

# Newspaper Clips

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आईआईटी में नैनो टेक्नोलॉजी सेंटर भी

## एक हजार छात्रों के लिए नया हॉस्टल

नई दिल्ली | अनुराग मिश्र

भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान, नई दिल्ली में एक हजार छात्र-छात्राओं की सुविधा के लिए नया हॉस्टल इस सत्र में तैयार होगा। ये हॉस्टल छात्रों को इसी सत्र से मुहैया होंगे। आईआईटी के नए बन रहे इस हॉस्टल में करीब एक हजार छात्र-छात्राएं रह सकेंगे। यही नहीं जल्द ही यहां पर नया नैनो टेक्नोलॉजी सेंटर भी खुलने जा रहा है।

आईआईटी के निदेशक प्रो. सुरेंद्र प्रसाद ने बताया कि छात्रों को इस सत्र से एक नया हॉस्टल मिल जाएगा। इस हॉस्टल के बन जाने से आईआईटी कैम्पस में अधिक से अधिक छात्र रह सकेंगे। उन्होंने बताया कि ये हॉस्टल सभी आधुनिक सुविधाएं मौजूद होंगी और इसमें एक हजार छात्रों के रहने की व्यवस्था होगी। इस हॉस्टल के बन जाने के बाद आईआईटी में हॉस्टलों की संख्या 13 हो जाएगी। नए हॉस्टल का नाम गिरिनार रखा गया है। ज्ञात हो कि आईआईटी में सभी हॉस्टलों के नाम पहाड़ियों के नाम पर रखे गए हैं। आईआईटी दिल्ली में जल्द ही छात्र अब नैनो टेक्नोलॉजी से जुड़े प्रयोगों को कर सकेंगे। आईआईटी में नैनो फेब्रिकेशन और नैनो डिवाइस का एक केंद्र स्थापित होने जा रहा है। हालांकि आईआईटी में पहले नैनो साइंस की एक यूनिट थी पर ये सेंटर नैनो टेक्नोलॉजी के लिहाज से काफी बड़ा होगा।

आईआईटी के निदेशक सुरेंद्र प्रसाद ने कहा कि इस तकनीक पर काम करने वाला देश का तीसरा केंद्र होगा। आईआईटी मुंबई और आईआईएससी, बंगलूरू सिलिकॉन डिवाइस पर काम करते हैं पर इस केंद्र में नॉन-सिलिकॉन डिवाइस पर काम होगा। इस केंद्र में



नैनोटेक्नोलॉजी की सभी सुविधाएं जैसे कि नैनो डिवाइस का फेब्रिकेशन, लीथोग्राफी, इलेक्ट्रॉन, बीम आदि की जानकारी उपलब्ध होगी। इस केंद्र को बनने में करीब दो वर्ष लग जाएंगे। इस केंद्र को बनाने का सबसे बड़ा मकसद ऐसी नैनो डिवाइस का निर्माण करना है जो समाज के लिए महत्वपूर्ण हो। इस केंद्र में मुख्यतः नैनो सेंसर, बायोलॉजिकल सेंसर, फ्यूल सेल आदि पर ध्यान दिया जाएगा। साथ ही ऐसी तकनीक के निर्माण पर ज्यादा फोकस होगा जो सस्ती और टिकाऊ हो।

Mail Today ND 31/07/2011 P-10

## **Sibal must look at higher education in holistic light**

**THE** Union Human Resource Development (HRD) minister Kapil Sibal's proposal to have a single national test for college admissions is a progressive one, and would help in overcoming the problems created by the existing system.

It has taken the absurdity of 100 per cent cutoff percentages for Delhi University admissions to spark off the much needed debate on the board exam centric admissions system, in addition to highlighting the demand-supply imbalance in higher education.

The National Testing Scheme that is being proposed by Mr Sibal — which is likely to be an aptitude test on the lines of the American SAT — will mark a major break from the cramming marathon that the board exams have become in the past decade or so.

Clearly, this is in line with the larger drive towards de-stressing education for students—a key aspect of Mr Sibal's agenda as HRD minister. This was evident from his decision to make the Class 10 board exams optional within a few months of taking over the reins of the ministry.

However, on its own, a common national entrance test cannot be a cure for the huge disparity between demand and supply in our higher education system. It needs to be backed by a much larger number of institutions providing quality education — particularly in high-demand professional disciplines like medicine and management.



Arvind Kejriwal -  
PHOTO: V. GANESAN

## Referendum on Lokpal Bill launched at IIT-Madras

Special Correspondent

**CHENNAI:** India Against Corruption, Chennai chapter, will conduct a referendum over the next 10 days covering one lakh people to find out the pulse of the city on the Lokpal Bill.

Launching the referendum at IIT-Madras, RTI activist Arvind Kejriwal told journalists that the Centre had ignored most of the suggestions from civil society and was preparing its own toothless bill to shield the corrupt instead of penalising them.

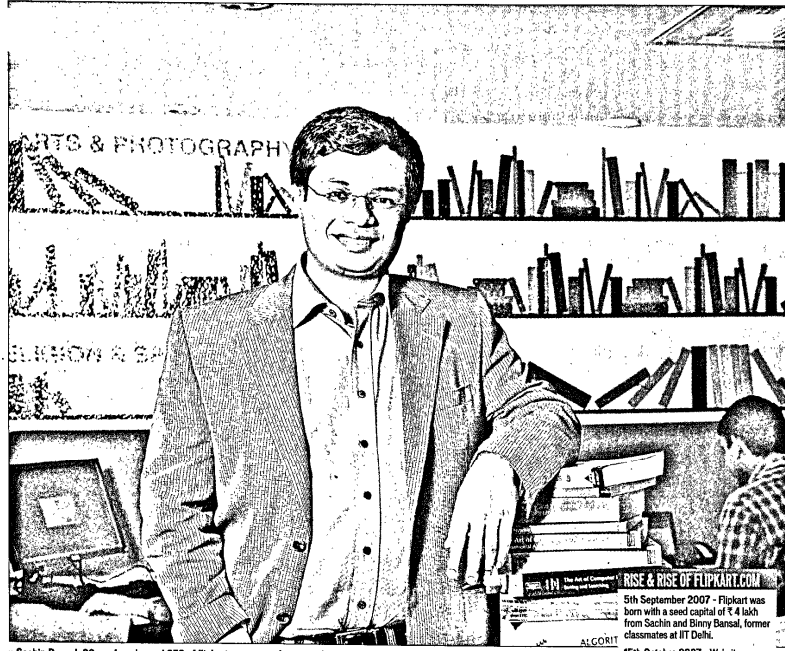
Mr. Kejriwal said the government's Lokpal Bill did not cover corruption at panchayats, municipal corporations, NREGS, PDS or scams like Adarsh Housing Society, Commonwealth Games, Taj corridor, cash-for-votes and others.

According to him, if the government's Bill was passed the corrupt would be spared and persons who raised their voice against corruption would fall under its ambit.

### "Public sentiment has been ignored"

The government draft was being prepared by a few Cabinet Ministers in secrecy ignoring public sentiment and with absolutely no public consultation, while the Jan Lokpal Bill was drafted after widespread public consultations. Already referendums had been conducted in various cities and the peoples' bill enjoyed popular support, Mr. Kejriwal said, appealing to people to extend support to the campaign against corruption.

Of the 71 basic principles, the Centre had agreed to only a dozen minor issues and left out all the major ones. At present, the reaction from political parties was mixed but this would change after the tabling of the Lokpal Bill in Parliament, he said.



Sachin Bansal, 29, co-founder and CEO of flipkart.com, says that no stakes will be sold to Amazon.com

# JUST FLIPPIN' FABULOUS!

**E-TRADE A ₹4 lakh start-up just four years ago, flipkart.com has become the first billion dollar internet company in India, heralding a new dawn for e-commerce in the country**

Vivek Sinha  
www.flipkart.com

In 2007, Bansal buddies Sachin (29) and Binny (28) dug into their personal savings and put together ₹4 lakh to start an online bookstore, which they called Flipkart.com. They knew it was not a new idea and if they were not going to have a big differentiation, the venture carried a high risk of joining the ranks with failed dot.com start-ups that promised so much but delivered so little.

Today the buzz is that the four-year-old company, a deep discount online market place for books and digital accessories, is close to selling a portion of its equity to a leading US-based private equity player that has valued the company at \$1 billion (\$6,000 crore) or one-eighth of micro-blogging site twitter.com that has been valued at \$8 billion (\$36,000 crore). Billion-dollar valuations of Internet start-ups in India are no more empty theories but a reality.

The Bansals, both graduates from IIT Delhi, but not related, realised early on that the quality of service was a key differentiator - a lesson they had learnt during their stint as engineers with global e-commerce giant, Amazon.com.

Customer complaints that ranged from delays in delivery to hassles in payments were often the critical factors that determined the success of any online business. Sachin Bansal, co-founder and CEO of flipkart.com, told IIT. "We decided to first iron out these problems and give our customers a delightful online e-commerce experience".

Daniel An, a 28-year-old software professional from the Northeast, loves books on music. He scoured through the stores in the malls and independent stores in Delhi, for the precise title he wanted. He failed and chose the next best option: logging on to Flipkart.com and purchased it online.

"The book reached me within four days," An said. "I paid on delivery and got a 20 percent discount on the cover price as well."

Net commerce in India has witnessed a considerable growth in the past decade. Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI), the industry body of online and mobile value added services, has pegged the size of net commerce in India at about \$31,598 crore in 2010. It is estimated to touch \$46,520 crore by the end of 2011.

At present the e-commerce activity in India is driven largely by the travel industry, which contributes around 76 percent to the total e-commerce market of India. However, as online purchases gain momentum and with purchases shifting to other items, this will mean

robust growth opportunities for online e-commerce firms such as flipkart.com.

**GREAT BARGAINS**  
Indian retailers are warming up to shipping their ware directly to consumers through the Internet. For the consumers, there are great deals on offer. Footfalls and walk-ins are a passé. Virtual walk-through is the new buzz word.

Products are usually 10-15 percent cheaper on e-tail sites compared to conventional walk-in stores. The entire range of products is available to pick and choose from and "out-of-stock" is ruled out unless the company has phased out a particular product completely. Bansal said that the company has already diversified from an online book store into selling cameras, computer accessories, games, music CDs/DVDs, personal healthcare products through its websites.

It knew early on that company cannot succeed only through quality services, given the price-sensitivity of the Indian consumer. "We offer upto 40 percent discount," Bansal said. The company manages heavy discounts through its bulk purchases and maintains close contacts and has direct tie-ups with publishers, distributors and manufacturers. It helps them get a better deal. At present, their shipments are at 15 million everyday across the country and employ around 1,800 people. The bulk of it comprise books, but it expects other categories to catch up soon. "We want to be known as the general e-commerce website and not just the online bookstore, which is part of our long-term plan. And as soon as we get the leadership position in other categories as well," Bansal said.

"The youth is driving online shopping" and "the elderly do not trust the Internet" is a myth, Bansal said. "All kinds of people buy books online though a large proportion of our customers are young may be in their 20s, but they are not the only customers."

**LESS OVERHEAD COSTS**

While consumers can cash in on great bargains, for firms the e-tailing model offers lesser overhead and variable costs. Companies save heavily on real estate rentals, staff salaries, store maintenance expenses and also on time to set up stores.

"In retailing as much as 50 percent of the initial investment could go towards acquiring real estate. But, online retail only asks for brand trust, nothing more," said Cory York, who provides technology solutions to companies. For high street locations in a metropolitan city rentals could be as high as ₹300 per square feet per month. "We also

5th September 2007 - Flipkart was born with a seed capital of ₹4 lakh from Sachin and Binny Bansal, former classmates at IIT

15th October 2007 - Website goes live

22nd October, 2007, 10.28 pm - First "official" sale from the website

7th June, 2010 - Ventured into newer categories of electronic gadgets such as mobiles and computers

14th April, 2010 - offered the option of paying 'Cash on Delivery'

2009 - Venture capital fund Accel Partners invests \$1 million

2009 - Venture Capital fund Tiger Global invests \$10 million

2011 - Tiger Global invests a further \$20 million

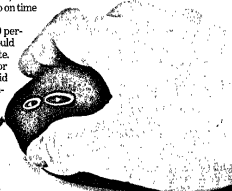
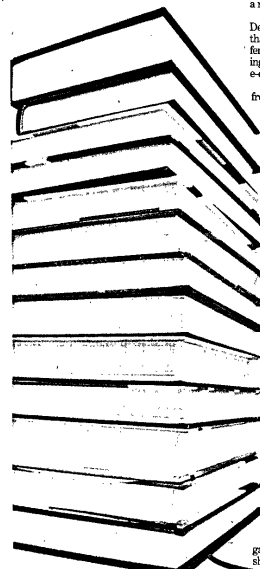
have extremely low operating costs as we are online. So we do not need to invest in setting up stores, lease space at high street locations and pay very high rents," Bansal said.

Flipkart.com has a mixed model in terms of supply chain such that a lot of items are kept in stock at its warehouse while other items are procured on demand. "Once an order is placed we tie up with the publisher and send it on demand." It also plans to add up to its storage capacity. It currently has its warehouse space of 120,000 square feet in Delhi, Bangalore, Mumbai and Kolkata. "We would soon have our warehouses at Chennai, Pune, Hyderabad and at a couple of other cities," Bansal said.

**SUCCESS HAS MANY SUITORS**

In four years, Flipkart.com has managed to rope in private equity players like Global to invest \$81 million (\$40 crore) in the company that many believe is the hottest investment property in the Internet business space in India at present. "We are very bullish about the company and are working to make flipkart.com the number one e-commerce company in India," Bansal said but refused to disclose financial details of the company.

Investment bankers tracking the sector said flipkart.com is a potential takeover target by the Bansals' former employers Amazon.com given the promise and success it has demonstrated. This, if it happens, will be reminiscent of the 1997 when Silicon Valley entrepreneur Silber Dhillal sold Free email service, hotmail.com to Microsoft for a reported value of \$400 million (\$1900 crore) - creating a flutter that sent valuations of fledgling dot.com companies through the roof. Bansal dismissed suggestions that the promoters would be willing to sell out and are waiting for the "right" price. "There are no plans to sell any stake to Amazon... rather we have plans to scale up our business in India," he said. For now, flipkart.com remains with the two former IIT Delhi classmates.



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# Glued to internet? Scientists warn of identity crisis

London: If you are among those who spend hours on twitting or interacting with Facebook friends, please note: Repeated exposure to social networking sites is causing an "identity crisis" among the users, a leading scientist has warned.

Baroness Greenfield, a professor of pharmacology at Oxford University, said Facebook and Twitter have creat-

ed a generation obsessed with themselves, who have short attention spans and a childlike desire for constant feedback on their lives.

Greenfield believes the growth of internet "friendships" as well as greater use of computer games could ef-

fectively "rewire" the brain. This can result in reduced concentration, a need for in-

© Kathrin Ziegler/cultura/Corbis



## TIME TO GIVE IT A BREAK

stant gratification and poor non-verbal skills, such as the ability to make eye contact during conversations, she said. The academic suggested that some Facebook users feel the need to become "mini celebrities" who are admired by others on a daily basis. **PTI**

**HindustanTimes**

**Title : Bogus visa issue: US warns Indian students**

**Author :**

**Location : WASHINGTON**

**Article Date : 07/31/2011**

**Bogus visa issue: US  
warns Indian students**

**WASHINGTON:** The US has asked Indian students who are planning to come to America to be alert to the existence of predatory visa fraud rings and fraudulent document vendors.

The statement gains significance in the wake of yet another raid on a US university, allegedly on charges of visa fraud. **P18**