

Newspaper Clips

June 21-22, 2015

June 21

Times Of India ND 21/06/2015 p-1

TIMES IMPACT: Day After TOI Report, Help Pours In For UP Daily-Wage Labourer's Brilliant Sons. They No Longer Have To Worry About Being Able To Afford IIT

India opens its heart & wallet for Raju, Brijesh

PMO, Smriti Pitch In With Funds, Waiver

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Lucknow: Every day, we receive calls, mails, messages from readers all over the country offering financial help to poor but deserving people who they have read about in the pages of The Times of India, or to families who've been struck by tragedy and face an uncertain future.

Every day, it redeems our faith in humanity. You know that for every selfish or vio-

FULL COVERAGE: P 18

nt act, there are so many more acts of goodness, kindness.

But rarely has any story received the kind of response as the one on Friday about two boys — Raju and Brijesh — from a village in UP's Pratapgarh district making it to the IIT but putting their father, a daily-wager, in a dilemma.

The PMO had called TOI to say Narendra Modi had sanctioned Rs 50,000 each for the boys from the Relief Fund, over and above HRD minister Smriti Irani's waiver of fee and hostel charges. UP chief minister Akhilesh Yadav said he would fund their entire education.

► Continued on P 11

NAVODAYAS' IIT STORY

IIT-JEE 2015

- Candidates for JEE (Mains) | **13.03 lakh**
- JEE Advanced | 1.5 lakh eligible, **1.17 lakh** appeared
- No. of candidates who qualified | **26,456** (23,407 of them boys)
- Total seats **10,006** in 20 IITs & Indian School of Mines

NAVODAYA RECORD

- 589 schools across the country. The state-funded, free-of-cost residential schools set aside 70% seats for students from rural areas
- 750 students qualify for IITs every yr on average

IN 2015*

JEE Mains
425*

JEE Advanced
380

Qualified
280

The Times of India

Lucknow edition
June 20, 2015



*These students received free-of-cost coaching arranged by JNV

PM Modi sanctions ₹50k each for poor IIT aspirants

► Continued from P 1

It has been staggering, overwhelming — and above all, deeply heartwarming. Students, people we unfairly call “ordinary citizens”, NGOs, Indian business tycoons, multinational corporations, IIT and Navodaya alumni, top politicians of all hues, Delhi's Lt Governor, and senior Central ministers have approached us through the day to say they'd like to pay for not just Brijesh Saroj and Raju Saroj's admission and first semester fees, but their entire four-year education.

So many regular and loyal readers have called to ask, “Can you please tell me where we can send the mon-

ey?” (There are just too many of them to name individually; in fact, most of them don't want any credit.)

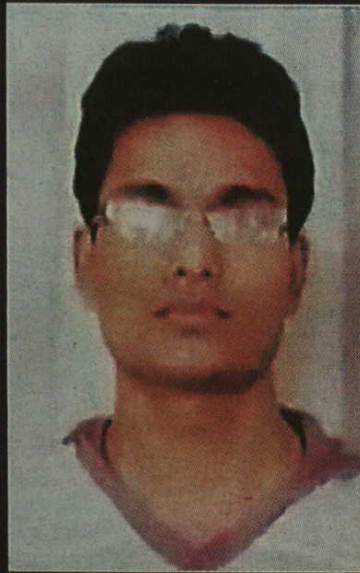
It began in the morning with a text message from a Bollywood megastar who has been at the forefront of social causes saying he would like to fund the education of the two boys. By the time the day was done, the PMO had called TOI to say Prime Minister Narendra Modi had sanctioned Rs 50,000 each from the Relief Fund for the boys.

The PMO offer was over and above the government's assistance earlier announced by HRD minister Smriti Irani — that her ministry would waive off fee and hostel charges of Raju and Brijesh.

A top HRD official told TOI, “We will send necessary directive to IIT soon. The government will bear the entire expenditure.” Sources said Irani spoke to her officials in the morning and it was decided that lack of financial resources should not come in the way of their education.

After reading the TOI report on Saturday morning, UP CM Akhilesh Yadav said his government should bear not only the admission fee, but also the entire cost of studies of the two boys. Announcing that Brijesh and Raju will also be felicitated, he invited them to his official residence in Lucknow on Sunday.

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



Raju (left) secured the 167th rank while his elder brother Brijesh was ranked 410th in the IIT entrance examination.



HRD Minister Smriti Irani (right) announced on Saturday that the daily wagger's sons need not pay the registration fees.

By Mail Today Bureau in New Delhi

THE NDA government has decided to waive off the IIT registration fees for two brothers from Pratapgarh in Uttar Pradesh who did not have enough money despite cracking the entrance exam to pursue their IIT dreams. Human Resource Minister Smriti Irani announced that daily wagger Dharamraj's sons need not pay the registration fees. "Informed family that registration fees will be waived off and will be eligible for scholarships that cover tuition, mess and other charges," the minister posted on Twitter, replying to a tweet urging the government to help the boys.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav and Congress vice-president Rahul Gandhi on Saturday also came forward to help the two boys.

The two politicians decided to extend a helping hand to the brothers after news spread that their poor father who has a family of eight to support cannot raise ₹1 lakh initially needed for taking admission to the prestigious institution.

As news channels broke the achievements of the two brothers and highlighted the fact that penury may trample their dreams, Akhilesh Yadav

Smriti waives fees for needy IIT duo

announced that the state government will take care of all their education expenses.

"They have brought laurels to the state. We are always willing to help such bright students.

They have set an example for other aspirants and we wish them all the best," Yadav said.

Rahul Gandhi also talked to Raju and Brijesh and promised them all possible financial help.

"Not only in UP, we promise all possible assistance to bright students across India," Congress Rajya Sabha MP Pramod Tiwari, who also promised to give his one month's salary to the two boys, said.

Sulabh International has also

come forward to extend financial assistance to the brothers.

The brothers cracked the IIT-2015. Raju secured the 167th rank while elder brother Brijesh was ranked 410th.

The news of their success, however, had brought both happiness and worries for family head Dharamraj who works as a daily wagger in a factory in Surat.

Dharamraj lives with his family in a thatched house in Rahua Laganj village of Uttar Pradesh's Pratapgarh district.

"I barely earn ₹12,000 per month after doing double shift. I did not have to worry about the school fees of both Raju and Brijesh as they were brilliant students and used to get scholarship. However, things have changed now and it is difficult for me to arrange ₹1 lakh at present to get them admitted to IIT. I even approached banks

for educational loans but they said that loan will be sanctioned only after I get them admitted into a college," Dharamraj rued.

It is to be mentioned that an initial amount of approximately ₹50,000 is to be paid for a single student at the time of counselling and admission to IIT.

Uttar Pradesh CM Akhilesh Yadav and Congress vice-president Rahul Gandhi also came forward to help the two boys

उच्च शिक्षण संस्थानों में शिक्षकों की कमी

धीरज कनोजिया

नई दिल्ली। देश के उच्च शिक्षण संस्थान शिक्षकों और स्टाफ की कमी से जूझ रहे हैं। देश के 39 केंद्रीय विश्वविद्यालयों, 16 आईआईटी, 7 आईआईएम, पांच आईआईएसईआर और एनआईटी में हजारों शिक्षकों के पद खाली पड़े हैं।

सालों साल शिक्षकों के खाली पदों की संख्या कम होने की बजाय बढ़ रही है। मगर सरकार से सहायता प्राप्त इन शिक्षण संस्थानों में नियुक्तियों का काम देख रहे मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय नियुक्ति की प्रक्रिया को आगे नहीं बढ़ा पा रहा है। उच्च शिक्षा के बजट में 800 करोड़ की कमी की वजह से भी मंत्रालय को नियुक्ति की प्रक्रिया के लिए फंड आवंटन करने में दिक्कत आ रही है। संसदीय समिति ने कहा

आईआईएम, आईआईटी, केंद्रीय विश्वविद्यालय, एनआईटी जैसे संस्थानों में हजारों पद खाली

है कि ज्यादा शिक्षकों और स्टाफ की कमी देश के इन प्रतिष्ठित संस्थानों को लाचार बना रही है।

मंत्रालय के साथ साथ यूजीसी को भी फटकार लगाई गई है क्योंकि केंद्रीय विश्वविद्यालयों में सबसे ज्यादा खाली पदों की संख्या सामने आई है। देश की 16 आईआईटी में 2636 शिक्षकों के पद खाली हैं। देश के 39 केंद्रीय विश्वविद्यालयों में 16339 शिक्षक पद मंजूर किए गए हैं, जिसमें 6107 पद खाली हैं। वहीं गैर शिक्षक स्टाफ के दस हजार से ज्यादा पद खाली हैं। केंद्रीय विश्वविद्यालयों में 2922 शिक्षक अस्थायी हैं। देश के पांच इंडियन

आईआईटी में अध्यापकों के इतने पद हैं रिक्त

मुंबई	284	रुड़की	360
दिल्ली	341	बीएचयू	324
गुवाहाटी	138	मंडी	24
कानपुर	246	रोपड़	22

इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ साइंस एजुकेशन एंड रिसर्च यानी आईआईएसईआर संस्थानों में 100 से छात्रों पर एक शिक्षक ही उपलब्ध है। नेशनल इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ टेक्नोलॉजी यानी एनआईटी में 1870 पद खाली हैं। आईआईएम में भी डेढ़ हजार से ज्यादा पद खाली पड़े हैं। केंद्रीय विश्वविद्यालयों में खाली पदों को लेकर यूजीसी का कहना है कि उसने केंद्रीय विश्वविद्यालयों के कुलपतियों को समयबद्ध तरीके से खाली पदों को भरने के लिए कहा है। मगर अमल नहीं किया जा रहा है।

Times Of India ND 21/06/2015 P-8

Delhi focus won't work, pollution pervasive

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Experts in the field of air pollution got together on Saturday to prepare a list of suggestions for mitigating pollution in the city and will submit it to the Delhi government. However, most of them concur that short term measures restricted to Delhi will do nothing to improve the situation as the entire Indo-Gangetic plain is affected by poor air quality.

Speaking at the 'Delhi Air Quality' organised by the Delhi chapter of the Indian Association for Air Pollution Control, Prof J M Dave, an air quality expert said: "A major reason for the high level of particulate matter in Delhi is dust coming from Rajasthan." Prof Mukesh Sharma from IIT Kanpur also said that states on Delhi's west like Punjab and Haryana were contributing hugely to the capital's pollution load. "Cleaning just Delhi won't help. About 75% of the pollution from outside is coming from the west through burning of crops and the remaining from east," he said.

Experts also pointed out

HOW AIR CAN BE CLEANED

Experts have offered some suggestions on how to reduce air pollution. The government should set standards that it would like to meet within a fixed time frame

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Generate health impact data of various pollutants ▶ Retrofit diesel vehicles with particulate filters ▶ Centre should immediately make Euro-V diesel with sulphur content of 10ppm available ▶ Plan to counter emissions from thermal power plants in Delhi and neighbouring states ▶ Minimize dumping of ash 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> in ash ponds ▶ Diesel generator sets should switch to cleaner fuel like CNG ▶ Draw a plan for industrial units within city and highly polluting industries in neighbouring states ▶ Completely stop agricultural burning ▶ Take measures to curb pollution levels during winter
---	---

Improvement in data quality through better calibration of equipment should be ensured

that no long term study had been done to determine the impact of various pollutants on health. Dr TK Joshi, an occupational health specialist said long term exposure to pollution would develop tolerance in people but that did not mean that they were not being harmed by it. "This problem cannot be addressed

by just working in Delhi. Local measures are short term quick fixes. Existing pollution studies focus on impact on single pollutants while their combined effects can be very different," he said.

Highlighting the urgency to also take local measures, Dr B Sengupta, president of IAAPC and former member

secretary Central Pollution Control Board said that benzene was another major pollutant, being emitted from fuel at petrol pumps. "Delhi's CM is at major risk since there are several petrol pumps near his residence at Civil Lines. Cities across the world have vapour recovery systems but Delhi has failed to implement it so far.

The experts have compiled a list of suggestions which will not be submitted to the government for an action oriented plan. Some of them include setting standards of air quality that the government would like to meet within a fixed time frame.

To improve collection of data, there have to be better calibrated equipment and continuous monitoring. However, along with monitoring an implementable action plan also needs to be made. The government needs a comprehensive health impact data of various pollutants. More urgently, a large scale plan involving other states needs to be drawn up since Delhi alone cannot fight air pollution, said Sengupta.

Unfortunately, YOU are driving the air out of Delhi



POLLUTION PLIGHT

AIR QUALITY INDEX

PM2.5

Delhi	232	Poor
Tomorrow	215	Poor
Pune	26	Good
Tomorrow	28	Good
Hyderabad	55	Good
Chennai	41	Good
Kolkata	13	Good
Mumbai	9	Good

US Embassy data calculated as per Indian standards by SAFAR@MoES-IITM-IMD (10 stations)
Based on 1 Station Data Per City at 4pm

Dainik Jagran ND 21/06/2015 P-17

आइआइटी मंडी में हिंसा, चार मरे

जागरण संवाददाता, मंडी : भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (आइआइटी) मंडी के कमांड परिसर में शनिवार को काम रोकने को लेकर ठेकेदार द्वारा लाए गए बाउंसर व मजदूरों में हुई हिंसक झड़प हुई और गोलियां चलीं। गोलियां चलने पर चार लोगों की मौत हो गई। इस घटना में दोनों पक्षों के करीब 11 लोग घायल हुए हैं। मृतकों की पहचान हैरी पुत्र तरणजीत सिंह हत्तेवाली निवासी फतेहगढ़ (पंजाब), तेज सिंह निवासी फतेहगढ़, सिमरजीत निवासी देवीनगर, राजपुरा के रूप में हुई है। चौथे की शिनाख्त नहीं हो पाई है। इस घटना में गगनदीप पुत्र वचन (46) फतेहगढ़, बलविंद सिंह पुत्र भाग सिंह (52) फतेहगढ़, लवली पुत्र बलविंद सिंह (32) पटियाला, गुरविंद पुत्र रणधीर फतेहगढ़, सतवीर सिंह पुत्र हरिंद सिंह (35) पटियाला

- हड़ताली मजदूरों के लिए ठेकेदार ने पंजाब से बुलाए थे बाउंसर
- मजदूरों पर गोलियां दागने पर भड़की हिंसा, चार बाउंसर मरे

घायल हुए हैं। ठेकेदार फरार हैं और इनके बाकी साथी इस हालत में नहीं हैं कि नाम पता बता सकें। उग्र मजदूरों ने ठेकेदार की तीन गाड़ियां भी जला डालीं।

आइआइटी मंडी के नॉर्थ कैम्पस का काम मुंबई की सुप्रीम कंस्ट्रक्शन कंपनी कर रही है। कंपनी ने काम आगे तीन-तीन ठेकेदारों को सबलेट कर रखा है। इनमें दो

ठेकेदार स्थानीय तथा एक शिमला क्षेत्र से संबंधित है। स्थानीय ठेकेदार के पास कार्यरत मजदूर लंबे समय से वेतन और ईपीएफ की मांग को लेकर आंदोलन कर रहे हैं। शनिवार को स्थानीय ठेकेदारों के मजदूर हड़ताल पर थे। शिमला के ठेकेदार राजीव शर्मा के मजदूर भी हड़ताल में शामिल होने के लिए आइआइटी कमांड के निर्माण क्षेत्र सालगी में पहुंचे और निर्माण कार्य रोकने की कोशिश की। इस पर माहौल तनावपूर्ण हो गया और मौके पर मौजूद बाउंसरों ने उन पर गोलियां चला दी। इससे कई मजदूर घायल हो गए। इसके बाद गुस्साए हड़ताली मजदूर और लोग ठेकेदार के बाउंसरों पर टूट पड़े। इस हिंसक झड़प में बाउंसर बुरी तरह से घायल हो गए। इनमें से चार की मौत हो गई, जबकि पांच गंभीर हालत में मंडी अस्पताल में हैं।

Yoga helped cure several ailments, say IIT-K teachers

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kanpur/Yoga-helped-cure-several-ailments-say-IIT-K-teachers/articleshow/47762541.cms>

KANPUR: It was virtually an ocean of heads at the main stadium of IIT-Kanpur where over 600 participants gathered to do yoga asanas in tandem. People were excited for being a part of the first International Yoga Day.

Residents of IIT, Kanpur, including students and faculty members, NCC cadets, members of Nehru Yuva Kendras, LIC staff, children from neighbouring schools and several others from outside IIT-K, took part in the mega yoga event. From 82-year-old to six-year-old, people of all ages, caste and religions actively did yoga asanas on instructions of a yoga expert SL Yadav of IIT-K.

Prof Devi Prasad Verma, 82, who had taught Anand Kumar, who runs famous Super 30 for underprivileged students in Bihar after completion of the yoga session said that he had been doing yoga since ages now and it has kept him active. He told TOI that yoga gave him mental and spiritual peace and that everyone should practise it.

Dr Sandeep Patil of IIT-Kanpur, who was one among 600-odd yoga lovers, while talking to TOI said that yoga has changed his life. His migraine problem which otherwise used to leave him troubled for long has now vanished. He said that this could become possible due to the 3-month yoga practice. He added that he will always do yoga himself and prompt others to do it to stay healthy.

Dr Satyendra Kumar, scientist at IIT-Kanpur, who had come do yoga along with his wife and two children--one nine years and other six years old--told this newspaper, "My entire family, even my six-year-old daughter Shristi, did yoga today. We have been practising it for the past 10 days and have realized that it is must for life." Yoga asanas have treated the restlessness of my nine-year-old son, he added.

A group of women, including wives of retired IIT-K teachers, also did yoga in groups at the institute's stadium. Manju Gupta, who is in her sixties, said that after practising yoga her knee is better now and that she did not have to undergo knee surgery as was advised by the doctor. "I will be sending the picture of people doing yoga to my children in USA so that they also get motivated to do yoga", she said while talking to TOI.

Neelam Shukla, who lives in IIT society and Madhu Agarwal, a retired school teacher whose husband was a faculty member at IIT-Kanpur, said that got much relief in their diseases such as thyroid, knee and varicose veins by practising yoga.

Flutter in HRD Ministry as Irani's PS goes on leave

New Delhi, June 19, 20105, PTI:

<http://www.deccanherald.com/content/484662/flutter-hrd-ministry-iranis-ps.html>

HRD Minister Smriti Irani's Private Secretary Binita Thakur, who has gone on leave, has set off speculations of yet another change in the ministry.

According to reports, Thakur, who went on leave last week, had sought to be relieved from the Ministry. A 1996 batch IPS officer of Rajasthan cadre, Thakur was appointed as private secretary to the HRD Minister in

September last year.

She had replaced Vinita Srivastava, a Railway Engineering Services (RES) officer, who had a brief tenure as Irani's PS after she assumed charge of the ministry in May last year.

Now, the name of M Imkongla Jamir, a 2002 Karnataka cadre IAS officer, is doing the rounds as Thakur's replacement in the Ministry.

The development comes at a time when the Ministry has seen several senior level officers leaving it. Radha S Chauhan, Joint Secretary, Secondary Education, joined UIDAI a couple of months back much before completing her five-year tenure at the HRD Ministry.

Other officers such as Veena Ish, Jagmohan Raju and Praveen Prakash had sought early transfers from the ministry.

In April this year, Amarjeet Sinha, Additional Secretary in the Ministry, who had supposedly developed differences with Irani, was transferred to the Rural Development Ministry.

June 22

Prof Sarit Kumar Das is new director of IIT-Ropar

Hindustan Times (Chandigarh)

Prof Sarit Kumar Das has taken over as the director of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Ropar. Before joining the IIT, Ropar, Das was dean academic research at the IIT, Madras, where he spent nearly 20 years. As professor of mechanical engineering, he had made large contributions in the areas of heat transfer and micro nano technology. He has to his credit 175 research papers published in technical journals of international repute and has authored five books. He said he wanted to make the IIT, Ropar, a world class academic institute dedicated to the service of the nation.

IIT to soon produce doctors

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/services/education/iit-to-soon-produce-doctors/articleshow/47764837.cms>

KOLKATA: Going beyond engineering, IIT Kharagpur would soon start offering MBBS courses as well.

On a three-acre plot on the edge of the campus, the 400-bedded super-speciality hospital, Dr B C Roy Institute of Medical Science & Research, would be ready by the end of 2017.

"The government has already sanctioned a grant of Rs 230 crore last year for this purpose. Construction work will start soon and is expected to be completed within 26 months," IIT-Kgp director Partha Pratim Chakrabarti told PTI.

The authorities have already sought approval from the Medical Council of India (MCI) for providing undergraduate medical education courses like MBBS.

IIT Kharagpur, known around the world for its engineering courses, would be the first one in the IIT system to venture into medical education.

Besides serving the local populace, the hospital will also work on biomedical, clinical and translational research.

Drug design and delivery will be other key research areas to which the hospital will contribute.

"It will bring the two diverse disciplines of engineering and medicine together in education and research. Technology will be used to access and treat large number of patients through satellite centres and secondary hospitals," the director said.

The hospital is planning to use technologies like remote diagnostics, telemedicine, teleradiology, and expert systems leveraging outreach of cellular network.

Also proposed are a paramedic, nursing training facility, biomedical innovation unit and a medical outreach unit.

In the next phase, the hospital would be upgraded to 750 beds, officials said.

Adding to its international appeal, the authorities are also collaborating with Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, USA and Imperial College, London on medical science.

Since 2001, IIT-Kharagpur has been running the school of medical science and technology which has an inter-disciplinary three-year post-graduate programme in medical science and technology.

For its faculty, employees and students, the IIT has the B C Roy Technology Hospital inside its campus with 32 beds, including ICU and isolation ward.

Financial Express ND 22/06/2015 P-6

WRONG LESSONS

MHRD poorly understands the consequences of curbing institutes' autonomy



Be it the Times Higher Education rankings or the OECD's PISA rankings, Indian universities don't figure very high globally. While these rankings take into account academic repute and reach, there is no doubt that, given the way the ministry of human resources has been interfering in the management of some of India's premier institutions, our varsities are not going to be recognised for excellence any time soon. One of the key factors for academic excellence is institutional autonomy. That is what the MHRD seems bent on eroding with its draft Bill for the management of the IIMs. The proposed Bill gives the government the preponderance not just over determining the fee structure at the institutes but also on academic appointment—all appointments recommended by the institute have to get the Centre's approval, as per the Bill. And this is not the first time that MHRD has acted in such a manner; in December 2014, IIT Delhi director Raghunath K Shevgaonkar resigned after the ministry allegedly interfered in some financial matters of the institute, while Anil Kakodkar, chairman of the Board of Governors, IIT Bombay, and the Standing Committee of the IIT Council, resigned in March this year, citing differences with minister Smriti Irani over the appointment of IIT directors.

The problem here is that ministry officials, largely, will not be the better judges of talent for faculty positions than the members of the faculty themselves. The other concern is that if every appointment was to be taken to the ministry for approval, the decisions could, given the typical bureaucratic rate of functioning, take ages to be taken, with both the institute and its students being the losers in the process. The MHRD, with its Bill on IIMs, not only vitiates against the IIMs' own recommendations on their restructuring but also against the recommendations of a 2005 report of a committee of its own—the Central Advisory Board of Education—which states, among other things, that the autonomy of higher education institutions is a prerequisite for enabling them to achieve their goals and objectives.

Not good management

Curbing the autonomy of the IIMs will mean a dilution of their brand value and a slide in academic standards

This is a most alarming move. The ministry of human resource development (HRD) is framing a draft Bill that seeks to curtail the autonomy of the Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs). Though academic institutions from India do not figure very high in international rankings, some like the IIMs, the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and the Indian Institute of Science have a good reputation worldwide. So, given the fact that India's higher education is in a mess, interfering in institutions of excellence would mean a further slide in overall academic standards, leaving students with no option but to explore opportunities abroad before graduation itself.

In the draft Bill there are three salient points, all of which could be contested. First, it gives the status of 'national importance' to some IIMs, whereas the IIMs are saying it be given to all. Now if the government wishes to confer the status on the old IIMs and not the ones that came up in the past 10 years, it seems to have got itself caught in a cleft stick here. When the new IIMs, as well as the new IITs, came up, experts had suggested not naming them IIM or IIT because the standards of all would not be the same and that would diminish their brand value. However, the HRD minister in the previous regime was unbending on this point. And now that the new IIMs have come up, it would be bad policy to treat them unequally. On two other points — the fee structure and creating new posts in addition to the existing ones — the IIMs should be given a freer hand. The new IIMs are still functioning in difficult circumstances and attempting to control them would mean more delays and hold-ups.

Since the IIMs are funded largely by the public exchequer, there is bound to be a bit of government control. For example, the government does have a say in the appointments of the director and chairperson. After the appointments have been made, the government should leave it to them and the governing bodies or councils concerned to decide how the institutes are run within the framework of broad guidelines. One needs to recall how economist Bibek Debroy quit the Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Contemporary Studies when his autonomy was circumscribed to know to debilitating effects of excessive control.

Give the IIMs their freedom



here is an irony here that is hard to miss. The three oldest Indian Institutes of Management – IIM Calcutta, IIM Ahmedabad and IIM Bangalore – were established many years before India embraced the market economy model. With recommendations that came from the Planning Commission and working in a socialist framework, they have functioned autonomously to evolve best management practices and, with some help from America, today figure among India's best-known global brands. Over the years they have benefited from the autonomy granted to them, which has enabled them to work independently in deciding what is best for them. In the true sense of the term, the IIMs have essentially been market-oriented institutions. The government that is now at the helm has an avowedly pro-market disposition too, and has in the recent past cut budgetary support for many welfare measures. The real objective of seeking to impose controls on the management institutes – of which there are 13 today – has therefore perplexed observers. To be fair, the NDA government is not to be blamed entirely. The Congress-led UPA, under Minister Kapil Sibal, set the process going. A committee that he appointed was accused of pursuing the objective of out-and-out privatisation of the IIMs. The Ministry of Human Resource Development under Smriti Irani is now seeking to regulate them by means of the Indian Institutes of Management Bill, 2015, in the text of which the word 'regulate' recurs with regularity. The Bill is now in the public realm for comments and will of course pass through Parliament. There is reason to believe that the special status enjoyed by the institutes is being sought to be diluted by bringing in other business schools also within the ambit of the Bill. That is not to say the Bill is without any positive aspects. It promises to meet a long-pending demand to convert diplomas awarded by the IIMs into degrees.

But the real question is whether government control would help make these institutes centres of excellence. Public-funded institutes in India figure nowhere in the top 100 global ranking index. The Indian Institutes of Technology have functioned autonomously in deciding their own curriculum, yet evidently the government is seeking to interfere in their functioning. In the case of the IIMs Bill, it is not clear to what extent the government intends to meddle with the academic structure. What is evident is that major decisions can be taken only with prior government approval. Also, determining the fee structure, a contentious issue in the past, will be subject to governmental nod. The government ought to tread carefully here. It would be appropriate to take the IIMs along while giving final shape to the Bill, which has the potential to alter their structure.

Millennium Post ND 22/06/2015 p-1

IIMs fear draft Bill will allow govt to micro-manage them

MPOST BUREAU

NEW DELHI: The draft IIM Bill, which seeks to give seeping powers to HRD Ministry in the functioning of the B-schools, including policy matters such as deciding fees, emoluments and service conditions of the faculty, has left the prestigious institutes sharply divided.

While the view in the older six IIMs is that an attempt is being made at "micro-managing" them, something that would infringe upon their autonomy, those in the eight new premier institutes feel the apprehension is misplaced.

IIM-Ahmedabad director Ashish Nanda said the proposed legislation would be used as a tool to "micro-manage" the institutes, known the world over for academic excellence.

"Micro-management is never good. If that is done, people working in institutions

may feel less empowered," he said, speaking about the bill which provides for IIM Boards deciding matters like fees, emoluments and service conditions of the faculty but only with the Centre's approval.

The bill also provides for constitution of a coordination forum chaired by the HRD minister.

An IIM professor, who was involved in drafting the bill, voiced surprise at the final draft as the earlier document did not contain any clause that gave "overwhelming authority" to the government in running the institutes.

"In its original form, the bill was rather egalitarian and took the views of all stakeholders. But it has had last minute changes. Now, for everything if we have to go back to the government for permission which has the powers to say yes or no, we can't be competitive enough," he said, speaking on condition of anonymity.



"If centralisation is the goal, autonomy is going to suffer. This is not the original intention of the bill. This is not acceptable. In the last meeting, there was nothing to suggest IIMs will have to go to the government for permission.

We will be caught in procedural trap," he said.

"The bill, if implemented (enacted) in its present avatar, will undermine the autonomous status enjoyed by the IIMs. At a time when we are looking at a global footing, the bill could prove to be retro-

grade," said another IIM director, pleading anonymity.

The draft says the IIMs will be "bound" by government's directions in policy matters.

"Without prejudice to the foregoing provisions of this Act, the Institute (IIMs) shall, for efficient administration of this Act, be bound by such directions on questions of policy, as the Central Government may give in writing to it from time to time," the draft bill says.

Director of IIM Rohtak P Rameshan, however, dis-

missed suggestions about the prestigious institutes losing their autonomy and contended that "some element of public discipline" is needed as "inefficiency" had crept in.

"IIMs are public institutions where the government should have a fair degree of say in the overall interest of all," he said, adding "some element of public discipline is needed as there is a lot of inefficiency happening in IIMs".

Supporting the bill, the director of another new IIM trashed fears about autonomy of the IIMs getting compromised.

"The government is well aware that if anything goes wrong today, it will create a hype in media, which does not augur well for it," he said, wishing not to be named.

Most IIMs would be sending their response to the draft, uploaded on the HRD ministry's website, over the next few days.

Inflated Grades, Deflated Education

College cutoffs are going up but our global standing in innovation is going down

Dipankar Gupta



There was a time when scoring 65% meant you were brilliant, and if you touched 70% then Einstein had better watch out! But today anything short of 100% in Higher Secondary does not guarantee admission to a department of choice in Delhi's top colleges.

In economics, the GDP deflator is used to assess the impact of inflation on the pricing of goods and services. But what kind of deflator do we need to make sense of grade inflation in high school results?

Scoring 99% in English, once considered impossible, is not uncommon today. The question, therefore, is whether our kids are getting more skilled and more competitive, or whether awarding high marks is a clever way of concealing poor education.

It is comforting to imagine that India is intellectually rising because our school grades are getting better every year. However, all indications show that the reverse is actually true. While at one end, college cutoffs keep going up, our international standing in science, technology and innovation keeps going down. In other words, scoring high marks does not necessarily mean learning well, at least in India.

Over the years our students are getting better and better grades on paper, but have these brilliant performances helped to push up our knowledge levels? According to the 2014 Global Innovation Index, 81% of patent applications are from China, the US, Japan, South Korea and the EU. While America leads in computer systems, South Korea has emerged as the new kid on the block. It has overwhelmed all of Europe and ranks second to the US in this very high-tech sphere.

But where is India? In terms of patent applications we cannot match up to any of the world leaders in the field. Curiously enough, patents submitted by Indians abroad are more in



Arya Prabhakar

number than those that originate in our country. Once again, education here seems to have contributed little.

Worse, our school children fare very poorly when it comes to skills in reading, writing, mathematics and science. Globally we now stand 62nd on this measure, well behind even Jordan and Armenia.

It is bad manners to go on and on, but our famed IITs do not figure among the top 300 institutions of higher education in the world. There is so much pressure in India to win a place in these engineering colleges, so much envy against those who make the grade, yet globally these institutions are minor players.

It is not as if western universities are always on top. Peking University occupies the 48th position, Tsinghua the 49th and even lowly Fudan University, at rank number 193, is way above our best.

The reason why a grade deflator does not work like a GDP deflator does

Examiners do not want to be bothered by reading something new in answer scripts. Listen up, people; tick the right boxes, say the right thing, take your marks and run

is because the quality of the product that is being accounted for is not the same. True, more and more students are getting higher and higher marks, but the standard of education is going in the opposite direction. There was a time when a first class meant something and one wore that distinction like a badge of honour. But today, those with 60% would happily throw a party if a lowly vocational school lets them in.

The principal reason for grade

inflation in school results is the way teachers have traded in their sense of responsibility for comfort. Consequently, question papers have become more and more objective and the right answers are actually screaming in your face. At times it comes down to the presence of a certain word, or sentence, in an answer for a student to max the question.

On the other hand, if you try and be creative, your grades could slide all the way down. Examiners, in the main, do not want to be bothered by reading something new in the answer scripts. Listen up, people; tick the right boxes, say the right thing, take your marks and run.

It is not as if everybody is happy about this outcome; some teachers are actually chafing at the bit. Yet, the educational system is structured such that taking responsibility for quality teaching and marking can become job threatening. All of this suits mediocre instructors excellently; as long as the grades are good, there is little scrutiny and everybody is happy. The more generous the system of marking, the less pressure there is on teachers to perform.

It is not as if such an affliction only attacks schools. Even universities and institutions of higher education happily inflate grades. This is one of the reasons why good school teachers and professors are driven out by bad ones.

In some post graduate departments, it is hard for a student to score below a B plus. This depresses the urge to learn for high grades are like low hanging fruit. Is it surprising then that good marks at home are accompanied by poor performance on the world stage? So when our Higher Secondary grades climb even higher next year, and in every subsequent year, be prepared for a proportionate fall in educational standards.

But how high can these marks go? If 100% is not such a big deal any longer then will we see 105% soon? Or, perhaps even 110% before long?

The writer is a social scientist

UGC may relax norms to allow PhD enrolment under distance education

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

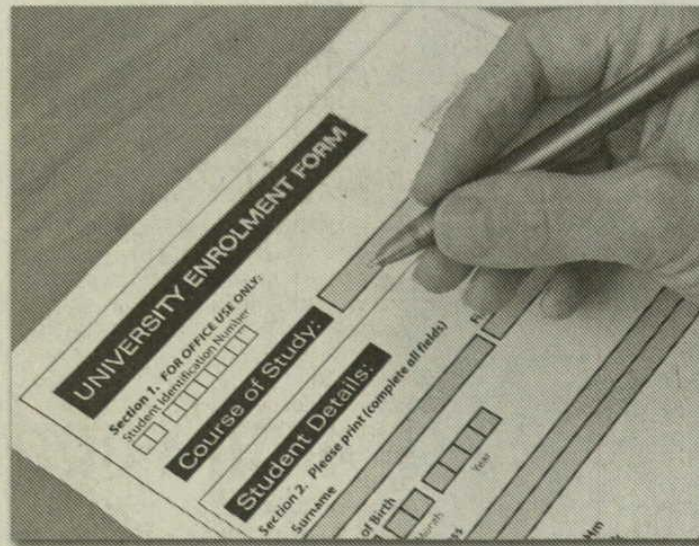
New Delhi

THE University Grants Commission (UGC) is actively considering relaxing its norms which would enable distance education institutions to offer MPhil and PHD programmes, benefiting nearly 10,000 students.

The matter will be put before the next meeting of the commission.

"The commission is taking a considerate view of the matter and it will be placed in the next committee meeting," UGC chairman Ved Prakash told PTI.

The development comes against the backdrop of a section of teachers from Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) reminding UGC about its assurance given four years back to relax norms in context of research programmes conducted



GO EASY: A section of IGNOU teachers reminded UGC about its assurance, given f to relax norms

through distance mode.

The UGC had clamped the bar by notifying a rule — the minimum standards and procedure for awards of MPhil/PhD degree regulation — in 2009 saying research courses in the distant mode were of poor quality.

The regulations had put a question mark on the future of nearly 10,000 students pursuing such courses across the country.

Following widespread protests by various open learning universities including IGNOU on the ground that laws, passed by

parliament or legislatures, allowed them to offer such courses, UGC had lifted the ban in 2011.

It said, "an open university may be permitted to conduct MPhil/PhD programmes through distant education mode subject to condition that it does so strictly as per the provisions of the UGC Regulations".

However, with no official notification coming from UGC following that the matter has dragged on for over four years.

"The suppression of this notification is ruining the career of a large number of students for which you should feel accountable. This is an act of utter insensitivity on the part of UGC," IGNOU teachers association said in a letter to UGC.

The teachers' body also said that the delay by UGC has also hampered the process of suitably amending the IGNOU Act.

18 Students from One Village in Bihar Crack IIT

<http://www.ndtv.com/cities/18-students-from-one-village-in-bihar-crack-iit-774005>

Gaya, Bihar: After the brilliant performance of students from the famed Super 30 institute, comes another success story from Bihar.

18 students from Bunkaron village near Gaya in south Bihar are among some 26,000 candidates who have cracked the entrance exam to the IIT or Indian Institute of Technology. And in a first, a girl from the village has also made it to the list of successful candidates.

"The environment here is so good that everyone studies together, everyone helps each other out if there is any difficulty," said Rahul Kumar, one of the successful candidates.

Almost every house in this village of 10,000 has a power loom, but despite the harsh voice and other odds these children put in the effort to crack the exam.

Villagers say the declining powerloom business led their children to take up education seriously and now the results can be seen. "The children who have passed IIT previously help the students here on how to prepare for the exams, there is an NGO for that as well," said Yugeshwar Prasad, the father of one of the successful students.

जम्मू के खानपुर में बनेगा आईआईटी कैंपस

<http://jammu.amarujala.com/news/campus-jammu/iit-campus-will-be-built-in-khanpur-jammu-hindi-news/>

उप मुख्यमंत्री निर्मल सिंह ने रविवार को जम्मू में स्थापित होने वाले आईआईटी कैंपस की ताजा स्टेटस को लेकर बैठक की। कैंपस के लिए चुनी जाने वाली जमीन के संबंध में अधिकारियों से बात की गई। आईआईटी के लिए अस्थायी कैंपस के स्थापित करने के मामले पर भी चर्चा की गई।

अधिकारियों ने उप मुख्यमंत्री को बताया कि नगरोटा के खानपुर में आईआईटी कैंपस के लिए जगह चयनित की गई है। केंद्र की टीम इस जमीन का जायजा भी ले चुकी है। हालांकि, जमीन को वन विभाग से अनुमति न मिलने को लेकर मामला लटक रहा था, लेकिन बाद में मामले को सुलझा लिया गया है।

उप मुख्यमंत्री ने कहा कि जमीन चुन लेने के बाद अब इस पर जल्दी से काम होना चाहिए ताकि आईआईटी के लिए स्टूडेंट्स को बाहरी राज्यों में न जाना पड़े। इसके निर्माण पर खर्च होने वाले पैसे को लेकर भी बात हुई। बताया गया कि प्रोजेक्ट को मंजूरी मिली चुकी है, सिर्फ वन विभाग से कुछ दिक्कत आ रही है, जो अब हल हो गई है।

बैठक में मंडलायुक्त पवन कोतवाल, शिक्षा विभाग की आयुक्त सचिव सरीता चौहान, जिला उपायुक्त सिमरणदीप सिंह, चीफ इंजीनियर आरएंडबी अलोक मंगी, रीजनल वार्डन वन्यजीव विभाग रोशन जग्गी, और डीएफओ जम्मू भी मौजूद थे।

एंड्रॉइड ऐप पर अमर उजाला पढ़ने के लिए [क्लिक करें](#)। अपने फ़ेसबुक पर अमर उजाला की खबरें पढ़ना हो तो यहाँ [क्लिक करें](#)।