

Newspaper Clips July 23, 2015

IIT Delhi alum Syed Ali Jafar wins \$250,000 2015 Blavatnik National Award for Young Scientists

<http://www.americanbazaaronline.com/2015/07/22/iit-delhi-alum-syed-ali-jafar-wins-250000-2015-blavatnik-national-award-for-young-scientists/>

WASHINGTON, DC: Syed Ali Jafar, a University of California Irvine computer scientist who has changed the world's understanding of the capacity of wireless networks, has won the 2015 Blavatnik National Award for Young Scientists in physical sciences & engineering.

One of three winners chosen from among 300 candidates from highly ranked American universities and research institutions, Jafar will receive a \$250,000 unrestricted cash prize and a medal in September at New York's Museum of Natural History, according to a press release.

"I am incredibly honored and humbled to be recognized on the national stage – from such an amazing cohort of extremely accomplished finalists – by such an illustrious jury of the nation's most distinguished scientists," Jafar said, in a statement, released last month. "I am deeply indebted to my brilliant students and collaborators, who are my true miracle workers. It is my hope that this recognition will lead to broader exposure to and appreciation of both the beauty of information theory and the tremendous impact it has on our lives. It's also a 'shot in the arm' for me to continue taking on challenging problems in our research group."

A professor of electrical engineering & computer science, Jafar explores the fundamental performance limits of wireless communication networks. Determining network capacity – the maximum data rates that can be reliably supported – is the holy grail of network information theory, according to Jafar and others. And with the rapid growth of wireless communication networks, the quest has taken on unprecedented urgency. Jafar's research group has gained worldwide recognition for its numerous seminal contributions to this topic, including its groundbreaking work on interference alignment in wireless networks. This research found that data rates are not limited by the number of devices sharing the radio frequency spectrum, a discovery that changed the thinking about how wireless networks should be designed.

"Syed Jafar revolutionized our understanding of the capacity limits of wireless networks. He demonstrated that each user in a wireless network can access half the spectrum without interference from other users, regardless of how many are sharing the spectrum," said one of the judges, Paul Horn, senior vice provost for research at New York University. "This is a truly remarkable result that has a tremendous impact on both information theory and the design of wireless networks."

Jafar became interested in science in high school. "Einstein's $E=mc^2$ captured my imagination," he said. The equation made him wonder about how something so profound could be so simple and beautiful – and it became his lifelong dream to pursue beauty through science. As a graduate student studying information theory at the California Institute of Technology, Jafar found similar elegance in the formula describing the capacity of an information channel. He realized that much about the capacity of communication networks was still unknown and made it his life's work to solve the mystery.

The Blavatnik National Awards for Young Scientists program, established by the Blavatnik Family Foundation with the guidance of the New York Academy of Sciences, recognizes America's most innovative and promising young faculty scientists and engineers. The organization's judges include Nobel laureates, National Academy of

Sciences members and National Medal of Science recipients. They select three laureates annually, one each in life sciences, chemistry, and physical sciences & engineering.

Jafar earned a B.Tech. at the Indian Institute of Technology in Delhi, an M.S. at Caltech and a Ph.D. at Stanford University, all in electrical engineering. He's a fellow of the Institute of Electrical & Electronics Engineers, and he recently received the UCI Academic Senate's Distinguished Mid-Career Faculty Award for Research. Jafar was also recognized as a Thomson Reuters Highly Cited Researcher and included by ScienceWatch among the World's Most Influential Scientific Minds in 2014.

IIT tops ideas summit, clean sweep for Delhi

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/gurgaon/IIT-tops-ideas-summit-clean-sweep-for-Delhi/articleshow/48180806.cms>

GURGAON: The team from IIT Delhi won top honours as the 11th Enactus India National Championship 2015 came to a close in the city on Wednesday. These IITians will now get to pit their wits against the top teams from 36 countries at the Enactus World Cup 2015, to be held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from October 14 to 16 this year.

In a Delhi clean sweep, Ramjas College and Hansraj College completed the top three. A total of 57 student entrepreneurship projects for community outreach were presented at the two-day championship, with over 90 colleges and 3,000 students taking part. It turned out to be a keenly contested competition, judged by an eminent panel from across the corporate world.

Led by Praneeth Buriyu, the IIT Delhi team had 47 members participating in the winning projects. "We're all excited about travelling to South Africa!" said a happy Praneeth.

Titled 'Excelsior INDIA', IIT Delhi's winning project saw team members collect and recycle wastepaper from urban areas, then convert the wastepaper into paper notebooks of very fine quality. The IITians also came up with a unique bag-cum-desk, made wholly out of cardboard, which can serve both as a bag to carry one's belongings and a desk to write upon. Besides, the IIT team presented 'Project Aanch', a smokeless 'chulha' for the underprivileged.

The team members plan to distribute the bags, along with stationery items, among underprivileged children.

The IIT students came upon the idea at the end of last year. "Four of us were on winter internships in which we had to visit more than 150 government schools around Delhi-NCR. Through these visits, we found that there was a need for notebooks in these schools," shared Praneeth on the IITians' initiative.

Ramjas College students presented 'Project Transcreations', an attempt to help a group of 22 transgenders set up their jewellery designing business, and 'Project Aradhaga', which seeks to help 15 unemployed women, living in the slums of Jahangirpuri and JJ Basti area, come out of poverty and start their own accessory designing business. Hansraj College's three initiatives included ♦'Project Lekhni', which trains women in Jhandewalan, Delhi, to make personalised registers, to be sold in colleges, coaching institutes and, later, to corporates. The college also presented 'Project Mithaas' to assist 15 farmers in the processes of bee-keeping, and 'Project Boond', which aims to generate employment for women entrepreneurs through the manufacture of non-electric water purifiers.

"I would like to congratulate Enactus for successfully completing another year of the India national competition, which continues to inspire students to enhance their entrepreneurial spirit, capitalize on their business skills and to inn handle

real-world situations," said Richard Rekhy, chairman, Enactus India National Advisory Board and CEO, KPMG in India. "If winning is about being the best, losing is about learning and paving your way to greater success. I also congratulate the winning and participating teams for putting forth their best efforts. Their creativity has won us over and I hope that this experience will help them in their future endeavours."

Times of India ND 23/07/2015 P-8

HC junks plea of IIT underperformers

Vineet Upadhyay
@timesgroup.com

Nainital: The Uttarakhand high court on Wednesday dismissed the writ petition filed by 64 students of Indian Institute of Technology-Roorkee challenging their expulsion. However, the court ordered IIT officials to re-consider the case of two other students as their cumulative grade points average (CGPA) was above 5, thus fulfilling one of the two criteria for promotion to the next year.

Citing the Academic Programmes Ordinance and Regulation, 2014, the single-judge bench of Justice Alok Singh observed, "The bare reading of Regulation 33 (1) (a) would demonstrate that registration of a student shall stand terminated if he fails to earn the



The students are contemplating filing a special appeal in the HC

minimum number of credits specified at different yearly levels in the programme and fails to secure minimum 5 CGPA, notwithstanding the fact that the student has or has not been put under academic probation."

Students Anurag Memrot and Mohammad Saif Anwer, with a CGPA of over 5,

got a breather, however, as the court noted that they stood "on a different footing and cannot be debarred from reappearing in the examination along with the third and fourth semester, respectively, in terms of Regulation 18(2) of the Regulations".

Disappointed by the HC's decision, the expelled stu-

dents told TOI that they were upset about the fact that the court had made an exception for the two petitioners despite the fact that they had "failed several subjects". "We plan to file a special appeal in the HC on Friday," one of the students said. Added another, "I don't have a back in a single subject. It is just that my CGPA is lower than 5. When the court can ask for the expulsion of two to be reconsidered, why not that of others?"

Student outfits NSUI and ABVP said they will continue to fight for the expelled students. NSUI's Haridwar district president Sachin Choudhary said they planned to organize a protest outside the college on Thursday.

(Inputs from Shivani Saxena)

MoU with Pan IIT by ONGC for Exploration of Hydrocarbon

http://www.business-standard.com/article/government-press-release/mou-with-pan-iit-by-ongc-for-exploration-of-hydrocarbon-115072200588_1.html

The Minister of State (I/C) for Petroleum & Natural Gas Shri Dharmendra Pradhan informed the Rajya Sabha in a written reply today that Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) and Pan-IIT has signed a Memorandum of Collaboration (MoC) on 19th January, 2015 at New Delhi to work towards a collective R&D Programme for developing indigenous technologies to enhance exploration and exploitation of hydrocarbons and alternate sources of energy. Under the MoC, ONGC's R&D Institutes and the IITs shall jointly undertake advanced research and development projects for the Exploration and Production (E&P) sector of the country in general and oilfield specific activities of ONGC in particular. The MoC also envisages promoting internships, visiting and adjunct faculty programmes, research oriented career programmes through an ONGC Scholar Programme. Within the ambit of this collaboration, ONGC will make its laboratories available to the students and research scholars of IITs. Also, ONGC geoscientists and engineers will have the opportunity of working with IITs.

As per MoC, for the smooth functioning of the collaborative research programme, Director, IIT Kharagpur is the Coordinating Director representing Pan-IIT Forum and Director (Exploration), ONGC will be the Coordinating Director representing ONGC.

For smooth steering of the programme and overall guidance & monitoring of progress, a two-tier mechanism has been envisaged comprising of (a) Programme Advisory Committee(PAC), the apex body to review the activities and approve annual budget & recommend Corpus Fund etc. and (b) Thematic Research Committee(TRC), the nodal body for all research related activities in respective thematic areas.

Discontent over Banaras IIT boss

Basant Kumar Mohanty

http://www.telegraphindia.com/1150723/jsp/nation/story_33175.jsp#.VbBypelhWU

New Delhi, July 22: The human resource development ministry has unilaterally recommended G.C. Tripathi, the vice-chancellor of Banaras Hindu University, as the chairperson of IIT BHU, allegedly disregarding the choices of the institute.

The board of governors of IIT BHU had recommended the names of five eminent persons, including former Nasscom chairman Kiran Karnik and former IIM Bangalore director Pankaj Chandra.

The practice in IITs is that the board of governors of the respective institutes sends a panel of names to the HRD ministry for the chairperson's post. The ministry selects one and sends it to the visitor, the President, for approval.

Academics are divided on the sanctity of appointments rooted through the board of governors. Some academics feel the boards are not free of bias and their recommendations are questionable.

A member of IIT BHU's board of governors, professor P.M. Bhargava, described the HRD ministry's decision

as "unfortunate" and "improper".

"The board of governors nominates persons keeping in view their competence. It is unfortunate that the ministry has rejected these names and taken a unilateral decision," said Bhargava, a scientist.

Such a decision will compromise the autonomy of IITs, Bhargava said. He said IITs and IIMs had excelled in teaching and research because they got greater autonomy in managing their affairs than universities.

Sources said the Institute of Technology of BHU was upgraded to an IIT in June 2012 through an amendment to the Institute of Technology Act. The act says the vice-chancellor of BHU shall be the ex-officio chairman of the board of governors of IIT BHU for the first three years of the act coming into force. The act came into effect on June 21, 2012.

Then HRD minister Kapil Sibal had said in the Rajya Sabha that nothing would prevent the board of governors of IIT BHU from nominating the vice-chancellor of BHU as the chairperson of IIT BHU.

The board of governors of IIT BHU had, however, not nominated Tripathi, the BHU vice-chancellor.

Repeated calls by this correspondent to the information officer of the HRD ministry, Ghanshyam Goel, went unanswered. A text message did not elicit a response.

IIM bill: Government to take decision after considering all opinions

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/iim-bill-government-to-take-decision-after-considering-all-opinions/articleshow/48175021.cms>

NEW DELHI: Facing open criticism over the draft IIM bill, Government today said it has received opinions and suggestions from the stakeholders about the bill and will take a "decision" after taking them into consideration.

"After consideration of all the opinions and suggestions, a decision will be taken by the Central Government," HRD Minister Smriti Irani told Lok Sabha today in a written reply without elaborating further.

Lok Sabha Members such as Mallikarjun Kharge, Kamal Nath, M K Raghavan, Jyotiraditya Scindia, V Panneerselvam, P K Sreemathi Teacher and M K Raghavan had sought to know if the government proposes to bring forward the bill and whether the key provisions have been objected by the IIM directors and the suggestions received among others.

In its reply, the Minister said the bill "intends to ensure greater synergy and financial autonomy along with commensurate accountability in academic and financial matters of the IIMs".

Heads of these institutes have contended that the bill will compromise with the "autonomy" of the IIMs.

"We are deeply concerned that some provisions of the bill would seriously compromise the autonomy of the institute. We believe that this is an important bill for the future of management education and therefore requires critical review to ensure an optimal balance between autonomy and accountability of the institution," IIM-Ahmadabad chairperson A M Naik had said in a letter to Irani last month.

"If the bill turns out to be that a lot of decisions by the boards are subject to government approval, and the government has uniform norms, then that may or may not be best thing for certain IIMs," said IIM Bangalore Director Sushil Vachani.

An IIM faculty member who was involved in drafting the bill, which was said to have undergone changes later, had expressed surprise seeing the final draft, saying some of the provisions were incorporated later without consultations.

According to IIM-A Director Ashish Nanda, the government, through the bill, has proposed some kind of control in almost every decision that the institutes take.

"The draft bill proposes control of government in almost every matter such as selection of Chairman of board of Governors, fee structure, expenses, etc. They have covered almost everything from strategic to operational decisions," said Nanda.

2017 से IIT के लिए देना होगा एक और पेपर

<http://www.bhaskar.com/news/EDUC-EDNE-another-one-more-paper-may-in-iit-from-2017-5060465-NOR.html>

भोपाल। इंडियन इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ टेक्नोलॉजी (आईआईटी) तक पहुंचने का रास्ता अब और भी मुश्किल होने जा रहा है। साल 2017 से इसमें सब्जेक्टिव पेपर को भी शामिल करने की तैयारी है। स्टूडेंट्स को अब एक अतिरिक्त पेपर की तैयारी करना होगी। यानी जेईई (मेन), जेईई (एडवांस) और नए सब्जेक्टिव पेपर की।

आने वाले समय में होने वाली जॉइंट एडमिशन कमेटी की बैठक में ऐसा प्रपोजल लाने की तैयारी है। यह पैटर्न इसलिए लाया जा रहा है ताकि स्टूडेंट्स की सब्जेक्ट को लेकर समझ को परखा जा सके।

विशेषज्ञों का मानना है कि स्टूडेंट्स 10 से 15 फीसदी सवाल अंदाज से सही चुन लेते हैं, लेकिन जब उनका लिखित पेपर लिया जाएगा, तब उन्हें विस्तार से जवाब लिखना होगा। तब यह तय हो पाएगा कि उसकी विषय को लेकर कॉम्प्रिहेंशन, एनालिटिकल और एप्लिकेशन एप्टीट्यूड स्किल्स कैसी है। यह पेपर जेईई (एडवांस) के बाद लिया जाएगा। फिलहाल यह कितने अंक का होगा और इसमें कौन से टॉपिक शामिल होंगे, यह स्पष्ट नहीं है।

HT.COM ND 23.07.15 P-6

Here's how you can win big

Rozelle Laha

Indore's IIT and IIM have come together to co-host Venture-I, a part of the i5 summit, where budding entrepreneurs can impress investors with their business idea in seven minutes and win an amount of ₹15 lakh if they succeed. i5 Summit is a two-day event to be conducted at IIM Indore campus from August 22, 2015 onwards.

The tip to winning the hearts of the investors is simple. "Think through your business model well. Talk about the strengths that you think your business model has. If you have any customers, do talk about them in details and how you have acquired them. Be steady with the financial model and marketing plan. You are surely going to get the funding," says Soumyadeep Chakraborty, coordinator, i5 Summit, IIM Indore. The major reason for start-ups not getting funded is their ambiguity with the financials, he added.

The participants will get



■ Impress investors at the i5 Summit in IIM Indore and win lakhs FILE

seven minutes to pitch their ideas. This will be followed by a question and answer round of three minutes.

The contest, which aims to attract more applications from tier-2 and tier-3 cities, has received over 500 applications, mostly from cities including Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru and Pune and about 30% of the applications are from tier-2 cities. College students as well as entrepreneurs can register for

the contest. A total of 15 ventures will be shortlisted for the final round of the summit.

The summit will give young entrepreneurs a platform to interact with potential investors and mentors. Few participants will get an opportunity to go to the Silicon Valley for a week and interact with the entrepreneurial community. For more details, visit <http://bit.ly/1GC66YN>. The deadline for application is July 31, 2015.

Mail Today ND 23/07/2015 P-3

Centre's swachh shiksha abhiyan

By **Siddhartha Rai** in New Delhi

IN WHAT can be termed as the Ministry of Human Resource and Development's first step towards "cleansing" the sphere of higher education, the vice-chancellor (V-C) of the prestigious National University of Education Planning and Administration (NUEPA) has reportedly been forced to go on leave pending an inquiry by the ministry.

According to sources, the V-C would remain on leave while he retires soon.

Sources in the Ministry for Human Resource Development said several complaints had been received against V-C Dr R Govinda over impropriety, financial embezzlement and irregularities in appointments and promotions.

Jehanabad MP Arun Kumar had also lodged a complaint with the MHRD against the V-C over similar issues in April this year. Kumar is the president of BJP's Bihar ally Rashtriya Lok Samata Party (RLSP). Minister of State (MoS) for HRD Upender Kushwaha also hails from the RLSP.

Moreover, the V-C is also facing proceedings in the Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) regarding a complaint by a woman faculty member. Proceedings in the same case are on in an internal complaint committee on sexual harassment (ICC) at the varsity. Another complaint in this regard has been lodged with the ministry too.

In yet another case which is underway at the Delhi High Court, Dr Dr Govinda allegedly wrongfully terminated the services of

Govinda is facing complaints of financial embezzlement & irregularities in appointments and promotions

Dr Rasmita Das Swain, another woman teacher at the institute, on grounds that she had taken child care leave.

Dr Govinda, however, could not be contacted for a comment despite several calls and messages left on his cell phone by MAIL TODAY.

"After receiving the complaint I ordered the ministry to look into them for ascertaining the truth behind the accusations," Union HRD minister Smriti Irani told MAIL



Embroiled in controversies, NUEPA vice-chancellor Dr R Govinda has been asked by the HRD ministry to go on leave.

TODAY.

The V-C had also earned MHRD's ire owing to a tussle over the framing of the New Education Policy (NEP), according to sources in the ministry. While Irani has devolved the framing of the policy to feedback from districts and villages, NUEPA had reservations over the move.

"We came to know of several cases in which the vice-chancellor has been acting beyond his authority. He seems to be running the institution as per his whims and fancies," RLSP chief Kumar told MAIL TODAY.

NAAC Likely to Get New Director Soon

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/cities/bengaluru/NAAC-Likely-to-Get-New-Director-Soon/2015/07/23/article2935443.ece>

BENGALURU: The National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), headquartered in Bengaluru, could get a new director by July 28.

The post has remained vacant ever since Prof A N Rai resigned as director on April 21, 2015, on the direction of the Union Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD).

After this, MHRD advertised for the post on its official website and invited applications.

According to University Grants Commission (UGC), which is taking care of procedures to conduct the interview, thousands have applied for the post.

Prof Rai, who was the vice-chancellor of the North Eastern Hill University (NEHU), Shillong, was asked to step down as the central government had not granted lien to him.

Rai was appointed to NAAC in May 2013 and the NEHU executive council had rejected his lien as he had exhausted his 10 years of service. The issue went to the President of India, who also refused to approve it. Following this, UGC asked him to step down.

Let teachers handle education



Varun Gandhi

Exam impersonation pays high dividends in modern India. With cheating in exams, admissions and interviews rather common, the art of *jugaad* continues to evolve. In Bihar, blatant cheating, with relatives climbing school walls, led to nearly 600 students being expelled. Bihar's education minister found it virtually impossible to conduct fair examinations without the cooperation of parents while others call for the system to be changed to an open book exam.

Innovation is seen at play when it comes to manipulating the system, with methods like bogus enlistment of students and multiple counting being quite popular. In a single district (Nanded) in Maharashtra, 1.4 lakh students across 350 schools were found to be bogus students. The nursery admission scam in Delhi is particularly distressing as the rich deny kids from economically weaker sections (EWS) access to schools through nefarious means. Fake documents and identities seem commonplace.

Madhya Pradesh's professional examination board's (MPPEB) recent scandal, exposing the collusion of undeserving candidates with middlemen, politicians and MPPEB officials, is another example. Impersonation, copying, answer key leakage and record manipulation — these issues need to be addressed if Indian workforce is to be skilled and employed.

The process of admission to an educational institution should be one that ensures access, equity, quality and inclusion where admissions are objectively determined, with transparent procedures, instead of well-meaning intentions and ad hoc decisions. This is not a complex problem.

As recommended by the University Grants Commission's (UGC) 2009 action plan, higher education institutions must be

encouraged to utilise notice boards, print media, electronic media and social networks to declare their admission procedures, with a properly publicised and published academic calendar which highlights the number of seats in all courses, required qualifications and important dates for admission and other relevant details. Active communication to students from low-income families about the availability of tuition fee waiver, scholarships and loans would increase the efficiency of benefit facilities.

Admission tests ought to be more than just quizzing programmes. Answer sheets could be assigned confidential codes before being passed on for evaluation/assessment, while biometric means should be utilised to deter impersonation. Candidates for undergraduate courses, who have been previously assessed by recognised national or regional agencies, can be granted an exemption from the written examination. Group discussions, interviews, psychometric tests and other competency-based exercises might be included, but assessment ought to be confidential and known to authorities only on a "need to know" basis, until results are announced.

As highlighted by the National Focus Group on Examination Reforms (2005), short-answer type questions (that encourage cramming) should be replaced by a well-designed judicious mix of multiple choice questions (MCQs) and open ended questions, testing the student's capacity for reflection and critical expression.

Other nudges could help. The admission system can be restructured to limit the number of colleges that a candidate can apply to (10 in Delhi University) and scores of the best of three subjects be considered for application and computation of cut-off marks. Candidates could be allowed to change their college just once dur-

ing admissions, instead of a musical chairs game. The frequent closing and reopening of admissions to a particular course is an invitation for fraud.

Higher education in India is fundamentally examination-centred. Students undertake examinations at the end of each semester or academic year, with a focus on achieving relevant marks, percentages or divisions, forcing them to mug up superficial facts, without an element of joy for learning or a sense of discovery. Skilled mostly in cramming up, such graduates are regularly subjected to fresh examinations and training before acceptance for jobs in the public and private sector.

While ideally, those who teach should evaluate, such an approach in India, with its institutional apathy, is fraught with problems. Instead, a combination of internal evaluation and external assessment may be prudent. All certificate, diploma, undergraduate and postgraduate courses offered by universities, colleges and institutes could have separate and specific internal evaluation systems (essays, tutorials, seminars, dissertation), with a full time frame for completion and continuous evaluation by faculty that's subject to regular audits by the department, school or committee to institute fair play and accountability. End of semester evaluations could be external in nature, as per syllabus schedule. The integration of continuous and end-of-semester evaluation should be implemented by the concerned department or faculty, depending on the relative weightage of each component. Such weightage could be flexible and vary across institutions.

Teacher quality lags significantly. University involvement in teacher education has been confined to the secondary level school as part of the B.Ed degree pro-

gramme, excluding preschool and primary-level education. Appointments to key positions are rarely based on merit, while promotions are based on service length, with a common salary structure linked to civil servants — all decided by an Orwellian sounding Pay Commission. While the UGC overemphasises academic qualifications, university teachers register for sub-standard Ph.D. research in their quest for promotion. Our academics exist in "babudom" — highly qualified and yet highly unproductive.

India's universities exist in a state of ambivalence. While the Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan scheme (2013) sought decentralisation, implementation has lagged significantly. Even now, the UGC oversees a few hundred universities and thousands of colleges, stifling openness and creativity. Higher education is seemingly more democratic in China.

We need a radical and fundamental reorganisation of the entire university structure. An upper bound on university size (including affiliated colleges) is a good idea. Accountability has to be enforced.

University governance should be an academic's domain, with complete autonomy and without loss of financial support. The ministry of human resources development and the UGC need to disassociate themselves from the selection of IIT/IIM directors and vice-chancellorships, focusing instead on policy design.

Preventing outright fraud amidst institutional rot is not easy. Without university empowerment and better accountability, our students, particularly those from poor backgrounds, will find it difficult to excel. Such maleficence needs extirpation.

The writer is a BJP Lok Sabha MP and a national general secretary of the party

University governance should be an academic's domain... The HRD ministry and the UGC need to disassociate themselves from the selection of IIT/IIM directors and vice-chancellorships, focusing instead on policy design

Hindustan Times ND 23/07/2015 P-7

No bar on dress, headgear for medical entrance: CBSE

CIRCULAR The Board had issued an advisory as the test is being held again after the Supreme Court quashed the earlier one over reports of cheating

HT Correspondent

htreporters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) said on Wednesday that there was no bar on wearing customary dress for candidates appearing for the pre-medical retest. However, the board has asked such candidates wearing them to report early so that they can be frisked.

The circular comes a few days after HT had reported that the CBSE advisory on dress code had put Muslim aspirants in a spot, especially for girl students wearing their headscarf.

The CBSE has for the first time issued such an advisory as the All India Pre Medical Entrance (AIPMT) is being re-conducted on July 25 after the Supreme Court quashed the earlier test when cases of cheating were reported from different centres in Haryana, Rajasthan.

According to the police, the candidates had used special vests with sim card units and bluetooth-enabled devices.

"There is no bar on wearing customary dress or for such candidates appearing from centres in extreme climatic conditions. However, such candidates



■ The Board has asked students wearing customary dress to report early at centres for frisking.

HT FILE PHOTO

should ensure their presence for frisking by metal detectors at least half an hour before the last reporting time, i.e. 9.30 am," said the statement from CBSE.

The instruction on the admit card by CBSE mentions that boys or girls, cannot wear a "scarf". They must not turn up in "full sleeves" either and "light clothes" are preferable. Shoes aren't allowed, but slippers are fine.

The board has clarified that it has put the dress code advisory on the admit card as it may delay entry in the examination

centres and cause inconvenience to the candidates during frisking by metal detectors. The instructions on the admit cards ask students to not bring items and materials which may be used for unfair means and for hiding electronic devices.

Meanwhile, the Students Islamic Organisation of India (SIO) on Wednesday moved the Supreme Court against the decision of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) to prescribe a dress code for the All India Pre-Medical Test (AIPMT).

Pop goes Murthy



Shiv Visvanathan

Dividing Lines

NR. Narayana Murthy as co-founder of Infosys is one of the most iconic figures in India today. Along with men like Ratan Tata, M.V. Kamath, Deepak Parekh, he is listened to as part of the wise men of industry, reflecting on issues that confront India. His recent speech at the convocation ceremony at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) excited a great deal of attention.

Mr Murthy's lecture was a meditation on innovation. He began with a book on Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) that lists its 101 gifts to the world. After citing the usual list, Mr Murthy proceeded to analyse the reasons. He observed that the students of MIT "walked the untrodden path, asked unasked questions" and then added that almost all inventions "like cars, electric bulbs, radios, television, etc. happened, thanks to the research by Western universities."

He then played the devil's advocate and asked like a friendly Bhishma. What "have Indian institutions... like IISc and IIT, done over the last 60 years to make our society a better place?" Stepping up the rhetorical angst, he asked whether there is one invention from India that has become a household name across the globe?

After the standard litany of India as a country with the largest number of illiterates, the largest number of children with malnutrition, and the poorest health service and the dirtiest rivers, Mr Murthy wondered why this is so given that there is no difference in intellect, enthusiasm, energy or confidence between students of IISc and Western universities. He rightly bemoaned the fact that the problem itself has not been addressed by our leaders. The Sixties he claimed were the last

time India confronted such questions.

In attempting to recreate the magic of the Sixties, he insisted that a respect for scholarship be recreated, that students have opportunities to go abroad, that higher educational institutions should encourage open-ended research.

Mr Murthy then listed out his prescriptions, insisting that the civics of good research include 1) a problem-solving mindset; 2) the democratisation of education; 3) the continuous habit of reading books. Such advice is well taken but what one eventually confronts is the superficiality of the narrative.

There is little that is new and even less that has depth or insight. Mr Murthy's idea of innovation and invention is old fashioned, inadequate and incomplete. Firstly, one has to point out that the radio, the car and the electric bulb had little to do with the university. One must remember that the likes of Thomas Edison, Henry Ford and Nikola Tesla were not products of the university research system. Secondly, he could have been more generous to P.K. Sethi and his collective of craftsmen who produced the Jaipur Foot, which might be more of a household legend than Infosys. Of course, the Jaipur Foot was never patented and one wishes Mr Murthy would ask, "Is the patent the only index of innovation?" But what is really disconcerting is not just these errors of fact, but the superficiality of the analyses delivered in an avuncular style.

Mr Murthy is a part of a new fashion whose breast-beating about ranking and innovations, starting with our current President Pranab Mukherjee, has created an epidemic of consultants who are devastating Indian education. One wishes Mr Murthy was more qualified

in his critique looking at the negative and positive sides of an innovation. If household impact were a criteria, Indian dams as innovations have destroyed millions of households; of course these dams create households without names. Secondly, Mr Murthy rarely looks at the informal economy and its demands and forgets that the grammar of the survival economy, the informal economy, is radically different. In fact, part of the new critique of *jugaad* as a "chalta hai" attitude ignores this sense of creativity under survival.

This also raises the question whether corporate dons alone can define the cognitive map of research. Such a view gives a shareholder rather than a stakeholder model of research where research as an activity loses its wider contours. By emphasising corporate productivity, we might valorise biotech over traditionally innovative agriculture.

Deep down, Mr Murthy, who has been poetic about IIT, has to ask whether the educational system of IITs produces convergent or divergent minds. Our scientists are good as "summarisers," but does such an orientation make for a research mind?

Basically the lecture as an analysis is overrated. In fact, if it were an anonymous tutorial in a science studies class at Cornell, Harvard or Delhi, it would rate less than a C for understanding. In fact, what is interesting is the excitement around it. As a piece of reflection, it is simplistic and outdated. It might be more relevant as an advice in character building than as an act of innovation.

There is a lot of personal advice but little understanding of the logic of institutional

innovation. In fact, if one looks at such pieces, one finds a disturbing trend. Think of three essays. Firstly, the President's litany on Indian universities being unranked in terms of global standings. Secondly, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's speeches on innovation — from his "Make in India" litany to his bit of epiphany in calling "nuclear energy" as the passport to second modernity. Then place next to these Mr Murthy's assessment of the research impact of IIT and IISc. There's an analytical and managerial thrust while questions of autonomy, creativity are sidelined. The scientist's own perception of the situation has little value. Deep down, no one looks at the political interference in academics or the creative islands in every domain. Such a managerialisation of the problem ignores the fact that we need reforms, improvements and the ordinary scientist must be a part of that change. Our corporate dons and political leaders only talk of the democratisation of education in terms of entry. Few talk about the problems of democratisation in terms of decision-making. To talk of one without considering the other is a form of intellectual populism.

Finally one must ask, is relevance always in terms of economics impact? Corporate dons have no sense of playfulness without which science cannot be creative. Are creativity and innovation the same activity and what are the norms of judgement beyond market? Mr Murthy's lecture is too casual, too cosmetic. One would like to see the questions he raises articulated at a different depth. Right now, it is a piece of pop sociology waiting to be forgotten in a few days. One wishes the question was treated with greater seriousness. By transposing a few sentences Mr Murthy's piece could be about how to win friends and influence people. It is time to demand more from Mr Murthy if he wishes to play to the role of the guru or wise man in any future enterprise.

Narayana Murthy is a part of a new fashion whose breast-beating about ranking and innovations has created an epidemic of consultants who are devastating Indian education

The writer is a social science nomad

French film showcases Anand Kumar's Super 30 success story of cracking IIT exam

<http://www.dnaindia.com/entertainment/report-french-film-showcases-anand-kumar-s-super-30-success-story-of-cracking-iit-exam-2107255>

Mathematician Anand Kumar's Super 30, acclaimed for helping students of deprived section to crack the prestigious IIT entrance examination, now features in a film made by famous French director Pascal Plisson.

The 90-minute film "*The Big Day*" is ready and its clips are already being shown to TV and YouTube. The movie is set to be released next month, a statement from [Super 30](#) said here today. The film comprises four special stories from across the globe. One of them is on a girl, Nidhi Jha, a student of Super 30 and now studying at ISM, Dhanbad. She cracked JEE (advance) in 2014. Along with Nidhi, [Anand Kumar](#) and his family have been invited to attend the film release in France.

"It is a nice feeling. I remember the days when Plisson and his team shot the film in Patna. It is getting released now. I feel happy for Nidhi. She worked really hard and she is deserves all the accolades," said Kumar, who himself could not go to Cambridge University due to financial hardship, said. Nidhi is the third daughter of poor auto-rickshaw driver in the temple city of Varanasi.

Her father Sunil Kumar Jha, who was worried about the future of his daughters, could not even imagine providing them good education with his meagre earnings. However, after her Class 12, Nidhi reached Super 30, and life changed for her. "She lived at my home, she was like a family member.

She was very religious and hard working," said Kumar. The film, he said, has shown how students from under-privileged sections overcome stiff odds at Super 30 under his guidance to make it to the IITs. A total of 25 out of 30 students qualified in IITs from Super30 this year. In the past too many filmmakers from different countries have made films on Super 30. First it was Al Jazeera and then Discovery channel, Japanese TV, British filmmaker Chritopher Mitchell followed.