

Newspaper Clips July 7, 2015

POWERGRID signs an MoU with IIT, Delhi

Hindustan Times (Delhi)

Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. has signed an MoU with Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi (IIT-Delhi) at IIT Delhi campus. Ravi P. Singh, Dir (Pers.), POWERGRID and Dr. Anil Wali, MD, FITT-IIT Delhi signed MoU.



IIT Roorkee all set to give wings to PM's bullet train dream

Hindustan Times (Lucknow)

The institute says the draft of MoU between the railway board and the institute is being prepared to achieve the objective of high-speed rail technology

ROORKEE: Indian Institute of Technology - Roorkee (IIT-R) is all set to give wings to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's dream vehicle -- a bullet train. The institute authorities said the draft of memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the railway board and the institute is being prepared to achieve the objective of high speed rail technology.

“The MoU draft of high speed rail technology is almost ready and very soon it will be signed by both the parties concerned i.e. the institute and the railway board,” said IIT-R director Pradipta Banerji.

“We cannot, however, divulge the details of MoU right now. After inking the MoU, both the parties will decide on the course of action,” he said.

Sources, however, disclosed that IIT-R will apparently give its expertise in the field of high speed, safety, railway structure development, freight (transportation) and railway bridges.

“As we have a long history in the field of structural, bridge development, signal processing and other issues related with railways transportation, we can bring in our civil, mechanical, electronic and computer engineering experts together for playing a significant role in this direction,” said an institute professor, privy to the developments.

Incidentally, IIT-R has also developed its own centre of railway research in the institute premises.

Roorkee has been associated with the railways ever since it was introduced in the country.

According to the IIT- R record, the first ever railway track of 5 kms was laid between Roorkee and Piran Kaliyar in 1851.

A locomotive engine and two bogies ran on the track to carry the construction materials for the development of local solani (Ganga) channel.

However, the general belief is that the first train in India ran between Mumbai and Thane on April 16, 1853.

IIT Bombay celebrates Digital India Week

<http://indiaeducationdiary.in/Shownews.asp?newsid=35067>

Mumbai: As a part of the 'Digital India Week' undertaken by the Government of India, IIT Bombay today showcased projects to empower the nation through Education Technology. The inauguration of the event was done by Prof. Prasanna Mujumdar, Dean R&D, IIT Bombay, Prof. Deepak B. Phatak, faculty and Principal Investigator T10KT Project, IIT Bombay, and Prof. Kannan Moudgalya, faculty and Principal Investigator Spoken Tutorials, IIT Bombay.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Mujumdar said, "Education and R&D go hand in hand. Our motto at IIT Bombay is to develop technology that will be beneficial for the society at large. Through this initiative, we wish to inform people about the various projects that we have undertaken over the years and how they can benefit from them for a better life and future."

Digital India week at IIT Bombay showcases projects that aim at transforming India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy. It comprises various initiatives, each targeted to prepare India for becoming a knowledge economy through synchronized and co-ordinated engagement. Speaking on the relevance of Digital India, Prof. Moudgalya said, "India is an aspiring country. We desire to become a developed nation. But following the route of the western countries through the conventional approach of building physical infrastructure will be extremely time consuming and prohibitively expensive. The brick and mortar approach can easily be replaced by ICT based techniques that will help us leapfrog and catch up with the developed world quickly."

Technology therefore has become one of the most important and sought out thing in the recent years. The initiative of Digital India Week therefore aims to bridge the digital divide. Speaking about the need to bridge the gap, Prof. Deepak B. Phatak said, "It is our commitment to the nation to provide each and everyone an access to the information available on the open source. The fact that most of the information available on the open source is in English creates this digital divide. Therefore we are trying to offer blended courses in different Indian languages so that people who are eager to learn are not devoid of this opportunity."

Projects at Display at IIT Bombay

T10KT : The 'Train 10,000 Teachers' (T10KT) Project conducts ISTE workshops in core subjects, for faculty of engineering and science. These are conducted in distance mode through live transmission and audio-video interaction, using the A-VIEW platform. Expert faculty from IITs deliver the course. A rigorous approach is used, with emphasis on problem solving, tutorials, assignments, and laboratory exercises. These workshops are also conducted in blended MOOC format, with synchronous and asynchronous activity spread over six weeks, to make the learning more effective. The recorded lecture contents are released in open source, free for download and classroom teaching. The project is in its second phase, in partnership with IIT Kharagpur, and has reached out to 1 Lakh teachers since 2012 through 352 Remote Centres across the country. To know more, please visit <http://www.it.iitb.ac.in/nmeict/home.html>

e-kalpa : The e-kalpa,' is sponsored by the Ministry of Human Resources and Development, Government of India as part of the National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology. Key Objectives of e-kalpa is to create digital online content for learning Design with distance e-Learning courses. This initiative has been collaboratively developed by the three institutions IDC at IIT Bombay, NID at Bangalore and DOD at IIT Guwahati along with the support of other design related institutions and organizations across India. To know more, please visit <http://dsources.in>.

e-Yantra: The e-Yantra enthuses students through a National e-Yantra Robotics Competition(eYRC). It also builds an eco-system by setting up infrastructure and training teachers in colleges through the e-Yantra Lab Setup Initiative (eLSI). Having been enthusiastically received by states around the country with its 107 labs established in 2014, it targets a total of 500 labs as centres of Innovation to encourage interdisciplinary skills and hands on training in the next 2 years. To know more, visit: <http://e-yantra.org>.

FOSSEE: Free and Open Source Software for Education or FOSSEE (www.fossee.in) Project at IIT Bombay is geared to promote the use of open source software in education and by extension, in the corporate world. The activities of FOSSEE revolve around creating educational content around open source software and encouraging the introduction of courses on open source in syllabi of universities, apart from promoting it through publicity initiative. It is now the policy of the Government of India to prefer Open Source Software over Closed Source Software. To know more, please visit <http://fossee.in>

Spoken Tutorial: Spoken Tutorial teaches various software through audio video tutorials in a short time. The Spoken Tutorial project is promoting IT literacy in all types of academic institutions: engineering institutions, arts, science and commerce colleges, diploma colleges, ITIs and schools, with the focus to provide employment opportunities to all. Through dubbing into all of our official 22 languages, we bridge digital divide as well. Until now, we have trained about 8 lakh students using the Spoken Tutorial methodology. To know more, please visit <http://spoken-tutorial.org>

Virtual Labs: The 'Virtual Labs' project addresses these issues by making remote experimentation possible through simulations and remote triggered labs. In collaboration with several premier engineering institutes, over 100 lab courses, consisting of over 1000 experiments, have been developed and made available via a single portal,www.vlab.co.in. The ultimate aim is to provide a complete

learning management system around these labs. To know more, please visit <http://vlab.co.in>

Ask a Question: The 'Ask A Question' is a unique free and open interactive forum through which learners can clarify their conceptual doubts in the field of science and engineering. Faculty members from IIT Bombay respond to their doubts posted on forum as well as asked during the live session. Presently, one hour sessions are conducted in the field of Electrical engineering and Physics on Thursday and Friday respectively. To know more, please visit <http://ask.co-learn.in>

Courses on View: The "Courses On View" is a portal that provides free and open access to the Engineering and Science courses recorded live in the classrooms of IIT Bombay. It also includes course overview, syllabus, prerequisites, references, assignments with solutions and slides for the respective courses.

The Digital Week at IIT Bombay will also witness workshops being conducted by teams from Spoken Tutorials, FOSEE and e-Kalpa over the week. This event promises to showcase the various initiatives undertaken by IIT Bombay in the field of ICT. Most of these projects are funded by the National Mission on Education through ICT, MHRD, Govt. of India. In addition to the events at IIT Bombay, more than 100 academic institutions across India that are project partners of IIT Bombay also plan to celebrate the Digital India Week. For details, please visit <http://fossee.in/digital-india>.

Govt to bring FTII on par with IITs, IIMs

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New Delhi: Refuting speculation of privatization or shutting shop, I&B ministry has fast-tracked the move to give FTII the status of institute of national importance, along the lines of IITs and IIMs. In a meeting called by cabinet secretary P K Sinha on June 25, I&B and HRD ministries were asked to include the film institute in the Common Universities Act. This will not only give the institute autonomy and bring it international recognition but also allow it to grant degrees.

The move comes in the midst of a stalemate between the ministry and striking students who are demanding the removal of Gajendra Chauhan from the position of FTII chairman. Students have stuck to their guns despite a meeting with I&B minister Arun Jaitley, who assured them of significant improvements and non-interference in the institute's functioning.

"We are in consultation with the HRD ministry and will aim at bringing the bill in Parliament by year-end," a senior official said.

Sources in the ministry said that FTII students were among those who enjoyed the most subsidized education. The government is slated to spend

FINANCIAL MESS

	<p>➤ Spending went up to ₹12 lakh per student in 2015-2016</p>
	<p>➤ Govt spent ₹11.26 lakh per student in 2014-2015</p>
	<p>➤ In comparison, it spends ₹3.5 lakh on an IIT student</p>
<p>teachers (ratio of 1:6 teacher-student ratio)</p>	

Year	Fund (plan & non-fund)	Revenue generated by the institute
2014-2015	₹39.44cr	₹2.05cr
2015-2016	₹42.06cr	NA

Rs 12 lakh in the current financial year on each student's education. In comparison, the government spends Rs 3.5 lakh on an IIT student. A cost review by the chief advisor found that the extent of recovery through fees, hostel rent and other expenses as a percentage of expenditure in academic activities in FTII has decreased from 25% in 2006-2007 to as low as 11% in 2010-2011.

For the full report, log on to www.timesofindia.com

Financial Express ND 07/07/2015 P-6

Vyapam's larger lesson

Govt control over education has to be removed

Given the 50-odd deaths of both those accused in the Vyapam education scam in Madhya Pradesh as well as those involved in its uncovering such as a TV journalist who interviewed the parents of a person who died mysteriously and a medical college dean who gave scam-related documents to the team probing the scam, finance minister Arun Jaitley has done well to ask for a larger inquiry into it. While only an impartial inquiry—there is a high-court monitored probe on already—can decide on whether chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and his family members are involved, the larger issue relates to political control over educational institutions. Apart from conducting exams for government jobs, Vyapam conducted entrance tests for medical and engineering colleges. The controversy over the IIM Bill is the latest in those relating to educational institutions, but India has a history of problems relating to education and, more important, state control over it—the Medical Council of India chief was arrested for demanding a bribe to certify a college a few years ago. The fundamental reason for Vyapam and other such scams—the Supreme Court has just cancelled the CBSE's all-India pre-medical test—is the shortage of top quality educational institutions. As poor and middle-class India realises its value, the rush for college and professional degrees is probably unmatched in India's history. Given the shortage, the premium for such education is obvious, and that is why in a large number of states, it is politicians who control various colleges. Even in cases where politicians do not control the institutions, they try and control the certification bodies, and that leads to scams of a different nature—of certifying a dubious college or of denying certifications to deserving colleges.

In such a situation, it is vital that more supply be created, and that the entire government-controlled certification process be liberalised. While many argue this will open up the country to fly-by-night operators, it has to be pointed out that the rising number of scams make it clear government certification isn't helping contain the scams or to reduce the number of dodgy schools/colleges. One committee that studied business schools found, for instance, certification bodies had cleared colleges that were so fly-by-night, they had rented libraries on the day of their inspection. While allowing more supply, there are other ways that need to be developed to control quality. Independent accreditation bodies—a Crisil for education, for instance, based on output-based criterion—could be one solution. Another is to regulate, and then monitor, as much disclosure as possible—details of the faculty and their degrees/publications, of the alumni, of placements and salaries, etc. Encouraging third-party tests like GMAT/GRE/SAT are other possible solutions—the main thing is to liberalise supply, not restrict it.

Modi govt wants control of academic bodies: Sen

'I Was Ousted From Nalanda'

Sagarika Ghose
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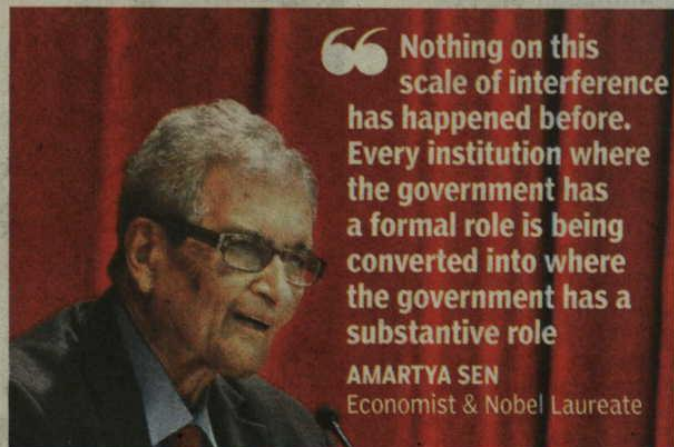
New Delhi: In a move that's likely to add to the bitterness between the Modi government and economist Amartya Sen, the Nobel laureate has gone public with what he calls his "ouster" from the chancellorship of Nalanda University.

In an essay to be published in the August issue of the New York Review of Books (an advance copy of which is with TOI), Sen writes that Nalanda was by no means an isolated attack on academic freedom but part of a wider attempt by the Modi government to seize direct control over academic institutions.

Speaking exclusively to TOI, Sen lashed out at what the "extraordinarily large" interference by the government in academia. Sen is slated to step down as the Nalanda chancellor on July 17, when he will be replaced by George Yeo, former foreign minister of Singapore. "I was certainly ousted from Nalanda," he said. "Some members of the board, especially the foreign members were keen on carrying on the battle for me but I stepped aside as I did not want to be an ineffective leader. The government may have held up finances or statutes had I continued."

Nalanda's not a one off incident," he said.

"Nothing on this scale of interference has happened before. Every institution where the government has a



“ Nothing on this scale of interference has happened before. Every institution where the government has a formal role is being converted into where the government has a substantive role

AMARTYA SEN
Economist & Nobel Laureate

formal role is being converted into where the government has a substantive role," he said. Sen pointed out that at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research the government refused to ratify the appointment of director Dr Sandip Trivedi. "This has never happened under any previous PM," he said, adding that it's not just the HRD ministry but the entire

VARSIITY WARS

Modi government which is to blame, as Nalanda comes under the MEA.

He pointed out that at the National Book Trust, its head Sethumadhavan was asked to step down and an RSS ideologue appointed instead. He also said that at the ICCR, Dr Lokesh Chandra, who has been appointed, believes Modi is a greater personality than Mahatma Gandhi. At the ICHR, he said, the head, Yellapragada Sudarshan Rao, has not done any historical research, but has written an article saying the caste system was wrongly blamed for being exploitative when it did a lot of good for India.

"Delhi IIT Director

Raghunath Shevgaonkar resigned, the IIT Bombay Board chairman, Anil Kakodkar, expressed that he could not help the government in anything in the future, for the IIMs they have introduced a Bill where instead of having indirect power of withholding the signature — which they did in my case or in Trivedi's case — they can now directly appoint the director. That's the new bill. Instead of having effective power, it becomes direct control."

He said the Modi government has failed to understand that a market economy needs successful public services. "India spends 1.2% of GDP on public healthcare, while China spends 3%. Now 1.2% has been cut to 1%. India is wanting high growth rates like China but overlooking that China has improved public services dramatically. It has pretty much guaranteed healthcare for all, they have everyone in school. That has been the Asian pattern of development. You do it together: Market economy and the state's role. The market economy needs a complementarity with the public services."

Times of India ND 07/07/2015 P-5

Shall quit if proved I brought shame to Stephen's: Thampu

Holding On To Ensure That Scholar Gets Support, Says Principal

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Following fresh demands from the students, teachers and women's groups for his resignation over mishandling of a sexual harassment case, St Stephens principal Valson Thampu said on Monday, "If it is objectively proved that I am a cause of embarrassment to the institution, I will put in my papers."

A PhD scholar, who has accused Satish Kumar, her thesis supervisor, of sexual harassment, has written to the DU vice-chancellor and the head of the chemistry department requesting a change of supervisor. She had also written to the college's internal complaints committee (ICC) before deciding to withdraw her plea due to lack of faith in it.

While Kumar has moved court for anticipatory bail after the woman lodged an FIR on June 19, the protesters have been irked by the way the case has been handled by the college authorities, especially Thampu. On Monday, protesters from a number of groups, including All India Students' Association (AISA), Centre for Struggling Women (CSW), North-East Forum for International Solidarity (NEFIS), Krantikari Yuva Sangathan (KYS), All India Democratic Women's Association (AIDWA) and Students'



UP IN ARMS: Women's rights activists demand justice for the researcher

Federation of India (SFI), marched up to the VC's office to submit a memorandum.

From the day the FIR was filed, Thampu has maintained that he is the chief target of this case. The June 25 email from ICC to the victim had also suggested this, saying, "It appears that statements in your email have been made under stress or misguidance."

"I would have remitted my office even today but for my apprehension that the moment I do so, the present handlers of the poor complainant will drop her like a hot potato and she will become a judicial orphan," added Thampu. "I must hold on, if only to ensure that she continues to get help and support from those who have decoyed her into this painful plight."

Meanwhile, the UGC official appointed to look into the internal complaints committee visited the college on Monday. Sunita Siwach will submit a report to UGC and the HRD ministry. Sources say she found that ICC is "not functioning independently". Thampu said he was out of college most of Monday, "but I understand that someone had come".

Maya John of CSW said the memorandum consisted of the demand "to change the supervising authority looking into this case, release of the stipend money of the researcher, inquiry against the principal and to bring back the earlier ordinance XV-D." Ordinance XV-D, DU's internally developed mechanism that allowed colleges to have elected committees instead of nominated ones to look into harassment cases, was withdrawn completely and replaced by the central Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace Act, 2013 in 2014. "We are fighting for women's safety. Stephen's does not have a functional women's cell and the sexual harassment committee is also nominated, which makes them less transparent," said Chinglen Khumukcham from NEFIS. There is also anger against Thampu who, the scholar alleged, "shielded" the accused and discouraged her from filing a complaint.

Impressions

Shockwaves And Indian Science

Notes from a gathering of alumni of the Indian Institute of Science (IISc)

[Ajay Sukumaran](#)



Isro Chairman A.S.Kiran Kumar speaking at IISc's Global Alumni Conference in Bangalore last month. (Picture courtesy Astrome Technologies)

<http://www.outlookindia.com/article/shockwaves-and-indian-science/294790>

In the early 1950s when a young, Caltech-returned assistant professor with a great love for science experiments declared to his students that he was going make them another 'gizmo', the slang mystified them. It wasn't just the strange new words that Satish Dhawan — whose reputation had already been made by then with his research work on shockwaves — used that set him apart but his red shirts in a place where one only saw the faculty in suit and tie, and his easygoing nature.

"Apart from the shockwaves which he made at the lab, I think he made a shockwave on the campus," recounted aerospace scientist Prof.Roddam Narasimha last weekend at to a gathering of alumni of the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) — among them black, grey and silver beards. "He came in his MG, jumped out of it, raced up the steps, raced down and had a big smile on his face when he said "Good morning to all of you". We were not used to that at all." From the experiments at Dhawan's lab, Prof Narasimha says the big thing he learnt was that 'you can do research in India.'



Aerospace scientist Prof Roddam Narasimha (left) with Co-Chairman of IISc Alumni Association North America (IIScAANA) Satish Nagarajaiah during the global alumni conference last month. (Picture courtesy Satish Nagarajaiah)

The reminiscences of some of its oldest alumni revealed a different side of the institute, but the three-day conference also dwelt on current priorities, particularly its ambitions on the global stage. If it were to get into the league of universities such as MIT and Harvard it had to happen fast, especially when institutes in China and South Korea were able to make it to the top 100, said Prof.CNR Rao, who headed IISc for a decade between 1984-94.

By an Indian measure, the 105-year-old IISc is a venerable old institute but it is, as another of its former directors Prof.P Balaram put it, a very young university by global standards. For that matter, Prof Balaram reckons it would be a long haul for any institution in India to get into the top lists, requiring greater support and understanding, something akin to an Indian team getting into a soccer World Cup finals.

"How has the institute evolved over the century and how has the century treated the institute and the country, is something we must all remember. Otherwise, we will not be able to address this question about improving Indian institutes in any measure," said Balaram. There were three Indian institutes on the Shanghai rankings in 2003 when it came out first, but only one (IISc) remained on it 10 years later. "Today, you have to run very hard to stay in the same place. It's going to be very difficult to overtake others who put in greater resources, have greater public support, governmental support and greater support from their environments."

That's where, he reckons, the alumni living overseas, especially North America, count because their word carried a lot of weight for the powers-that-be and that they should stand up and speak about the importance of supporting such institutions.

"Rallies held in Madison Square Garden are likely to have far more influence than any kind of meeting which is held at the IISc."

Over the years, the institute has been looking to expand its reach and expertise, including by partnerships with as many as 22 international universities. It currently has around 50 international students but very few foreign faculty, something it is trying to address. The institute's present director Prof Anurag Kumar also outlined the initiatives towards scaling up infrastructure and connecting more effectively with alumni.

Sure enough, at home, the IISc has a finger in every pie when it comes to projects of national importance. And putting this in perspective were the ISRO chief A S Kiran Kumar, the first project head of the Light Combat Aircraft Kota Harinarayana, atomic scientist Baldev Raj and the DRDO's Naval Systems head V Bhujanga Rao — all homegrown scientists and the institute's alumni who went into detail about its contributions to many strategic sectors.

"The institute should project itself more. There is no science and technology-based project in this country without the participation of IISc," said Prof. G Padmanaban, who succeeded CNR Rao as director in 1994. But he also dwelt on the huge potential for translating research into solutions for key problems like infectious diseases, for example, which is one of the key reasons for India's low human development index ranking.

Agrees Prof Roddam Narasimha, recalling some stalwarts of the institute such as V M Ghatage, an Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd engineer who was lent to IISc to head its aeronautical engineering department in the mid-1940s and who returned to the aircraft maker as its chief designer. "The connections between science at the institute and the industry were actually very close. They have been for some time but I have the feeling they are quite not as close now as they used to be at one time," he said.