

## **Newspaper Clips**

### **June 13, 2014**

Jun 13 2014 : The Times of India (Delhi)

## **IIT PITCHES IN - Govt looks for safe e-rickshaw design**

Dipak Kumar Dash

New Delhi

TNN

The government will soon come out with a new design for e-rickshaws that would make the vehicle a safe mode of transport for last mile connectivity . Sources said IIT Delhi has submitted a detailed design of the vehicle that includes weight and seating capacity. It will now be considered by a committee that has been constituted by the road transport ministry. The committee includes representatives from the Delhi government and the city traffic police.

“We need to check the vehicle strength and other aspects so that these are safe for passengers. The e-rickshaws presently plying in Delhi are illegal since these have not been categorized as motorized vehicles.

We have informed this to Delhi government and it's up to them to address the problem,“ said a government official.

Meanwhile, on Monday , a group of Delhi's e-rickshaw drivers and former mayor Aarti Mehra met transport minister Nitin Gadkari.

TOI has learnt that the drivers raised the issue of Delhi Traffic Police and transport department officials hauling them up and also challaning them. They have sought some relief from the ministry , which has the authority to notify any category of motorized vehicle. But sources said that bringing them under any category is impossible and the necessary notification has been done in April specifying what all does not come under the category of motorized vehicle.

During UPA-II regime, erickshaw drivers and owners had also pleaded their case before then road transport minister Oscar Fernandes. Following his direction the committee was set up to come out with the new standards for battery operated rickshaws.

HT Mumbai

### NEW IITS WILL DILUTE THE INSTITUTE'S BRAND VALUE

The proposal by the new government to set up IITs in all the states will only lead to a dilution of the standards of the prestigious institutes, which have already lost a lot of their sheen and brand value after UPA increased their number in 2008 from seven to 16 (NDA-led govt to set up IITs and IIMs in all states, June 10). The 'senior' institutes were given the additional responsibility of looking after some new ones, and many of them still don't have adequate facilities. Instead, the other engineering colleges need to be told to raise their level of education to that of the IITs, which is possible.

AS IVER

## New IITs should be set up without diluting the IIT brand: Pawan Goenka

Pawan Goenka, Executive Director and President, Automotive & Farm Equipment Sectors, Mahindra & Mahindra recently has been appointed the Chairman of Board of Governors at the Indian Institute

T E Narasimhan & Kalpana Pathak | Chennai/Mumbai

June 12, 2014 Last Updated at 12:50 IST

[http://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/q-a-with-pawan-goenka-new-iits-should-be-set-up-without-diluting-the-iit-brand-114061200403\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/q-a-with-pawan-goenka-new-iits-should-be-set-up-without-diluting-the-iit-brand-114061200403_1.html)

[Pawan Goenka](#), Executive Director and President, Automotive & Farm Equipment Sectors, Mahindra & Mahindra, was recently appointed the Chairman of Board of Governors at the Indian Institute of Technology Madras. In an interview with T E Narasimhan & Kalpana Pathak, Goenka says he plans to understand how [IIT Madras](#) can up its international ranking and seek a higher level of engagement with industry for industrial research. Excerpts:

### What according to you is the biggest challenge for the IITs today?

I believe the biggest challenge is attracting good faculty members and raising the status of research work within the IIT system and stature of IIT research outside India.

### What do you think can IITs do to improve their research?

Much stronger industry interaction for research is needed, both in terms of funding and working on industry

relevant research. In addition, faculty members need to get better access and opportunity for publishing their work outside India in reputed scientific journals.

**How can the IITs attract more faculties?**

Compensation certainly plays a role. I would think that IIT faculty members are compensated better than other colleges but may still not match industry. At the same time those who choose academics as their career have a greater affinity towards facilities such as doing research, innovating, incubating and consulting. Social status of faculty members is also an important consideration.

**What do you think IITs can do to better their financial position?**

I am not fully aware of the financial status of IITs.

**How can IITs work on improving international rankings?**

I am not sure how much IITs have focused on International rankings. I do not know where our IITs stand in ranking but I do know that the system produces amongst the best of engineers in the world. For international rankings size of the institute, quality and number of research publications and mix of international faculty and students are also amongst the criteria

**The new government is planning to set up more IITs. Is this a good idea?**

India certainly needs more high-standard engineering colleges. At the same time, it is important that any new IIT lives up to its reputation--the faculty, student and teaching standards the IITs are known for. IITs are among the strongest Indian brand globally. As long as more such institutes can be set up without diluting the IIT brand, the Government should consider it. In my view the most challenging task in expanding the IIT system will be to attract quality faculty members in sufficient numbers

**In what ways do you see yourself contributing to the betterment of IITs?**

IITs are supported and managed very well. I do not expect to see any obvious gaps that I can come in and start working on. Having said that I would like to understand what needs to be done to improve the International ranking of [IIT Madras](#). I would also like to see a higher level of engagement with industry for industrial research. I have no doubt that Indian industry need to scale up basic R&D and leverage the expertise available in our educational institutions. Attracting quality faculty members will be another area of focus

**It has been stated that IITs are losing their high standards and acting like any other education institution. Comment.**

I do not know enough yet, to comment on this.

**IIT engineers are more inclined to join financial services than [auto industry](#) or manufacturing. Comment.**

It is unfortunate that the IIT graduates are not choosing a technical career, something that the industry needs to reflect on.

**Compared to other IITs, what are the advantages and challenges for IIT-Madras?**

I think the location is an advantage. I am not aware of challenges but do believe that the campus is running out of usable space for expansion.

**What will your focus area be, especially where R&D is concerned?**

Pulling Indian industry to sponsor research at IIT and recruiting Ph.Ds to carry our more basic R&D work at their locations.

**Considering Chennai is an auto hub and you are the veteran in this industry, will special focus will be to auto industry related R&D and other initiatives?**

Yes, I would certainly like to do so. IIT has developed an IIT Madras Research Park which houses many industries for collaborating with IIT Madras for Research work. This appears to be a very successful initiative.

### **Your vision for IIT-M.**

IITs are pride of India and a source for highly trained engineers for the industry and for the academic world. I would want to see how I can help to make the IIT brand stronger in and outside India and also use the IIT system to make India stronger in Science and Technology.

## **IIT graduate enters race to be Ironman**

[Vineet Gill](#), TNN | Jun 13, 2014, 03.17 AM IST

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/City/Gurgaon/IIT-graduate-enters-race-to-be-Ironman/articleshow/36454718.cms>

GURGAON: The world of endurance sports still responds with reverence to the title of 'ironman.' Those who earn it have completed what's known as the Ironman Triathlon - a trio of challenges that includes long-distance swimming, cycling and running - at any of the designated venues, scattered worldwide. In August this year, this triathlon will be held in Kalmar, Sweden and among those vying for the Ironman status there would be the 25-year-old Gurgaon resident, Saurabh Aggarwal.

He registered for the event last year in August and since then, has followed a rigorous training regime. To minimize summertime discomfort, Saurabh begins his training post-midnight. "Between 12am to 6 am, generally," he says. This entails swimming at the Gymkhana Club, running in parks and residential enclaves, and cycling up and down the NH8.

At the Ironman Triathlon, participants have to swim for 3.8 kilometres, cycle for around 180 kilometres and run a distance of 42.2 kilometres, all in quick succession and within a duration of 17 hours. Every sport is played at the outer edges of human endurance, strength and resilience. But triathletes aim to push the envelope even further.

This is one reason why the official Ironman slogan goes, 'anything is possible.' Saurabh exudes this drive, this optimism as starkly as any sportsman is expected to. But more than that, he says that the previous year of training as a triathlete has made him 'fall in love with these three sports.'

"I never appreciated the technicalities associated with running, cycling and swimming as I do now," he says.

There is certainly a hint of 'extreme sports' about the Ironman Triathlon, as indeed there has always been a predilection for adventure in Saurabh. After passing out as a chemical engineer from IIT Delhi in 2011, he attended courses on mountaineering and paragliding. Then he launched his own startup - an entrepreneurial adventure sport of its kind. But these past months have been entirely devoted towards achieving this one goal, his Ironman dream.

Still, there are worries and apprehensions along the way. In the absence of sponsors, Saurabh says that he has decided to 'crowd source' his next adventure, raising a demand for donations on the internet. "I am also making a documentary film on my training and participation in the triathlon. I hope it would encourage more people in India to sign up for similar events."

When he talks about Race Day - August 16 - it's with an air exhilaration almost juvenile in nature. "If I finish the race this year, I'll do it again. I'll improve my timings. This is not something you do once. It's the kind of thing that you include in your life," he says.

At the end of every Ironman race, Saurabh says, the names of those who manage to finish it are announced in celebratory tones as the title of 'Ironman' is bestowed upon them. "My dream is to hear it said: Saurabh is an Ironman."

## IIT Bombay students reveal their all electric car

<http://overdrive.in/news/iit-bombay-students-reveal-their-all-electric-car/>

IIT Bombay Racing revealed their car, EVO 3.0, for Formula Student United Kingdom 2014. The car is purely electric and has been made by students at IIT Bombay. It is powered by a 72kW lithium-polymer battery and goes up to speeds of 90 kph. The main highlight though is the 0-60kph time- 2.7 seconds. That's as fast as the previous generation Porsche Cayman.

The performance of the EVO 3.0 is achieved by loss in weight by reducing the number of batteries from 74 to 26 and by using a carbon fibre battery case. Even the body is made from ABS plastic. This has brought down the overall weight by 90 kilos. Few years down the line, the students plan to use a carbon fibre chassis.



This time the primary focus was to increase reliability. To do so, the students have used high performance connectors from TE connectivity. This helps them to reduce loose wiring and gives better safety, much required in the wet conditions of UK. The car also has an electronic differential to control the torque flow better. It also has sensors to collect real-time data from which the students can study its behaviour.

The event will be held from July 9-13 at the Silverstone Circuit in UK. The car is tested for acceleration, endurance, and maneuverability. More than 200 teams register for the event and the competition is fierce. This is the third time students from IIT-B are participating in this event. They finished 54th in the previous year and aim for a top 25 finish this year. The students have done a really praiseworthy job which is visible in the way things have been put together in the car. Einstein once said, "The only source of knowledge is experience" and taking part in such events goes a long way in making ones better engineers for the future.

## ‘Setting up IITs in Karnataka, Kerala will rectify regional imbalance’

Opposition to new IITs is illogical, says Sreenivasa Murthy, former VC of the Central University of Karnataka

[http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/setting-up-iits-in-karnataka-kerala-will-rectify-regional-imbalance/article6108421.ece?utm\\_source=Most%20Popular&utm\\_medium=Karnataka&utm\\_campaign=Widet%20Promo](http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/setting-up-iits-in-karnataka-kerala-will-rectify-regional-imbalance/article6108421.ece?utm_source=Most%20Popular&utm_medium=Karnataka&utm_campaign=Widet%20Promo)

With the Narendra Modi government promising to establish Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) in all States, S. Sreenivasa Murthy, former Vice-Chancellor of the Central University of Karnataka and former professor at IIT Delhi, has demanded that the institute be set up in Karnataka and Kerala to rectify regional imbalance.

Prof. Murthy, who is familiar with the functioning of IITs, NITs and Central universities, told *The Hindu*: “The proposal on setting up IITs is easily doable since two major States — Karnataka and Kerala — are deprived of the institute. Establishing IITs in these two States is no great deal.”

The country has 25 National Institutes of Technology (NITs) and about 50 Central universities. Opposition to new IITs, which add to quality of higher technical education, was illogical, he said. Nearly 18 lakh candidates appear for the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) seeking admission to about 10,000 seats in the 16 IITs, he said.

Prof. Murthy, who has written to Union Minister for Human Resource Development Smriti Irani, said Karnataka and Kerala had been educationally conscious, and getting quality faculty members to IITs in the two States would not be difficult compared to many of the new IITs that had been suffering from problems of connectivity and ambience.

The new IITs must be within a two-hour drive from a major airport to attract best faculty members and students. Any other remote place decided due to “political pull” would be disastrous and investment would go in drain, Prof. Murthy, former director of the National Institute of Technology Karnataka, Surathkal, said.

Noting that many IITs were located in the northern belt (Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Delhi, Uttarakhand, Bihar, Odisha, West Bengal and Assam), Prof. Murthy said setting up IITs in Karnataka and Kerala would rectify the regional imbalance.

“Indian parents spend over \$4 billion each year to send their children for higher studies abroad,” he said. Setting up quality institutions in India would not only reverse the brain drain but also increase the possibility of mobilisation of resources internally for higher education in the country. “This may attract foreign students too,” he said.

Faculty crunch was a typical “Indian problem” created by Indians, he said, and added, “No advanced country or region such as the U.S., Canada, Europe, Japan, China, Singapore or Australia face this problem. Many American universities have nearly 50 per cent non-regular faculty members in many departments. This encourages outreach and interactions.”

## French documentary to feature Bihar's 'Super 30'

Anisha Anand,TNN | Jun 13, 2014, 01.18 AM IST

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/City/Patna/French-documentary-to-feature-Bihars-Super-30/articleshow/36453072.cms>

PATNA: Mathematician Anand Kumar, under whose 'Super 30' initiative 30 poor students are coached every year to successfully crack prestigious IIT-JEE examination, will soon feature in a docu-feature directed by famous French director Pascal Plisson.

The 90-minute movie titled 'Big Day' will feature four special stories from across the globe. One of these is based on a Varanasi girl Nidhi Jha, an auto-wallah's daughter who under the training of Anand Kumar dares to dream IIT.

Nidhi was third daughter to be born in her poor family. "Being a poor man, I was so dejected I wanted to kill her. Thanks to Anand sir, she has cracked the JEE (Advance) and has become our pride," an elated Sunil Kumar Jha, Nidhi's father, said at a press conference organized on Thursday.

Plisson feels 'Super 30' is a fabulous story for his movie. "We are concentrating on stories which will inspire the Europeans. Indians are known for their toil for education," Plisson said and added he was told about Anand's novel endeavour by his friends in 'Ignite Films' in India.

The French team wanted to show the story of a girl child as poor Indian girls are married off early. The movie will also feature a poor boy from Cuba who is a boxer and a female contortionist of Mongolia. "We are still looking for the fourth story," said Plisson.

The French team, which reached Patna on Tuesday, started the shoot on Wednesday. The shoot will continue till Friday.

Earlier Plisson featured India in one of his documentaries titled 'On the Way to School' which depicted the story of Samuel, a differently-abled boy from Tamil Nadu. Plisson's documentary followed four children heading to school in four corners of the globe. Samuel's voyage required his younger brothers to push a creaky, makeshift wheelchair over broken roads and swamplands. Such stories inspire the Europeans and so will Nidhi's in 'Big Day', Plisson said and added he was sure his movie would be a hit.

Nidhi's JEE Mains result will be out on June 16. "I am pretty sure this girl will have a bright future," said Plisson.

This will be thirteenth movie on 'Super 30'. It is set to hit the theatres in September 2015. Movies on 'Super 30' were earlier telecast on Discovery Channel and Al Jazeera, among others.

## **President Pranab Mukherjee to inaugurate Indian Institute of Science Education and Research campus**

TNN | Jun 13, 2014, 01.00 AM IST

PUNE: As many as 92 students will graduate from the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), Pune on June 15 and 13 students will receive their doctorate degrees.

President Pranab Mukherjee will award the degrees and inaugurate the new 98-acre campus in Pashan.

Addressing a news conference here on Thursday, K N Ganesh, director, IISER, Pune said, "In a span of eight years, IISER, Pune has grown in stature to make a notable impact on science education and research. As many as 135 students have graduated in these years and five doctorate degrees have been awarded."

The institute is one of the five IISERs in the country offering five-year integrated dual master in studies degree as well as doctorate degree.

At present, IISER, Pune has a total of 600 students studying the dual MS degree, 200 PhD students and 90 faculty members. Since its establishment, about Rs 850 crore has been spent on the institute's campus and academics.

State governor K Sankaranarayanan, Chief Minister Prithviraj Chavan and Union minister of human research and development Smriti Irani will also be present at the inauguration.



# 1, 122 clear UPSC civil services exam

Topper Gaurav Agarwal from IIT, IIM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 12

FOR THE first time in four years, a male candidate has topped the prestigious civil service examination, results of which were declared Thursday.

As many as 1,122 candidates have been recommended for appointment in the Indian Administrative Service (IAS), Indian Foreign Service (IFS), Indian Police Service (IPS) and other central services on the basis of the examination, said a release issued by the Ministry of Personnel.

Gaurav Agrawal, who holds a Bachelor of Technology (Computer Science) degree from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kanpur and a Post Graduate Diploma in Management from the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Lucknow, got first rank with Economics as his optional subject.

Of the top 25 candidates who gave the 2013 Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) exam, 15 are men. Munish Sharma got second rank, Rachit Raj third and Akshay Tripathi fourth.

Bharti Dixit secured fifth rank and was declared the topper among women candidates. Dixit completed her Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) from Lady Hardinge Medical College.

Women had bagged the top slots in the 2010, 2011 and 2012 examinations.

The results geographical and cultural diversity with individuals from across the country succeeding in the exams. The top 25 alone have candidates from 11 states or union territories — Bihar, Delhi, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

Of the 25, 20 appeared for the examination from Delhi; two from Jaipur and one each from centres in Lucknow, Bangalore and Chandigarh.

Nine of the 25 are from an engineering background,

## TWO OF TOP 10 FROM CAPITAL

THE 2013 UPSC results were declared Thursday with 1,122 candidates being recommended for positions in the IAS, IFS, IPS and other central services.

Munish Sharma and Medha Roopam from Delhi secured second and tenth rank respectively. Gaurav Agarwal from Jaipur topped the prestigious examination.

Sharma holds a Bachelor of Science (Biochemistry) from Sri Venkateswara College, Delhi University and cleared the exam in his first attempt. "I started preparing on a subconscious level from Class VI onwards, but never formally prepared for it," said Sharma. "The main source of my general knowledge came from articles printed in *The Indian Express*, which I read religiously. I am indebted to the newspaper for the help it provided me."

Speaking to *Newsline*, Medha Roopam said, "I'm so glad I have the opportunity to serve my country. Without the blessing and support of my family, I would not have been able to clear this exam." Roopam studied Economics at St Stephens College.

three are from a medical background and nine are from a commerce, humanities and other social sciences background.

A total of 7,76,565 total candidates registered for the preliminary examination held on May 26, 2013. Of these, only 3,23,949 candidates appeared for the exam and 14,959 candidates qualified to appear for the main examination.

The main exam was held in December 2013 and, based on their performance, 3,003 candidates were shortlisted for the personality test conducted in April-June.

Of the total successful candidates, 517 belong to the general category, 326 to the OBC category, 187 to Scheduled Castes (SC) and 92 to Scheduled Tribes (ST). The results will be available on the UPSC website within 15 days.

HT.Com ND 13.06.2014 P-1

# FIRST MALE UPSC TOPPER IN 4YRS

**RESULTS** In the highest intake of civil servants, 1,122 join the premier services

HT Correspondent

**NEW DELHI:** The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) on Thursday announced results for the Civil Service Examination 2013, naming 1,122 successful candidates who had cleared the prestigious examination to join premier civil services, including the Indian Administrative Service.

This is the highest intake of civil servants through this examination, nearly double the 580 civil servants recruited in 2009. An additional 210 candidates have been placed in the reserve list.

For the first time in four years, a male candidate topped the prestigious examination. Gaurav Agrawal has got the first rank in the exam with economics as his optional subject. This was his second attempt.

Agrawal, who got 244th rank and chose Indian Police Service last year, is currently undergoing training at the National Police Academy in Hyderabad.

"I had interest in studies from the beginning. I always loved reading and writing," Gaurav said. He, however, admitted that he had slipped after making it to IIT. "I had failed and my degree had to be extended. This was a lesson for me. I then started focusing on studies," he said.

Resident of Gayatri Nagar in Maharani Farm in Jaipur, Agrawal worked as trader, emerging markets and credit trading, in Hong Kong from 2008 to 2011 for Citibank.

"Initially I could not believe. Then I started receiving calls from my friends, father, mother and wife congratulating me," the 29-year-old from Jaipur told IANS.

## MEET THE TOPPER

A strong believer in hard work, Gaurav is undergoing training at the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy



### ON HIS CV

**Name:** Gaurav Agrawal

**Age:** 30

**Education:** B.Tech Computer Science from IIT Kanpur, PG Diploma in Management from IIM Lucknow

**Number of attempts:** Two (with history and economics as subjects)

**Work experience:** Gaurav worked as an investment banker in Hong Kong, but returned to India to prepare for IAS

### IN HIS WORDS

**We should identify our weaknesses and overcome them as there is a general tendency to negate the shortcomings.**

"IAS is my first choice. It is a field job. You can meet people, understand their problems and then try to solve them," said Agrawal, whose father Suresh Chandra Gupta is a manager in Jaipur Dairy.

Delhi-based Munish Sharma and Rachit Raj have got second and third positions respectively.

Times of India ND 13/06/2014 P-17

# Nasa designs Star Trek-style spacecraft for future

**Washington:** An artist collaborating with a Nasa scientist has unveiled new designs of a Star Trek-style 'faster-than-light' space ship that could make interstellar travel a reality.

In 2012, Nasa physicist Harold White had announced that he was working on a faster-than-light ship at Nasa's

Johnson Space Center. White has now collaborated with artist Mark Rademaker to create a realistic design of what such a warp drive spacecraft might actually look like.

Warp drive is a hypothetical faster-than-light (FTL) propulsion system in many works, most notably Star Trek. A spacecraft equipped

with a warp drive may travel at apparent speeds greater than that of light by many orders of magnitude.

## FASTER THAN LIGHT

It would allow faster-than-light travel by bending the space around it, making distances shorter.

At the local level, however, the spaceship wouldn't be moving faster than light, 'Gizmodo' reported.

Rademaker told io9 that he worked with White to create the new model, dubbed IXS Enterprise, which includes a sleek ship nestled at the centre of two enormous rings, which create the warp

bubble. If their work is successful, White said they would be able to create an engine that will get us to Alpha Centauri "in two weeks as measured by clocks here on Earth." Alpha Centauri is the brightest star in the southern constellation of Centaurus and located 4.367 light years from Earth. ¶¶

Business Line ND 13/06/2014 P-1

# Vishal Sikka is new Infosys CEO

Narayana Murthy, Kris Gopalakrishnan to quit executive posts; Rohan Murty too on way out

## OUR BUREAU

Bangalore, June 12

In a major break with tradition, India's No 2 IT services firm, Infosys, brought in an outsider as its CEO after keeping the top job among its co-founders ever since its inception, in 1981.

The appointment of Vishal Sikka, former Chief Technology Officer and board member of technology giant SAP AG, on Thursday, ended the much-talked-about hunt for the Chief Executive Officer.

Sikka will be inducted as a whole-time director of the board and will take over on August 1 from SD Shibulal, who will step down as CEO and Managing Director on July 31.

## Scholar is special

Announcing the appointment to newspersons, Executive Chairman NR Narayana Murthy said: "In our value system, the highest honour goes to a scholar and Sikka, with his academic credentials, is special to Infosys."

The decision to appoint Sikka was intensely debated within the company, which has seen a spate of top-level exits the past few months. However, the nominations committee, after meeting several candidates, shortlisted four and finally zeroed in on Sikka.

Lead Independent Director KV Kamath, who is the Chairman of the Nominations and Governance Committee, did not disclose the names of the candidates who did not make the cut but said their interviews were conducted in London and Mumbai. The committee evaluated and benchmarked both internal and external candidates over a two-month period.

## Plans to amaze

Sikka, who comes in at a time when Infosys lags peers TCS and Cognizant in revenue growth, said there will be no immediate change in strategy and no disruptions in the work done before.

"In our value system, the highest honour goes to a scholar and Sikka, with his academic credentials, is special to Infosys."

— NR Narayana Murthy

"I will learn about the company, figure out improvements in the way software can be delivered and put together an amazing plan," he added.

While a lot of analysts had questioned Murthy's strategy of giving founder-members a shot at the CEO's position, Murthy defended his stand saying that it was the best choice under the circumstances.

On the issue of clients not being satisfied with Infosys over the last couple of years, Murthy asserted that he had met 40 clients and all of them had expressed confidence with the work carried out by Infosys. They felt that there had been no deterioration in the quality of service and that it has not impacted relationships, he added.

## Other changes

Alongside Sikka's appointment, there are other changes at Infosys.

The board elevated UB Pravin Rao, President and whole-time director, to the position of Chief Operating Officer.

Narayana Murthy and Executive Vice-Chairman Kris Gopalakrishnan will both step down from the board on June 14, when the company's annual general meeting is to be held.

Narayana Murthy will, however, continue to be associated with the company as Chairman Emeritus. His executive office will be disbanded from June 14 and Murthy's son, Rohan Murty, who serves as his Executive Assistant, will also exit the company on that date.

Srinath Batni, whole-time director, will step down from the board on July 31.

Also read p4



**Stepping down** Infosys Executive Chairman NR Narayana Murthy, and Vishal Sikka, CEO and Managing Director-designate, arriving at a press conference in Bangalore on Thursday. GRN Somashekar