Newspaper Clips
June 21, 2014

Times Of India ND 21/06/2014   P-11

This 14-year-old never went to school, but makes it to IIT

Vithika Salomi | TNN

Patna: Fourteen-year-old Shivanand Tiwari has never been to school, but is on his way to joining one of the IITs. The prodigy from Rohtas district's Dharampura village has secured the 2,587th rank in IIT-JEE (Advanced) 2014.

"Till 2010, I didn't have much inclination towards studies, except for solving mathematical problems," said Shivanand. "But then somebody suggested I aim for IITs and I got help from the Narayana Academy in Delhi."

Shivanand's father Kamlakant Tiwari, a farmer who is a history honours gradu-

Shivanand's father Kamlakant Tiwari, who is a farmer and graduate in history honours, wanted him to become a sage and used to call him 'bal sant'

ate, wanted him to become a sage and even started calling him 'bal sant' (child saint).

"Since childhood I liked spirituality and learnt the Ramayana, Mahabharata, Bhagavad Gita and a number of puranas to recite at different functions," he said. "However, when my father saw I liked studying maths and science, he also agreed to my higher studies."
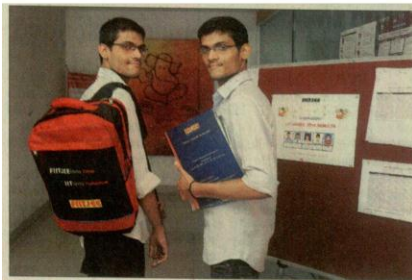
He first wants to study applied physics from IIT Kanpur and later do research in physics. "I'm really interested in correlating spirituality and science," says Shivanand, who also read the works of Swami Vivekanand while preparing for the IIT-JEE. He scored 93.4% in his CBSE Class XII exams this year, but was hoping for better grades in both the Class

XII and JEE. "I'll take another attempt at JEE next year to improve my rank," he said.

He advises other IIT aspirants to first have clear concepts and then take as many practice tests as possible to crack the exam. "The weekly or monthly tests are the best way to gauge one's strength and weakness," he said.

One of Shivanand's mentors, Deepak Singh, who coached him during his early days, vouches for his grasping power. "He doesn't need to read anything twice to remember it," Singh said. "He is a very talented boy. A special curriculum had to be designed for Shivanand," he added.

Indian Express ND 21/06/2014 P-1

Two IIT, from a 150-sq ft room in Bhiwandi

The twin sons of a bus driver in Mumbai get offers of financial help after clearing IIT-JEE

TABASSUM BARNAGARWALA
MUMBAI, JUNE 20

WITH a collective income of around Rs 17,000 per month and a cramped 150 square foot room in Bhiwandi's slums for their home, life for the Yadav family has been tough. But it looks all set to change. Their 18-year-old twins — Ram and Shyam Yadav — have cleared the coveted IIT-JEE exam with 267 and 1,816 ranks respectively in the OBC section.

Since Friday morning, the family, which hails from a small village in Uttar Pradesh, received a string of calls from people who were eager to to extend financial aid for the twins' dream — research in particle physics and space — to come true.

Their elder brother Anil says the twins were not exactly the studious kind when they were small. "As kids, both were more playful than studious. In Class X, however, they started studying seriously. I guess they saw the

competition around them and realised they needed to work hard to do well," the 22-year-old told *The Indian Express.*

While their father Ramashankar, a bus driver, earns Rs 8,000 a month, their eldest brother Luvkush (25) adds another Rs 9,000 to the family's income. Since the family, comprising seven members (four brothers, one sister and parents), had just a tiny room as home, neighbours arranged another room in the '*chawl*' a month before the exam

so that the twins could prepare for their big test.

Ram, always an extrovert, as opposed to his usually shy brother Shyam, speaks about concepts of space medicine, astrophysics and quantum gravity. Not interested in getting jobs, the twins want to do research and innovate. Their motivation, the family says, has been the innumerable biographies they have read of great innovators. "I get biographies for them from my college's library," says Anil.

Twins Ram and Shyam Yadav are more interested in research and innovation than in going for regular jobs. EXPRESS

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Two IIT, from a 150-sq ft room in Bhiwandi

The idea to explore the realm of space was fed in their minds through their father's tiny mobile phone, in which they used to watch the National Geographic channel.

Their eldest brother Luvkush, who quit studies to sustain the family, financed their education till Class XII, after which the twins were able to bag 100 per cent scholarship in FIITJEE for IIT preparations. "They, however, did not have enough money to pay for admission fees. The teachers in FIITJEE saw

their talent and decided to shell out money from their own pockets for their admission," said Vidyut Kumar, a social activist who is helping the boys raise money for their IIT fees.

The twins now hope to get into IIT-Mumbai. Their mother, who never went to school, has still not understood what IIT is all about. It was only when media tapped on their door and requested interviews, did she finally realise the importance of it. "She and my father have

now understood that Ram and Shyam have achieved something big. But my father accidentally says that his sons have passed HSC," laughs Anil.

While the family and neighbours are celebrating, the twins are now worried about the fees which will scale up to Rs 5 lakh for both of them. Their elder brothers, however, say that the family will never pressure them. "People have been calling to help. Both of them will surely find a solution," says Anil.

Pioneer ND 21/06/2014   P-6

Another child prodigy in Bihar cracks IIT-JEE

AMARNATH TEWARY ■ PATNA

Another child prodigy from Bihar Shivanand Tiwari (14) has cracked the prestigious and the toughest Indian engineering entrance test IIT-JEE. The young Shivanand had to take court permission to sit in the entrance test and he got through it with flying colours.

Son of a humble farmer Kamlakant Tiwari from Dharampura village in Rohtas district of south-west Bihar, Shivanand reportedly is among the youngest students of the country to crack the IIT-JEE.

Since childhood Shivanand had shown signs of his brilliance as at the age of just seven he had learnt the holy scripture Gita and other Hindu religious texts by heart. He even started traveling other places to preach on religion and religious texts and many of his villagers said, his discourses were all well attended.

"Since childhood I'd no doubt that he will excel in his life whatever he will do. He will go much beyond IIT," said his father. But, Shivanand said he would like to advance research in physics.

"I'd like to blend spirituality with physics for the benefit of human kind," said Shivanand who has secured 2,587 rank in the IIT entrance test.

His father said Shivanand with his spiritual aspirations in life wanted to serve God and opt for sainthood. But director of a coaching institute based in Patna and New Delhi spotted him in 2011.

> **I'd like to blend spirituality with physics, says 14-year-old**
>
> Since childhood I'd no doubt that he will excel in his life whatever he will do. He will go much beyond IIT, **his father said**

"He was so impressed with his talent that he convinced Shivanand and me to take him along to his coaching institute for the IIT-JEE," said his father.

Shivanand today feels obliged to the director of the coaching institute for taking him to Delhi from where he completed his school studies and later appeared in the IIT-JEE to crack it in his first attempt.

"They made me focus much on English so that I could read and understand books in this language," he said.

Earlier last year a 13-year-old student Satyam Kumar from adjoining Bhojpur district of the State had achieved the similar feat while securing impressive rank of 679 in the IIT-JEE.

Similarly, another child prodigy from Bihar Tathagath Avtar Tulsi had cracked IIT at the age of 14 and currently he is serving as associate professor in IIT Mumbai.

A total of 126,997 applicants had registered for the entrance examination out of which 27,151 candidates have cleared IIT-JEE (advanced) this year.

The IIT-JEE advance exams are conducted to secure admission to the undergraduate programmes offered by the 16 IITs and the Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad in Jharkhand. The intake of these institutes is 9,784.

Like every year the famous Super 30 of Bihar this year too has repeated its success story with altogether 27 out of 30 students from the coaching institute have got through the IIT test.

"All the students come from poorest of the poor families, even from the neighboring UP State. Among the successful candidates three are girls," said the jubilant Anand Kumar of Super 30. Several international stories and films have been made on the success story of Super 30 and Anand Kumar.

Recently a large group of filmmakers from France had come to shoot all the consecutive success stories of Super 30. Since 2002 altogether 308 students have cracked IIT-JEE test from Super 30.

Aaj Samaj ND 21.06.2014 P-11

39 गरीब बच्चों ने आईआईटी प्रवेश परीक्षा पास की

कानपुर (एजेंसी)। गैस अथारिटी ऑफ इंडिया लिमिटेड (गेल) के कॉरपोरेट सामाजिक दायित्व (सीएसआर) के तहत गरीब बच्चों को इंजीनियरिंग प्रवेश परीक्षा की तैयारी कराने के लिए चलाये जा रहे कार्यक्रम गेल उत्कर्ष सुपर 100 के तहत इस वर्ष 100 छात्र-छात्राओं में से 91 ने आईआईटी की मुख्य परीक्षा पास की जिसमें से 39 ने आईआईटी एडवांस राउंड पास कर लिया।

यह सभी बच्चे बहुत गरीब घरों के और गांव के रहने वाले है। गांव देहात के इन गरीब बच्चों की एक साल की पूरी कोचिंग और पढ़ाई का पूरा खर्च गेल ने उठाया अब आईआईटी या अन्य इंजीनियरिंग कालेज में प्रवेश हो जाने के बाद अगले चार साल तक इनकी पढ़ाई का खर्च भी गेल ही उठाएगा। गेल सीएसआर के उपमहाप्रबंधक (डीजीएम) अनूप गुप्ता ने शुक्रवार को एक पत्रकार वार्ता में बताया कि वर्ष 2009 में गेल ने अपने सामाजिक कार्यक्रम के तहत कानपुर में गेल उत्कर्ष कार्यक्रम की शुरूआत की। इस कार्यक्रम के तहत गांव देहात के उन प्रतिभाशाली छात्र छात्राओं को इंजीनियरिंग कोचिंग कराने का जिम्मा लिया जो पैसे की कमी के कारण कोचिंग आदि नही कर पाते है और उनका इंजीनियरिंग कॉलेज और आईआईटी जैसे संस्थानो में प्रवेश नहीं हो पाता है। वर्ष 2009 में 20 बच्चों के साथ आरंभ हुआ यह कार्यक्रम पिछले वर्ष 100 छात्रों तक पहुंच गया। इन सभी छात्र छात्राओं को गेल उत्कर्ष योजना के तहत 11 महीने की विशेष एवं कुशल शिक्षको द्वारा कोचिंग दिलायी जाती है। इस दौरान इन छात्र छात्रों की पढ़ाई, किताब खाने पीने रहने आदि का पूरा इंतजाम गेल की सीएसआर योजना के तहत किया जाता है। गुप्ता से जब पूछा गया कि इन गरीब बच्चों का चयन कैसे किया जाता है तो उन्होंने बताया कि इसके लिये ग्रामीण इलाको के नवोदय स्कूलों और अन्य सरकारी स्कूलों के ऐसे बच्चों की प्रवेश परीक्षा ली जाती है जिनके परिवार की वार्षिक आय सवा लाख रुपए हो। उसके बाद जो बच्चे इस परीक्षा में पास हो जाते है उनका साक्षात्कार किया जाता है और उनमें से 100 बच्चे चयनित करके उनकी कोचिंग का कार्यक्रम कानपुर में चलाया जाता है। गेल पूरे देश में केवल कानपुर में ही ऐसा कार्यक्रम चला रही है।

इन बच्चों का जब किसी आईआईटी या इंजीनियरिंग कालेज में दाखिला हो जाता है तो कंपनी इन बच्चों को पांच हजार रुपए प्रति माह की आर्थिक सहायता जेब खर्च के नाम पर लगातार चार साल तक देती है। योजना के तहत पिछले पांच सालों से अब तक गेल ऐसे बच्चों की पढ़ाई पर करीब पांच करोड़ रुपए खर्च कर चुकी है।

Millennium Post ND 21/06/2014   P-1

HOW THEY OVERCAME POVERTY TO CRACK IIT

M POST BUREAU

NEW DELHI: Most stories these days make you despair. This one is a story of hope. Of steely determination in the midst of what looked like insurmountable odds. 39 students from economically marginalised backgrounds, sponsored by GAIL's flagship education programme Utkarsh, have made it to the most coveted and prestigious engineering institutions of the country – the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs).

In what is considered to be one of the toughest entrance examinations in the world, 91 out of 100 students qualified in IIT Mains this year and 39 out of 91 cleared the IIT Advance round, all sup-

ported by GAIL (India) Ltd as part of its CSR intervention Utkarsh, in Kanpur district of Uttar Pradesh. These students come from rural backgrounds whose parents are small/marginalised farmers or daily wage earners. They have done their schooling from government schools.

As part of Utkarsh, every year 100 meritorious students from economically underprivileged background from Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh are screened through a rigorous process of written test and interviews. Once the students are finalised, these students are provided free residential coaching and mentoring scholarship programme for 11 months. The part scholarship is continued to students

who make it to the IITs for the entire duration of 4 years.

Vivek from Varanasi says, 'I come from a small village near Varanasi which is far away from the city. My father is a small farmer and his income did not permit me to afford private coaching. One day my fortune took a turn as I came to know about GAIL

Utkarsh SUPER 100 through my favorite teacher. I sat for the test and cleared the interview. Thanks to Abhyanand Sir for his able guidance and mentoring, I cleared the IIT entrance exam. I am grateful to CSRL and GAIL for this unique programme.'

Then there is this 14-year-old from Bihar's Rohtas dis-

trict. Shivanand, the son of a farmer, passed his class 12 exam this year with 93.4%, and got special permission to sit for the IIT-JEE. He ranked 2,587.

'We are proud of him. He has done something very special at this age,' Shivanand's father Kamlakant Tiwari, a resident of Dharampur village, said. Shivanand said he wanted to pursue research in physics. 'I am keen on becoming a scientist,' he said.

In faraway Mumbai, all Ramashankar Yadav, a bus driver, knows is that his twin sons have cleared an exam. What he cannot comprehend is that the exam in question is the JEE-Advanced and how his sons have now embarked on a path which may see the

family's fortunes undergo a sea change.

'My parents only know that we have passed the exam but they don't understand the importance of the same. For my brother and me, this is our first step towards attaining our goals. We both want to become researchers,' said Ram Yadav (18).

While Ram has secured the 267 rank in the OBC category, his brother Shyam has got rank 1,816 in the same category. Born and brought up in a small slum in Bhiwandi, their father's only aim was to earn enough to make sure his family is fed. With his monthly salary of Rs. 8,000, he somehow also managed to fund the basic education of his four sons over the years.

WINNERS ALL: Utkarsh helped these 39 underprivileged students to clear IIT JEE

Hindustan Times ND 21/06/2014   P-13

MARQUEE CUSTOMERS

IITan takes on Apple, Samsung with health gizmo

Manu P Toms

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BANGALORE: Azim Premji is wearing one. Mohandas Pai is funding its manufacture.

IIT-an Mohammed Naseem is taking on the might of Apple and Samsung with his cut-rate competitor digital fitness band that costs only ₹3,000 against the rival gizmos that cost anything between ₹6,000 and 20,000.

Naseem, 48, has lined up ambitious plans for his venture, Get Active, which already boasts of 12,000 customers who are promoting it — the gizmo (known by the same name as the company)

GET ACTIVE'S FIT BANDS, DESIGNED IN BANGALORE AND MANUFACTURED IN CHINA AND TAIWAN, STARTS AT ₹3,000.

measures calories they burn, a move that could spell money for the former IBM vice-president's venture.

The band, which is also used by Wipro's CEO TK Kurien, is looking at 10 billion steps a day from the current 20 million as it targets to quadruple sales to 40,000 units this year.

The four-year-old firm, which has got traction with fitness enthusiasts in tech giants such as Wipro, KPMG, Happiest Mind, Intel, Capgemini and SAP, is in talks with institutional investors for a $6-million (₹36 crore) funding to diversify its product base.

Get Active has the first-mover advantage and price attractiveness over its potential foreign rivals, which are yet to enter the Indian market. Its fit bands are designed in Bangalore and manufactured in China and Taiwan.
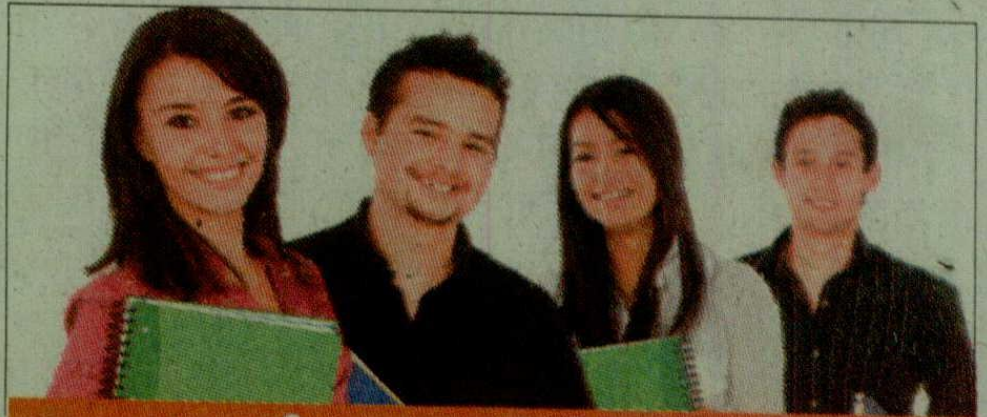
Naseem's early backers, tech entrepreneurs

Kiran Anandampillai and P Rangarajan themselves got enrolled for Get Active's programme — where the physical activity gets measured, translates into data, is compared with peers or kept private according to the user's choice, gets "gamified" with competition and goes social on the Net.

"We are looking for investments in research & development (R&D) to develop heart rate sensors and senor that can measure blood glucose, to increase the scope of data we can capture," said Naseem. "We are talking to institutional investors," he added.

Navodaya Times ND 21.06.2014 P-7

आई.आई.टी.: 50 च्वाइस लॉक जरूरी

■ शुक्रवार से शुरू ऑनलाइन च्वाइस फिलिंग

■ च्वाइस लॉक न करने पर ऑटोमैटिक एलोकेशन

नई दिल्ली, 20 जून (ब्यूरो) आईआईटी एडवांस्ड में क्वालिफाई करने वाले छात्रों को आई.आई.टी. ने कहा है कि कम से कम 50 च्वाइस फिल करें। हालांकि छात्र चाहें तो इससे अधिक च्वाइस भी दे सकते हैं या कम भी लेकिन बोर्ड का कहना है कि वह कम से कम 50 च्वाइस फिल करने का सुझाव देता है।

शुक्रवार से शुरू च्वाइस फिलिंग के लिए सबसे पहले आई.आई.टी. एडवांस्ड की वैबसाइट पर ऑनलाइन रजिस्ट्रेशन करने की व्यवस्था की गई है। रजिस्ट्रेशन करते ही छात्र को एक यूजर आई.डी. और पासवर्ड भेजा जाता है।

3 सूची का करना होगा इंतजार

बोर्ड ने छात्रों को रजिस्ट्रेशन के लिए 5 दिन का समय दिया है। छात्र 24 जून तक किसी भी वक्त रजिस्ट्रेशन कर सकते हैं। 24 जून को शाम 5 बजे तक च्वाइस लॉक करने की सुविधा मिलेगी। अगर कोई छात्र च्वाइस फिल करने के बाद लॉक बटन नहीं दबाते हैं, तो बोर्ड की ओर से ऑटोमैटिक एलोकेशन कर दिया जाएगा। च्वाइस लॉक करने से पहले तक छात्र अपने च्वाइस बदल भी सकते हैं। आई.आई.टी. ने कहा है कि छात्र च्वाइस लॉक करने का प्रिंटआऊट भी अपने पास जरूर रखें। आई.आई.टी. पहली सूची 1 को, दूसरी 7 को और तीसरी 12 जुलाई को जारी करेगा। छात्रों को अपने लिए मिले सीट की जानकारी हासिल करने के लिए एक जुलाई को इसी यूजर आई.डी. और पासवर्ड से लॉग इन करना होगा।

HT Mumbai

9k signatures for petition opposing eight more IITs

Apoorva Puranik

■ apoora.puranik@hindustantimes.com

MUMBAI: While the Union human resource development (HRD) ministry's proposal for the setting up of new Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) in every state has drawn flak across quarters, a student of IIT Kharagpur has taken the debate online.

Digvijay Patil, a third-year engineering student at IIT Kharagpur has floated a petition urging Union HRD minister Smriti Irani to drop her plan to establish eight new IITs in the country.

His petition: 'Instead of setting 8 new IITs, I am IITian) want Mrs Smriti Irani to focus on facilities and faculties of existing IITs' has already received 9,000 signatures in the last two weeks.

Patil is currently pursuing his summer internship outside the country, but he told HT over e-mail that he did not expect this overwhelming support through the petition.

"The new IITs set up by the earlier government five years ago are still dealing with a lack of infrastructure, faculty and resources. The living conditions on the campuses are also deplorable. What is the point of setting up more premier institutes when

'EXISTING IITs NEED ATTENTION'

Digvijay Patil, a third-year engineering student at IIT Kharagpur floated a petition urging Union HRD minister Smriti Irani to drop her plan for eight new IITs.

He has cited the poor state of the new IITs established only 5 years ago and asked for the funds to be used on them instead.

the existing ones can't be sustained?" said Patil.

While describing the purpose of the petition on website www.change.org, the Patil has written, "Setting up a new set of IITs will only add to the problems being faced by the hallowed institutions. We know India is over populated, but she [Smriti Irani] should concentrate on quality instead of quantity".

Other students who signed the petition hope that it makes a difference to the HRD ministry's decision. "Every time a person signs the petition, an email is sent to the HRD minister's official email id. With over 9,000 signatures, we hope her inbox is chock-a-block with the emails, which force her to take notice," Pawan Jha, a student of IIT Bombay said

Business Line ND 21/06/2014 P-13

IIT-M, Technip sign MoU

Chennai, June 20

Technip in India and the Indian Institute of Technology – Madras on Friday signed a Memorandum of Understanding for establishing a broad partnership in various areas, including research collaborations with the Ocean, Civil and Metallurgical & Materials Engineering departments. It also includes creation of a postgraduate programme with a focus on generic engineering; lectures by faculty and industry practitioners; continuing PG education for technical professionals; placement and internships for IITM graduates and students; and various sponsorship opportunities.   OUR BUREAU

Last edu policy came in '86, India needs a new one: Irani

Smriti Irani's first 'interview' as HRD minister was scooped by two little girls from a Noida school. She spoke to TOI minutes after the two budding journalists grilled her — the HRD minister's first media interview after she took charge. Irani said a new education policy will emerge only after wide-ranging consultations with all stakeholders, especially students and parents. Excerpts:

Akshaya Mukul | TNN

TOI INTERVIEW

What will be the focus of HRD ministry?
I think that the PM's focus on skill development and his concern that we need to make our youth more employable is something that will reflect in the policies and work of the ministry. The President's concern for the standards to be set up in Central universities and institutes of higher learning is something which I endeavour to support and provide solution to. I also see a reduced inclination towards science and maths. My endeavour is to support an increased awareness or interest towards maths and science, particularly among girls, at primary, secondary and higher levels.

President's address promised IITs in all states. How are you going to implement it?
I am aware of the challenges of existing IITs/IIMs. In fact, on 28th and 29th of this month, I requested IIT directors to come together to introspect current challenges and how we can provide through administrative reforms solutions to those challenges. I am also keen to develop contribution of the alumni of such institutions for better engagement with students and to promote research. I will undertake a similar exercise with IIM directors. For any new initiative on policy, all stakeholders will be consulted. Policy will not be made in isolation.

But there is a perception that IITs only produce engineers and research is ignored.
I have understood concerns regarding research and fellowship in our country. The HRD website is in the process of being refurbished which will help students understand under what scheme increased grants in research, scholarship and fellowship will be given. I am also extremely keen to increase allocation towards research, keen to engage with industry captains so that there is an interface and support from industry for research. Our endeavour is to support research by students as well as to increase awareness about how papers are to be published in reputed journals and how students pursue patents with regard to research.

Why this emphasis on setting up a Central university on Himalayan Studies?
I will say time has come for an institute of international repute where modern science, technology, environmental concerns, issues related to hydrology, anthropology, geology, ethnic cultures in Himalayan regions will be subject of study. I also foresee the need for international cooperation for such an endeavour in convergence with the efforts of the ministry of external affairs.

BJP had questioned UPA's move to appoint vice-chancellors of 12 Central universities. In most cases panel has been finalized. What are you going to do now?
In whatever process that is undertaken by HRD, due process of law will be ensured. Also post of VC is not only a position of academic excellence but also one with which the prestige of the institute is tied up. My endeavour is to ensure that institution's prestige, dignity and honour is not damaged.

Are you looking at changing the curriculum?
The last education policy was formulated in 1986. In 2014, this is a new India with new needs and new aspirations. Hence, we will begin the process of consultation state-wise, region-wise, nationally, not only with government and bureaucracy but with all stakeholders. We will also invite international experts who can give us an insight from their experiences, challenges they met with innovative ideas and what succeeded. After exhaustive deliberations, a new education policy will emerge, reflecting the aspirations of India now and opportunities in the next decade. It will be my endeavour to help India emerge as a knowledge-based economy. Education should be a cohesive policy.

What will be the fate of a host of Bills left behind by UPA II?
Whichever legislation benefits students, helps bring about systemic changes to better education in the country will be pursued. Policy initiatives, as a citizen I feel, should not be looked upon from the political prism. Policy needs to evolve in such a way that it keeps up with the pace of change in our country. Policy is made for the people. A policy cannot bring forth challenges for people but policy is initiated to better lives of people. If this means a policy needs to be deliberated upon or revamped in some fashion, HRD is open to such suggestions. The biggest stakeholders are students and families who work hard to send their children to schools.

There is an apprehension that textbooks will be saffronized.
Too much is attributed to me, without me speaking about it. President's speech and PM's resolve reflect what HRD seeks to do.

Your manifesto promised restructuring of UGC. Will it happen?
There have been many a promise in the manifesto which I hold dear. Promises were made to better lives of people. These promises shall be kept.

What about Delhi University's Four-Year-Undergraduate Programme?
I see the role of HRD if there is a blatant violation of law. I respect autonomy of institutions. Any other comment at this stage from me will be inappropriate.
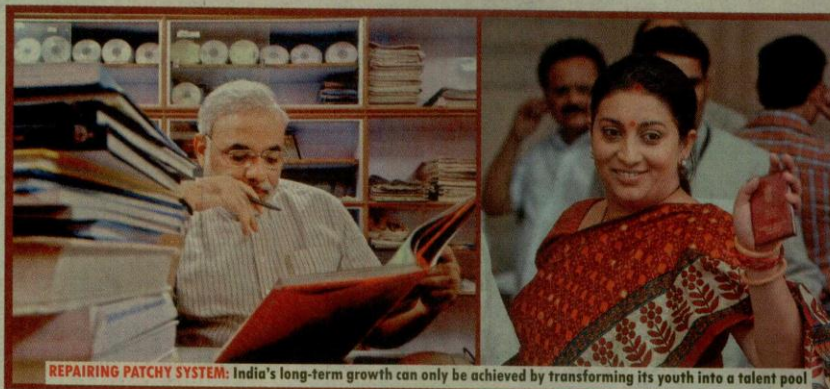
Modi's HRD comes as breath of fresh air

A slew of directional measures and announcements to improve access to education, enhance quality of delivery and spur innovation have been taken

HARIVANSH CHATURVEDI

The Narendra Modi government's focus on human resource development (HRD), a slew of directional measures and announcements to improve access to education, enhance quality of delivery and spur innovation in science and technology, is a breath of fresh air.

Beginning with President Pranab Mukherjee's address to a joint session of parliament, the government signalled that HRD will be a priority over the next five years. The government's plan to formulate a National Education Policy, set up IITs and IIMs in each state and bridge the gap between formal education and skill development could indeed pave the way for youth-led development for the country. The speed with which HRD Minister Smriti Irani held consultations with the directors of Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and the secretaries of higher and technical education across the country is a strong indication that the government is not only aware of the magnitude of the task but is also addressing the quality and quantity of higher education.

The HRD minister enlisted support of the secretaries to address the patchy quality of education at a large number of institutes and universities that do not conform to standards, especially with regard to facilities or full-time faculty. The government simultaneously connected with the Indian Centre for Assessment and Accreditation (ICAA) to help assist Indian universities climb the global

REPAIRING PATCHY SYSTEM: India's long-term growth can only be achieved by transforming its youth into a talent pool

ranking charts. I consider the human resource a mega resource for the development of India and quality education a key for each Indian to achieve his or her potential. India's Human Development Index, at 136, calls for massive improvements in education, health, gender equality, life expectancy and opportunities. Education, to my mind, is the only way to get 612 million Indians out of this 'multi-dimensional' poverty.

Universalisation of education – Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan – and the rapid increase in universities have swelled the Gross Enrolment Ratios but not the quality of output. Today, only four Indian universities feature in the top 400 of the world and none in the top 200. No Indian institute figures in the list of top 10 QS BRICS 2014 University Rankings presented to the prime minister earlier this week. India's long-term growth can be only achieved by transforming its youth into a talent

pool comparable to the best from the haloed portals of learning in Europe and the Americas. Education has a huge role in shaping the future of India by firing a new quest for knowledge on all fronts – liberal arts, science, technology, engineering and management. The HRD minister has a daunting task – of creating a skilled manpower pool that can fit 100 million new jobs at one end and enabling researchers and scientists, at the other end, to create technology that India can proudly call its own. We need an education system that has a quantitative as well as a qualitative component – one that can reverse the trend of churning out graduates with poor employability.

Millions of degree holders – ranging from unemployed to under-employed – need re-orientation so that industry gets manpower that is trained and creative and matches the best productivity levels. How can the HRD minister

improve the overall standard of education, one that is worthy of earning global recognition for Indian universities and research institutions? What can she do to make India one of the top five countries in terms of research papers, citations and number of PhDs? Is it too much to expect half-a-dozen researchers from the Indian university system winning Nobels?

By focussing on skill-building and awarding academic equivalence to vocational qualifications, the government has articulated a desire to help the youth in the interiors of the country. Irani and her leadership team, both at the administrative and academic level, need to formulate new ground rules for governance, policymaking and bias for action necessary to step up the country's Human Development Index.

In keeping with the Modi government's *mantra* of 'Minimum Government, Maximum Governance'

the education industry can do with less regulation and more autonomy, lowering of barriers between private and public universities, regulating outcomes and not inputs and encouraging accreditation.

The Indian higher education sector can flourish with the government doing away with debilitating regulations and restoring the autonomy of institutions of higher learning. In the past, such institutions had to contest many of these stifling regulations and seek justice from the courts. Regulatory bodies should redefine and reinvent their roles as 'nurturing quality' and 'promoting autonomy and accountability' which will ultimately lead to 'self-regulation'.

Private and public universities need to collaborate. It means that private universities should pay attention to their responsibility towards society and public universities should generate funding from the industry based on the strength of the knowledge that they create as if they are a private university.

One of the key concerns of the private business schools has been the potential lack of a level playing field for Indian and foreign universities. Healthy competition in higher education and more choices for students will be good for the health of Indian higher education.

Internationalisation of top universities and institutions, both public and private, by encouraging enrolment of foreign students on merit – neither by HRD ministry-sponsored scholarships nor by way of entitlement – and hiring foreign faculty cannot be overstressed. IANS

Indian Express ND 21/06/2014   P-1

Scrap FYUP immediately, UGC tells DU

Move has Irani's 'blessing', blow for VC Dinesh Singh

ANUBHUTI VISHNOI

NEW DELHI, JUNE 20

THE University Grants Commission (UGC) is learnt to have issued a directive to Delhi University (DU) to withdraw with immediate effect the Four-Year Undergraduate Programme (FYUP), the university's controversial, one-year-old attempt at reforming its academic programme.

The move comes within days of UGC asking for a "review" of the FYUP, and just over a month after the NDA took power at the Centre. The BJP manifesto had promised to scrap FYUP, and ABVP, the party's student wing, has been protesting against the programme.

Top sources told *The Indian Express* that UGC had told DU on Friday that FYUP violated the National Policy on Education that advocates a 10+2+3 format.

It had also been conveyed to the DU administration that it had failed to get the Visitor's approval for its amended ordinance enabling the FYUP, and also failed to respond to the Human Resource Development Ministry's queries on the same in 2013, the sources said. The President of India is the Visitor to all central universities.

At a meeting of the UGC in Delhi on June 13, it was argued that the change had not been effected through an amendment to the university's Act, and was, therefore, illegal. The meeting decided to ask DU to review FYUP.

The UGC decision is said to have the support of HRD Minister Smriti Irani, who has maintained that the interests of students would be protected.

The scrapping of FYUP is a major setback to DU Vice-Chancellor Prof Dinesh Singh, who had pushed the new academic programme through in the face of strong resistance from the university's teaching community.

Singh had positioned FYUP as the switch to a modern higher education format that was in tune with global higher education formats, and facilitated greater reform through student mobility, inter-varsity credit transfers and a semester system.

Jun 21 2014 : The Times of India (Delhi)

UGC set to make DU scrap FYUP

Akshaya Mukul
New Delhi
TNN

Late on Friday night, UGC decided to direct Delhi University to discontinue its four-year university programme (FYUP) on the ground that it was against the national education policy and introduced in contravention of established norms and procedures.

The decision is expected to be communicated to the university authorities on Saturday morning. It will impact the ongoing admission proc ess. The decision was taken as UGC claimed the President of India's consent was never taken for FYUP. According to the DU Act, the President's permission should have been taken within six weeks of the programme being started.

Earlier, DU had written to both the UGC and HRD ministry that all the procedures were followed.

UGC will suggest an alternative to ensure that students who have completed a year under FYUP do not suffer.

We'll devise a new education policy: Irani

Akshaya Mukul
New Delhi
TNN

Nearly three decades after the last such exercise, the government will formulate a new national education policy "reflecting the aspirations of India now and opportunities in the next decade", HRD minister Smriti Irani told TOI in an exclusive interview, her first to the English media after assuming office.

Irani said the new policy would be put together after extensive consultations with all stakeholders. "It will be my endeavour to help India emerge as a knowledge-based

economy ," she said. The current education policy was formulated by the Rajiv Gandhi government in 1986.

The minister indicated that the government was proceeding with caution on the question of scrapping Delhi University's four-year undergraduate programme. "I see the role of MHRD if there is a blatant violation of law. I re spect autonomy of institutions. Any other comment at this stage from me will be inappropriate," she said.

Irani, however, reiterated the government's intention to restructure the University Grants Commission, the country's nodal agency for higher education, saying that promises made in the party's manifesto "shall be kept".

The minister also sought to allay apprehensions that textbooks would be saffro nized under the right-wing regime. "The President's speech and PM's resolve reflect what MHRD seeks to do," she said on the issue.

To a question on how she would go about implementing the promise of setting up IITs in all states, the minister said she intended to find a way through consultations.
"I am aware of the challenges of existing IITs and IIMs," she said, adding that she had set the ball rolling on consultations with IIT directors.

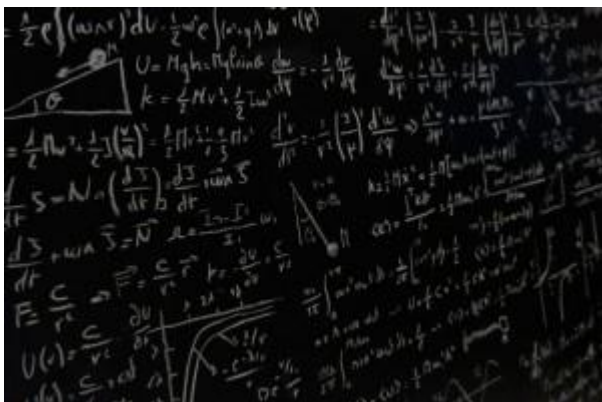"I will undertake a similar exercise with directors of IIMs," she added.

> **The last education policy was formulated in 1986. This is a new India with new needs... a new education policy will emerge, reflecting the aspirations of India now and opportunities in the next decade**
>
> I see the role of HRD ministry if there is a blatant violation of law (by DU in implementing the four-year graduation course). **I respect autonomy of institutions** —SMRITI IRANI | HRD MINISTER

IIT student concentrating hard on research in physics to finally get a banking job

Published on June 21, 2014 by idiot420

http://www.fakingnews.firstpost.com/2014/06/iit-student-concentrating-hard-on-research-in-physics-to-finally-get-a-banking-job/

Mumbai. Prateek Sharma, a second year Engineering Physics student at IIT Bombay is concentrating really hard on "research" in physics, so that he could finally get a job in one of the top investment banking firms after getting his degree.

Prateek has been in love with physics ever since his school days and always dreamt of doing research work, he claims.

First love is always childish.

"Last year when I qualified for IIT, I told the news reporter interviewing me that Physics was my first love and I will become a researcher, and here I am chasing my dreams," Prateek told Faking News.

"But you see, banking is equally important for human civilization to move forward; as important as physics. That's why I am researching hard to become a banker," he explained how his plans to get a top paying banking job was in line with his interests and passion.

To further justify his passion, Prateek is eyeing the job of a "research analyst" at one of the top investment banks.

"You get a feel of researching, and that's what matters," he said, "I am trying my best to finish physics research work at campus, after which I will move on to market research in career."

Prateek believes that concentrating on physics is going to enhance his analytical skills, which will be very helpful in a banking career. "Many of my seniors have done this in the past, they can't all be doing it wrong," he claimed.

On being asked if indeed he was enjoying his college life to the fullest by doing what he actually loved to do, Prateek changed the topic and excused himself for canteen.

While his batchmates have mixed feelings towards him, based on their CGPAs, Prateek's parents are very proud of the their son's future plans. "Moving on from physics research to market research is a sensible move," commented Prateek's father Mr. Brajesh Sharma, who is a physics professor.

"Each time he solved some problem from I.E Irodov or H.C Verma, I knew that he had moved a step closer to that banking job," Mr. Sharma recalled Prateek's JEE preparation years.

Business Line ND 21/06/2014 P-5

National Instruments focuses on education, government projects

S RONENDRA SINGH

New Delhi, June 20

US-based computer hardware and software applications supplier National Instruments (NI) said that it will be betting big on India, especially in the field of education. The company said it would tie up with various universities for supply of its new products and software.

The company has already tied up with IIT-Madras, IIT-Jodhpur, Bangalore Institute of Technology and around 65 lab view academies run under NI's engineering programmes.

"Apart from supplying hardware to enterprises and engineering colleges, we have a strong presence in curriculum with diverse platforms and applications for such students and going forward we expect to grow this business in India," Joel Shapiro, Leader – Emerging Markets marketing, NI, told *Business Line* here.

Shapiro said India was one of the leading countries in the emerging markets and was growing at double digit rate year-on-year compared with 8 per cent compounded annual growth rate of the company.

The company has operations in over 40 countries with around 8,000 employees.

Declining to share specific numbers, Shapiro said India was also important in terms of NI's research and development centre, which is the second largest after the US. Its other R&D centres are in Malaysia, Shanghai and Germany.

The Austin (Texas)-based company said that it would be active on participating in Government projects at various stages of infrastructure management in different States.

"We were part of the Rajasthan Smart Grid project last year, along with our ecosystem partners to manage integrated communication and smart meter, outage management system, peak load management system and data management system," he said.

VirtualBench

Meanwhile, the company launched an all-in-one instrument called VirtualBench priced at ₹1.38 lakh that integrates with any personal computer or iPad. It consolidates the user interface for each instrument into one consistent experience so that the user can view and interact with everyone simultaneously.

Deccan Herald ND 21/06/2014   P-12

Nasa identifies candidate for asteroid capture

WASHINGTON: Nasa has identified an odd, tiny near-earth asteroid as a valid candidate for its ambitious first-ever asteroid-capture mission scheduled for the 2020s.

Astronomers using Nasa's Spitzer Space Telescope measured the size of the asteroid candidate for Asteroid Redirect Mission (ARM), a proposed spacecraft concept to capture either a small asteroid, or a boulder from an asteroid.

The near-earth asteroid, called 2011 MD, was found to be roughly 6 meters in size, and its structure appears to contain a lot of empty space, perhaps resembling a pile of rubble. Spitzer's infrared vision was key to sizing up the asteroid. "From its perch up in space, Spitzer can use its heat-

2011 MD, the near-earth asteroid was found to be roughly six metres in size, and its structure appears to contain a lot of empty space.

sensitive infrared vision to spy asteroids and get better estimates of their sizes," said Michael Mommert of Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, lead author of the study.

The Spitzer results confirm that asteroid 2011 MD has characteristics suitable for the ARM proposal, elevating it to the "valid candidate" level. Valid candidates are those asteroids with the right size, mass and rotation rate to be feasibly captured by the robot-

ic spacecraft, Nasa said. Two other valid candidates have been identified so far.

Through its Asteroid Initiative, Nasa is developing a first-ever mission to identify, capture and redirect a near-earth asteroid to a stable orbit around the Moon with a robotic spacecraft.

Astronauts aboard an Orion spacecraft, launched by a Space Launch System rocket, will explore the asteroid in the 2020s, returning to earth with samples.

Experience in human spaceflight beyond low-earth orbit through this mission will help Nasa test new systems and capabilities needed to support future human missions to Mars.

The density of 2011 MD is remarkably low — about the same as water.

PTI

Statesman ND 21/06/2014 P-12

NASA identifies candidate for asteroid capture

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
Washington, 20 June

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Experience in human spaceflight beyond low-Earth orbit through this mission will help NASA test new systems and capabilities needed to support future human missions to Mars. The density of 2011 MD is remarkably low - about the same as water.

Since rock is about three times more dense than water, this implies that about two-thirds of the asteroid must be empty space.

The study was published in the Astrophysical Journal Letters.