourage these people to participate in more activities. "People have been found to spend an inordinate amount of

time watching TV; neighbourhood-level measures such as creation of green spaces and recreational activity centres should be considered," they say.

Since this category includes a large number of elderly people and women who take care of household obligations, future urban development strategy could include bringing shopping locations and schools closer to residential neighbourhoods. Also, provisions of safe, continuous and adequate pedestrian infrastructure to access these facilities can promote 'active and happier' ageing among the older populace, the study observes.

## **Raichur observes bandh for IIT**

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/raichur-observes-bandh-for-iit/article7447842.ece>

The Raichur district bandh call given by IIT Horata Samithi, a conglomerate of different organisations, individuals and political party representatives, evoked a good response across the district.

Buses operated by North Eastern Karnataka Road Transport Corporation remained off the road. Shops, hotels, garages, trading units at APMC and other business establishments did not raise their shutters. Roads wore a deserted look in many parts of the district headquarters. Primary and high schools remained closed.

Though colleges and other higher education institutions were open, attendance of students as well as lecturers and non-teaching staff was poor. Though banks and government officers functioned as usual, they witnessed fewer activities. Private transport services, including autorickshaws, operated as usual.

### **Massive support**

The bandh call was supported by various political parties and civil-society organisations, including pro-Kannada organisations, dalit groups, Hyderabad-Karnataka based outfits, trade unions, and mass organisations affiliated to political parties. While BJP and JD(S) were in the forefront, the Left parties extended their support with their active participation.

### **Public meeting**

A public meeting was organised at Teen Kandeel Circle in the morning where representatives of various organisations and parties and prominent individuals publically criticised the State government for its "reluctance" to ensure an IIT for Raichur. They alleged that proposing three names – Raichur, Dharwad and Mysuru – to the Union government was an attempt by the State government to instigate a fight among people from those cities for the premier institute. They condemned the Chief Minister, Siddaramaiah, for his "covert efforts" to deprive Raichur of the IIT and take the institute to his home-city, Mysuru.

They then took out a procession to the district administration complex and submitted a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner S. Sasikanth Senthil.

Mentioning the Dr. D.M. Nanjundappa panel's recommendation for the establishment of IIT in Raichur and Jagadish Shettar government's letter to the Union government in 2012 proposing the name of the city for the institute, they, in the memorandum, demanded the State government to send a fresh proposal recommending only Raichur for the establishment of IIT.

The leaders warned the government of intensified struggles such as hunger strikes in the near future if it did not heed their demand.

### **No signs of Congress participation**



The Congress party was conspicuous by its absence. None of its leaders and representatives of its mass organisations were found either at the public meeting at Teen Kandeel or at the rally and demonstration outside the office of Deputy Commissioner, apparently for avoiding conflict with their State leaders and their government.