

Newspaper Clips
June 10, 2014

Financial Express ND 10/06/2014 P-07

Pawan Goenka named IIT-Madras Board chairman

Industrialist Pawan Goenka has been named chairman of the Board of governors at the IIT-M for a term of three years. An alumnus of IIT-Kanpur, he is the executive director and president, Automotive and Farm Equipment Sectors, Mahindra and Mahindra. The appointment was made by President Pranab Mukherjee with effect from June 9,

Statesman ND, 10.06.2014, P-5

Govt plans IITs, IIMs in every state

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, 9 June

Outlining the education policy of the Narendra Modi government, President Pranab Mukherjee today said the government will set up IITs and IIMs in every state of the country, and will also formulate a national education policy to meet the challenges posed by lack of quality, research and innovation in Indian educational institutions.

"We will set up IITs and IIMs in every state. In order to empower school teachers and students, a national e-library will be established," Mr Mukherjee said in his address to the joint session of Parliament.

"It (government) will formulate a National Education Policy aimed at meeting the challenges posed by lack of quality, research and innovation in our educational institutions," he added.

At present, there are 16 IITs, one each in Bhubaneswar, Mumbai, Mandi (Himachal Pradesh), Delhi, Indore, Kharagpur, Jodhpur, Kanpur, Madras, Gandhinagar, Patna, Roorkee, Ropar (Punjab), (Banaras Hindu University) Varanasi, Hyderabad, and Guwahati.

Thirteen Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) are located in Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Calcutta, Lucknow, Indore, Kozhikode (Kerala), Shillong, Rohtak (Haryana), Raipur (Chhattisgarh), Ranchi, Tiruchirappalli (Tamil Nadu), Kashi (Uttarakhand) and Udaipur.

The President said that the government will also set up massive open online courses and virtual classrooms.

Calling India the world's oldest civilisation and the country with the largest youth population, Mr Mukherjee said: "We must equip and nurture our youth with the right kind of education, skill-set and opportunity to reap this demographic div-

'With the goal of Skilled India, my government will also launch a National Multi-skill Mission'

idend. My government will strive to transition from youth development to youth-led development."

The President also said that the government will strive to break the barriers between formal education and skill development, and put in place a mechanism to give academic equivalence to vocational qualifications.

"With the goal of Skilled India, my government will also launch a National Multi-skill Mission," he said.

President Mukherjee said the government will spread modern and technical education among minority communities and launch a madrasa modernisation programme.

"It is unfortunate that even after several decades of independence, sections of minority communities continue to suffer from poverty as benefits of government schemes do not reach them," he said, adding that the government is committed to making all minorities equal partners in India's progress.

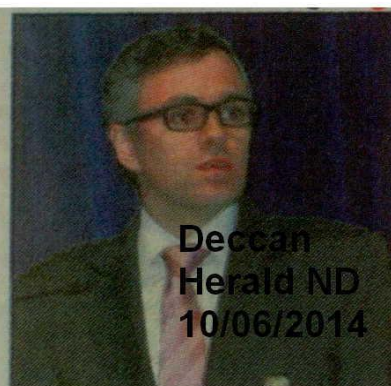
On the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes and the weaker sections, he said the government "will take steps to create an enabling eco-system of equal opportunity in education, health and livelihood" for them.

Mr Mukherjee said the government would build "world class research centres in the fields of nanotechnology, material sciences, thorium technology, brain research, stem cells."

"The government will also establish institutes of Technology for Rural Development and a Central University of Himalayan Studies," he added.

Deccan Herald ND

10/06/2014 P-06



Deccan Herald ND
10/06/2014

Omar Abdullah

IIT, IIM in every state a terrible idea: Omar

SRINAGAR, DHNS: Reacting to President Pranab Mukherjee's statement that the government would set up IITs and IIMs in every state, Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday said the decision would dilute the institutions of repute.

Terming the decision a terrible idea, he wrote on Twitter, "IITs and IIMs in every state is a terrible idea and will dilute these institutions." Earlier, Mukherjee in his speech to the joint session of Parliament, said, "We will set up IITs and IIMs in every state. In order to empower school teachers and students, a national e-library will be established." Omar said there was a need to improve the quality of education in the existing institutions. "There was a need to make existing IITs and IIMs world class. How about just making the existing ones truly world class," he tweeted.

MINT ND 10/06/2014 P-6

EYE ON YOUTH

Govt eyes IITs and IIMs in every state

BY PRASHANT K. NANDA
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NEW DELHI

India's youth power will be harnessed by improving education, giving skill and mapping skills to jobs, a move that could improve the economy and enhance country's competitiveness as a knowledge society.

The government will "set up IITs (Indian Institutes of Technology) and IIMs (Indian Institute of Management) in every state," President Pranab Mukherjee told the joint session of Parliament on Monday.

Nearly 65% of India's over 1.2 billion population is below the age of 35. "My government will strive to transition from youth development to youth-led development," said Mukherjee. "It will formulate a national education policy aimed at meeting the challenges posed by lack of quality, research and innovation in our educational institutions."

Like Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who spoke about making skill development a priority area on Sunday, Mukherjee said the new government has a "goal of skilled India". Lack of skills has been a challenge for industries trying to hire job-ready workers.

"With the motto of *har haath*

ko hunar (skill in every hand), my government will strive to break the barriers between formal education and skill development, and put in place a mechanism to give academic equivalence to vocational qualifications," Mukherjee said. "We must equip and nurture our youth with the right kind of education, skill-set and opportunity to reap this demographic dividend."

To match skills to jobs, an unmet need for years, the President said the new government would "transform employment exchanges into career centres—connecting our youth with job opportunities in a transparent and effective manner through the use of technology as well as through counselling and training".

Though experts welcomed the focus on skills, they were sceptical about increasing the number of IITs and IIMs. Though there is a huge shortage of quality institutions in the country and several studies have indicated that a majority of management and technology graduates are not employable, increasing the number of IITs and IIMs is set to attract a backlash from experts and the IIT and IIM community.

India has 16 IITs and 13 IIMs, of which eight IITs and six IIMs

IITs, IIMs to be set up in every state

NEW DELHI: The NDA government will set up Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) in every state.

It will also formulate a national education policy to meet challenges posed by lack of quality research and innovation in educational institutions, President Pranab Mukherjee said, while unveiling the agenda of the new government in his address to the joint session of Parliament here on Monday. "India is the world's oldest civilisation. Today, it is also a country with the largest population of youth. We must equip and nurture our youth with the right kind of education, skill-set and opportunity to reap this demographic dividend," Mukherjee said.

The President said the government was committed to making "all minorities" equal partners in India's progress. To achieve this, it will strengthen measures to impart "modern and technical" education among them. A National

Madrassa Modernisation Programme will be rolled out for Muslim students. "It is unfortunate that even after several decades of independence, sections of minority communities continue to suffer from poverty, as benefits of government schemes do not reach them. My government is committed to making all minorities equal partners in India's progress," Mukherjee said.

The President underlined that the government will strive for a transition from "youth development to youth-led development", announcing that it will set up Massive Open Online Courses and virtual classrooms for students. A national e-library will be established to empower school teachers and students.

"With the motto of 'har haath ko hunar', my government will strive to break the barriers between formal education and skill development, and put in place a mechanism to provide academic equivalence to vocational qualifications," he said, adding that the government will launch a Na-

tional Multi-skill Mission with the goal of "skilled India".

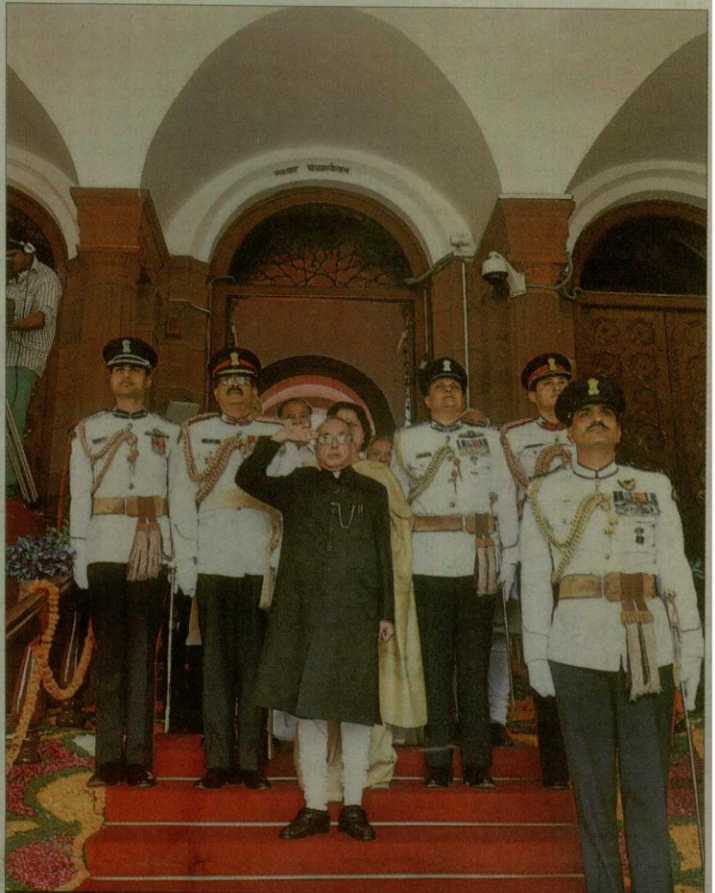
The President also announced that world-class research centres would be built in various fields of science, including nanotechnology, material sciences, thorium technology, brain research and stem cells, underlining that his government recognises the central role of science and technology in raising the quality of life.

The government will also establish institutes of technology for rural development and a central university of Himalayan studies. "The government will encourage and incentivise private sector investments, both domestic and foreign, in science and technology and in high-end research aimed at nurturing innovation," he added.

Mukherjee also said a national mission on "e-Bhasha" will be launched to develop digital vernacular content and disseminate the country's classic literature in different languages, noting that Indian languages are repositories of our rich literature, history, culture, art and other achievements. "My government will also provide the required resources for the maintenance and restoration of national heritage sites," he pointed out.

The President noted that India had a "vast untapped potential" for tourism, which could play a special role in our socio-economic progress, and announced that the government will initiate a mission mode project to create 50 tourist circuits to be built around "specific themes".

DH News Service



GUIDING SPIRIT: President Pranab Mukherjee taking salute from his guards before his ceremonial procession to address the joint session of Parliament in New Delhi on Monday. PTI

Prez subtly criticises previous regime

Prime Minister Narendra Modi might have been extremely critical of the UPA regime during the Lok Sabha election, but President Pranab Mukherjee on Monday was subtle in his criticism of the previous government.

Mukherjee, on more than a couple of occasions, obliquely expressed his unhappiness about the UPA-II government mishandling the economy, the Centre encroaching on states' jurisdiction, and the abuse of discretionary powers in allocation of natural resources.

Hindustan Times, ND 10/06/2014 P-12

NDA-LED GOVT TO SET UP IITs, IIMs IN ALL STATES

NEW DELHI: The President, in his address on Monday, said that the government will come up with an education policy to meet the challenges in the sector.

He added that Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) will come up in every state, in addition to setting up the country's first electronic library.

This is not the first time a government is focusing on setting up branches of its premier institutions — the IITs and IIMs.

The UPA-1 had decided that each state will have either an IIT or an IIM.

Currently the country has 16 IITs and 13 IIMs.

The NDA government would focus on "youth-led development" from "youth development" to harness the demographic dividend as India has the largest population of the youth in the world. "We must equip and nurture our youth with the right kind of education, skill-set and opportunity to reap this demographic dividend," the

address said.

However, the news was not greeted enthusiastically by all.

"Opening more IITs/IIMs would result in loss of the brand name. The focus should be on giving more money to existing IIMs and IITs to improve quality so that they are in the top 100 technical institutions in the world," said a director of an IIT, on the condition of anonymity.

A motto — Har Haath Ko Hunar — would be the driving force for integrating formal education with skill development.

Every state to have an IIT, IIM

Akshaya Mukul | TNN

New Delhi: IITs and IIMs, which existed as islands of excellence, will now be opened in every state. The expansion that began during UPA-1 will be taken forward as the NDA government has fast-tracked its poll promise by including it in the President's address.

HRD minister Smriti Irani has already listed infrastructure requirements for new IITs and other institutions as an agenda item for her meeting with state secretaries of higher and technical education on June 17.

Massive spending on technical education can be expected in the next and subsequent budgets of the government. Setting up an IIT on an aver-



A LEAP FOR EDUCATION

age costs Rs 1,750 crore and an IIM and central university need Rs 1,000 crore each. This excludes cost of land that state governments have to acquire and hand over to the Centre free. There will be further cost escalation by the time projects get underway. It remains to be seen if the first budget will provide for new

IITs/IIMs in one go or take up a few states each year.

With 16 IITs already in place, the next few years will see them coming up in states like J&K, Haryana, Seemandhra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Chhattisgarh and north-eastern states. It remains to be seen if there will be IIT in each north-eastern state or

these states are clubbed together. Experience of central universities in north-east has shown that attracting faculty and students is an uphill task. The 16 IITs in operation are in Mumbai, Delhi, Kanpur, Kharagpur, Chennai, Guwahati, Roorkee, Hyderabad, Patna, Bhubaneswar, Ropar, Jodhpur, Gandhinagar, Indore, Mandi and Varanasi.

New IIMs will come up in J&K, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Maharashtra, Seemandhra, Telangana, Delhi, Odisha and north-eastern states other than Meghalaya. There are 13 IIMs now in Ahmedabad, Kolkata, Bangalore, Lucknow, Indore, Kozhikode, Shillong, Rohtak, Raipur, Ranchi, Tiruchirappalli, Kashipur and Udaipur.

The Pioneer ND 10/06/2014 P-5

IITs & IIMs in every State; skill development on cards

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Government will set up IITs and IIMs in every State of the country, President Pranab Mukherjee said outlining the Modi's Government's agenda.

He outlined programmes for nurturing the youths of the country. With the motto of "Har Haath Ko Hunar", the Government will strive to break the barriers between formal education and skill development, and put in place a mechanism to give academic equivalence to vocational qualifications. "With the goal of Skilled India, my Government will also launch a National Multi-skill Mission", he said.

The Government will also strive to bridge the gap between formal education and skill development. It will establish

virtual classrooms and formulate a national education policy, said the President.

A National Education Policy will be formulated for meeting the challenges due to lack of quality, research and innovation in the educational institutions. In order to empower school teachers and students, a national e-library will be established.

The children and youth of the country need means of recreation that develop them constructively and keep them fit. The Government will launch a 'National Sports Talent Search System', to facilitate development and promotion of Indian sports, particularly rural sports. Sports will be popularised by making it an integral part of the school curriculum and providing educational incentives, said the President.

IIT, IIM in each state: Faculty, costs challenges

ANUBHUTI VISHNOI

NEW DELHI, JUNE 9

WITH the NDA government having announced an IIT and IIM in each state, it has not just taken a step towards fulfilling its poll promise, it has also effected a major reversal of UPA II's policy issue.

Having learnt its lessons with the setting up of eight IITs at one go in 2009, besides 14 new Central Universities and six new IIMs, the UPA II government rigidly resisted any proposal to set up more new institutions. The Planning Commission had categorically rejected the idea and was on the same page with the Finance Ministry on the issue. And with good reason.

Setting up a single IIT costs a good Rs 1,750 crore. If the new government's promise of an IIT and IIM in each state is taken as it is, four states — Sikkim, J&K, Andhra Pradesh and Goa — will be eligible to get both institutes, seven states will get an IIM each — Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Maharashtra, Telangana, Orissa and Delhi. An IIT will have to be set up in Haryana, Kerala, Jharkhand, Karnataka and Kerala. It is still not clear if the government aims at setting up a new IIT and IIM in all the Northeast states as well.

Setting up a new IIM

could also cost anywhere near Rs 1,000 crore. That apart, just maintaining the existing IITs will cost Rs 9,000 crore in the next five years.

While ensuring funding for setting up these institutes is one issue, another is ensuring required faculty to run them.

Consider this: across the existing IITs, 38 per cent faculty posts are vacant. As per the HRD Ministry's submission to Parliament in February, against 6,591 existing faculty positions across the 15 IITs, only 4,079 faculty positions are filled.

Of the new IITs that came up in 2009 in Patna, Mandi, Jodhpur, Bhubaneswar, Ropar, Hyderabad, Indore and Gandhinagar, only IIT Mandi has its own campus while the rest are still using temporary campuses.

J&K CM Omar Abdullah — whose state could both an IIT and IIM — called the announcement a 'terrible idea'. "IITs & IIMs in every state is a terrible idea and will dilute these institutions. How about just making existing ones truly world class," he tweeted.

An eminent educationist said: "This whole idea of just setting up more new IITs is misplaced when issues of land acquisition, setting up of campuses, location and faculty are yet to be sorted out for the IITs set up five years ago."

Punjab Kesari ND, 10.06.2014, P-3

हर राज्य में आईआईटी, आईआईएम खुलेंगे खेलों को भी पाठ्यक्रम का हिस्सा बनाया जाएगा

नई दिल्ली, (वार्ता): मोदी सरकार ने उच्च शिक्षा को मजबूत करने के लिए देश के हर राज्य में भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (आईआईटी) और भारतीय प्रबंधन

हिमालय अध्ययन विश्वविद्यालय खोलने की भी घोषणा की। उन्होंने अपने अभिभाषण में कहा कि मेरी सरकार केवल युवा विकास की संकल्पना की बजाय युवा संचालित

विकास व्यवस्था तैयार करेगी। इसके साथ ही व्यापक स्तर पर आनलाइन पाठ्यक्रम शुरू करेगी और वर्चुअल कक्षाएं भी तैयार करेगी। राष्ट्रपति ने यह भी कहा कि हमारी शिक्षण संस्थाओं में

मेरी सरकार हुनरमंद भारत के लक्ष्य से राष्ट्रीय बहु कौशल मिशन भी शुरू करेगी। उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि मेरी सरकार राष्ट्रीय खेल प्रतिभा खोज कार्यक्रम की शुरुआत करेगी तथा खेलों को स्कूली पाठ्यक्रम का अनिवार्य अंग बनाकर तथा शैक्षिक प्रोत्साहन प्रदान करके खेलों को लोकप्रिय बनाया जाएगा। उन्होंने कहा कि मेरी सरकार बेटी बचाओ-बेटी पढ़ाओ की प्रतिबद्धता के लिए बालिका को बचाने और उनकी शिक्षा के लिए व्यापक जन अभियान भी शुरू करेगी।

2022 तक हर परिवार को पक्का घर : राष्ट्रपति

राष्ट्रपति प्रणव मुखर्जी ने संसद की संयुक्त बैठक में दिए अपने भाषण में आज कहा कि आजादी के 75 साल पूरे होने पर यानी 2022 तक देश के प्रत्येक परिवार का अपना पक्का मकान होगा। उन्होंने कहा कि जब देश अपनी स्वतंत्रता के 75 वर्ष पूरे करेगा तब प्रत्येक परिवार का अपना पक्का घर होगा जिसमें पानी

का कनेक्शन, शौचालय सुविधाएं और चौबीसों घंटे विद्युत आपूर्ति तथा आवागमन की सुविधाएं होंगी।” अभिभाषण में कहा गया, हम ऐसी अपमानजनक स्थिति को सहन नहीं



करेंगे जिसमें घरों में शौचालय नहीं हों और सार्वजनिक स्थान गंदगी से भरे हों। देश भर में स्वास्थ्यकर परिस्थितियां, कचरा प्रबंधन और स्वच्छता सुनिश्चित करने के लिए “स्वच्छ भारत मिशन” चलाया जाएगा। “ऐसा करना महात्मा गांधी को उनकी 150वीं जयंती पर हमारी श्रद्धांजलि होगी जो वर्ष 2019 में मनाई जाएगी।”



संस्थान (आईआईएम) खोलने के अलावा खेलों को पाठ्यक्रम में शामिल करने का फैसला किया है तथा हर हाथ को हुनर सिखाने का नारा दिया है। इसके साथ ही वह बेटी बचाओ, बेटी पढ़ाओ का अभियान शुरू करेगी। राष्ट्रपति प्रणव मुखर्जी ने राष्ट्रीय शिक्षा नीति बनाने तथा राष्ट्रीय बहु, कौशल मिशन स्थापित करने एवं केन्द्रीय

गुणवत्ता, अनुसंधान और नवीन प्रक्रिया में कमियों से उत्पन्न कठियाइयों को दूर करने के लिए सरकार एक राष्ट्रीय शिक्षा नीति बनायेगी। हम प्रत्येक राज्य में आईआईटी और आईआईएम भी खोलेंगे। स्कूली अध्यापकों तथा छात्रों को सशक्त बनाने के लिए राष्ट्रीय ई लाइब्रेरी स्थापित की जाएगी। उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि

Dainik Jagran ND 10/06/2014 P-13

हर राज्य में बनेंगे आइआईटी और आइआईएम

जागरण ब्यूरो, नई दिल्ली

पूर्ण बहुमत देकर सत्ता में लाने वाले युवाओं का कर्ज चुकाने की कोशिश मोदी सरकार ने शुरू कर दी है। सरकार ने राष्ट्रपति के अभिभाषण के जरिये इसकी तरफ इशारा भी कर दिया है। अभिभाषण में कहा गया है कि सरकार राष्ट्रीय शिक्षा नीति बनाएगी और सभी राज्यों में आइआईटी और आइआईएम स्थापित करेगी। बेरोजगारों को हुनरमंद बनाकर रोजगार देने के लिए नेशनल मल्टी स्किल मिशन शुरू किया जाएगा। देश को आगे बढ़ाने में युवाओं की सहभागिता का नजरिया सोमवार को राष्ट्रपति के अभिभाषण में साफ नजर आया। राष्ट्रपति ने कहा कि सरकार युवा संचालित विकास

- हुनरमंद एवं डिग्रीधारकों के बीच का अंतर खत्म करेगी सरकार
- राष्ट्रीय शिक्षा नीति बनेगी, नेशनल मल्टी स्किल मिशन शुरू होगा

व्यवस्था प्रदान करेगी। इसके लिए बड़े पैमाने पर आनलाइन पाठ्यक्रम शुरू किए जाएंगे। शिक्षण संस्थाओं में शोध एवं अनुसंधान की कमियां दूर करने और गुणवत्ता बढ़ाने के लिए राष्ट्रीय शिक्षा नीति बनाई जाएगी। हर राज्य में आइआईटी और आइआईएम स्थापित होंगे। राष्ट्रीय ई-लाइब्रेरी स्थापित की जाएगी। सरकार को मालूम है कि बेरोजगारी देश की सबसे बड़ी समस्या है। कुछ राज्य सरकारों ने तो रोजगार देने के बजाय बेरोजगारी भत्ता देना

शुरू कर दिया है, लेकिन मोदी सरकार बेरोजगारी से निबटने के स्थायी इंतजाम करना चाहती है। राष्ट्रपति ने कहा कि सरकार हर हाथ को हुनर देने के उद्देश्य पर काम करेगी। औपचारिक शिक्षा और कौशल विकास के बीच की बाधाएं दूर की जाएंगी और एक ऐसी व्यवस्था बनायी जाएगी जिसमें व्यावसायिक योग्यता को डिग्री होल्डर के समान ही दर्जा मिले। यानी इससे शिक्षित और हुनरमंद के बीच का फासला खत्म होगा। हुनरमंद भारत के

लक्ष्य को पाने के लिए नेशनल मल्टी स्किल मिशन शुरू किया जाएगा। हर स्तर पर प्रगति के लिए स्कूलों को चरणबद्ध तरीके से ई-सक्षम बनाया जाएगा। विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी को बढ़ावा देने के लिए उच्च अनुसंधानों में निजी निवेश को बढ़ावा दिया जाएगा। सरकार नैनो टेक्नोलॉजी, मटीरियल साइंस, थोरियम टेक्नोलॉजी, ब्रेन रिसर्च, स्टेम सेल आदि के क्षेत्र में विश्व स्तर के अनुसंधान केंद्र स्थापित करेगी। इसके अलावा प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान और हिमालयी अध्ययन के लिए केन्द्रीय विश्वविद्यालय भी स्थापित किये जाएंगे। सरकार परंपरा कौशल, प्रतिभा पर्यटन, व्यापार और प्रौद्योगिकी से जुड़ी ताकत के बल फिर से ब्रांड इंडिया को कायम करेगी।

Times of India ND 10/06/2014 P-18

Letter To Smriti Irani

Five steps to take India's education system from mediocre to world class

Anu Aga, Ashish Dhawan and Amit Chandra

Dear HRD minister, Congratulations on BJP's victory in the general elections. We now eagerly await the measures that your government will take to drive socio-economic prosperity for the country. As the government prepares for such measures, it is important to note that for any growth model to be successful we need an educated and skilled population. That's why PM Narendra Modi placed skills at the head of his "skill, scale and speed" formula to transform India.

As you assume your newly assigned responsibilities, we take this opportunity to share our perspective on five big reforms that could transform India's education system from a mediocre to a world-class system.

First, our education system currently suffers from an apparent 'Licence Raj' that restricts entry and operation of private players. Even policies such as RTE neglect that private schools are a large part of the education ecosystem (already 40% of school students and 60% of college students are enrolled in private institutions). These norms have led to the shutdown of a large number of affordable private schools that serve low-income students. The government must deregulate school education and treat government and private schools as equal partners in solving India's education crisis.

Second, it is important not only to invest more in education

but to do so more strategically. Central government should invest more resources in teacher education and development, principal training, ICT in education and assessments. It is also critical for the ministry of human resource development to rework its results framework document (RFD) to include student learning outcomes. Furthermore, a portion of the budget allocation to states should be contingent upon the adoption of progressive education policies and improvement of outcomes. There is an opportunity to create version 2.0 of the central education budget that shifts focus from inputs and outlays to outcomes and impact,

The government must deregulate school education and treat government and private schools as equal partners in solving India's education crisis

while holding states accountable.

Third, improve quality standards through nationwide assessments. Assessments need to be at the core of any planning exercise for improving India's education system. The government should introduce statewide learning assessments that are undertaken at regular periods during a child's school journey, which can also contribute to remediation and improvement in teaching. Additionally, a school rating system should be instituted to set targets for school level improvements. The National



The future of 240 million children is at stake

Achievement Survey (NAS) should be revamped such that it becomes a barometer for student learning and the de facto benchmark for state performance.

Modi's government in Gujarat has already taken a lead in this regard with the Gunotsav programme, an accountability framework for quality of primary education that includes learning outcomes of children as well as co-scholastic activities, optimal use of financial resources and community participation. This model can be replicated in other states.

Fourth, equip school principals to become efficient school leaders. Great leaders make great institutions, in every sphere. In schools principals are the highest point of leverage, yet their role is often restricted to administrative functions. There is a need to reimagine the role of the principal – as an instruc-

tional leader, rather than an administrator. Moreover, we need to institute stricter guidelines for recruitment of school leaders that prioritise merit over seniority. Gujarat has again taken the lead by establishing the headmaster eligibility test for selection of its principals. The government should set up centres for school leadership in every state and mandate induction as well as ongoing training for all principals.

Fifth, improve teacher quality for better learning outcomes. It is unfortunate that teaching today does not attract the best talent. We need public awareness campaigns in India that are able to effectively project teaching as a rewarding and meaningful profession. Centres of excellence need to be created for teacher education in prestigious universities across India. Our Teacher Education Institutes (TEI) ca-

capacity is extremely fragmented with over 11 lakh seats in 14,000 TEIs. Most of this capacity is of poor quality that has been created through non-transparent, poorly formulated TEI recognition procedures. Government should build and scale high-quality institutes at top 10 central universities and strengthen SCERTs and DIETs.

We believe that every child in India deserves excellent education. We also believe that given the vastness and diversity of our country we can only succeed with thorough experimentation and analysis, rather than a mere adoption of predefined rules. Our country needs bold reforms and focused implementation with clear targets for learning outcomes to achieve this goal.

Our emerging market peers – China, Brazil and Poland, among others – have made education reform a priority as they recognise it as the surest path to sustained economic development. In the run-up to elections we circulated a letter signed by leading citizens – Cyrus Mistry, Kumar Birla, Anand Mahindra, Gurcharan Das and 30 others – that highlighted the need for prioritising education in the policy agenda and suggested reforms. The future of 240 million children is at stake, and as concerned citizens we urge your attention to these bold steps that can truly improve their lives.

Thank you.

Anu Aga is a Rajya Sabha MP and Chairperson, Thermax; Ashish Dhawan is Founder of Ashoka University; Amit Chandra is Board Member of Akanksha Foundation.

Times of India, ND 10/06/2014 P-22

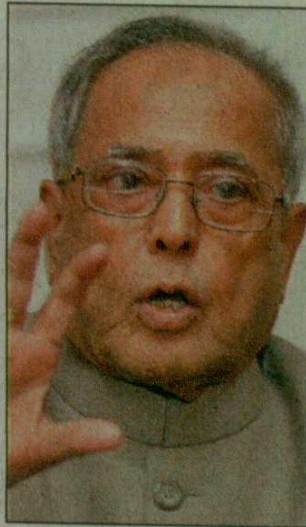
Govt starts mega job creation journey

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The government plans to transform the moribund Employment Exchanges into Career Centres that will not just help the youth scout for jobs but also offer counseling and training services and step up the skill development drive as it embarks on a massive job-generating journey.

While creating jobs has emerged as the central focus of the government's growth drive, the Narendra Modi administration has also recognized the gaps in the current system that it is trying to fix in order to ensure that the 10 million youth joining the workforce do not get disillusioned in the absence of work.

"For rapid creation of jobs in the manufacturing sector, the government will strategically promote labour-intensive manufacturing. Employment opportunities will also be expanded by promoting tourism and agro-based industries," president Pranab Mukherjee, said while addressing the joint sitting of Parliament.



The government plans to transform the Employment Exchanges into Career Centres to help the youth scout for jobs and offer counseling and training services, says president Pranab Mukherjee. The initiative to turn Employment Exchanges to Career Centres is seen as an admission that the current model is not helping the youth find jobs

The statement came with the assurance of a better deal for workers by strengthening the pension and health insurance safety nets, besides providing access to modern financial services. Although the details were unavailable, the UPA government had planned to offer a minimum pension of Rs 1,000 to workers but failed to implement the promise. Similarly, the Swalambhan initiative, where the government chipped in with a part of the pension contribution, failed to enthruse workers to join the National Pension System.

While these initiatives are expected to be strength-

ened, work on new areas is set to commence. The initiative to turn Employment Exchanges to Career Centres is seen as an admission that the current model is not helping the youth find jobs even as the government spends crores of rupees in running the facilities across the country.

The government plans to bridge the gap between formal education and skill development, and put in place a mechanism to give academic equivalence to vocational qualifications. "With the goal of Skilled India, my government will also launch a National Multi-skill Mission," the president said.

Hindustan Times (Delhi)

MORE AIIMS-LIKE INSTITUTES TO COME UP

NEW DELHI: Addressing the joint session of Parliament on Monday, President Pranab Mukherjee's 14th agenda on the list was improved healthcare system in the country.

The most conspicuous was the announcement on establishing All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS)-like institutes in every Indian State.

“To address the shortfall of healthcare professionals, health education and training will be transformed. AIIMS-like institutes will be established in every state in a phased manner,” said the President.

At the moment doctor-patient ratio in India is 1:1800, whereas WHO has stipulated a minimum of 1:1100.

Experts in the field of healthcare welcomed the idea, but said it needed planned execution.

“We do need tertiary care and quality healthcare in public sector; if AIIMS-like institutes can be the answer, then let it be. However, we must not forget that an AIIMSlike institute doesn't happen overnight,” said Dr MC Misra, director, AIIMS, New Delhi.

Alternative medicine experts feel what is required of the government is to implement existing schemes well.

“We don't lack schemes—be it national rural health mission, school health programme or mobile health scheme, homoeopathy has a mention everywhere. What is lacking is implementation, and the focus of the present government should be on executing these schemes,” said Dr Ramjee Singh, president of the Central Council of Homoeopathy

10 Jun 2014, Hindustan Times (Jaipur)

RESEARCH SOLVES PLANT SEX MYSTERY

LONDON: In a breakthrough, a team of biologists has solved a mystery surrounding how plants have sex. The researchers from the University of Leicester have discovered a pair of proteins made by flowering plants that are vital for the production of the sperm present within each pollen grain. Scientists knew that flowering plants require but two sperm cells for successful fertilisation. The new study from the Twell Laboratory at the University of Leicester, published in the journal *The Plant Cell*, has found a pair of genes called DAZ1 and DAZ2 that are essential for making twin sperm cells. PTI

University rankings: not that simple

Posted by **Editor** on June 9th, 2014

<http://euroscientist.com/2014/06/university-rankings-simple/>

Dear Editor,

I was fascinated to read Janna Degener's [interesting piece](#) on university rankings.

Rankings are an endlessly interesting subject. It is important to understand why they exist. At a superficial level, they are designed to sell copies of magazines that publish them, or advertising in these publications, or are a commercial undertaking in some other way. More fundamentally, they owe their existence to competition and market forces. World rankings illustrate this point. At the turn of the 21st century, there were about two million students studying outside their home country. Now there are nearly five million. This means that there is a large community of people who know that they want to study internationally, but who lack information on how to go about it.

However, even this is not the whole story. We see from the growth of national university rankings in the late 20th century that they take off when there is competition between universities for the top students. This is why national rankings are less important in continental Europe, where higher education is free or cheap, than in the UK or the US, where it is expensive and where student fees are important to university cash flow.

It is obviously correct to say that a single set of figures comparing two universities does not mean a lot. Rankings need to be read with care. And because it is easy to measure research on a world scale, but impossible to measure teaching in the same way, rankings can fail to capture the things that matter most to students. However, rankings get better and more useful all the time. My own organisation, QS, now ranks universities in Latin America, Asia and the BRICS nations as well as globally. More importantly, we now publish a world ranking of university performance in 30 subjects, from history to chemical engineering. This innovation vastly grows the value of rankings for potential students.

And while rankings have grown vastly in their use to students, it is worth noting that their unintended consequences have been even greater than the intentional ones. They are used to by governments, many of which set a target for the number of ranked universities they hope to have; by university managers wanting to drive strategy; and by employers looking for top recruits.

These and other uses of rankings will continue to multiply, as will rankings themselves, and we look forward to future debate on the matter. The growing demographic crisis in many countries, with young people becoming rarer and more sought-after by employers and educators alike, means that there is a growing incentive for them to take well-informed decisions about their future. Rankings are one device they can use to help do so.

- See more at: <http://euroscientist.com/2014/06/university-rankings-simple/#sthash.hoxkk7gg.dpuf>

IIT-Gn, SAC of ISRO sign MoU for research collaboration

IIT-Gn students will undertake research internships at SAC on joint research projects of common interest to IIT-Gn and SAC

http://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/iit-gn-sac-of-isro-sign-mou-for-research-collaboration-114060900846_1.html

The Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar (IIT-Gn) is teaming up with Space Applications Centre (SAC) of Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) for research collaboration in the areas of electronics, signal and image processing, electro-optical systems modeling.

In this regard, IIT-Gn and SAC signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) at the latter's campus to promote active collaboration between the two institutes. Under the MoU, IIT-Gn students will undertake research internships at SAC on joint research projects of common interest to IIT-Gn and SAC. In turn, IIT-Gn will host scientists from SAC who wish to engage in teaching and research, and those interested in pursuing a higher degree. Moreover, as a part of signing the MoU, a delegation of IIT-Gn faculty members visited various facilities at SAC and interacted with their scientists.

Signing the MoU, IIT-Gn director Sudhir Jain and SAC director AS Kiran Kumar, emphasised that the collaboration will allow both the institutes to explore opportunities and result in significant research output in areas of electronics, signal and image processing, among others.

“This is a partnership between two prestigious national institutes, SAC with the IIT-Gn, which is a host to highly energetic and motivated young students. This partnership will be thus mutually beneficial considering that both institutes are involved with development of complex state of the art technologies,” said Jain.

Jain added that the exposure of young minds during internships to interesting projects and state-of-the-art facilities early on will motivate them to take up even bigger challenges in the field of aerospace research. Some of the IIT-Gn students who already working as interns at SAC presented their project highlights in the meeting.

The students are working on projects such as electronics, control system for navigation and modeling under various senior scientists. Sensor Development Area Deputy director Saji A Kuriakose stressed upon the development of a miniature airborne platform, which will find significant use in local remote sensing.

Apart from SAC, IIT-Gn has ongoing MoUs with several companies, such as [Underwriters Laboratories](#) (UL), The [Ricoh Company](#) Ltd and [Nielsen LLC](#). The institute recently held a one-day Industry Partnership Retreat aimed at developing a road map for engaging with industry in an effective and sustainable manner.

Rs 920 cr radio dishes project underway at IIT Indore

— By Atul Gautam , June 09, 2014 12:50 am



Banking on DST for funds

The institute had provided a seed grant of Rs 50 million for setting up a Radio Astronomy Laboratory and the first radio dish. For its radio arrays project, the institute require huge amount of funds for which it is counting on Department of Science of Technology. The director’s report says further progress (of the project) depends entirely on the provision of funding by the DST.

Indore: With a single-dish radio telescope constructed and installed by the Indian Institute of Technology Indore on its PACL campus last year drawing encouraging results, the institute has undertaken a larger project of setting up an array of radio dishes. The project cost will be Rs 920 crore.

If all goes to plan, this perhaps will be the biggest project in terms of money by any IIT in the country. “A project, with the aim of building a large high-frequency array of radio dishes at IIT Indore, is currently underway. The cost of the project has been estimated at Rs 920 million,” revealed IIT Indore director Pradeep Mathur in its report released during convocation ceremony on June 5.

Former President and noted scientist APJ Abdul Kalam — who was chief guest of the convocation ceremony — during his visit to the institute, had hailed the radio telescope project. Four faculty members of the IIT Indore, Dr Siddharth Savyasachi, Dr M M Anbarasu, IA Palani and Pankaj R Sagdeo are working on the project.

Last year this team with with the help of undergraduate students had designed and constructed a single-dish Alt-Az motion radio telescope which is capable of 90 degrees motion in altitude and 100 degree motion in azimuth. Except for the aluminum dish, the entire structure was constructed at the IIT Indore workshop.

The radio telescope was inaugurated by then Union minister Shashi Tharoor in September, 2013. The director’s report says that the team is in the process of acquiring a PLL at 10 GHz in order to operate receiver system at 10 GHz continually. “A separate and simple receiver chain with no down conversion has also been assembled by the team which recently detected neutral hydrogen in the galaxy as a first step towards calibrating the telescope.”

Now a second dish is being constructed at the IIT Indore.

This new dish is part of the dish array project. The basic advantage that the radio arrays have over single dishes is that they provide a way to probe very small angular scales on the sky.