

## **Newspaper Clips** **June 15-16, 2014**

**June 15**

### **Barack Obama appoints Indian scientist to key science position**

[Press Trust of India](#) | Washington | Published: Jun 14 2014, 17:19 IST

<http://www.financialexpress.com/news/barack-obama-appoints-indian-scientist-to-key-science-position/1260473>

US President Barack Obama has appointed an eminent Indian-American scientist to a key science position in his administration.

Sethuraman Panchanathan, an Indian Institute of Science alumni, has been appointed as member of the prestigious National Science Board of the National Science Foundation, a White House statement said.

A 1981-batch graduate in Physics from the Vivekananda College (University of Madras), Panchanathan worked as a Data Communication Engineer for International Software India Limited in Chennai, in 1986.

Panchanathan has a bachelor's degree in electronics and communication engineering from the IISc Bangalore in 1984. He also has an M.Tech from prestigious Indian Institute of Technology, and a PhD from University of Ottawa, Canada.

He has held a number of positions at Arizona State University since 1998 and is a professor in Computing and Informatics there since 2009.

He has published over 400 papers in refereed journals and conferences and has mentored over 100 graduate students, post-docs, research engineers and research scientists who occupy leading positions in academia and industry.

### **Obama names IIT alum to Science Foundation board**

**IANs** | Washington

[http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/obama-names-iit-alum-to-science-foundation-board-114061400296\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/obama-names-iit-alum-to-science-foundation-board-114061400296_1.html)

**June 14, 2014** Last Updated at 09:14 IST

US President [Barack Obama](#) plans to appoint a Madras University graduate and alum of the Indian Institute of Technology as a member of the National Science Board of National Science Foundation.

The proposed appointment of Dr Sethuraman Panchanathan, Senior Vice President of the Office of Knowledge Enterprise Development at Arizona State University (ASU), was announced by the White House Friday with 15 other key administration posts

"Our nation will be greatly served by the talent and expertise these individuals bring to their new roles. I am grateful they have agreed to serve in this Administration, and I look forward to working with them in the months and years ahead," Obama said.

At over thirty, the Obama administration has more Indian-Americans working at high places than in any other previous administration.

Panchanathan, who has held his current position at ASU since 2011, previously worked as a Data Communication Engineer for International Software India Limited in Chennai, India in 1986.

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He received a BSc from the University of Madras, a BE from the Indian Institute of Science, an MTech from the Indian Institute of Technology, and a PhD from the University of Ottawa, Canada.

Panchanathan has held a number of positions at Arizona State University since 1998.

He has been a foundation chair professor in Computing and Informatics since 2009 and a founding Director of the Centre for Cognitive Ubiquitous Computing since 2001.

Panchanathan founded the ASU School of Computing and Informatics in 2006 and the Department of Biomedical Informatics in 2005.

Prior to working for ASU, Panchanathan served at the University of Ottawa as a founding Director of the Visual Computing and Communications Laboratory from 1990 to 1997.

He worked as Associate Professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering from 1994 to 1997, and Assistant Professor from 1989 to 1994.

## Indian Institute of Science Bangalore is the top most University in India: List of Top 10 Universities in India

<http://www.aegindia.org/2014/06/indian-institute-of-science-bangalore-is-the-top-most-university-in-india-list-of-top-10-universities-in-india/2156851.html>

**Delhi:** In India there were hundreds of universities which offer several Graduation and Post Graduation level programmes. Several universities were offering several placements such as better placements, better faculties, better infrastructure and best quality of education. Among all the universities only few universities will be placed in the top 10 position.

**Indian Institute of Science:** It is located in Bangalore. This university is a public university. This university is famous for Scientific Research and Higher Education. In its field this university is known as India's finest institution. For more details candidates need to visit the official website of the institution i.e. [www.iisc.ernet.in](http://www.iisc.ernet.in)

**Indian Institute of Technology:** It is located in Bombay. In the chain of IITs this is the Second IIT which was established in 1958. This is the top engineering college in India. This university offers several doctoral degrees in Mathematics, Engineering, Technology and science. At present it is having 14 academic departments. For details candidates need visit the website [www.iitb.ac.in](http://www.iitb.ac.in)

**Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur:** It is Public engineering institution. Among IITs this is the first IIT. It shares its organisational structure and undergraduate admission process with other IITs. For more details candidates need visit the website [www.iitkgp.ac.in](http://www.iitkgp.ac.in)

**University of Delhi:** This University is famous for research and teaching. It is public central university. In 2013, this university ranked first among universities in India as per India Today & Nielsen rankings. For more details candidates need visit the website [www.du.ac.in](http://www.du.ac.in)

**Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi:** Main aim of this institution is contributing excellence in scientific and technical education and research. For more details candidates need visit the website [www.iitd.ac.in](http://www.iitd.ac.in)

**All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi:** It offers several graduation and post graduation courses. This is the medical research Public University. It operates autonomously under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare which was established in 1956. For more details candidates need visit the website [www.aiims.edu](http://www.aiims.edu)

**Panjab University Chandigarh:** University is having 75 teaching and research departments and 15 centres for teaching. It is having 188 affiliated colleges. As per the Times Higher Education World University Raking list 2013-14, it was ranking as number one. For more details candidates need visit the website [www.puchd.ac.in](http://www.puchd.ac.in)

**Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research Bangalore:** This was established to promote scientific research and training at the frontiers of Science and engineering. Researchers at the centre are divided into 6 units namely Geodynamics, Educational Technology, Theoretical Sciences, Molecular Biology and Genetics, Evolutionary and organismal Biology, Engineering Mechanics, Chemistry and Physics of Materials. For more details candidates need visit the website [www.jncasr.ac.in](http://www.jncasr.ac.in)

**Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur:** This institution is famous for training for the students and to make motivated engineers and Scientists. For more details candidates need visit the website [www.iitk.ac.in](http://www.iitk.ac.in)

**Indian Institute of Technology Madras:** It provides technical assistance to an institute of higher education in engineering in India. For more details candidates need visit the website [www.iitm.ac.in](http://www.iitm.ac.in)

## Indian-origin physicist honoured by Queen Elizabeth

Press Trust of India | London

[http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/indian-origin-physicist-honoured-by-queen-elizabeth-114061400238\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/indian-origin-physicist-honoured-by-queen-elizabeth-114061400238_1.html)

June 14, 2014 Last Updated at 04:58 IST

Indian-origin physicist, Professor Tejinder Virdee, best known for his work on the Large Hadron Collider, was accorded an honorary knighthood by [Queen Elizabeth II](#) for his contribution to the field of science.

Virdee of Imperial College [London](#) was named a Knight Bachelor for his services to science in the Queen's Birthday Honours List, released here yesterday evening.

His citation reads: "Professor Virdee is one of the [UK](#)'s most distinguished physicists and, as one of the creators of the Compact Muon Solenoid (CMS) Experiment he has made outstanding contributions to science.

The CMS experiment, at the Large Hadron Collider, CERN, Geneva, has delivered seminal [results](#) in particle physics, including the groundbreaking discovery of the [Higgs Boson](#), or the God particle, a particle that gives mass to other particles.

"Beyond his innovative work in particle physics, he is also a great campaigner for science, and promoter of science and education in [Africa](#) and [India](#)."

Besides, Hollywood actor and UN special envoy Angelina Jolie was named an honorary dame - the female version of a knight - by Britain's Queen Elizabeth II for her work combating sexual violence in war zones.

The 39-year-old Oscar winner, who has spent much of this week co-chairing a London summit on war rape with foreign secretary William Hague, was one of hundreds of people recognised in the Queen's annual Birthday Honors List for services to their community.

## IIT-K first educational institute to get observatory

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kanpur/IIT-K-first-educational-institute-to-get-observatory/articleshow/36588841.cms>

[Abhinav Malhotra](#), TNN | Jun 15, 2014, 10.20 AM IST

KANPUR: The students of Indian Institute of Technology-Kanpur had assembled an observatory for astronomical research (OAAR). It is the first such facility in an educational institute in the country. The observatory will be inaugurated by IIT-K director Indranil Manna on Sunday. The telescope and other parts have been imported from US.

The observatory, which is in the form of a dome, had been established close to the airstrip of the institute. The fully automated 10 feet state-of-the-art computerised telescope would help the students and the space enthusiasts to see the galaxies, stars and other celestial bodies.

Akshat Singhal, one of the students who had been involved with this project, informed that the observatory consists of equipment, including a Schmidt-Cassegrain telescope with a 14-inch primary mirror and motorised tracking, a CCD (charged couple camera) camera for imaging has been housed in a fully automated remotely controlled dome.

It will be useful for observing, imaging and analysing stars and other celestial objects, extracting information related to their position, brightness, spectrum, composition and speed; studying astronomical events such as occultations and supernovae; tracking solar system objects; monitoring variable stars and much more," he said.

"We received the dome and the telescope in parts on June 1 and in 10 days, we managed to assemble them. The equipment is now ready for use," said another student. The students of the astronomy club assembled the dome and the telescope.

The observatory is fully computerised and those provided with a username and a password, will be able to have access to the telescope from anywhere in the world and use the data collected by it.

By using the Local Area Network (LAN) if the telescope and the dome will be connected, the telescope can be used by the person while sitting at any place in the world.

The dome can rotate on a 360 degree angle. Further the telescope can also be pointed out in any direction.

The students pointed out that Pankaj Jain of physics department and dean, student affairs, AK Ghosh guided them in the project.

## Why more IITs are a bad idea Opening new IITs and IIMs in all states is too geographically focused, extravagant and wrong-headed

<http://www.livemint.com/Opinion/1rTDC1vcKcFbpl07NagglO/Why-more-IITs-are-a-bad-idea.html>

More than eighty years ago, Subhash Chandra Bose came to the Hilji detention camp outside Kharagpur in West Bengal to collect the bodies of two unarmed freedom fighters martyred there. That act served as one spark among many in catalysing India's Independence movement. After Independence, the first Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) in Kharagpur was set up at the very site of the detention camp. It was born on the back of the report written in 1946 on higher technical institutions by the Nalini Ranjan Sarkar Committee. Noted educationists Humayun Kabir and Jogendra Singh constituted the Sarkar Committee. Partly because West Bengal had many industries then and partly because Kabir and Sarkar were from West Bengal, the two were able to persuade prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru and B.C. Roy, then chief minister of West Bengal, to establish the first IIT there. The report suggested major institutions in the four regions of the country. In rapid succession, IITs were established with foreign collaboration in Bombay (Soviet Union, 1958), Kanpur (US, 1959) and Madras (Germany, 1959). The Germans were initially planning to establish the IIT in Bangalore but chose Madras instead when C. Subramaniam, then education minister of Madras state, impressed them with 630 acres of verdant forestland on the governor's estate. The fifth and last IIT of the first phase was established a few years later in Delhi with the justification that Kanpur represented central India, not the North. Eleven other IITs were born anew or upgraded since then in: Guwahati, Roorkee, Varanasi, Bhubaneswar, Gandhinagar, Hyderabad, Jodhpur, Patna, Ropar, Mandi and Indore. These 16 institutes have historically been built on the rationale of building human capital for a newly independent, industrializing India and on providing geographically diversified access. The government headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has declared its intention, based on a research and development (R&D) view, of building an IIT and Indian Institute of Management (IIM) in every state. For a host of reasons, this is unnecessarily geographically focused, extravagant and wrong-headed. Recent estimates and the experience of setting up eight institutes (all except Mandi are still on rented premises) suggests that establishment costs are likely to range from Rs.1,500 to Rs.2,000 crore per institute. Just the initial capital expenditure to build another dozen IITs could, therefore, be well over Rs.18,000 crore. When location, land acquisition and putting up the physical infrastructure are major issues for the recent IITs, it seems ill conceived to announce new ones before solving those issues. The IITs have succeeded until now for three reasons: 1) they have functioned autonomously without too much interference; 2) the entrance gate has permitted only the best students in the country; and 3) the faculty has been good enough to turn this group into employable engineers. This has allowed a brand to be built over the years that stands for excellence, which in turn allows for employment, career paths and success. This success has reinforced the brand. A material increase in the number of IITs threatens all three success factors and this virtuous circle. A larger system will open up flanks for interference, the threshold for entrance will have to be lowered to admit more students and most importantly, faculty openings, many of which lie vacant today, will become even more difficult to fill. At the very least the government must reimagine the priority in the higher education sector to be a challenge in "software" not "hardware". The Soviet-inspired model of research conducted by central laboratories, and students trained by technical institutes such as the IITs has to be fully re-examined to help prepare India for the next 50 years. The focus on setting up the innovation and R&D vision for the future is better placed on the structure, talent pool and compensation for researchers than on the physical infrastructure of newer institutes. A good place to start will be to merge the various laboratories of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research into these technical institutes so that the flow of new ideas is fresh and continual and the opportunity to work in applied research areas is available in an academic context. Another vital area of focus should be on allowing compensation to be flexible enough to attract the best and the brightest in the world. South Korea, Hong Kong and China have followed an excellent model of incentivizing world-class diaspora from the academia to return and contribute. Rather than undertake an ambitious and ultimately wasteful programme of setting up several new IITs, the government will do better to completely revamp the structure of research in the country and place it back in technical institutes and universities. Sixty-seven years after independence we must put our focus on getting R&D out of the detention camps rather than on building newer camps. P.S. "Dare to be free, dare to go as far as your thought leads, and

dare to carry that out in your life”, said Swami Vivekananda.

## **IIT-Indore starts shifting to Simrol campus**

TNN | Jun 14, 2014, 12.28PM IST

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/indore/IIT-Indore-starts-shifting-to-Simrol-campus/articleshow/36538537.cms>

INDORE: Indian Institute of Technology, Indore (IIT-I) has started shifting its campus in phases from temporary rented accommodation at Institute of Engineering Technology (IET) to its own building at Simrol. By month end, institute administration is likely to shift all equipments in its Sophisticated Instrument Centre to the newly-constructed block.

During recent convocation ceremony of IIT-I, director of institute Pradeep Mathur said that block meant for estate office-cum-Sophisticated Instrument Centre is ready and shifting process was underway.

Last month, premier technology institute had written to IET director Sanjeev Tokekar about vacating 2,000 square meter of space in IET building by June end. IIT-Indore has permission to operate from the IET campus till December 2015. However, it seem to be packing early under pressure from ministry of human resources and development that had set a deadline of June 2013 for the same. As per the initial MoU, IIT Indore had to vacate the IET campus by December 2012.

## **IIT-Gandhinagar, Space Applications Centre team up for research**

[Runa Mukherjee Parikh](#), TNN | Jun 14, 2014, 08.19PM IST

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/education/news/IIT-Gandhinagar-Space-Applications-Centre-team-up-for-research/articleshow/36560487.cms>

AHMEDABAD: 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, and electro-optical systems modeling.

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was recently signed by IIT-Gn director Sudhir K Jain and SAC director A S Kiran Kumar.

Under the MoU, IIT-Gn students will undertake internships at SAC on research projects of common interest. In turn, IIT-Gn will host SAC scientists who wish to engage in teaching and research, and those interested in pursuing a higher degree.

Prof Jain stressed that this is a partnership between two prestigious national institutes. "This partnership will be thus mutually beneficial considering that both institutes are involved with development of complex state-of-the-art technologies," he said.

Kumar emphasized that this partnership will allow the two premier institutes to explore opportunities together and it

may result in significant research output.

"The exposure of young minds during internships to interesting projects and state-of-the-art facilities will motivate them to take up even bigger challenges in the field of aerospace research," said Jain.

IIT-Gn students who are already working as interns at SAC presented their project highlights at the meeting. The students are working on projects such as electronics, control system for navigation and modeling under various senior scientists. Saji A Kuriakose, director, sensor development area, stressed upon the development of a miniature airborne platform, which will find significant use in local remote sensing.

## **Nobel Laureate to attend IIT-K convocation**

TNN | Jun 15, 2014, 10.00AM IST

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kanpur/Nobel-Laureate-to-attend-IIT-K-convocation/articleshow/36588008.cms>

KANPUR: The 46th convocation ceremony of Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur will be organised on June 18. German scientist and Nobel Prize winner J George Bedros is also expected to attend the function.

The administration of IIT-K is busy for past few days in preparations which have now entered into the final phase and likely to be completed in the next two days.

IIT-K registrar RK Sachan informed that ISRO chairman K Radhakrishnan is likely to be the chief guest.

## **Mysore university must figure in top 100 varsties of the world: CNR Rao**

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/education/news/Mysore-university-must-figure-in-top-100-varsties-of-the-world-CNR-Rao/articleshow/36559229.cms>

MYSORE: Ahead of its centenary celebrations, noted scientist C N R Rao on Saturday set the University of Mysore a target. It should make it to the list of top hundred universities in the world in ten years, Rao said calling it an achievement, if its gets there.

Referring to its legacy, he said the oldest varsity in Karnataka has the potential to scale the height. "Getting to know globally is more important than generating money and building some buildings as memorials," Rao, an alumnus of the varsity, said.

The varsity with the Karnataka State Open University and the city-based premier National Institute of Engineering felicitated Rao for getting Bharat Ratna award, the highest civilian award in India at the ornate Crawford Hall, the HQ of the UOM. An overwhelmed scientist spoke at length about the quality of education, especially higher education, and the scope for science education in India.

"Since Independence, India has made great strides. Our single biggest achievement is that we've remained a democratic nation. Amidst growth there are some glaring drawbacks. No Indian university ranks among the top 100 in the world,": Rao said. "Rangappa should consider it taking into the top 100 in next ten years. That should



be the target for the centenary celebrations. Money is not important, the governments will give money (for the centenary projects). But getting recognition globally is crucial," he said addressing the UoM VC.

Rao's ambitious target came after the CM Siddaramaiah assured Rangappa that the government will fund the centenary celebrations. He, however, sought to shift the focus on celebration from pomposity to meaningful achievements.

"I'll extend money required. But the centenary celebrations doesn't essentially mean spending big," he said. This came after the CM held a meeting with the VC on Friday at Bangalore where the varsity petitioned him seeking assistance for the celebrations.

For the record, the varsity was established on July 27, 1916 and the authorities are planning to launch the celebrations early next year. Sources said the university is looking to collect Rs 100 crore for various activities, including a project to build a centenary building possibly next to the Crawford Hall.

Rao argued the case of the Mysore varsity to join the league of top institutions in the world and indicated reasons.

"I impulsively say 'I'm a Mysorean' whenever people ask me as Karnataka was called as Mysore State. I'm proud to have been the alumnus of this great institution where I got my BSc degree," he said adding some of the great Indians, including Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan, are associated with this university.

Rao said Indian universities can get into top 100 if they work on science and promote basic science.

The focus should be reoriented towards talent pool in rural areas given that urban students are money oriented. The kids in rural areas are poor but are highly motivated. They should be caught young and groomed at four exclusive schools on the lines of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas, which are system of alternate schools for gifted students in the nation. India can take a leap forward to be a developed nation if focus is shifted on science education. We have some 10 to 20 years only to achieve this, Rao stated.

## President delivers convocation address at IISER, Pune

ANI | Pune [http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/president-delivers-convocation-address-at-iiser-pune-114061500580\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/president-delivers-convocation-address-at-iiser-pune-114061500580_1.html)

President [Pranab Mukherjee](#) delivered Convocation Address at the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) today here at [Pune](#). He also inaugurated the Academic Complex of the Institute and an Innovation Exhibition.

Speaking on the occasion, the President said, "science plays a vital role in the advancement of human life. Its study is central to technological progress. To prepare our nation to switch to a knowledge-based society, greater emphasis has been laid on science education. IISERs are a product of this effort to push the country to the frontiers of scientific knowledge."

The President stated that greater internationalization and collaboration with top global institutes, hiring of foreign faculty and drawing of students from abroad must receive sustained focus. Centres of Excellence must be built to nurture the core competence of our institutions in select areas.

The President emphasized, "our institutions must never be found wanting in their proclivity for cutting-edge research. They must identify and initiate new and frontier research, especially in multi-disciplinary areas in energy, environment and health. They must forge collaborations with reputed international institutions, which

they can leverage for international research funding. They must promote innovation and act as a platform for the flowering of ingenious ideas in common man."

The President also said, "our institutions and other stakeholders in the educational domain must have the requisite functional systems within them to realize the multiple goals for quality up-gradation. This calls for a governance structure in the higher academic institutions that is flexible, monitorable and transparent. This will facilitate quick decision-making and enable adequate support for creative pursuits."

He said that our country today requires a pool of talented science graduates. IISERs must be geared to train students to pursue rewarding careers in science and technology.

**June 15, 2014** Last Updated at 19:34 IST

## Meet on green building tech

Kochi, June 15: <http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/meet-on-greenbuilding-tech/article6116847.ece>

Providing a major impetus to industry-academia collaboration, the Indian Green Building Council has partnered with NIT-Calicut to take forward the green building agenda.

They organised a week-long AICTE-MHRD sponsored faculty development programme titled 'Green Building Technology – Changing Paradigm'.

MN Bandyopadhyay, Director, NIT-Calicut, said on the occasion that the new learning, knowledge transfer and sharing of best practices will go a long way in developing some of the best and world-class models in sustainable architecture.

Appreciating the catalytic role played by IGBC in spearheading the green building movement, he said NIT is keen to work more closely with IGBC in greening India.

BR Ajith, Chairman, IGBC, Kochi Chapter, said India with over 2.10 billion sq ft of green building footprint is the second country in the world with largest green building footprint. This steady growth has been made possible with the support of all the stakeholders.

Over 45 faculty members from Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala participated in faculty development programme.

## India likely to have over 500 million data users by 2018 fiscal

NEW DELHI: Driven by falling handset prices and rise in smartphone penetration, data subscribers in India are likely to grow an average 25 per cent every year to reach 519 million by 2018 fiscal, a report by Morgan Stanley said.

In its report on India's telecom sector, Morgan Stanley said it believes Internet users will rise to 330 million in 2016 financial year, driven by falling handset costs, higher smartphone penetration, faster bandwidth and higher Internet content or online services.

"By FY2018, we expect data subscribers to grow at a 25 per cent [CAGR](#) (compound average growth rate), from 210 million to 519 million and see a 35 per cent CAGR in data usage to 750 MB per subscriber, near the Asian average," the report said.

The report said over the last two years, smartphone prices in the country have come down from USD 200 to USD 50.

As per telecom regulator Trai's data, total Internet subscribers in the country at the end of September 2013 stood at 210 million.

Of those, 188 million (90 per cent users) access it on mobile devices. Of the rest, 7 million were narrowband subscribers (with speed less than 256kbps) and 15 million were broadband subscribers (with speed of over 256kbps).

"Data is the next growth leg. We expect data contribution to more than double to 23 per cent of overall revenues (as against 10 per cent currently) in the next two years," the report said.

The report said data growth will be driven by operator strategy of lower average revenue per mega byte (ARMB) for higher MB pack and operators having a strong data ecosystem, including strengthening spectrum portfolio.

"A 3G, 2GB pack in January 2013 cost Rs 750 or 38 paisa ARMB. Today a 2GB pack costs Rs 450 or 23-paisa ARMB," the report said.

Morgan Stanley said voice and data rates are the lowest for Indian operators as compared to Asian counterparts and the difference between voice rate per minute and data rate per MB is not significant.

"Thus, the [risk](#) of data cannibalising voice is very low. Our case study on over the top (OTT) applications like WhatsApp and [Skype](#) indicates exponential rise in data volumes despite compression," it added.

Rashtrya Sahara ND 15/06/2014 P-7

# विदेशी छात्रों के पसंदीदा बीकॉम व ईको ऑनर्स

राकेश नाथ/एसएनबी

नई दिल्ली। पड़ोसी देशों से मधुर व सशक्त संबंध बनाने का प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी का प्रयास रंग लाता नजर आ रहा है। दरअसल, पहली बार डीयू में पाकिस्तान के एक विद्यार्थी ने दाखिले के लिए आवेदन किया है। वहीं, चीन के 50 स्टूडेंट्स ने आवेदन किया है। कई अन्य देशों के विद्यार्थियों ने भी अप्लाई किया है। ज्यादातर विदेशी स्टूडेंट्स बीकॉम ऑनर्स, अंग्रेजी ऑनर्स व ईको ऑनर्स में दाखिला चाहते हैं और उनके पसंदीदा कॉलेज एसआरसीसी, हंसराज व मिरांडा हाउस आदि हैं।

डीयू की डिप्टी डीन (विदेशी छात्र दाखिला) डॉ. अमृत कौर बसरा के मुताबिक, यूनिवर्सिटी में विदेशी स्टूडेंट्स के

दाखिले के लिए आवेदन प्रक्रिया समाप्त हो चुकी है। विदेशियों के बीच सबसे पापुलर कोर्स बीकॉम ऑनर्स है। विदेशी छात्राएं लेडी श्रीराम और मिरांडा हाउस कॉलेज को दाखिले के लिए ज्यादा तक्जो दे रही हैं। कई स्टूडेंट्स ने पॉलिटिकल साइंस, बीटेक कम्प्यूटर साइंस, बीटेक इन मैथमैटिक्स, हिस्ट्री ऑनर्स, फिजिक्स व बॉटनी ऑनर्स के लिए भी अप्लाई किया है। डॉ. बसरा ने बताया कि तिब्बत के सबसे ज्यादा 500 स्टूडेंट्स ने आवेदन किया है। इसके बाद नेपाल से करीब 300 आवेदन हुए हैं। कोरिया से करीब 60, ईरान से करीब 70, मालदीव से करीब 40, जापान से करीब 25 व अफ्रीकन देशों से लगभग 15 व श्रीलंका से 30 स्टूडेंट्स ने दाखिले के लिए आवेदन किया है। थाईलैंड व

- पसंदीदा कॉलेज एसआरसीसी, हंसराज, मिरांडा हाउस व लेडी श्रीराम कॉलेज
- विदेशी कोटे से दाखिले के लिए कुल 2098 आवेदन हुए
- पहली बार पाकिस्तान के एक विद्यार्थी ने भी दाखिले के लिए किया अप्लाई

■ तिब्बत से सर्वाधिक 500 आवेदन वियतनाम के विद्यार्थियों ने बुद्धिस्ट स्टडीज कोर्स के आवेदन किया है। गौरतलब है कि प्रत्येक कॉलेज में विदेशी कोटे की पांच पर्सेंट सीटें होती हैं। डॉ. बसरा ने बताया कि डीयू के किसी भी कोर्स में दाखिले के लिए विदेशी विद्यार्थियों को प्रवेश परीक्षा से मुक्त रखा गया है।

# Humans can be in love with computers by 2029

Lizzie Dearden

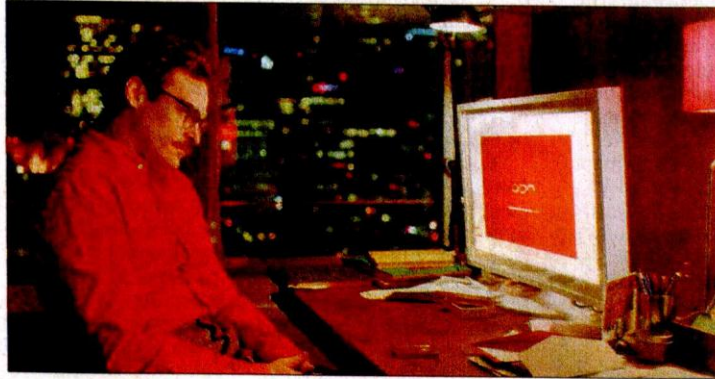
**F**irting with a computer and even falling in love will be possible within just 15 years, a futurist has predicted. The world depicted in the film *Her*, where a man develops a relationship with an intelligent computer operating system, is closer than we think, according to Google's engineering director, Ray Kurzweil.

Speaking at the Exponential Finance conference in New York last week, he claimed technology will be capable of emotional interaction, NBC News reported.

"My timeline is that computers will be at human level, such that you can have a relationship with them in 15 years from now - 2029," he said.

"When I say about human levels, I'm talking about emotional intelligence. The ability to tell a joke, to be funny, to be romantic, to be loving, to be sexy, that is the cutting edge of human intelligence, that is not a side-show." Kurzweil claimed *Her* was a very realistic depiction of what can be achieved.

It may not be a comforting thought to people who have seen Joaquin Phoe-



**SCREEN ROMANCE:** Kurzweil claimed 'Her' was a very realistic depiction of what can be achieved but it may not be a comforting thought to people who have seen Joaquin Phoenix's character's soul-crushing attempt to escape his loneliness

nix's character's soul-crushing attempt to escape his loneliness with Siri-like program voiced by Scarlett Johansson.

Credited with inventing the world's first flat-bed scanners and text-to-speech synthesisers, Mr Kurzweil is perhaps most famous for his theory of "the singularity" - a point in the future where humans and machines will converge.

He has previously warned that computers will outsmart us by 2029,

using the example of voice recognition software and Google's self-driving cars to demonstrate the rapid advance of technology.

Among his other predictions at the Exponential Finance conference was the prospect of "programming" genes to overcome cancer, diseases and even the ageing process.

Personalised 3D printing for clothing was another possibility, NBC reported.

The 66-year-old is one of the world's leading futurologists and has previously made strikingly accurate predictions.

In 1990 he said a computer would be capable of beating a chess champion by 1998 - a feat managed by IBM's Deep Blue, against Garry Kasparov, in 1997.

But earlier this month he spoke out against claims that a computer program had passed the "Turing test" of intelligence for the first time. He said a chatbot created to simulate a 13-year-old boy called Eugene Goostman was "too restricted" in its abilities.

Kurzweil writes: "... having the chatbot claim to be a 13-year-old child, and one for whom English is not a first language, is effectively a restriction. Moreover, the interactions were reportedly limited to five minutes each. There is a high likelihood of fooling naive judges in such a brief period of time. I chatted with the chatbot Eugene Goostman, and was not impressed. Eugene does not keep track of the conversation, repeats himself word for word, and often responds with typical chatbot non sequiturs." THE INDEPENDENT

June 16

MINT ND 16/06/2014 P-22

## A VISIBLE HAND NARAYAN RAMACHANDRAN

### INFRA'STRUCTURE' FOR R&D

More than eighty years ago, Subhash Chandra Bose came to the Hijli detention camp outside Kharagpur in West Bengal to collect the bodies of two unarmed freedom fighters martyred there. That act served as one spark among many in catalysing India's Independence movement.

After Independence, the first Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) in Kharagpur was set up at the very site of the detention camp. It was born on the back of the report written in 1946 on higher technical institutions by the Nalini Ranjan Sarkar Committee. Noted educationists Humayun Kabir and Jogendra Singh constituted the Sarkar Committee. Partly because West Bengal had many industries then and partly because Kabir and Sarkar were from West Bengal, the two were able to persuade prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru and B.C. Roy, then chief minister of West Bengal, to establish the first IIT there. The report suggested major institutions in the four regions of the country. In rapid succession, IITs were established with foreign collaboration in Bombay (Soviet Union, 1958), Kanpur (US, 1959) and Madras (Germany, 1959). The Germans were initially planning to establish the IIT in Bangalore but chose Madras instead when C. Subramaniam, then education minister of Madras state, impressed them with 630 acres of verdant forest-



### Opening new IITs and IIMs in all states is too geographically focused, extravagant and wrong-headed

land on the governor's estate. The fifth and last IIT of the first phase was established a few years later in Delhi with the justification that Kanpur represented central India, not the North. Eleven other IITs were born anew or upgraded since then in: Guwahati, Roorkee, Varanasi, Bhubaneswar, Gandhinagar, Hyderabad, Jodhpur, Patna, Ropar, Mandi and Indore.

These 16 institutes have historically been built on the rationale of building human capital for a newly independent, industrializing India and on providing geographically diversified access. The government headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has declared its intention, based on a research and development (R&D) view, of building an IIT and Indian Institute of Management (IIM) in every state. For a host of reasons, this is unnecessarily geographically focused, extravagant and wrong-headed.

Recent estimates and the experience of setting up eight institutes (all except Mandi are still on rented premises) suggests that establishment costs are likely to range from ₹1,500 to ₹2,000 crore per institute. Just the initial capital expenditure to build another dozen IITs could, therefore, be well over ₹18,000 crore. When location, land acquisition and putting up the physical infrastructure are major issues for the recent IITs, it seems ill conceived to announce new ones before solving those issues.

The IITs have succeeded until now for three reasons: 1) they have functioned autonomously without too much interference; 2) the entrance gate has permitted only the best students in the country; and 3) the faculty has been good enough to turn this group into employable engineers. This has allowed a brand to be built over the years that stands for excellence, which in turn allows for employment, career paths and success. This success has reinforced the brand. A material increase in the number of IITs threatens all three success factors and this virtuous circle. A larger system will open up flanks for interference, the threshold for entrance will have to be lowered to admit more students and most importantly, faculty openings, many of which lie vacant today, will become even more difficult to fill.

At the very least the government must reimagine the priority in the higher education sector to be a challenge in "software" not "hardware". The Soviet-inspired model of research conducted by central laboratories, and students trained by technical institutes such as the IITs has to be fully re-examined to help prepare India for the next 50 years. The focus on setting up the innovation

and R&D vision for the future is better placed on the structure, talent pool and compensation for researchers than on the physical infrastructure of newer institutes.

A good place to start will be to merge the various laboratories of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research into these technical institutes so that the flow of new ideas is fresh and continual and the opportunity to work in applied research areas is available in an academic context. Another vital area of focus should be on allowing compensation to be flexible enough to attract the best and the brightest in the world. South Korea, Hong Kong and China have followed an excellent model of incentivizing world-class diaspora from the academia to return and contribute.

Rather than undertake an ambitious and ultimately wasteful programme of setting up several new IITs, the government will do better to completely re-visit the structure of research in the country and place it back in technical institutes and universities. Sixty-seven years after independence we must put our focus on getting R&D out of the detention camps rather than on building newer camps.

P.S. "Dare to be free, dare to go as far as your thought leads, and dare to carry that out in your life", said Swami Vivekananda.

*Narayan Ramachandran is an IIT alumnus and chairman of InKlude Labs.*

*Comments are welcome at narayan@livemint.com. To read Narayan Ramachandran's previous columns, go to www.livemint.com/avisiblehand*

## IIT-I launches scheme to support students in research

— By FPJ Bureau, June 16, 2014 01:46 am

<http://freepressjournal.in/iit-i-launches-scheme-to-support-students-in-research-2/>

**Indore:** To promote students in research and to encourage them for innovation, Indian Institute of Technology Indore has launched a new scheme: Promotion of Research and Innovation for Undergraduate Students (PRIUS). "The scheme is supporting students in research laboratories, in international collaborative research projects and is encouraging projects leading to innovation," said Dr Abhinav Kranti, Dean, Research and Development, IIT Indore.

Students are involved in several inter-disciplinary research projects such as in-house development of an all purpose terrain climbing vehicle, processing of line emission obtained through the first radio telescope installed at the IIT Indore, iris liveness detection with portable devices, unified communication systems for the institute and dynamic modeling and control of three degrees of freedom of planar parallel robotic motion platform.

The outstanding research work of students and faculty members is being recognised through several prestigious awards. Last year, IIT Indore secured 14 externally sponsored research projects with funding of around Rs 40 million. The ongoing research projects have resulted in over 100 publications in international journals. The institute believes that the PRIUS would further enhance research activities.

In line with the vision of fostering longer term research partnerships with research organisations, the IIT Indore also has initiated strategic partnership with INSTITUT Mines-Telecom (France), which has been fruitful in terms of student exchanges and collaborative research work. IIT Indore has further consolidated its engagement with Military College of Telecommunication Engineering by signing a MOU for providing a tactical radio on local area network using software defined radio under the aegis of Army Technology Board.

Keeping the multi-disciplinary spirit of work and integrated approach to problem solving, the Central Workshop at IIT Indore played a key role in facilitating research activity with the institute. The Sophisticated Instrumentation Centre at IIT Indore is serving several academic and industrial organisations with India and abroad.

IIT Indore is also actively involved in major international projects like a Large Ion Collider Experiment (ALICE) at CERN, Geneva, and Anti Proton Annihilation at Darmstadt (PANDA), Germany. Kranti said: "IIT Indore envisages the process of convergence of disciplines as the key to accomplish the previously unimaginable. With this foresight, the institute has been promoting multi-disciplinary research programme, focusing on basic and applied research, technology development and innovation. It is this vision that has enabled us to do well in all spheres of science, engineering and humanities and social sciences."

### **Research in field of biometric**

Three faculty members of IIT Indore are engaged in separate researches in biometric field. Biometrics is a technology which is expected to replace key and password based traditional authentication methods which are easy to get forged. The different sources of attacks on the system are a growing concern when employed in security critical applications. Dr Somnath Dey and his team are working to provide a mechanism to generate a new biometric template which can replace the stolen templates. Further, Dr Dey's group is also looking for a security model which can protect the stored template in the database.

Dr Surya Prakash is working on the development of efficient techniques for human recognition using face and ear biometrics. He is also developing efficient techniques for indexing of large biometric databases to make the search and identification process fast. His team is currently developing techniques for assessment of quality of biometric images, image enhancement and efficient recognition.

Dr Vivek Kanhangad is engaged in developing techniques for spoof detection in biometric systems, especially for hand and iris based biometric systems. Sensor level attacks on biometric systems using fake image samples are a major concern. Kanhangad has developed an approach for spoof detection based on estimation surface reflectance and micro-level texture features.

Times of India, ND 16/06/2014 P-11

# Finmin seeks UGC reply on financial 'mismanagement'

Akshaya Mukul | TNN

**New Delhi:** The finance ministry has sought status of action taken by the University Grants Commission on the director general of audit (central expenditure) report that pointed out financial mismanagement and lack of transparent financial administrative system.

On Friday, the matter was taken up in the meeting of the full commission. Several members alleged lack of transparency on financial issues. A few members alleged that news of grave financial importance was received from outside and never came to them in a routine manner. They also highlighted the controversy related to the chairperson's retirement age and

**The matter was taken up at a meeting of the commission on Friday. Several members alleged lack of transparency on financial issues**

fixation of pension. UGC said while it had responded to 14 paras of the audit report, more than 130 were still pending.

"Even representatives of finance and HRD ministries said there was a need for greater financial discipline in UGC," a member said, adding that finance ministry has decided to be more proactive on financial matters of UGC even if HRD ministry is not.

The full commission also dis-

cussed a case of financial impropriety that has not been resolved for more than two years. The case pertains to one Baldeo PG College in Baragaon, Uttar Pradesh that received a cheque of Rs 40 lakh for construction of women's hostel. The college had never sought that fund, so returned the cheque. In UGC, inquiries were made and till date both the voucher and the sanction letter for the amount has not been discovered.

Finally, an FIR was filed by UGC and some of its officials are in jail. Police has not yet filed the charge-sheet. In the meet, UGC said it has set up an enquiry committee within the organization to probe the matter.



# Fresh ideas, not more institutions

The misguided approach of building more institutions is not only bad public policy, but also creates social expectations that get belied very quickly

C. Raj Kumar

The Union Minister for Human Resource Development, Smriti Irani, has set out an ambitious agenda to seek reforms in higher education. There is no greater challenge to the future of India than the urgent need to revamp our institutions of higher education. The reform that has to take place will have to address the fundamental problem of institutionalised mediocrity, deeply embedded in these institutions. It is not enough to talk about pursuing excellence; to establish and build world-class universities of excellence, the ecosystem of higher education has to change dramatically. These are some of the changes required.

## Nurturing talent

Transforming Indian universities involves a vision that will help India have a stronger commitment toward pursuing excellence. While global rankings of universities around the world have embarrassed us time and again, with no Indian university in the top 200 universities, this should not surprise us. What should, however, make us ponder is how the last two decades have seen a dramatic increase in the number of universities in Asia, which have begun to figure among the top universities of the world. What is it that Singapore, Hong Kong, South Korea, Taipei, Japan and China have done that we have not? While as individual scholars and researchers Indians have been doing remarkably well around the world, it is the inability of our own universities to nurture this talent that needs understanding. Unfortunately, most Indian universities are not spaces that are inspiring enough for knowledge creation, nor have they been designed to ensure the pursuit of serious research and scholarship. Effecting transformation involves five things: substantial resources, a progressive regulatory environment in which higher education regulators begin to trust universities, a new governance model for creating opportunities and space for research and scholarship, an enabling environment within universities that will significantly incentivise research and publications, and an attitudinal change among all stakeholders in the higher education sector.

The core emphasis has been to expand the diverse higher education sector with a view to increasing the gross enrolment ratio (GER). Mindless expansion has led to a situation where there is mediocrity. Central universities may be well funded, but suffer from a crisis of governance in



**PURSuing EXCELLENCE:** The vision for transforming Indian universities needs to focus on a set of specific goals to nurture research. Picture shows students of Delhi University during their convocation.

— PHOTO: MEETA AHLAWAT

which over 40 per cent of faculty positions lie vacant. The problem is even more serious when it comes to the state universities — they suffer from a lack of resources among other things. The new government must ensure that all faculty appointments are filled up within a time-bound framework. This will involve tactful engagement with the institutions and a creative approach to faculty recruitment. Archaic policies that have outlived their time should be dispensed with while recruiting faculty. Until the crisis of a lack of adequate infrastructure and faculty is addressed, there should be a short moratorium on establishing more central universities, IITs and IIMs. The misguided approach of building more institutions is not only bad public policy, but also creates social expectations that get belied very quickly when it comes to the quality of education that is offered.

Building world-class, research-oriented universities involves a serious commitment to knowledge creation in the

sciences, arts, social sciences and humanities. It is not enough to focus only on building laboratories and knowledge parks, promoting an industry-academia interface and pursuing research grants and creating incubators; we need to go beyond these reforms in order to create a culture of research. The vision for transforming Indian universities

## Most Indian universities are not spaces that are inspiring enough for the creation of knowledge

needs to focus on a set of specific goals to nurture research. It is essential to identify a selected set of institutions to represent the best of public and private universities and significantly enhance their capacities with a view to advancing their research agendas. This will not only help in understanding the key challenges that universities face in relation to nurturing research, but will also help us learn from recurring mistakes. Institutional reform inevitably requires risk-taking and innovation.

Indian universities are generally timid in seeking collaborations which are necessary for the development of new ideas and perspectives. There are a significant-

number of biases and prejudices that have led to scepticism in promoting any form of collaboration, even among our own universities. There is also lack of interdisciplinary teaching among different faculties and schools. The bureaucratic approach of university managements and regulators has led to the creation of too many hurdles in the pursuit of any meaningful collaboration.

Existing policies relating to research collaborations both within and outside India need to be re-examined and made more progressive and inclusive. They should be made progressive *vis-à-vis* ensuring greater autonomy and freedom to universities to determine who they want to collaborate with and what the terms of collaboration should be. I don't see any reason why the knowledge, wisdom, integrity and experience of the faculty members of the collaborating universities are less important than that of the regulators. There is a need to remove the distinctions that exist in relation to public and private universities; instead, universities ought to be differentiated on the basis of their performance and contribution. There is also a need for an inclusive approach, which involves all aspects of the higher education sector in knowledge creation. This will help in developing a higher education system that will assess the quality of education through objective standards and international benchmarks rather than making private sector education subservient to public universities.

## Amending rules

The biggest challenge is to create an enabling environment to promote innovation. Archaic rules and regulations that are constantly flouted have given rise to opportunities to dubious institutions to be engaged in corruption. There is a need to seek a change in the attitude of government departments that are involved in policymaking, and regulatory bodies that are monitoring and ensuring standards in higher education. The deep distrust that is prevalent among the institutions on the one hand and the government and regulatory bodies on the other has made the higher education sector static. There is little effort in seeking innovation. This has to change, and quickly. No reform of higher education institutions is possible without a careful and calibrated effort to examine the current framework of the powers of the government and of regulatory bodies.

(C. Raj Kumar is the founding vice-chancellor of O.P. Jindal Global University, Haryana.)

Economic Times ND 16/06/2014 P-17

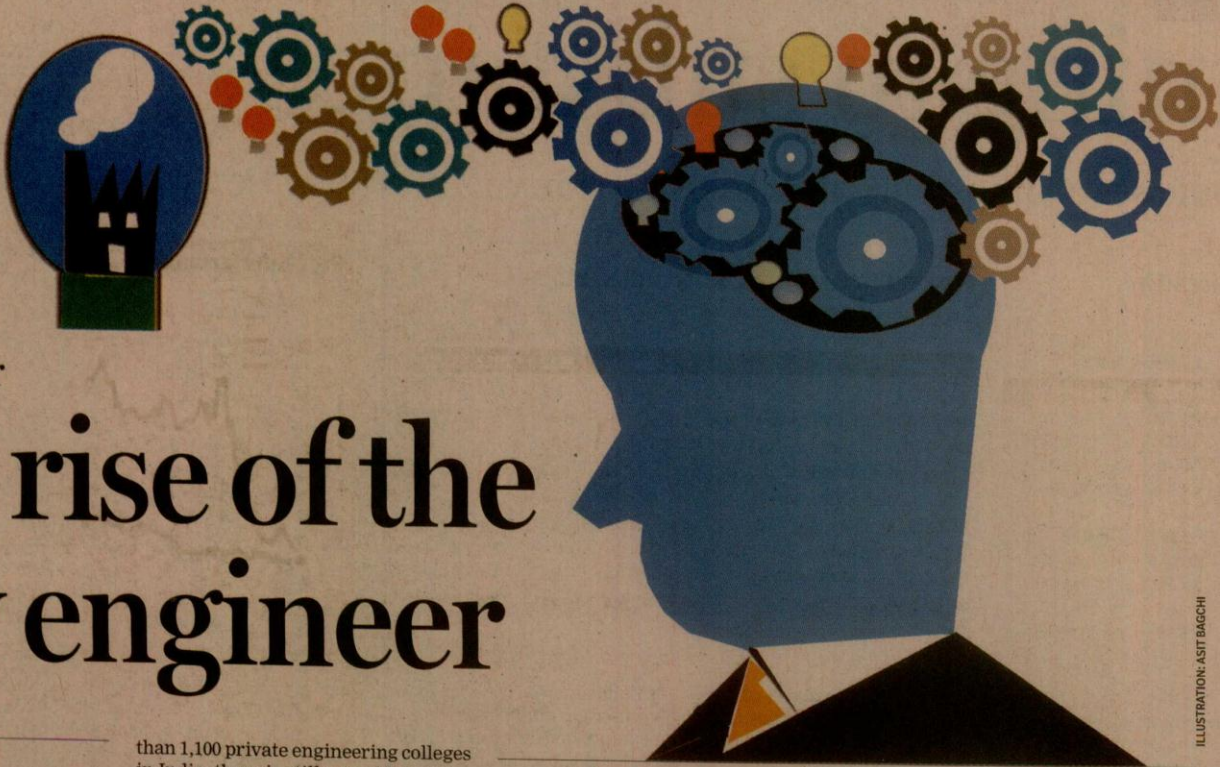
## HRD Ministry Plans an Interface to Tackle Problems in Edu Sector

**PUNE** Resolving to work to link the country's graduates with employment, Union HRD minister Smriti Irani on Sunday said her ministry would soon open an online and personal interface programme comprising academicians to tackle problems faced by premier institutions and students' bodies.

Speaking at at Symbiosis In-

stitute at Lavale, Irani said, "This (interface programme) won't comprise bureaucrats or politicians, but academicians and some of the best institutions." She said, "Experts can tell us how we can de-regulate problems faced by some of the premier institutions of our country and how our students' bodies can work more effectively.--PTI

The country needs a new engineer, one who is a leader, an innovator and an entrepreneur



# The rise of the new engineer

SANJAY DHANDE

**E**NGINEERING has been regarded as one of the most ancient scientific disciplines dating back to the 4th millennium BC. 'Engineering' has been derived from the word 'engineer', which means someone who operates an engine. Though the crux of engineering has remained the same, there have been a number of dimensions that have been added to this discipline over a period of time. Engineering has existed as a part of our daily lives ranging from the ancient invention of the wheel to the present day smartphone. The change from traditional engineering to modern-era engineering has been a significant turnaround. We live in times when changes happen rapidly and are governed by innovations, new technologies and a curious desire to control the demands of competitive environment.

Of course, some would emphasise on the importance of technology over engineering, but frankly there is no point separating the two. Technology practically cannot exist without engineering. New dimensions/disciplines or new forms of technology have led to an increase in demand for versatile and skilled engineers. While there are more

than 1,100 private engineering colleges in India, there is still a need for the industry and academia to come together and formulate a contemporary strategy for engineering education in India. There needs to be a high-level think tank that reviews higher engineering and science education system in India and provides direction for future growth. India is witnessing a void of engineering talent that is industry-ready. Today's engineer needs to adapt to change.

Modern day engineers who will incorporate the inevitable changes in their work and bring about much-needed innovations in technology are needed. Understanding the complexity of the engineering processes and adhering to the global standards and catering to customers worldwide is a perplexing task and, for this, we need to focus on training a set of highly motivated individuals who can be moulded into global leaders, innovators and entrepreneurs.

The industry needs to be able to fulfil three basic requirements in order to create a new age engineer. The first is attracting investment in research. A comparison of Indian engineering colleges with some of the leading institutions across the world on engineering degrees per faculty indicates a poor research and teaching output of Indian institutions vis-a-vis others. While most engineering

**Quality engineering education is the single most powerful intervention that the industry requires to bridge the gap between demand and supply**

institutions are improving their research output, the challenge of our engineering education system is to make the transition from primarily teaching institutions to teaching and research institutions. Corporates such as Birla, Mahindra and Mercedes are taking up the task of nation-building by entering into the education space. They have either tied up with existing institutions or have started their own institutions to fulfil the shortage of talent they experience.

The second change that needs to be brought in is in curriculum. The reason why so many of our qualified engineers turn out unemployable is because the system forces them to think purely with their left brain, crunching numbers and indulging in sterile analysis. This leads them to take up jobs far from their core strengths for which they do not possess the required skill sets. Institutions need an integrated curriculum encompassing areas such as creative sciences that will develop students with the unique ability to adapt to global engineering challenges and technologies that would

shape the future and create professionals with the ability to master the complexity of MNCs. The objective is to develop technically-sound, well-trained students capable of being holistic leaders for both domestic and global roles.

There is a predicted shortage of employable engineers of 2.45 million by 2020. In an optimistic scenario, the shortage would still be 1.6 million in 2020, according to the National Council of Applied Research. So the third and most important development that needs to be brought about is the creation of employable and dynamic leaders—professionals who are ready to go-to-market, equipped with a strong business sense, business exposure, and attuned to the demands of the digital economy in terms of technology and research.

Quality engineering education is the single most powerful intervention that the industry needs right now to bridge the gap between demand and supply.

*The author is founder director, Mahindra École Centrale*

The Pioneer ND 16/06/2014 P-8

# Losing sleep over degrees, diplomas

The debate over Smriti Irani's academic qualifications is meaningless. Some of her predecessors in the HRD Ministry were highly educated. Yet, education levels in India have plummeted in recent years



JOGINDER SINGH

**A**s an officer in the Indian Police Service, I happened to serve as an Aide-De-Camp to the Governor of Punjab. My assignment was the result of a request sent by the Governor of Punjab to the State of Mysore, later named Karnataka. The Governor only spoke his mother tongue Kannada and English while the then Chief Minister of Punjab knew only Punjabi.

I was expected to serve both as an ADC as well as an English-Punjabi interpreter at official functions. One Punjab politician, who eventually rose to the highest office in the country, was a frequent visitor. There were lot of stories and rumours doing the rounds about him in Punjab at that time. If the Governor was busy when he arrived, the politician would wait in my room, which was next to the Governor's office. When a particularly unsavoury incident was reported about the politician, I asked him if he was upset that such things were being written about him in the Press.

The politician smiled and asked me my age. I said that I had just completed 27 years. He told me I was just a child and explained that for a politician to remain in news is of the highest priority. I asked him how it was possible for anybody to remain in news everyday for all the right reasons. He again chided me and said that publicity is the life blood of politicians, even if it means paying from his own pocket to have stories against him in the media.

The recent criticism of the Union Minister for Human Resource Development by a junior Congress leader who lost the general election must be viewed against this backdrop. The Congress leader had pointed fingers at Ms Smriti Irani for not having a college education. Ironically, he himself had been at the receiving end of such statements and that too from his own party colleague who had called a 'third class graduate', from a 'back street college'.

There are many such instances within the Congress. During the election campaign, another senior Congress leader had made fun of Mr Narendra Modi's humble origins, called the BJP leader a "chaiwallah" and told him to sell tea outside the Congress headquarters. Of course, the comment cost him



and his party dearly — both lost the election.

As for HRD Ministers, let us not forget that Congress leaders who had led the Ministry had made a mess and wasted a lot of public funds. The previous Congress-led UPA regime introduced the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and the Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009. Under the latter, no student can be held back until Class VIII.

I wanted to hire an assistant to help my private secretary with maintaining the files. A young person, who claimed that he had studied up to Class X, offered his services. When I asked him to read two paras from a Hindi newspaper, he could not even read the name of the newspaper. I said it was a simple Hindi name: *Punjab Kesari*. So much for the work done by former education Ministers many of whom were highly educated!

You do not have to have a great college education to make it big. On the contrary, all sorts of fake diplomas and mark-

“  
THE NEW LOK SABHA HAS 48 MPS WHO HAVE JUST STUDIED UP TO CLASS X. NINE MPS HAVE ONLY FINISHED CLASS VIII AND ANOTHER SIX, CLASS V. FIVE OTHERS ARE JUST LITERATE AND THERE IS EVEN ONE WHO IS ILLITERATE  
”

sheets can be bought for the right price. Also, in the case of Ms Irani, there is no rule saying that an undergraduate degree is needed to become a Minister. So how can she be blamed? Moreover, there are double standards at play here. In previous Congress Governments, scamsters and fraudsters, and even leaders accused of murder, were appointed to the Union Cabinet.

According to the Association for Democratic Reforms, 23 per cent of the 542 MPs in the new Lok Sabha are not college educated. Of these, 58 MPs have completed school education while another 48 have only studied up to Class X. Additionally, there are nine MPs who have only finished Class VIII and another six have just studied up to Class V. Five others are just literate and there is even a lone MP from the Telugu Desam Party who has declared himself illiterate.

Incidentally, there many who have done well in life without much formal education. For instance, former US President Abraham Lincoln had only one year of formal schooling and was

essentially a self-taught man. Henry Ford, the legendary founder of Ford Motor Company, never went to college. John D Rockefeller Senior, founder of Standard Oil, dropped out of high school just two months before graduating.

Thomas Edison, inventor of the lightbulb and phonograph, was primarily home-schooled after his teachers labeled him dumb. Andrew Carnegie, founder of Carnegie Steel Company and one of the richest men that ever lived, was born in abject poverty and never saw the four walls of a school building.

Mr Bill Gates, co-founder of Microsoft Corporation, the world largest software company, and the richest man in the world for 13 consecutive years, dropped out of Harvard. Mr Michael Dell dropped out of college at the age of 19 to start Dell Computers Inc. which eventually became the most profitable personal computer manufacturer in the world. Steve Jobs dropped out of Reed College to start Apple Inc.

In India, K Kamaraj, who did not have any formal education and spoke only Tamil, was a very successful Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. Dhirubhai Ambani, founder of the Reliance Group, was a high school dropout. Mr Gautam Adani, founder of Adani Group, dropped out of college.

On the flip side, despite highly educated Ministers in the Union Government, the quality of education has gone down. For example, Indian universities don't even make to the Top 50 list of the world's best universities.

However, there are individuals who have made a mark in the world on the basis of their own strength, hard work and dedication. It had nothing to do with who was their Education Minister. At the Minister's Level, it is the policies and their monitoring and implementation which matter — not the degrees held by the individual Minister.

In the previous Government, were not only illiterate but also criminals and scamsters. Fed up with these career politicians who created a mess in the country, the people have voted for change and brought in a new Government manned by a different party and fresh set of leaders.

(The accompanying visual is of Union HRD Minister Smriti Irani, who has been targeted for her 'inadequate' academic qualifications)

## UGC move to review FYUP leaves students, parents worried

SHIKHA SHARMA  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 15

THOUGH teachers opposed to Delhi University's (DU) four-year undergraduate programme (FYUP) have welcomed University's Grant Commission's (UGC) decision to review the course, the announcement has created confusion among parents and students over the future of the programme.

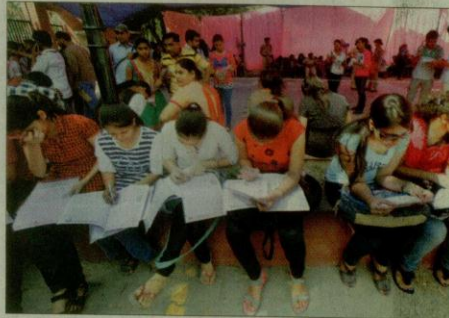
"The officials can keep debating and everyone can keep protesting, but the students are the ones who are going to be taking admission this year. We deserve to know what we are getting into so that we can make the

right decision," Manisha Lamba, a science aspirant, said.

"Maybe the programme will be scrapped, maybe it will stay. But as parents, we should be informed about what the university plans to do. Neither the university nor MHRD should play with the lives of children in this manner," Ramesh Rana, whose daughter has applied for admission to DU, said.

With the buzz that FYUP will be rolled back getting stronger, students already enrolled in the four-year course are also apprehensive.

"If FYUP is rolled back, will I get my degree after three years



Around 3 lakh forms have been sold by DU so far.

ARCHIVE

or four years? Will I then graduate with the batch that will join the university this year? Right now, I don't even know if I should concentrate on Discipline 2 subjects, because in all likelihood, I may not be studying them at all," Rachit Mehra, a DU student, said.

BTech and BMS students are also apprehensive about the fate of their degrees. "FYUP suits the scheme of things for BTech just fine. It is a well-designed course, one we are happy studying. The university should think twice before scrapping it," Anisha Wadhwa, who enrolled for BTech in computer science last year, said.

Meanwhile, students organisations such as the All India Students' Association (AISA) and Students' Federation of India (SFI) are planning to hold a protest outside HRD ministry demanding "immediate annulment of FYUP". The Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) is planning to hold a "VC buddhi shuddhi yagya" outside North Campus's Art Faculty.

Even Congress' National Students' Union of India (NSUI), which joined the clamour for roll-back of FYUP some days ago, has decided "to keep protesting till the university rolls back the programme".

Jansatta ND 16/06/2014 P-7

## इंजीनियरिंग, चिकित्सा व प्रबंधन छात्रों के प्रशासनिक क्षेत्र में प्रतिभा पलायन रोकने की मांग

नई दिल्ली, 15 जून (भाषा)। देश की प्रतिष्ठित सिविल सेवा परीक्षा में आइआईटी, आइआईएम व मेडिकल संकाय के छात्रों के बढ़ते दबदबे के बीच ऐसी प्रतिष्ठित संस्थाओं से प्रशासनिक सेवा में प्रतिभा पलायन पर रोक लगाने के लिए सरकार से पहल करने की मांग की गई है। 2013 के सिविल सेवा परीक्षा के परिणाम में शीर्ष 25 स्थान प्राप्त करने वालों में 24 अंग्रेजी माध्यम से परीक्षा देने वाले हैं। इसमें नौ इंजीनियरिंग संकाय, तीन मेडिकल और चार विज्ञान संकाय से हैं। इस प्रतिष्ठित परीक्षा में हिंदी और ग्रामीण पृष्ठभूमि के छात्रों की उपेक्षा का आरोप लगाते हुए पिछले कुछ समय से छात्र विभिन्न मंचों पर यह मांग उठाते रहे हैं।

पूर्व केंद्रीय मंत्री रघुवंश प्रसाद सिंह ने कहा कि आइआईटी, आइआईएम, मेडिकल कालेजों के पढ़ाई करने वाले छात्रों के सिविल सेवा परीक्षा में बैठने से मानविकी और ग्रामीण पृष्ठभूमि के छात्रों की संभावना काफी प्रभावित

हो रही है। इस परीक्षा में अंग्रेजी की अहमियत बढ़ने से भी ग्रामीण पृष्ठभूमि के छात्र पीछे छूट रहे हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि ऐसे छात्र जिन्हें ग्रामीण पृष्ठभूमि के बारे में जानकारी नहीं होगी, वे भारत जैसे देश की समस्याओं के संबंध में क्या खाका पेश कर पाएंगे।

पूर्व सांसद शिवानंद तिवारी ने कहा कि आइआईटी, आइआईएम, चिकित्सा संस्थाओं में छात्रों को पढ़ाने पर सरकार के लाखों रुपए खर्च होते हैं। सरकार की ओर से ऐसे क्षेत्र में विशेषज्ञ तैयार करने के लिए इतनी अधिक धनराशि खर्च करने के बाद उनका इन्हें छोड़ कर प्रशासनिक क्षेत्र में जाना देश के लिए अच्छी बात नहीं है। तिवारी ने कहा कि ऐसा देखने में आया है कि आइआईटी, आइआईएम, चिकित्सा से जुड़े संस्थाओं से शिक्षा प्राप्त करने वाले बहुत से लोग विदेश चले जाते हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि आइआईटी, आइआईएम जैसे संस्थानों का स्वरूप जर्मनी व अमेरिका जैसे

देशों की जरूरतों की तर्ज पर बना है जो भारत की आवश्यकताओं के अनुरूप नहीं है। ऐसे में इन संस्थानों से शिक्षा प्राप्त करने के बाद छात्र उन्हीं देशों में पलायन कर जाते हैं।

शिवानंद तिवारी ने कहा कि देशहित में आइआईटी, आइआईएम और चिकित्सा के छात्रों पर इतनी बड़ी धनराशि खर्च होती है और ये बाद में प्रशासनिक सेवा क्षेत्र में पलायन कर जाते हैं। इन संस्थाओं से उत्तीर्ण छात्रों पर ऐसी सेवाओं में जाने पर रोक लगाई जानी चाहिए। इस विषय पर विरोध प्रदर्शन करने वाले छात्रों का कहना है कि प्रारंभिक परीक्षा का स्वरूप इस तरह से बदल गया है कि इस परीक्षा में पूरी तरह से इंजीनियरिंग संकाय के छात्रों का दबदबा हो गया है। प्रश्नपत्र इस तरह से तैयार नहीं हो रहे हैं जो व्यक्ति की प्रशासनिक क्षमता का आकलन कर सकें। इसके अलावा हिंदी के प्रश्नपत्रों में अनुवाद संबंधी गलतियां भी सामने आ रही हैं।

## Scale up Research to Compete Globally, Says Panch

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/cities/chennai/Scale-up-Research-to-Compete-Globally-Says-Panch/2014/06/16/article2282863.ece>

CHENNAI: For Sethuraman Panchanathan, who was appointed member of US' prestigious National Science Board of the National Science Foundation by President Barack Obama on Friday, the foundation for his spectacular career was laid while pursuing higher education in India. The scientist with roots in the Chennai, did his schooling and spent and much of his college days in the city.

After passing out of the Madras Christian College School here, he went to Vivekananda College, then the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore and finally IIT Madras before he left for Ottawa, Canada for his doctorate. "When I went to Canada I could easily cope with my research since my professors at the IIT and IISc had motivated and engaged me in research," he informed Express in a telephonic conversation from the US.

He fondly recalls many of the professors who guided him to reach that stage. "My professor at the Vivekananda College, Professor Shankar was a tremendous inspiration for me. He was an amazing teacher, the commitment that he brought into teaching and the kind of care that he gave to his students inspired me much," says Panchanathan.

This is the first time that someone of Indian origin has been appointed to the prestigious body, which guides the science and technology policies in the US. Speaking about research in India, Panchanathan, called Panch by peers, says there is a need to find ways to make a career in research exciting.

"There is some good work being done in the IITs and IISc. But as a whole the training and emphasis is not as much on research as for jobs in information technology or other areas. Research needs to be scaled up and intensified if India needs to compete globally. As of now the research in the country is not level with its position globally," he says.

He points to the number of options students in the US have when they take up research, including starting their own entrepreneurial ventures, being hired into research wings of companies or as faculty in research positions.

"How to promote interest in research in undergraduate students, increase interest in science among students, how to promote curiosity driven creative research, how to make use of basic research to create innovations that can help society - these are certain questions that needs to be answered," he says.

Giving a sense of how intense research projects ought to be pursued, Panchanathan's dad Sethuraman recalls how he had to call off a marriage proposal for his son to enable him to continue his research project in Canada.

"When he was in Canada working on his research, we had this proposal and called him to India. But his professor there, one Mr Goldberg, wrote a long letter to me. He said, 'no wedding when the research is going on, I will not leave him from here unless he completes his project.' With that we dropped the plan straight away," he says with a laugh.

Times of India, ND 16/06/2014 P-15

# 36 yrs on, zombie ship to come home from space

## Shoestring Group To Bring Back Abandoned Mission

Kenneth Chang

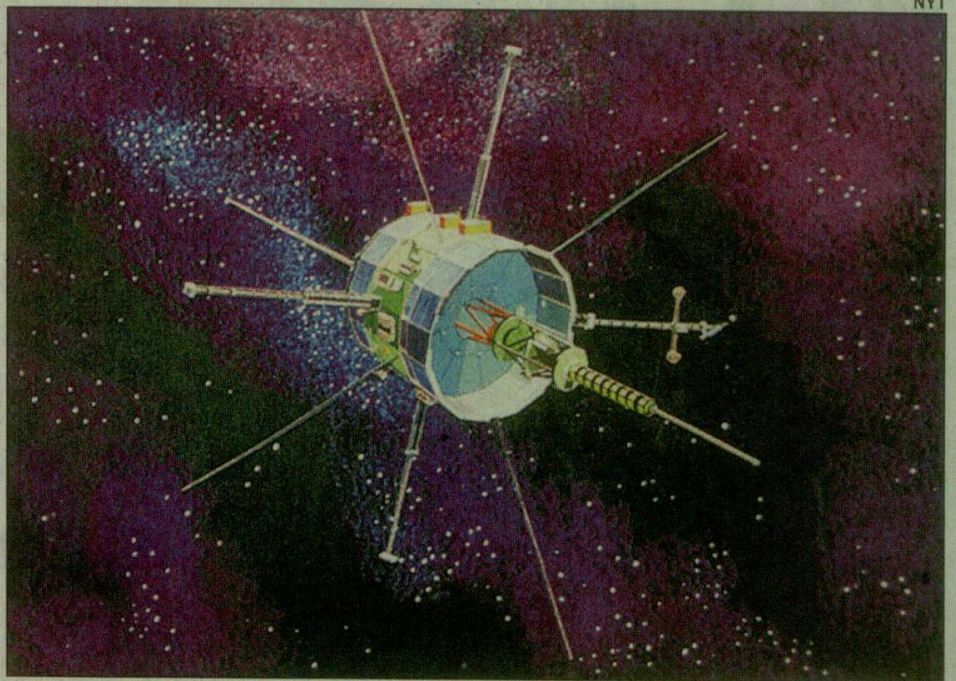
For 17 years, it has been drifting on a lonely course through space. Launched during the disco era and shuttered by Nasa in 1997, the spacecraft is now returning to the civilization that abandoned it.

It seemed destined to pass without fanfare, except for a slight chance of slamming into the moon, and then loop aimlessly through the inner solar system. But now, a shoestring group of civilians headquartered in a decommissioned McDonald's have reached out and made contact with it.

The zombie spaceship is coming home. After 36 years in space, the craft, the International Sun-Earth Explorer-3, appears to be in good working order. The main challenge, engineers say, is figuring out how to command it. No one has the full operating manual anymore, and the fragments are sometimes contradictory.

"We call ourselves techno-archaeologists," said Dennis Wingo, an engineer and entrepreneur who has a track record of extracting miracles from space antiques Nasa has given up on. Wingo's company, Skycorp, has its offices in the McDonald's that served the navy's Moffett air station. After the base closed, Nasa converted it to a research campus for small technology firms, academia and nonprofits.

Wingo took on the project as if it were a stray puppy. "No one else was going to do it," he said, "and it



**RETURN TRIP:** Launched during the disco era, ISEE-3 was shuttered by Nasa in 1997

seemed like the right thing to do."

The race to revive the craft, ISEE-3, began in earnest in April. At the end of May, using the Arecibo Observatory radio telescope in Puerto Rico, the team succeeded in talking to the spacecraft, a moment Wingo described as "way cool". This made Skycorp the first private organization to command a spacecraft outside Earth orbit, he said.

Nasa launched ISEE-3 in 1978 and the agency used it for various missions before retiring it in 1997. Since then, the craft has been looping around the sun on a 355-day orbit. Like a faster racecar lapping the rest

of the field, ISEE-3 will catch up to and pass Earth in two months.

In 1999, Nasa upgraded its communication system for distant probes. The old transmitters that could talk with ISEE-3 were thrown away. But ISEE-3 was never turned off. In 2010, Nasa looked into reviving contact, but concluded it would not be worth the effort and money. That caught Wingo's attention. "Not only is it not impossible," he said, "I think it can work, and I know how to do it." About 21 others scattered around the country joined in. On a crowdfunding site, they collected nearly \$160,000. Then they signed a pact with Nasa. NYT NEWS SERVICE

# Mumbai University to get its first women-only engineering college

## Five Courses On Offer, 300 Seats To Claim

Yogita Rao | TNN

**Mumbai:** The University of Mumbai will get its first engineering college exclusively for women from this academic year.

With a total intake capacity of 300 seats in the first year, the New Horizon Institute of Technology and Management will come up with a campus on Thane's Ghodbunder Road. The management has already got an approval from the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) four days ago and is now awaiting the state government's nod.

The New Horizon Education Society, which runs three CBSE schools in Thane and Navi Mumbai, got the approval to run computer, me-



chanical, civil, electronics and electrical engineering courses along with a new course on mechatronics (a combination of five disciplines including mechanical, electronics, control, telecommunication and computer engineering).

The approved intake capacity for each of the five courses in the first year is 60 seats. The institute is also expected to offer management courses. The institute has fulfilled all the requirements prescribed by the AICTE to set up an engineering college, including the land requirement of 2.5 acres and other facilities such as labo-

New Horizons On The Engg Front	No. Of Seats
Mechanical	60
Civil	60
Electronics & Electrical	60
Computer	60
Mechatronics	60
<b>Total</b>	<b>300</b>

ratory, classrooms, etc.

While the advertisements for faculty vacancies have already been released, the appointments will be made only after approval from the state government is received.

A university official said, "In the last few years, the number of schools and junior colleges in Thane has grown in numbers, but the corresponding growth in institutes offering higher education has not been impressive. An engineering college for women will solve the problem for aspirants in the central suburbs who do not wish to travel too far for high-

er education. We are anyway working towards promoting women's education, so it is a good initiative."

He added that most city students anyway are used to travelling to Navi Mumbai for engineering.

It will be the first institute affiliated to Mumbai University to offer its engineering courses exclusively to women. There are in all 65 engineering colleges under the university. In the state, there are only a handful of other managements, which run engineering colleges for women. SNDT University, Pune's Cummins College, Aurangabad's Savitribai Phule College and GH Rasoni Institute in Nagpur are some of the colleges exclusively for aspiring women engineers.

SS Mantha, chairman, AICTE, confirmed that the institute has been given the letter of approval for 300 seats. He added that the engineering college will be an advantage for girls in Thane and neighbouring suburbs.



Times of India, ND 16/06/2014 P-15

# Spy on your spy: Tech shows who's using your data

**Washington:** MIT researchers have developed a new technology that tracks how your private data is used online.

Researchers in the Decentralized Information Group at MIT's Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory (CSAIL) are developing a protocol they call "HTTP with Accountability", or HTTPA, which will automatically monitor the transmission of private data and allow the data owner to examine how it's being used.

At the IEEE's Conference on Privacy, Security and Trust next month in Toronto, Oshani Seneviratne, an MIT graduate in electrical engineering and computer science, and Lalana Kagal, a principal research scientist at CSAIL, will present a paper that gives an overview of HTTPA.

With HTTPA, each item of private data would be assigned its own uniform resource identifier that would convert the web from, essentially, a collection of searchable text files into a giant database. Re-

© Hill Street Studios/Blend Ima



## INFORMATION INQUISITION

mote access to a web server would be controlled much the way it is now, through passwords and encryption.

But every time the server transmitted a piece of sensitive data, it would also send a description of the restrictions on the data's use. An HTTPA-compliant program also incurs certain responsibilities if it reuses data supplied by another HTTPA-compliant source. PTI

Times of India, ND 16/06/2014 P-15

# Fasting can ward off diabetes, says study

**Washington:** Fasting can reduce cholesterol levels in prediabetic people over extended period of time, according to a new research.

The research on periodic fasting has identified a biological process in the body that converts bad cholesterol in fat cells to energy, thus combating diabetes risk factors.

Researchers at the Intermountain Heart Institute at Intermountain Medical Center in Murray, Utah, noticed that after 10 to 12 hours of fasting, the body starts scavenging for other sources of energy throughout the body to sustain itself. The body pulls LDL (bad) cholesterol from the fat

cells and uses it as energy. "Fasting has the potential to become an important diabetes intervention," said Benjamin Horne, director of cardiovascular and genetic epidemiology at the Intermountain Medical Center Heart Institute and lead researcher on the study.

## HUNGER HEALS

"Though we've studied fasting and it's health benefits for years, we didn't know why it could provide benefits we observed related to the risk of diabetes."

Research by Horne and his team in 2011 focused on healthy people during one day of fasting and showed that routine, water-only fasting was associated with lower glucose levels and weight loss. PTI

# Students, academicians to form edu policies: Irani

<http://www.punemirror.in/pune/civic/Students-academicians-to-form-edu-policies-Irani/articleshow/36615901.cms>

Pune Mirror | Jun 16, 2014, 02.30 AM IST

***In city on Sunday, Union HRD Min highlights Ministry's plans for active online presence soon; stresses removal of only bureaucratic, political involvement.***

Bringing in a breath of fresh air to the education sector, Central Cabinet Minister for Human Resource Development (HRD) Smriti Irani declared that policies formed under the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) will no longer depend only on bureaucrats and politicians. Committees will be formed with representatives from students, academicians, and managements of institutions, that will brainstorm on several aspects before any policy is formed.

In the city for the orientation programme of the Symbiosis International University's Lavale campus, she spoke about her plans in a brief five-minute speech on Sunday. This new practice will be incorporated soon after public portals for suggestions and brainstorming sessions with the ministry are opened.

"India has a working manpower of three million people but the industry claims that half of them are not employable. We are creating manpower to run the nation, and the formation of our education policies is not something for a politician or a bureaucrat to ponder on, alone.

Hence, MHRD will soon have an active online presence to facilitate personal interactions with the public. It will be a platform for everybody to contribute and communicate to MHRD. Committees will include experts and knowledgeable personalities from the best institutions, academicians and student bodies," said Irani. "Institutes are well aware of the problems, so are academicians and students.

They can get together and discuss issues faced by each other and can come up with solutions after knowing how their counterparts have resolved problems," she added. Irani also mentioned the importance of research works and ensured more fund allocations toward them.

On being congratulated by Dr S B Mujumdar, founder and president of Symbiosis, on becoming the first-ever female HRD minister in 67 years of independence, she said, "I do not want to look at the HRD Ministry's work from the prism of gender but from the prism of possibilities to help India develop."

The event, which began with a lot of excitement and enthusiasm due to Irani's presence and the anticipation of her interaction with the students, eventually turned out to be a very brief affair, as she arrived half-an-hour late and was in a tearing hurry to attend the President's programme at the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER).

However, Irani managed to capture the auditorium's attention with her ideas of involving students and academicians in devising policies related to educational matters.