

## Newspaper Clips

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# Global ambitions: IIT Kharagpur invites more foreign student, faculties

**M POST BUREAU**

**KHARAGPUR (WB):** Eyeing an improved international ranking, premier technology institute IIT-Kharagpur has started inviting foreign students, faculties and even Nobel laureates every year to its campus.

The first International Summer and Winter Term (ISWT) at the IIT, which ended this month, had around 10 students from Australia and at least one international faculty in each of the 19 short-term courses.

'In the winter season we are expecting around five students from a university in Tokyo. There will be at least 10 foreign teachers as well during that time,' Siddhartha Mukhopadhyay, dean of alumni and international relations at IIT-Kgp, told PTI.

There would be now a regular two-way traffic

between the institute and other foreign universities, he said.

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# आईआईटी खड़गपुर दे रहा अंतरराष्ट्रीय दर्जे पर ध्यान

खड़गपुर (एजेसी)। अंतरराष्ट्रीय दर्जे पर ध्यान केंद्रित करते हुए आईआईटी खड़गपुर ने विदेशी छात्रों, शिक्षकों और यहां तक कि हर साल अपने परिसर में नोबेल पुरस्कार विजेताओं को आमंत्रित करना शुरू कर दिया है। आईआईटी में इस महीने समाप्त हुए पहले इंटरनेशनल समर एंड विंटर टर्म (आईएसडब्ल्यूएटी) में आस्ट्रेलिया से लगभग 10 छात्र और 19 लघु पाठ्यक्रमों में से प्रत्येक में कम से कम एक अंतरराष्ट्रीय शिक्षक आया।

आईआईटी खड़गपुर में अलुमेनाई और अंतरराष्ट्रीय संबंध मामलों के डीन सिद्धार्थ मुखोपाध्याय ने कहा कि शीतकालीन सत्र में हम टोक्यो की एक यूनिवर्सिटी से करीब 5 छात्रों के आने की उम्मीद कर रहे हैं। उस अवधि में कम से कम 10 विदेशी शिक्षक होंगे। उन्होंने कहा कि अब संस्थान और विदेशी विश्वविद्यालयों के बीच नियमित तौर पर दोहरा आदान-प्रदान होगा।

## महत्व

नोबेल पुरस्कार विजेताओं को दिया आमंत्रण

● विदेशी विवि के बीच दोहरा आदान-प्रदान होगा

मुखोपाध्याय ने कहा कि हमारे लिए अपने अंतरराष्ट्रीय दर्जे में सुधार करना महत्वपूर्ण है और इसलिए अब हम अपने छात्रों तथा शिक्षकों को विदेशी विश्वविद्यालयों में जाने को प्रोत्साहित कर रहे हैं और उनके समकक्षों को दौरे के लिए यहां बुला रहे हैं।

विगत ग्रीष्म सत्र में भाग लेने के बाद जर्मनी की ब्रेमेन यूनिवर्सिटी के प्रोफेसर रोलफ ड्रेश्चस्लेर पहले ही आईआईटी में अंतरराष्ट्रीय विजिटिंग फैकल्टी बनने के लिए सहमत हो चुके हैं। आईआईटी खड़गपुर के निदेशक पार्थ प्रतिम चक्रवर्ती ने कहा कि वे इस आदान-प्रदान कार्यक्रम के लिए सरकारी राशि और अलुमेनाई से मिली

चंदा राशि का इस्तेमाल कर रहे हैं। इसी तरह के एक अलुमेनाई परिवार ने हर साल पश्चिम बंगाल में खड़गपुर परिसर में विभिन्न क्षेत्रों के दो नोबेल पुरस्कार विजेताओं की यात्रा का प्रबंध करने और इसके लिए धन देने का वायदा किया है।

इस परिवार में एक भारतीय-अमेरिकी उद्यमी, उसकी पत्नी तथा उसका भाई शामिल है। चक्रवर्ती ने कहा कि पहल सफल रही है क्योंकि केंद्रीय मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री स्मृति ईरानी ने उन्हें विदेश और देश के सर्वश्रेष्ठ शिक्षकों के ग्रीष्म-शीतकालीन व्याख्यान के लिए राष्ट्रीय स्तर की पहल का इसी तरह का ब्लूप्रिंट तैयार करने को कहा। निदेशक ने कहा कि क्योंकि हम पहले ही इसका अनुभव कर चुके हैं, हमसे योजना तैयार करने को कहा गया है जिसे दूसरे संस्थानों के लिए भी अंगीकार किया जा सके। हम अगले महीने राष्ट्रपति प्रणब मुखर्जी को ब्लूप्रिंट प्रस्तुत करेंगे।

## IIT Kharagpur eyeing international status

<http://ibnlive.in.com/news/iit-kharagpur-eyeing-international-status/488727-3-244.html>

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After participating in the last summer term, Professor Rolf Drechsler from the University of Bremen in Germany has already agreed to become an international visiting faculty at the IIT. IIT-Kgp director Partha

Pratim Chakrabarti said they were using government [funds](#) as well as generous donations from the alumni for this exchange programme.

One such alumni family which includes an Indian-American entrepreneur, his wife and brother have promised to fund and arrange the visit of two Nobel laureates from different fields each year to the Kharagpur campus in West Bengal.

Chakrabarti said their initiative had been a success as Union HRD Minister Smriti Irani told him to prepare a similar blueprint of a national-level initiative for summer/winter lectures by best of the foreign and national faculty.

"Since we already have experience in this, we have been asked to chalk out a plan which can be adopted for other institutes as well. We will present the blueprint to President Pranab Mukherjee next month," the director said.

Virat Vaibhav ND 29/07/2014 P-16

# अब आईआईटी खड़गपुर में ज्ञान बांटने आएंगे नोबेल विजेता

■ अंतरराष्ट्रीय दर्जे पर ध्यान केंद्रित करते हुए आईआईटी खड़गपुर ने विदेशी छात्रों, शिक्षकों और यहां तक कि हर साल अपने परिसर में नोबेल पुरस्कार विजेताओं को आमंत्रित करना शुरू कर दिया है।

भाषा

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सुधार करना महत्वपूर्ण है और इसलिए अब हम अपने छात्रों तथा शिक्षकों को विदेशी विश्वविद्यालयों में जाने को प्रोत्साहित कर रहे हैं और उनके समकक्षों को दौरे के लिए यहां बुला रहे हैं। विगत ग्रीष्म सत्र में भाग लेने के बाद जर्मनी की ब्रेमेन यूनिवर्सिटी के प्रोफेसर रोल्फ ड्रेश्चस्लेर पहले ही आईआईटी में अंतरराष्ट्रीय विजिटिंग फैकल्टी बनने के लिए सहमत हो चुके हैं। आईआईटी खड़गपुर के निदेशक पार्थ प्रतिम चक्रवर्ती ने कहा कि वे इस आदान प्रदान कार्यक्रम के लिए सरकारी राशि और अलुमेनाई से मिली चंदा राशि का इस्तेमाल कर रहे हैं। इसी तरह के एक अलुमेनाई परिवार ने हर साल पश्चिम बंगाल में खड़गपुर परिसर में विभिन्न क्षेत्रों के दो नोबेल पुरस्कार विजेताओं की यात्रा का प्रबंध

करने और इसके लिए धन देने का वायदा किया है।

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# Now, IIT Grads are Finding Food a Tastier Biz

Many young grads quit high-profile jobs to start their own cos in the \$48-b food sector

**DIVYA SATHYANARAYANAN**  
MUMBAI

Prasoon Gupta, Manish Goyal, Badal Goel — all graduates from the Indian Institutes of Technology, all with high-paying corporate jobs. Then they gave it all up to get into the food business, setting up individual ventures that form part of the burgeoning \$48 billion food service business in India.

In February, IIT Roorkee graduate Gupta quit his five-year-old venture Tech Buddy Consulting and founded a new eating concept in Delhi that caters to more than 300 people daily. Sattviko is inspired by the sattvik way of life that emphasises purity and serves cuisine from India and across the world, such as Mexican, Italian and American that conforms to its rules, such as no onions or garlic. Gupta has roped in a chef formerly with the Taj Group who's constantly dreaming up new dishes for the menu.

"While the initial investment in

setting the company, its assets and hiring people is high, we are looking at becoming a ₹100-crore chain within the next two years of operations," said Gupta. The two Sattviko outlets in Delhi generate daily overall business of ₹35,000, he said. The company is in talks with venture capitalists to raise ₹15-20 crore which will be utilised for domestic and overseas expansion in Dubai, the US and the UK in the next six months.

FRSH, based in the capital and started by an alumnus of IIT Delhi, serves corporate clients in Gurgaon looking for healthy food — fresh salads, sandwiches and health juices.

"Right now, FRSH serves corporate offices in Gurgaon and later we will start the service even for metro stations, schools and apartment complexes as we are targeting high density areas," said founder Badal Goel. The company has so far invested almost ₹50 lakh in setting up a centralised kitchen, besides technology and manpower. Several tech grads from the IITs and other reputed schools have, in the last few months, been attracted to the food business and started their own outlets and sites.

"It has demonstrated the potential to become a sunrise sector and has seen interest from private equity firms as well," said Ankur Bisen,

## Savoury Investments

**Indian Angel Network** has invested in Poncho, a Mumbai-based quick service restaurant chain that serves Mexican food

**Sequoia Capital** has invested in the Pune-based fast-food company Faaso's which serves wraps

**Helion Ventures** and **Footprint Ventures** have invested in Mast Kalandar, a chain that serves north Indian vegetarian food

**\$28 billion**  
Estimated growth  
in India's organized  
food services market  
over the next five  
years



vice-president, retail, Technopak Advisors. According to Technopak, the food service market is projected to grow to \$92 billion by 2020 at a compounded annual growth rate of 10%. These IIT graduates are bringing technical expertise and systems from previous corporate jobs to the food business. All these entrepreneurs have set up centralised kitchens to maintain quality and eliminate wastage.

Last November, IIT Bombay graduate Manish Goyal quit a management consulting job and founded Foodies Compass, an online platform that solves the 'what to eat?' dilemma. "As a backpacker and traveler, there was always this problem

of what to order due to lack of visual and credible sources. So, we introduced this website and app where people can see visuals of food before they order," said Goyal. Foodies Compass, which provides pictorial menus of more than 150 restaurants in Gurgaon, plans to expand to Mumbai, Delhi, Bangalore, Kolkata, Chennai, Hyderabad and Ahmedabad in the next one year.

There are scores of others who have made food their business.

Pushpinder Singh, who has a masters in computer science from BITS Pilani and a BTech from IIT, has launched Travelkhana, which delivers food to railway passengers and has funding from Google India head

Rajan Anandan. Chaayos, an NCR-based chai cafe which serves more than 25 varieties of tea, competes with established coffee outlets.

"There is a high demand for chai and because our products are priced lower, we see higher footfall and revenue than other major coffee chains like CCD (Café Coffee Day), Barista, etc.," said Nitin Saluja, founder of Chaayos. An IIT Bombay graduate, Saluja opened Chaayos in 2012 after discovering a passion for tea.

Several private equity firms and venture capitalists have pumped money into the food business, although their experience in the sector has been mixed.

The Indian Angel Network, a large group of angel investors, has invested in Poncho, a Mumbai-headquartered quick service restaurant (QSR) chain that serves Mexican food. Sequoia Capital has invested in the Pune-based fast-food company Faaso's, which serves wraps. Helion Ventures and Footprint Ventures have invested in Mast Kalandar, a chain that serves north Indian vegetarian food. According to Bisen of Technopak, given that Indians are traveling widely and exposure to global cuisines is increasing, the food business is set to expand.

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Deccan Herald ND 29/07/2014 P-2

# IIM to train 10,000 DJB engineers

**NEW DELHI, DHNS:** The Delhi Jal Board has launched a massive training programme for its engineers jointly with prestigious Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad to strengthen the water supply system in the city.

The IIM Ahmedabad will train 9,724 DJB engineers as against 3,844 employee in last year.

“IIM, Ahmedabad will provide a one-week training programme on project management and risk management for its senior-level officers from September 7 to 13 on its campus,” the DJB said in a statement.

The IIM will also organise

sessions on contracting and procurement, public-private partnership, risk allocation and financing, features of water supply and sanitation, regulations and social and financial cost benefit analysis.

## Interactive lectures

“The programmes conducted by IIM, Ahmedabad have pre-class preparation through assignment work, class participation, case studies and discussion. These lectures and sessions are interactive and participatory,” the department said in a statement.

“The DJB launched the training facilities in 2010 and various government, semi-gov-

ernment organisation have been roped in since then for better training of the officials,” a DJB spokesperson said.

## Customer care

The board is also going to launch a special training session focused on better customer-care facilities.

“Training workshops on effective complaint handling and customer-care practices for the water emergency staff of Delhi Jal Board have been organised by the training cell in association with the Directorate of Training, Union Territories Civil Services, from August 21 to September 1,” the department said.

## Formula Student 14 : IIT Bombay's performance at Silverstone

<http://www.insightiitb.org/2014/formula-student-14-iit-bombays-performance-at-silverstone/>

The IITB Racing team had recently participated in the Formula Student 2014, the largest student motorsport competition in the world. Formula Student is run by the Institute of Mechanical Engineers- IMechE, a UK based body, which challenges student engineers to design, build and race a single seat race-car within a year. This year, the event was hosted by Coventry University for the pre-event period and lasted for four days, from 9th to 13th of July. After an incredibly successful performance, Insight brings to you a detailed description of the competition.

On Day 0, the team began with assembling the car completely, testing it and setting up a clean and good looking pit to house the car for the day's static events. On Day 1, the car was lined up for Technical Inspection starting with Electrical Scrutineering. Unfortunately, it could not be cleared on the first day and was eventually done the next morning. Safety, Chassis and Tech Scrutiny were successfully completed thereafter. On Day 3, they cleared the Rain Test, Tilt Test, Noise Test and the Brake Test, all in one attempt, to finish scrutiny just in time to participate in the acceleration and skidpad events. EVo 3.0 also completed the Autocross Maneuverability event with the best lap time of 73 seconds.

The team performed well in static events (Design, Cost and Business Presentation). The judges appreciated the car and were impressed with the magnitude of their improvement over the last season. The vehicle weighed 264 kg, a 22% reduction from EVo 2.0 (338 kg). The highlight was the design event where the team scored 100 out of 150 points, ranked 28th out of 97 teams and their design was cited as one of the best over the past few years.

Day 4 was arguably the most important day of the event because of the endurance run. EVo 3.0 managed to successfully complete endurance to become the only Indian car ever to finish endurance at Formula Student UK. It was among only 9 Electric Cars (out of 27) to finish the endurance run at FS UK'14.

The IIT Bombay Racing team has brought accolades for their respectable performance, their best to-date. Their goal throughout the season was to build a reliable car that could complete all dynamic events and the entire team was ecstatic to have finally achieved it. An extremely enthused team back at IITB has already begun work for Formula Student '15. Leveraging on their experience, they now aim to improve on these key areas and look forward to a glorious 2015 season.

## UGC wants universities to extend integrated courses duration

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chennai/UGC-wants-universities-to-extend-integrated-courses-duration/articleshow/39195710.cms>

**CHENNAI:** Higher educational institutions offering integrated courses may have to revamp their curriculum and extend the duration of their popular programmes now. The University Grants Commission has laid down new norms on the duration and curriculum of integrated courses, and many programmes being offered now may not fit the bill.

Through a recent gazette notification, UGC said the duration of integrated courses should not be lesser than the sum of the duration of individual courses. Many integrated courses, including popular ones like the five-year integrated MTech, and law and teacher education courses, offered by state and deemed universities will not meet this requirement, as according to UGC norms they should be of six-year duration.

If the UGC insists on institutions making this change, integrated programmes are likely to lose their popularity. Most students choose these courses as they allow them to get a postgraduation degree in shorter time. Experts point out that most of the existing courses are already considered on a par with international postgraduate programmes, which require five years of college education.

The UGC notification said: "The academic philosophy/rationale behind offering such integrated programmes should not be for economizing on course requirements or award of double degrees in a fast track. On the contrary, an integrated approach should involve a vertical or interdisciplinary discourse."

It added that this would necessarily entail an equal, if not longer, course duration, a newer approach towards framing of curriculum and additional interactive courses. Therefore, an integrated or dual degree programme will be allowed only if there is no compromise on any of the course requirements, including duration, number of papers and intensity of courses, teaching or learning hours and credits. The notification has been forwarded to all degree awarding institutions, including state and private universities.

The direction is likely to affect courses offered by many deemed universities, such as the integrated MTech programme offered by SASTRA University, the BTech-MBA course offered by VIT University and [Tamil Nadu](#) Dr Ambedkar Law University's flagship five-year integrated BA-BL (Hons) and BCom-BL (Hons) courses.

Admissions are just being completed for the law university's programmes for this academic year. University vice-chancellor P Vanangamudi said he hadn't had a chance to look at the notification, and he would write to UGC about how to address the issue.

"The latest UGC circular on integrated degrees is a retrograde step and trespasses into the statutory domains of bodies like the Bar Council of India and the National Council of Teacher Education (NCTE) that have approved these courses," said S Vaidhyasubramaniam, dean of planning and development at SASTRA University. The university vice-chancellor R Sethuraman has written to the UGC secretary seeking a correction to the notification.

The letter has sought an approval for the university's five-year integrated programmes in teacher education, which were approved by an expert committee of the NCTE and the UGC, and five-year integrated law programmes, which were approved by the Bar Council of India.

The notification said students already doing these courses will not be affected and they will be able to complete the course they signed up for, but with admissions to some of the courses for 2014-15 academic year still on, students signing up are apprehensive about the change.

In addition to the new rules with regard to integrated courses, the UGC notification also deals with the nomenclature of some popular courses. While University of Madras allows some city colleges to offer Bachelor of Business Studies (BBS) or Bachelor of Business Management (BBM), the UGC has asked institutions to restructure and rename the courses as BBA or BCom.



# UGC to move apex court on 41 deemed varsities

[Vishwas Kothari](#), TNN | Jul 29, 2014, 12.31AM IST

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/City/Pune/UGC-to-move-apex-court-on-41-deemed-varsities/articleshow/39187048.cms>

PUNE: The University Grants Commission (UGC) will seek another two months' time from the Supreme Court to enable the commission's sub-committee to finalize its recommendations on the 41 deemed universities, including three in

Maharashtra, which are facing derecognition following the 2009 review [exercise](#) by the HRD ministry's P N Tandon committee.

The Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth in Pune, Krishna Institute of Medical Science at Karad in Satara district and D Y Patil Medical College in Kolhapur are the three institutions from the state.

On May 5, an apex court bench of Justices K S Radhakrishnan and Vikramjit Sen had set July 31 as the deadline for the UGC to extend its opinion to the HRD ministry on the status of these deemed universities based on an inspection by the commission's sub-committee.

However, at its meeting held on July 22, the commission's top executive body, headed by chairman Ved Prakash, was told that the sub-committee has inspected all the 41 deemed universities, but was still finalizing its recommendations on each institution.

Considering that the process will take some time, the commission resolved to move the Supreme Court for a two-month extension in the July 31 deadline. UGC vice-chairman Devaraj and nine other members, besides secretary Jaspal S

Sandhu, [financial](#) advisor Upamanyu Basu and director Vikram Sahay, were present at this meeting.

On January 21 this year, the court had directed the commission to furnish its advice regarding the universities to the ministry by March 21 after examining all the three reports related to deemed universities in the country. These reports included one prepared by an UGC experts' panel in 2009, another by the Tandon panel in 2009 and one filed in October 2011 by a panel of officers headed by HRD secretary Ashok Thakur.

The commission had subsequently convinced the Supreme Court to extend the March 21 deadline on the grounds that the three reports varied in their approach, analysis and conclusion, and that considerable time had passed since the panels had submitted the reports.

The UGC then emphasized that a fresh inspection of the 41 institutions was required to ascertain the present situation vis-a-vis available physical and academic infrastructure and improvements made, and to form a fresh opinion based on the same.

Counsel Rakesh Dwivedi, appearing for the UGC, had brought to the court's notice that the commission's regulations of 2000 and 2010 related to deemed universities and the April 6, 2009, notification of the HRD ministry allows the commission to review the functioning of the institutions even within a period of five years. The court had then allowed the commission's plea for time till July 31.

# Telangana CM invited to IIM alumni meet in Singapore

Press Trust of India | Hyderabad

July 28, 2014 Last Updated at 21:23 IST

[http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/telangana-cm-invited-to-iim-alumni-meet-in-singapore-114072801179\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/telangana-cm-invited-to-iim-alumni-meet-in-singapore-114072801179_1.html)

Telangana Chief Minister [K Chandrasekhar Rao](#) has received an invitation to attend a meeting to be organised by the alumni of an [IIM](#) in [Singapore](#).

Rao would attend the event on August 22-23 as a guest and address the ex-students of the IIM working in different countries, an official release said.

Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and President S R Nathan would also attend the event, the release said.

Rao would stay in Singapore for two-three days and study the industrial policy of the country, it said.

He would explain the ambitious industrial policy to be announced by the Telangana government by then, it added.

## NIT Silchar signs MOU with University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, USA

Monday, July 28, 2014

**Report by India Education bureau, Silchar:** Central Library, NIT Silchar has entered into a collaborative MOU with University Library & Mortenson Centre for International Library Programme of University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, USA to create world class LIS facilities at NIT Silchar.

The MOU was signed by Prof. N. V. Deshpande, Director and Dr. Kishor Chandra Satpathy, Librarian on behalf of NIT Silchar and by Paula Kaufman, Interim Director; Susan Schnuer, Associate Director of Mortenson Centre for International Library Programs; and Walter K. Knorr, Comptroller on behalf of University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign on 6th June 2014.

The main purpose of this MOU is to facilitate the creation of a world-class, innovative, inviting and flexible library system to enhance campus learning, support research, and provide community outreach and service at NIT Silchar, through consultation and collaboration with the University Library of University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, USA. The PLANNED COLLABORATIONS of the MOU are:

Specific activities and programs envisioned as part of the ongoing collaboration between the libraries include:

- a. Development of a technology road map for the new library at NIT–Silchar.
- b. Assistance in planning library facilities that support research, services, and studying.
- c. Professional development for staff.
- d. Exploration of possible exchanges of academic staff.
- e. Assistance in collection development.
- f. Support in the development of a community outreach program.
- g. Other areas of collaboration identified during the initial assessment visit.
- h. Joint library projects involving research or training.
- i. Consultation on the design of an online Digital Library course.

Prof. N V Deshpande, Director, NITS stated that “This MoU is a key milestone in our mission to develop a world class Library Information Facility at NIT Silchar. As we have invested Rs. 44 core for constructing a new State of the Art Library Building with 80000 sq.ft. carpet area, the joint consultation will help us in developing new service model for the new library”.

Under the MOU, the first joint workshop on “Changing Information Technologies: Current and Future Transformations” will be held on 2nd week of Jan 2015 at NIT Silchar. The resource persons from the University of Illinois who will also attend the workshop are Paula Kaufman, Interim Director; Susan Schnuer, Associate Director of Mortenson Centre for International Library Programs and William H. Mischo, Engineering Librarian & Professor of Library Administration of Grainger Engineering Library Information Centre.

## 2 NIT students to apply for technology patents

TNN | Jul 29, 2014, 01.46AM IST

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/City/Goa/2-NIT-students-to-apply-for-technology-patents/articleshow/39190959.cms>

FARMAGUDI: Two students of NIT Goa are in the process of applying for patents on technology developed at the institute, while three others have been accepted for internships at CERN, Geneva (European Organization for Nuclear Research).

B Tech student Anudeep has created a unique design of a device that uses fibre optic sensors to simultaneously measure the pressure and temperature of ocean water.

Developed as part of a collaborative project with the National Institute of Oceanography, Anudeep's technology has been accepted by the central government's department of electronics and information technology for a project grant of 1.2 crore.

## IIT likely at Surappakasam

**Surappakasam shot into limelight in 2006 when TUDA entered into an agreement with EMAAR-MGF for developing an international satellite township which was later ‘scrapped’**

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/iit-likely-at-surappakasam/article6258617.ece>

Indications are aplenty that the prestigious Indian Institute of Technology, Tirupati (IIT-T) will, in all probability, come up at Surappakasam village, abutting the Tirupati-Chennai highway.

While the district authorities had initially identified 1,000 acres of land between Renigunta and Srikalahasti for the central institutions, viz., the IIT, Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) and a Central University, the shift seems to be in adherence with the general directive not to concentrate all facilities in a single place. While information on sanction of a Central University to Tirupati is still hazy, the other two prestigious institutes are to be established in Renigunta-Srikalahasti belt and at Surappakasam abutting the Renigunta-Puttur stretch of the Chennai highway.

“Land availability in Surappakasam will certainly be an advantage and hence we are contemplating establishing one institute here,” Minister Bojjala Gopalakrishna Reddy told reporters.

The nondescript Surappakasam shot into limelight in 2006, when TUDA entered into an agreement with EMAAR-MGF for developing an international satellite township in 145.6 acres. Technical nitty-gritty,

protracted arbitrations that led to nowhere and other factors relegated the ambitious project to cold storage. When contacted, TUDA Vice-Chairman I. Venkateswara Reddy said that the project had been scrapped. "The firm failed to ground the project and has even forfeited the Rs.4 crore and the bank guarantee worth Rs.16 crore," he added.

### Connectivity

The land procured and partially developed by TUDA with Rs.4 crore seems to have caught the attention of the government, which has been searching for a suitable chunk having highway connectivity.

## IIT-Gandhinagar begins MA course on society and culture

[Ankur Tewari](#), TNN | Jul 29, 2014, 01.39 AM IST

AHMEDABAD: Indian Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar, on Monday became the first IIT in the country to launch a comprehensive two-year MA programme in society and culture.

On Monday, the institute started the first batch comprising 13 students. IIT-Gn had received more than 400 applications from students across the country for the programme,

Students holding a bachelors degree in any discipline can apply for the course, which provides an inter-disciplinary approach towards understanding and critically analyzing society and culture. Some of the thematic areas are identity and difference, development and exclusion, local and transnational mobilities, India and its literatures, population and

[health](#) .

The course covers subjects like archaeology of ideas; South Asia: History, culture and society; qualitative and quantitative research methods and musical traditions of India. The focus of the course is on South Asia, with India and Bangladesh forming most of the curriculum. A thesis at the end of two years is compulsory.

The four-semester course will require a student a total of 80 credits to graduate.

Convener of the programme, Srinivas Reddy, said: "The course will give students a critical ability to approach the world and its many challenges. Careers after the MA programme could be related to journalism, advertising/media, communications, writing, teaching, human resources, non-profit (NGOs, policy think-tanks) and of course higher studies in academia."

## Many IIT grads quitting high-profile jobs to start their own cos in the \$48-billion food sector

MUMBAI: Prasoon Gupta, Manish Goyal, Badal Goel — all graduates from the Indian Institutes of Technology, all with high-paying corporate jobs. Then they gave it all up to get into the food business, setting up individual ventures that form part of the burgeoning \$48 billion food service business in India.

In February, IIT Roorkee graduate Gupta quit his five-year-old venture Tech Buddy Consulting and founded a new eating concept in Delhi that caters to more than 300 people daily. Sattviko is inspired by the sattvik way of life that emphasises purity and serves cuisine from India and across the world, such as Mexican, Italian and American that conforms to its rules, such as no onions or garlic. Gupta has roped in a chef formerly with the Taj Group who's constantly dreaming up new dishes for the me ..

"While the initial investment in setting the company, its assets and hiring people is high, we are looking at becoming a Rs 100-crore chain within the next two years of operations," said Gupta.

The two Sattviko outlets in Delhi generate daily overall business of Rs 35,000, he said. The company is in talks with venture capitalists to raise Rs 15-20 crore which will be utilised for domestic and overseas expansion in Dubai, the US and the UK in the next six months.

Hindustan Times ND 29/07/2014 P-12

## Create a level playing field

The UPSC must fix the imbalance in the current format of the CSAT to tide over the unrest

**T**he Narendra Modi government has come under unexpected pressure from protesting students who have taken to the streets in Delhi, railing against the Civil Services Aptitude Test (CSAT) conducted by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC). The aspirants claim that the second paper of the CSAT, which tests, among other things, logical reasoning, analytical ability, basic numeracy and English language comprehension puts rural students and those from non-English medium school backgrounds at a disadvantage. The protestors want the CSAT format scrapped and the civil services exam, due next month, postponed. The Centre is waiting for the report of an expert panel before deciding its course of action.

While one may argue with the students' contention that the exam should be postponed because of the time they lost owing to protests, the agitation does point to two troubling issues. One is the sheer lack of English proficiency among millions of youth, even among those who have been to English-medium schools. That English-comprehension, which accounts for no more 22 marks in a 200 mark paper, should exercise the youth is a grim reminder of the quality of English teaching across the country. It is of course not fair to punish students for poor transmission of English — and the UPSC must calibrate suitably in the current format — but both the Centre and states must reflect on the political effects of having unfulfilled millions who seek to get ahead in the English-dominated globalised workplace, but cannot because their schools have failed them.

The civil service aspirants also argue that the analytical and quantitative questions in the CSAT favour science students, disadvantaging those from humanities and social sciences. There is a good deal of heartburn among students that doctors and engineers, who complete full professional degrees, smoothly sail into the civil services through an exam tailor-made for them. Governments have shied away from discouraging this practice, both to seek talent and avoid taking on a powerful constituency. But severe competition in a tight job-market makes that status quo untenable. The UPSC must fix the imbalance in the current format to tide over the unrest.

# Much Ado About Nothing

*UPSC and CSAT are not for castaways, civil services must pick the best*

Srivatsa Krishna



Precious time of the nation and its leadership is being wasted on a non-issue, namely Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)'s new Civil Service Aptitude Test (CSAT). We must be the only country on the planet where candidates protest and want to decide how their aptitude for civil services should be tested!

Will the same bunch have the courage to tell IIT/IIM or GMAT examination authorities to drop some sections, which are perceived to be biased or tough or both? If the aspirants were really the ones indulging in violence in Delhi recently, Government of India should seek the relevant footage, identify the specific culprits and ban them for life – for such violence certainly does not demonstrate aptitude to become professional leaders in India's civil services.

A personal preface is in order. I have cleared with reasonable distinction entrance examinations such as GMAT, GRE, IIT and PhD entrance exams, but unarguably the UPSC CSE (civil services examination) is by far the toughest and most demanding emotionally and intellectually, given the vast scope and open-endedness of the syllabus, the fact that it brings onto a common evaluation platform science, engineering, and social sciences students (where maths and pure science as subjects are by their very nature more scor-

ing than others), and the long, uncertain duration – a full year each time around. Arguments below, therefore, are not those of an armchair theorist!

First, India is rapidly globalising and its various institutions are evolving; as such, it needs its finest minds in the civil services. Any examination should have only one criteria, namely to pick the best. CSAT is meant to test logical reasoning, problem solving skills, analytical abilities, basic numeracy and English skills of 10th class levels. If someone cannot solve 10th class maths and reasoning, they certainly should not find a place in India's civil services at all. These are tested in al-

**Q If the protesting candidates are chosen for IFS, will they decline to learn the foreign language allotted to them? In IAS they would need to master the local language**

most every serious examination in the world, are essential to assess one's scholastic skills and are absolutely critical for civil services. They hit at the heart of rote learning.

Second, the so-called bias against Hindi language students is a specious argument for almost every Board, irrespective of the primary medium of instruction, teaches English also as a second language. Where's the question of bias? This argument



Demonstrating no aptitude for leadership

should not be conveniently misinterpreted to say that only those who know English can be good administrators. Also there should be strict controls to check where regional language question papers are set and evaluated, for the marks obtained in say Assamese or Bangla or Tamil are often disproportionately high.

Third, if the protesting candidates are chosen for Indian Foreign Service (IFS), will they decline to learn the foreign language allotted to them? And without proficiency at an advanced level of both English and the foreign language, how can they ever represent India effectively on the global stage?

Likewise, depending on the cadre one is allotted to, in the premier Indian Administrative Service (IAS) they would need to master both written and spoken variants of the local language.

Will they not do so then? They will have no option but to do so, and therefore shall do so; why not apply the same discipline here?

Fourth, the argument that these skills are irrelevant for civil services is laughable. Who are the candidates of any examination to decide what they should be tested in? That's the sole prerogative of the testing authorities, in this case UPSC.

Given the complexity of institutions and policy choices today it is extremely important to revamp the CSE to test analytical and problem-solving skills, which CSAT does. In fact there is merit in increasing the rigour of testing, to ensure it competes with IIT/IIM to attract the best. Why should there be a prima facie assumption that civil services are 'second-best' and therefore can do with children of a lesser God, when actually the reverse is true?

Fifth, the real issue is a simple one of English-to-Hindi translation that some unimaginative babu, perhaps from the same shabby stock who indulged in violence on this issue, appears to have designed. This can be easily corrected by getting a competent translator rather than using Google Translate to do the job!

Quality at entry into the civil services is a mixed bag today, with some extremely brilliant and many who are pedestrian. Civil servants are also required to read balance sheets of companies, engage in valuation for public sector privatisation, engage with and analyse large amounts of data while designing policy interventions, or do simple calculations to do breakeven or profitability analysis. They cannot get by without looking at data based evidence during policy design. All these require an analytical and logical mind, which needs to be tested at entry. In fact statistics was always part of UPSC evaluation for all these years and no one ever complained!

What's required of our civil servants is a deep understanding of problems, which requires skills that are tested by CSAT in a very rudimentary manner. They also require spine and strength of character, for which sadly no reliable test has yet been devised in the world. Civil services cannot and must not remain the last (or is it the first?) refuge of the uncompetitive, untalented, and unwanted castaways of other professions.

*The writer is an IAS officer. Views are personal.*

# Stay germ-free, only fist bump pals

It Is Healthier Than Shaking Hands Which Allows Bacteria To Move Easily

Kounteya.Sinha @timesgroup.com

**London:** Scientists have discovered a healthier way of greeting people instead of the customary handshake — fist bumps.

Research has found that fist bumps may be a more hygienic greeting than shaking hands. Direct contact is needed for most microbes to move so minimizing the parts of the hand that touch gives bacteria less chance to spread. Experiments at Aberystwyth University in Wales, United Kingdom, have revealed that habitual handshaking allows movement of germs between people and can help spread contagious illness.

Researchers also looked at grip strength and found that a stronger handshake increased the amount of bacteria shared.



THE NEW BUDDY LANGUAGE

Using rubber gloves and a thick layer of E Coli, scientists exchanged handshakes, high fives and fist bumps to show that transfer of the

potentially disease-causing bacteria was highest during a handshake. This was reduced by over half in the high-five and germ transfer was a whopping 90% lower when bumping fists.

The hygienic nature of the fist bump may be due in part to its speed (typically much quicker than a first-rate handshake) but also because there is a smaller area involved.

The study was inspired by an increase in measures to promote cleanliness in the workplace, such as hand-sanitizers and keyboard disinfectants.

Dr Dave Whitworth who carried out the research said that "People rarely think about the health implications of shaking hands. If the general public could be encouraged to fist-bump, there is genuine potential to reduce the spread of infectious diseases."

Pioneer ND 29/07/2014 P-9

# Putrid mix of politics and academics

Instead of being temples of higher education, Kerala's varsities have become dens of corruption, as coveted positions in academia go up for sale and university management posts are filled with political appointees in violation of UGC guidelines, writes **AJITH KUMAR**

Pseudo-intellectuals running from pillar to post to secure for themselves the post of Vice Chancellor in one of Kerala's many universities, are once again in the news. As is well known, it is politics, and not an individual's educational and professional qualifications, that determine appointments to academic chairs in the State's varsities. This is a murky phenomenon that has been rampant for many years.

It has recently been reported that the University Grants Commission may withhold funding to institutions that do not follow its rules and recommendations — in this case, regarding the appointment of the varsity chiefs. Now, Kerala Legislature's Chief Whip PC George may have pooh-poohed allegations that there is horse-trading of coveted academic positions, but that

does not take away from the gravity of the situation.

The fact of the matter is that up until now, the UGC has not seriously looked into the many 'political' appointments that have degraded the academic dignity that Kerala's universities. Complaints came up many a times but there were either trashed or put away in bureaucratic deep-freezers. No wonder then that such anomalous appointments continued in Kerala without any one making any noise.

The University Grants Commission Act, as amended in 1985, categorically states that if any educational institution deviates from or violates the UGC's rules, the top regulatory body has the right to withdraw financial aid and even recognition to that college or university. But the question here is: Who will ensure compliance when all stakeholders

— the Union and State Governments, the UGC as well as the universities — are mostly manned by those people who have no qualms in violating the law themselves. These people may have different political affiliations but they are all equally power hungry.

There have even been cases of university syndicates, the governing body consisting of both elected and nominated members, violating UGC regulations. For instance, in 2012, a Kerala University Syndicate's sub-committee diluted UGC norms for the appointment of principals and professors. It decided that those who entered the teaching service before March 13, 1990, need not possess a PhD to be professors and principals even though the UGC prescribes a PhD as an essential qualification for these posts.

Removing the PhD requirement was an easy way to pro-

mote the inadequately qualified individuals who shared the political affiliations of the syndicate members and were professors- and principals-in-waiting. Thus, even at the level of teaching staff, the universities played foul with the appointment process as a result of which almost all positions are now held by political appointees.

In Kerala, varsity syndicates are known for their political nature on the one hand and academic pauperism on the other hand. While the syndicate's elected members belong to politically-oriented service organisations, the nominated members are appointed by political bigwigs. In neither case is merit a consideration. Mostly, if the appointees have the minimum qualifications, that's good enough.

The UGC has to fix a standard level of academic performance for teachers, so that

even when the Board of Studies' members happen to be their nominees, they should be able to identify qualified candidates with their own academic acumen. A scholar alone can assess the scholarship and make the right choice in this regard.

Think of a ill-qualified person selecting varsity chairs — this is a task that should be done by the most qualified people. Yet, this is what happens in Kerala's universities, as a result of which academic standards have dropped dramatically. Varsities have become dens of corruption and nepotism.

A former Kerala university Vice Chancellor had once said that he'd readily vacate his chair on the condition that the eight lakh rupees he spent to get the position in the first place was returned to him. Similarly, another individual who has twice held the post of

Vice Chancellor and is currently under the scanner for a ₹300 crore scam, is knocking at the doors of power to get rid of the charges levelled against him and clear his way to national-level academic posts.

And then there is the case of would-be-Vice Chancellors who think that the post is their birthright. For example, a colleague recently asked this author about the possibility of getting a more lucrative 'post' than the professor's position that he currently holds. Such people typically sneak on to an academic chair, and once there, cling to post for as long as possible. Horse-trading has become an essential stage of probation before one can walk to the academic high posts of Kerala.

(The writer is Associate Professor of History, Sanatana Dharma College, Alappuzha, and Kerala State vice president of College Adhyapak Sangh)