

Newspaper Clips

July 9-11, 2016

July 11

Times of India ND 11/07/16 P-01

Boards inflating marks to help IIT aspirants?

Yogita Rao & Vinamrata Borwankar | THN

Mumbai: The average score of a student from the Maharashtra State Board of Education who appeared for JEE (Main) went up by over 5 percentage points from 2014 to 2015. In West Bengal, it went up from 65% in 2013 and 2014 to 73% in 2015.

Similarly, the average board percentage of those from Maharashtra who were among the one lakh shortlisted for JEE (Advanced), went up from 86% to 89% in the same period. In Bengal, the corresponding figure rose from 86-87% to 90%.

These are not isolated cases. A committee that studied Class XII board scores of students who appeared for JEE (Main) and JEE (Advanced) in 2013-2015 shows a rising graph across state and national boards that has begun to worry academics.

Scoring 99-point-something in the Class XII board exam has become routine, raising serious questions about how students are being assessed. Are boards becoming lenient, as suggested by TOI in an earlier article which reported the extra 16 marks given in maths to CBSE students across the country?

► Continued on P 13

Avg scores in nat'l boards up by 2-3%

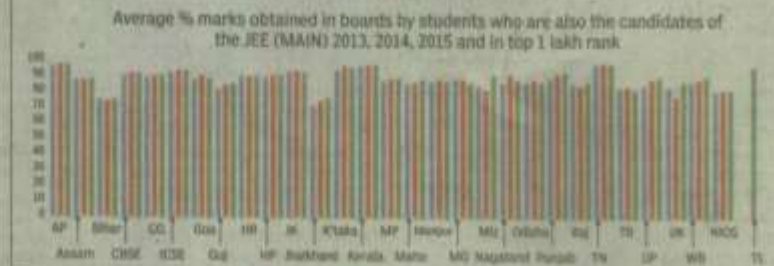
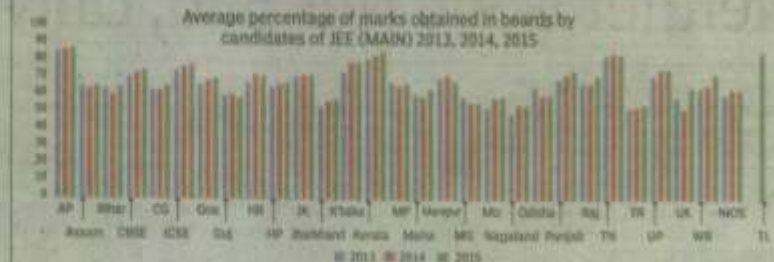
► Continued from P 1

Barring three to four boards in the north-east, all the others have recorded a growth in the average percentage scored by students who were taking the engineering entrance tests. Average scores of students from the national boards such as the CBSE and CISCE also went up by 2-3% in the three years. Maharashtra, Bihar, Rajasthan, Punjab, and West Bengal, are some of the states to have seen a significant jump in the average score.

It is suspected by many that the weightage which IITs, NITs and other centrally-funded technical institutes (CFTIs) give to board scores while calculating all-India ranks of students in JEE (Main) is responsible for class XII exam assessment getting more liberal.

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

A BOOST FROM THE CLASS XII BOARDS



Amar Ujala 11/07/16 P-07

छह चरणों में भरेंगी 34,781 सीटें

अमर उजाला ब्यूरो

कानपुर। आईआईटी, आईएसएम धनबाद, एनआईटी, ट्रिपल आईटी और जीएफटी की 34,781 सीटें अब छह चरणों की काउंसलिंग से भरी जाएंगी। इसका विस्तृत शेड्यूल ज्वॉइंट सीट एलोकेशन अथॉरिटी (जेओएसए) ने रविवार को जारी कर दिया। काउंसलिंग और एडमिशन प्रक्रिया 20 जुलाई तक पूरी की जाएगी। आमतौर पर तीन काउंसलिंग से सीटें भरी जाती थीं। इस बार सीट खाली रहने का रिस्क एलोकेशन अथॉरिटी नहीं लेना चाहता है।

जेओएसए ने तीसरे चरण की काउंसलिंग के रिजल्ट रविवार को घोषित कर दिए। इसके मुताबिक

आईआईटी, आईएसएम धनबाद, एनआईटी, ट्रिपल आईटी और जीएफटी की तीसरे चरण का सीट अलाटमेंट जारी

20 तक प्रक्रिया पूरी होगी

आईआईटी कानपुर की सभी 827 सीटों के विकल्प लॉक हो गए हैं। सोमवार से स्टूडेंट रिपोर्ट करेंगे और 13 जुलाई तक प्रोविजनल एडमिशन लेंगे। इसके बाद एडमिशन का अंतिम अलाटमेंट लेटर जारी किया जाएगा। आईआईटी कानपुर के केमिकल इंजीनियरिंग में एडमिशन की ओपनिंग रैंक 1671 और क्लोजिंग रैंक 2505 रही है।

बैचलर ऑफ साइंस (बीएस) फिजिक्स की ओपनिंग रैंक 619 और क्लोजिंग रैंक 2815 है। केमिस्ट्री की क्लोजिंग रैंक 5757 तक गई है। हालांकि बीएस केमिस्ट्री की ओपनिंग रैंक भी 4814 रही है। जेईई चेरमैन प्रो. कृष्णकांत ने बताया कि आईआईटी बीएचयू और आईएसएम धनबाद के साथ ही सात पुरानी आईआईटी (कानपुर, दिल्ली, मुंबई, रुड़की, गुवाहाटी, खड़गपुर, चेन्नई) की सीटें भर गई हैं। कुछ नई आईआईटी की सीटें बची हैं।

वेबसाइट: सीट अलाटमेंट और काउंसलिंग से संबंधित जानकारी वेबसाइट www.josaa.nic.in पर उपलब्ध है।

Times Of India ND 11/07/2016 P-07

Rlys gives fresh push to new Yamuna bridge

Will Replace Lohe Ka Pul; IIT-Delhi Roped In

Anvita Srivastava
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New Delhi: In 1997, the construction of a new Yamuna bridge, parallel to the existing Lohe Ka Pul, was sanctioned to replace the 150-year-old iron bridge connecting the Old Delhi station to the Shahdara railway station on the Delhi-Howrah route.

However, the project ran into several hurdles and the construction was held up for

nearly two decades. There's a fresh impetus to the project now — the railways has awarded a contract to IIT-Delhi to provide technical expertise in the matter. The new deadline to complete the bridge is September 2018.

Officials said the construction was initially delayed as the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) refused to grant permission to allow the tracks to pass through the protected area of Salimgarh

Fort.

Niraj Sharma, chief public relation officer, Northern Railways, said the rocky terrain posed an additional problem. "We bypassed the fort premises by curving the alignment of the track," Sharma said.

The railway sanctioned Rs 38.52 crore in 1997-98 for the bridge's construction. In 1999-2000, the detailed estimate for the civil engineering work was pegged at Rs 61.4 crore. The tendering process for the work on the sub-structure started in 2002. While the new bridge, officials said, would come up parallel to the existing one, it wouldn't have vehicle carriage-way.

A railways official said: "A section of the bridge was to pass through the Salimgarh Fort premises. At a meeting called by the then minister for tourism and culture in 2004, it was agreed that ASI would transfer 1,000sqm of land in Salimgarh Fort for the purpose."

The ASI, however, refused to allow the tracks to pass through the protected area. Work was also held due to the rocky strata. The high risks involved meant that hardly any agency came forward to assist in the project.

Railway officials have now had consultations with IIT experts and the tendering process will start afresh as per their suggestions.

CONNECTING THE DOTS



> Proposed length of the bridge is 870 meters

> Unlike the existing bridge, the new one will only be built for trains and constructed parallel to the existing one

> The bridge will connect Delhi station to Shahdara railway station

> The fresh deadline to complete the bridge is September 2018

इंजीनियरिंग में प्रवेश परीक्षा की तैयारी उड़ान योजना में 13 जुलाई तक आवेदन करें छात्राएं

**योजना का उद्देश्य छात्राओं के
घटते अनुपात को रोकना**

भास्कर न्यूज | नई दिल्ली

केन्द्रीय माध्यमिक शिक्षा बोर्ड
(सीबीएसई) ने ग्यारहवीं व बारहवीं



की छात्राओं
के लिए उड़ान
योजना के तहत
रजिस्ट्रेशन

शुरू कर दिए

हैं। आवेदन की अंतिम तारीख 13 जुलाई है। योजना के तहत आर्थिक रूप से कमजोर छात्राओं को साइंस व मैथमेटिक्स की बेस्ट प्रैक्टिस कराकर सशक्त बनाया जाएगा। दो साल पहले मानव संसाधन एवं विकास मंत्रालय के सौजन्य से बोर्ड ने यह शुरुआत की है।

योजना का मकसद इंजीनियरिंग कॉलेजों में छात्राओं के घटते अनुपात को रोकना है। बोर्ड की इस योजना के तहत प्रतिवर्ष एक हजार

छात्राओं की मदद की जा रही है। योजना के तहत 50 फीसदी सीटें एससी-एसटी व बैकवर्ड कैटेगरी की छात्राओं के लिए हैं। छात्राओं का चयन मेरिट के आधार पर होगा। छात्राओं को आईआईटी, जेईई परीक्षा की तैयारियों के लिए ट्यूटोरियल, लेक्चर्स व स्टडी मटेरियल ऑनलाइन उपलब्ध होगा। योजना के तहत छात्राओं को फ्री टैबलेट दिया जाता है। इसमें ग्यारहवीं व बारहवीं के पीसीएम स्ट्रीम की छात्राएं ही आवेदन कर सकती हैं। आवेदन करने वाली छात्राओं का दसवीं में कम से कम 70 पसेंट व ग्यारहवीं में पीसीएम में 75 फीसद अंक होना अनिवार्य है। छात्राओं के पास 8 सीजीपीए व साइंस और मैथ्स में 9 सीजीपीए होना जरूरी है। बारहवीं की छात्राओं के लिए ग्यारहवीं के पीसीएम में 75 फीसद होना जरूरी है। योजना का लाभ पाने के लिए छात्राओं को सीबीएसई की वेबसाइट पर ऑनलाइन आवेदन करना होगा।

STORY IN NUMBERS

The higher education challenge before Prakash Javadekar



UNIVERSITIES IN INDIA 757

Privately managed	267
Central universities	43
Open universities	1
Institutes of national importance	69
State open universities	13
State public universities	316
Institutes under states legislature Acts	5
Deemed government universities	37
Others	6

ENROLMENT IN HIGHER EDUCATION IN INDIA



TOTAL PRIVATE AND GOVERNMENT COLLEGES IN INDIA 29,506

Top seven states

Maharashtra	4,564
Uttar Pradesh	3,737
Karnataka	3,075
Tamil Nadu	2,470
Gujarat	1,905
Madhya Pradesh	1,850
Andhra Pradesh	1,588

The new Union HRD minister Prakash Javadekar cannot be unaware of his empire – or the challenges facing him. India's Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education is 23.6 per cent, one of the lowest in the world. If India is to meet its target – 30 per cent GER by 2020 – about 40 million students need to be enrolled in the higher education system in 2020. On the face of it, the current number of universities in India just does not have the capacity to cope with the demand. There is also a gender imbalance in higher education that has to be corrected. Added to that are issues of

quality, uniformity and standardisation. The central government has limited power over institutions that are run by private bodies, state governments or are minority institutions. But while their autonomy must be respected, Javadekar will have to see that they comply with educational standards. On top of all this, there is the contentious issue of the Foreign Education Providers Bill, 2015, that Javadekar's own party opposed vehemently before 2014. It will fall to the new HRD minister to create a consensus on this legislation. He is likely to have his hands full.

Data source: All India Survey on Higher Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development, 2014-15. Compiled by Aditi Pradixit

Minister's to-do list

Prakash Javadekar must ensure ideology does not take precedence over reform



SARAH FAROOQUI

OVER THE last two years, education in India was often in the limelight for the wrong reasons. Whether it was the debates around the HRD minister's educational qualifications, the suicide of Rohith Verma and subsequent events at Hyderabad University, the fracas at JNU and absolute disregard for student agitation, the sacking of two university vice chancellors, and evoking saffronisation, education across the country found itself appropriated by one absurdist controversy after another.

Instead of using her assertive personality to bring tangible shifts in a sector that could change India's growth trajectory, Nitish Kati was often seen oscillating between social media spats, or on the defensive or the offensive over one banal controversy or the other. Her personality often precluded her department's policies, and its detrimental consequences were heard resonating across university campuses including the IITs and IIMs.

Prakash Javadekar's appointment as the new HRD minister is at the midpoint of the Modi government's term. His tasks include cleaning up the previous minister's pending items and finding his own moorings in this ministry. He will need to work at three levels which include policy, politics and ideology. At the policy level, there are defined outcomes expected of the minister, the most significant, according to reports, being resolving the logjam between the PMO and the HRD ministry over the autonomy of the proposed universities under the "world-class universities" project should have. The second would be to finalise the National Education Policy, which was to be released by Modi prior to the shuffle. The third would be to complete the establishment of the National Academic Depository, to maintain national-level databases of all academic qualifications. Other pending items include establishment of a Vedic Education Board for ved pathshalas and gurukuls, initiating a review of the school curriculum along with drafting a language policy.

So far the most significant HRD ministry decisions have been with respect to higher education. Attention to some of the micro-issues with respect to school education within and outside of the mandates of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan is necessary. As the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) has found, even after the annual government spending per child increased, learning outcomes did not improve. There needs to be more focus with respect to teacher training, infrastructure development and improving syllabus across schools. Reading levels across schools remain low, and math levels have declined in almost every state.

Teacher shortage in government schools — there are over seven lakh vacancies — also needs urgent attention of the minister.

A government that has built a reputation for being "anti-intellectual", will find it in its own interests to consider the opinions and criticisms from academics and intellectuals across the ideological spectrum, especially in designing new policy initiatives and curriculum.

At the political level, the new minister will need to manage and work with state governments where policy implementation will have to provide politics. The minister's office should take precedence over his personal ideology and political affiliations. Kati's lack of tact in handling controversies clouded her significant achievements, such as the completion of the Swachh Vidyalaya target, of having over four lakh toilets in government schools. Managing criticism without resorting to petteiness, working in collaboration with the state governments, and allocating work across bureaucratic verticals are aspects of the job.

Most significantly, the new minister needs to ensure that ideology does not percolate and hijack the reformist agenda. Poor policies can be redesigned or rolled back. Ideological indoctrination, however, can have grave consequences. Tampering with academic syllabus, distorting historical facts, deleting historical figures who don't align with contemporary political agendas, and an unreasonable promotion of tradition over scientific reasoning are reducing education to a single perspective and a farce. The purpose of education is to open minds and new vistas; not to force

students to live in an imagined golden past or within the wastelands of the known.

Escalating majoritarianism, the uncontestable goal of saffronisation, dilutes democracy and promotes bigotry. The new education minister must steer clear of this path and try to reassure detractors that this government is serious about its growth and development agenda outside the ambit of ideological authoritarianism.

Tradition and liberal values no doubt are important, but the primary purpose of a modern education is to boost intellectual, social and economic growth and spur innovation and employment. In the long run, a country cemented on false ideals of nationalistic pride and ideology will become like Pakistan, which is fast disintegrating because of the influence its indoctrinated madrassas and agenda-driven and state-approved curriculum wields on education. A modern and holistic education cannot be framed if it is confined to local or even national culture or a single set of disciplines. It will need to encompass aspects of scientific reasoning, liberal values, analysis and progressive ideologies.

The new minister has asserted that his priority is to "raise the quality of education and ensure that it encouraged innovation". This is an encouraging sign. One hopes the rhetoric is matched by protracted action. It will require him to balance policy design and implementation, political management and ideological pigeonholes.

The writer, 26, is a Bangalore-based public policy analyst



ONE OF
800
MILLION
A VOICE UNDER 35

July 10**Deccan Herald ND 10/07/2016****P-06****Technological advances****DRDO, IITs sign deal to develop aero engines**

MUMBAI: The Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) on Saturday signed a memorandum of agreement (MoA) with Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT) Bombay and Madras to establish a bi-nodal Centre of Propulsion Technology (CoPT) at the two institutions that would work in areas of futuristic aero engines and hypersonic propulsion.

The CoPT will evolve mechanisms to facilitate execution of programs related to propulsion technology and will engage the primary Research Nodes (IIT Bombay and IIT Madras) and other research institutions/centres to undertake advanced



collaborative research also in the areas of critical defence technologies.

"It will facilitate and undertake multidisciplinary directed research in the focused areas of futuristic aero engines, hypersonic propulsion for long duration flights, solid propellant combustion modeling

and morphing aircraft technologies," a Defence Ministry press statement said.

In this connection, CoPT shall enable agreements/MoAs between the primary nodes and the other participating institutes covering programme definition, work package and fund share, techno-managerial and related responsibilities for the execution of the

projects. Each project will be well thought-out and discussed in great detail with the relevant user lab of DRDO for utility towards development of the identified product.

The establishment of CoPT will further strengthen the DRDO's relationship with IITs and other academic research institutions.

DH News Service

Financial Express ND**10/07/2016****P-11****DRDO inks pact with IITs for Centre for Propulsion Technology**

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) on Saturday signed an agreement with IIT-Bombay and Madras to establish a bi-nodal 'Centre of Propulsion Technology' (CoPT) at the two institutions. The initiative is aimed at achieving synergy between DRDO and Indian Institutes of Technology for channelising the research efforts towards developing products and related critical aerospace technologies, a Defence release said. The Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) was signed among DG DRDO S Christopher, IIT Bombay Director Prof Devang Khakhar and IIT Madras Director Prof B Ramamurthi in Mumbai on Saturday afternoon.

IIT, IIM to Help Ease Judiciary Bottlenecks

By KANU SARDA

New Delhi: To understand the bottlenecks affecting speedy conclusion of criminal trials in India, the Law Ministry has decided to engage leading institutes to study court management systems.

Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Law Universities are among the 14 institutes that have been roped to study the problems and suggest measures to tackle the huge pendency of cases. They will suggest new performance indicators for different parts judiciary and modernising of the country's legal education system.

IIT Kharagpur has been asked to study the designing of the legal education system for evolving a better and efficient justice delivery system. While the judicial systems in Charkhand has been sanctioned a project to study major bottlenecks in procedural laws, IIT

INSTITUTES AND TASKS

NALSAR, Hyderabad: Will study on court management system for improving efficiency of courts.

Judicial Academy Bhubnair: Will research on major bottlenecks in procedural laws affecting speedy conclusions of criminal trials.

IIT Kharagpur: Will analyse procedural changes for reducing civil case pendency.

IIT Kharagpur: Designing the country's legal education system will be part of their study.

IIM Calcutta: To study court process and re-engineering opportunities for improving the justice delivery system.

National Law School Bangalore: Will research on how to make clinical legal education relevant.

Law Centre: Will be studying performance indicators, the modernisation courts and procedural changes for reducing civil case pendency.

The NALSAR law centre, IIT in Hyderabad has been asked to study court management bottlenecks for improving the efficiency of judicial case reports. The university will also conduct a study to create evidence based proposals for reforms in legal education system.

The National University of Juridical Sciences in Kolkata will be studying the alternative dispute resolution (ADR) mechanism and legal aid in settlement of disputes.

The government has proposed to institute ADR mechanism such as mediation, conciliation, arbitration and Lok Adalats as an effective means of settling disputes. National Law University Odisha will do an analysis of performance appraised mechanisms and scheme of promotion for trial court judges.

Leaner and thinner

Revamp Of UGC Is Imperative

parthasarathi chakraborty

Educational institutions are national assets of the highest value at any place or at any time. They are laboratories which produce the future citizens of a state. The quality of the state therefore depends upon the quality of such laboratories.

— Maulana Abul Kalam Azad

THE new education policy of the Union HRD ministry, as formulated by a committee headed by former Cabinet Secretary TSR Subramaniam has expressed concern over the quality of education in colleges and universities. Its standards are woefully uneven and needs thorough prognosis, reform or detoxification. The purported regulatory authority of higher education, the University Grants Commission, set up about six decades ago is now facing considerable flak over its functioning and credibility. The Subramaniam committee has also emphasised the need to abrogate the UGC Act set up in 1956. The committee's report states: "The UGC could be revamped, made considerably leaner and thinner and could be the nodal point for administration of the proposed National Higher Education Policy Programme".

It is obvious that the findings are an expression of no-confidence in the regulatory authority of higher education. The UGC has failed to discharge its primary role in terms of monitoring standards of higher education; its credibility has been seriously dented by approvals given to a large number of sub-standard colleges and deemed universities.

The University Grants Commission was established after independence to foster the academic activities of central universities. However in the long run, it brought the state universities within its ambit to improve their academic record. The regulatory role of UGC and its performance in the expansion of higher education, administrative capability, and allocation of resources has incurred criticism since the mid-1980s.

The abysmal performance of UGC in conducting NET for recruitment of teachers, the colossal wastage of funds for universities and Academic Staff Colleges without evaluation, recognition of institutions with little or no infrastructure, hurriedly recognising the credentials of so-called Centres for Advanced Studies are at the root of the malaise.

Concerned over the safety and security of campuses, the UGC proposes to establish police stations for prompt handling of crisis and to prevent unisward incidents. It has issued guidelines to all the affiliated universities under its umbrella. The guidelines envisage amendments in ordinances and other statutory provisions of the universities to ensure effective implementation of the directive. The proposal is concordant with the 'Warn Me' model developed by California University. It is reportedly working successfully.

India's higher education policy, which has thoughtlessly emulated the Western system, is not in accord with the needs and aspirations of the society. It fails to address the larger objectives, including the development of teaching and research. The Western 'Warn Me' model, the setting up of a police station on the campus, could aggravate the crisis instead of instilling a sense of security among students. Eventually this could jeopardise the academic activities of the university. Even in

America, violence continues unabated. Campus policing will not suit the Indian system. Moreover the police are not sufficiently trained to discharge this function. Incisive research by the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPRD) is required before the proposal is implemented.

The controversy over undergraduate courses at Delhi University, the stricture by the UGC, followed by student movements reaffirms the malaise in higher education. After protracted wrangling, DU acceded to the UGC directive and the controversy over the four-year undergraduate programme was resolved. The UGC extended its directive to many other universities, including Ambedkar University, Delhi, with strong centralized control. Whether or not UGC's diktat is a gross violation of the autonomy of the university is of course a separate issue. But the UGC's notification to the Indian Institute of Science and IITs seeking a clarification of some courses and degrees offered, bewildering

grasp of most people. The effective and meaningful implementation of public policy particularly on education must be handled with sensitivity; it calls for efficient management skills, profound professional acumen and vision. It must not be tackled by politicians for their narrow benefits, ignoring the country's interests. The issue of introduction of new undergraduate courses needs to be thoroughly discussed with teachers, students and academics. The quality of education is more important than its quantitative pattern. The goal of excellence cannot be achieved simply by revising the curricular, extending the duration of the course, opening new centres or inducting foreign faculties with lucrative salaries. A strong and determined administrative machinery and excellent teachers, completely free from politics are absolutely essential. Derraino, the lodestar of the Bengal Renaissance, once told his students: "Expanding like the petals of young flowers, I watch the gentle opening of your eyes."

We need such caring teachers. We have enough students with the propensity to learn but few qualified teachers to teach them. Academics with profound knowledge in their respective fields but with little or no management skills, have chaired administrative posts with disastrous consequences. President Pranab Mukherjee has often expressed concern over the quality of higher education.

The need for drastic reform in higher education is urgently imperative in order to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the colleges and universities. The focus must be on organizational behaviour, systematic changes and implementation of the proposed changes. Efficient professional management is also imperative in all educational institutions, including universities and research organizations. One prerequisite is academic competence; the other is administrative ability. The two are complementary. Managerial experts can act as catalytic agents in the task of improving teaching and research. The role of administrative officers is as important as that of capable teachers. Quality teaching and efficient management form a challenging task. Just as a university requires exceptional administrators, the same is true for its regulatory authority — the University Grants Commission.

The ambience of higher education in West Bengal has been vitiated for more than three decades. Some of the universities are not seats of learning and research. Those established over the last few years neither have the infrastructure nor qualified teachers to function efficiently. There has been no qualitative improvement in higher education despite a substantial salary hike, the expansion of faculties, and the setting up of laboratories. For the past three decades, faculty appointment even at Calcutta University were remote controlled by Almasaddin Street. This has affected both higher education and research. From Lecturers to VCs, the intervention of the CPWM was palpable. The centralized over-regulatory attitude of the overarching authority needs immediate detoxification. Its reform is dindly imperative before the new education policy is formulated; otherwise the University Grants Commission might suffer the fate of the Planning Commission.

The author is a former Reader in Chemistry, Presidency College, Kolkata



The centralized over-regulatory attitude of the overarching authority needs immediate detoxification. Its reform is direly imperative before the new education policy is formulated; otherwise the University Grants Commission might suffer the fate of the Planning Commission

ed academics throughout the country, as these institutions have enjoyed considerable independence for decades. Even the notification to complete the Ph.D. degree within a stipulated time (preferably two years) is as amazing as it is frivolous, irresponsible too. All the IITs, IIMs and IISc are eminently competent to take decisions on matters academic, including pedagogy, duration of courses and research. Innovations in pedagogy should be encouraged and all centres of excellence should be liberated from the stranglehold of the bureaucracy. Surprisingly, the IITs are not within UGC's jurisdiction and are governed by a separate Act of Parliament; yet they have been asked to abide by the UGC's norms. Its notifications to these institutions for restructuring of courses and curriculum have intensified the controversy and generated doubts about the UGC's competence. This sort of interference in the functioning of centres of excellence should be stopped immediately.

Managing higher education may be envisaged as a supreme management challenge, beyond the

HRD mantri's real job is not fire-fighting, it's education

RIGHT & WRONG



SWAPAN DASGUPTA

It is a measure of the frivolity that has gripped the commentariat that the only discussions on last week's ministerial reshuffle were centred on Smriti Irani's shift from the HRD ministry to the sedate ministry of textiles. No doubt Irani may have contributed to the trivialisation with her characteristic forthrightness and her needless battles with detractors on social media. In the process, however, the country experienced an unfortunate shift of the national discourse away from education — a subject that, along with economic growth, must be high in the list of national priorities.

Even the controversies that marked her two-year stint in Shastri Bhavan had, alas, very little to do with the real issues. The student agitations at the Central University in Hyderabad and Jawaharlal Nehru University were all about campus politics and not remotely connected with scholarly pursuits. On top of her refusal to be browbeaten by voluble slogan-shouters, Irani riled the academic community — a difficult body at the best of times — with her no-nonsense style. Irani, an accomplished communicator whose parliamentary interventions on matters connected to her large ministry were exemplary, loathed being patronised by the academic community and responded with a show of exaggerated abrasiveness that complicated matters. Her legion of detractors may gloat over her apparent 'demotion' but her political career is far from over. A focused individual, she is certain to bounce back.

Many of the irritants that Irani faced in the HRD ministry may not be faced by her successor, Prakash Javadekar. The ever-smiling and affable Javadekar has a knack for negotiating his way out of sticky situations. In combining diligence and pragmatism, he was successful in extricating the ministry of environment from the controversies that marred the tenure of his predecessors. As his initial response to queries about student belligerence suggested, Javadekar has a way of projecting himself as a model of reasonableness. The anti-Narendra Modi brigade on the campuses may find that the new minister is more artful in negotiating contrived controversies.

Yet, coping with the HRD ministry is not merely about fire-fighting. Indian education, as the recently released National Policy on Education Report 2016 (NPER) has convincingly argued, is in a state of "disarray". Having coped with the pressing issue of battling illiteracy and providing access to education, India's education system is faced with the more challenging issues of poor standards, teacher indifference, pedagogic shortcomings and dysfunctional monitoring institutions.

Endorsing a survey by Pratham for 2014, the NPER noted with alarm that nearly half the Class V students were unable to reach the reading and arithmetic levels

stipulated for Class II. The shoddy standards in this government-dominated sector also persist (with exceptions) in higher education. In a sharply worded indictment the NPER commented that "anyone having dealings with the education system has generally lost faith in its credibility... (Those) who can afford to turn their backs on government schools and colleges reach out to private schools or emigrate abroad for study." Nor does the private sector constitute islands of uniform excellence. Here, too, degree shops and money-grabbing enterprises rub shoulders with institutions trying to make the best of a grim situation.

The NPER report may not be perfect — academic administrators have already begun rubbishing it on the ground it was drafted by a committee of retired babus. Yet, it does alert us to the magnitude of the problem and sets out a programme of modest reforms that, if left unattended, has the potential of transforming In-



HOTSEAT: The challenges before Javadekar are daunting

dia's demographic dividend into a horrible nightmare.

Javadekar has his work cut out for him. In the environment ministry, he moved away from the doctrinaire and occasionally vindictive approach of his predecessors. Now he has to cut himself loose from the culture of overbearing, bureaucratic controls and initiate steps to make education less prone to political interference, more flexible, and create purposeful and professional self-regulating institutions. Most important, he has to have the large-heartedness to permit genuine centres of excellence to be entirely self-governing.

The challenges before Javadekar are daunting. Not only will he have to persuade state governments that there is more to politics than the transfers and postings of government teachers, he will have to scrap moribund institutions such as the University Grants Commission, give a more purposeful role to the private (and corporate) sector and be more receptive to foreign participation in higher education. For Javadekar and, indeed, for Prime Minister Modi these campaigns should be more of a priority than tackling acts of puerile grandstanding on the campuses.

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July 9

Navbhart Times ND 09.07.2016 P-03

यमुना रिवाइटलाइजेशन प्रोजेक्ट 2017

जल बोर्ड के प्लान से साफ होगी यमुना, लेकिन...

कॉस्ट इफेक्टिव न होने पर IIT दिल्ली ने उठाए सवाल

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■ नई दिल्ली: यमुना को बचाने के लिए नेशनल ग्रीन ट्रिब्यूनल (एनजीटी) के 'पैली से निर्गत यमुना रिवाइटलाइजेशन प्रोजेक्ट 2017' के तहत पेरिफेरल सोबर स्ट्रान के रिहाबिलिटेशन में दिल्ली जल बोर्ड (डीजेबी) ने जो 285 करोड़ से ज्यादा का अनुमानित खर्च बताया है, उस पर आईआईटी दिल्ली ने सवाल खड़े किए हैं। आईआईटी के भूतंत्रिक इस काम के लिए तथ्य तथ्य की सैटेस्ट टेक्नोलॉजी मौजूद है जो सस्ते होने के साथ आगे के लिए उदाहरण भी बन सकते हैं। आईआईटी दिल्ली की ओर से यह सुझाव 21 जून को डीडीए के खास चैरमैन की अध्यक्षता में हुई गई मीटिंग में दिया गया। एनजीटी के निर्देश पर पेरिफेरल सोबर स्ट्रान के रिहाबिलिटेशन से जुड़ी डिटेल्ड प्रोजेक्ट रिपोर्ट (डीपीआर) पर खर्च के लिए मीटिंग हुई थी। इसमें डीडीए, डीजेबी और आईआईटी दिल्ली के सदस्य शामिल हुए। डीजेबी ने इस काम के लिए अर्बन डिवेलपमेंट फंड (यूटीएफ) के तहत 285 करोड़ का खर्च बताया है। इस पर मिनिस्ट्री ऑफ अर्बन डिवेलपमेंट (एमओयूडी) के सेक्रेटरी ने इस प्रोजेक्ट से जुड़ी टेक्नॉलजी और कॉस्ट इफेक्टिवनेस के मुद्दे को सुलझाने के लिए कहा। मीटिंग के दौरान डीडीए ने आईआईटी, दिल्ली से पूछा कि क्या रिहाबिलिटेशन



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करोड़ का
अनुमानित खर्च



90
दिनों में IIT को
लेना है फैसला

'सीआईपीपी टेक्नॉलजी बेहतर'

दिल्ली जल बोर्ड ने हालांकि इस टेक्नॉलजी को सपोर्ट किया और कहा कि साइट कंडीशन और इलाकों के स्तर के आधार पर सीआईपीपी टेक्नॉलजी ही सबसे बेहतर नजर आई। इससे सीकर लाइनों की क्वालिटी बढ़ जाती है, सीमलैस होने के बावजूद लीकेज नहीं होती, सीकर पाइप को मजबूत बनाए रखती है। इसलिए मांगी होने के बावजूद अफेर्डेबल है और कम खर्चाट पैदा करती है।

डीजेबी ने यह भी कहा कि उसने विभिन्न तकनीकों को लेकर कॉस्ट बेनेफिट एनालिसिस किया था जिसमें पाया गया कि अन्य तकनीकों का इस्तेमाल कर नई सीकर लाइने

बिना ज्यादा खर्च नहीं होगा, क्योंकि तमाम इलाके की आबादी खले हैं और उससे लोगों को काफी दिक्कतों का सामना करना पड़ सकता है।

डीजेबी ने यह भी कहा कि सीआईपीपी टेक्नॉलजी का इस्तेमाल चेन्नै, आहमदाबाद, कलकत्ता, मुंबई, भिवानी जैसे शहरों में इसका सफलतापूर्वक इस्तेमाल हो रहा है। डीडीए के वरिष्ठ कुरा शर्मा ने बताया कि एमओयूडी ने इसके लिए एक अडवाइजरी कमेटी बनाई है, जिसमें आईआईटी दिल्ली को डीडीए से जुड़े प्रोजेक्ट पर विचार कर 90 दिनों में फैसला लेने के लिए कहा गया है।

प्रोजेक्ट के लिए दिल्ली जल बोर्ड ने किस टेक्नॉलजी का इस्तेमाल किया है, यह सोबर स्ट्रान के रिहाबिलिटेशन के लिए इस्तेमाल होने लायक है? इस पर प्रेफेसर केएन झा ने कहा कि डीजेबी ने जो सल्यूशन चुना है, वह बहुत मांगी है

और उसके मुकाबले तमाम तरह के सैटेस्ट विधायक मौजूद हैं। प्रेफेसर ने कहा कि सीआईपीपी (क्योंकि इन फ्लो पाइप) मांगी टेक्नॉलजी है।



Rajasthan Patrika ND 09.07.2016 P-05

आईआईटी-एनआईटी में नहीं रहेगी सीट खाली

कोटा इस बार आईआईटी-एनआईटी में एक भी सीट खाली नहीं रहेगी। इसके लिए ज्वाइंट सीट एलोकेशन अर्थात् (जेसा) छह बार (रउंड) काउंसलिंग करेगा। पहले रउंड की काउंसलिंग के बाद अभी 10,006 सीटें खाली बची हैं। सबसे ज्यादा 82 सीटें आईआईटी खड़गपुर में खाली हैं। परीक्षा परिणाम घोषित करने के बाद जोसा ने 23 आईआईटी के 235 प्रोग्राम की लगभग 10575 सीटों, 32 एनआईटी के 202 प्रोग्राम की 18013 व 20 ट्रिपल आईटी के 56 प्रोग्राम की 2406 सीटों, 18 जीएफटीआई के 76 प्रोग्राम की 3787 सीटों के लिए 24 जून से

ज्वाइंट काउंसलिंग शुरू की थी। पांच जुलाई तक चली पहले रउंड की काउंसलिंग के बाद इन संस्थानों में 10,006 सीटें ही खाली बचीं। इन सीटों को भरे के लिए जोसा ने छह रउंड में काउंसलिंग करने का फैसला लिया है, ताकि पिछले सालों की तरह सीट खाली न रहे। पिछले साल आईआईटी की सीटें भरे के लिए तीन रउंड में काउंसलिंग की गई थी। जबकि एनआईटी के लिए चार रउंड में एडमिशन लिए गए थे। इसके बावजूद आईआईटी में 324 सीटें और एनआईटी में 5,550 सीटें खाली रह गई थीं। जोसा इस साल छात्रों को एडमिशन के सबसे ज्यादा मौके देने जा रहा है।

Dainik Bhaskar ND 09.07.2016 P-09

आर्टिफिशियल इंटेलिजेंस में रिसर्च के लिए साथ काम करेंगे आईआईटी और एक्सचेंजर

आर्टिफिशियल इंटेलिजेंस के अलग-अलग क्षेत्रों में रिसर्च के लिए एक्सचेंजर ने आईआईटी, बॉम्बे और आईआईटी, पटना से टाईअप किया है। यह रिसर्च आईटी सर्विसेस और सोशल गुड के क्षेत्रों में फोकस करेगी। इस रिसर्च का उद्देश्य आर्टिफिशियल इंटेलिजेंस के क्षेत्र में प्रोडक्टिविटी बढ़ाना है। इस प्रोग्राम के तहत नैचुरल लैंग्वेज प्रोसेसिंग, मशीन लर्निंग, वचुअल एजेंट, न्यूरल नेटवर्क में रिसर्च की जाएगी। रिसर्च में नैचुरल लैंग्वेज प्रोसेसिंग को प्रमुखता दी जानी है। सोशल गुड के क्षेत्र में ग्रामीण इलाकों पर फोकस किया जाएगा, ताकि ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में लैंग्वेज इंटरफेस को बेहतर बनाया जा सके।

IIT pitches in for Namami Gange

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kanpur/IIT-pitches-in-for-Namami-Gange/articleshow/53126500.cms>

Kanpur: As part of its endeavour to achieve 'aviral aur nirmal' (continuous and clean) flow of Ganga under the Namami Gange project, IIT-Kanpur has started technical survey in five villages close to the river.

The team is working on three aspects during the survey - do villagers use toilets, where is the solid waste discharged and what is the arrangement for sanitation and water supply.

The team also found out the number of domestic animals and the arrangement for their drinking water.

Prof Vinod Tare of IIT-K, who is closely associated with the Namami Gange project, said 13 prominent educational institutions have adopted 65 villages situated on the banks of Ganga. These institutions include NIT Uttarakhand, IIT-Roorkee, Aligarh Muslim University, NIT Allahabad, IIT-BHU, ISM-Dhanbad and IIT-Kharagpur.

"These 65 villages are situated on the river bank between Alaknanda to Gangasagar. Ganga travels through seven states and covers a distance of 2,500 kms before flowing into Bay of Bengal," said Prof Tare who has been working on Ganga for the past two decades.

Abhishek Gaur, senior project associate at IIT-K and part of the team, said the survey is almost complete in Ramel Nagar, Khayora Katri, Pratappur Hari, Hindupur and Ludhawakhera villages situated close to Ganga.

Tare said preparations are on to construct a new ghat at the barrage. He said soon the work of renovation of the city ghats will begin.

In Bithoor, beautification of the ghats would be done by Kanpur Development Authority (KDA).

Dainik Bhaskar ND 09.07.2016 P-09

पहले ही प्रयास में आईआईटी पहुंचा 15 साल का सुनील

मजदूर हैं माता-पिता
मन्नेज कुमार पुरोहित | जोधपुर

बिलाड़ा के पास छोटे से गांव कलाऊना के सुनील ने महज 15 वर्ष 11 माह की उम्र में आईआईटी में दाखिला पा लिया है। सुनील ने यह उपलब्धि पहले ही प्रयास में हासिल की है। इसके पिता प्रकाश चंद्र ने कहा कि सुनील डेढ़ साल की उम्र में ही स्कूल जाने लगा था। उसने 13 वर्ष में 10वीं कक्षा 85 प्रतिशत व 15 की उम्र में 12वीं कक्षा 88 प्रतिशत अंकों से उत्तीर्ण की।

सुनील का जन्म 20 जुलाई 2000 को हुआ था। वह आगामी 20 जुलाई को 16 साल पूरे करेगा। उसके पिता प्रकाश और मांगी देवी यूँ तो मजदूर हैं, लेकिन पूत के पांव उन्हें पालने में ही दिख गए। प्रकाश बताते हैं कि सुनील शुरू से ही पढ़ाई में होशियार था। हर बार क्लास में प्रथम आता था तो उन्हें लगने लगा कि उसे आगे तक पढ़ाना है।

हर माह बचत करना शुरू कर दिया। ग्यारहवीं में पढ़ने के लिए जोधपुर भेजा। इसके बाद एक वर्ष कोटा में आईआईटी की तैयारी कराई। इस बार आईआईटी एडवांस में ओबीसी में 1039वीं व सामान्य वर्ग में 5804वीं रैंक हासिल की। उसे 3 जुलाई को काउंसिलिंग के बाद कानपुर आईआईटी में प्रवेश मिल गया है। वह सिविल में बीटेक करेगा, लेकिन उसका सपना आईएएस बनना है।

