

Newspaper Clips

June 22-23, 2014

June 22

Times Of India ND 22/06/2014 P-18

IITians shun corporate jobs for coaching hubs

Shoeb Khan | TNN

Jaipur: IITians are shunning corporate jobs and instead making a beeline for Kota, the education hub. Over 580 IITians are part of the faculty. Some are so successful that they are getting an annual package of Rs 2 crore and are also holding stakes in these mega institutes. No other three-tier city in the country has this huge number of working IITians.



THE BIG JUMP

Leaving Reliance refinery for a coaching institute wasn't an easy call for Vaibhav Jhawar, who passed out from IIT-Kharagpur. "In the corporate world you make revenues for the company but here we mint our future," said Vaibhav, who left a Forbes 500 company after a brief stint of two-and-a-half years. He joined Allen Career Institute in 2012.

For some, the mundane corporate working style was the reason behind joining the coaching industry, while for sev-

Try online tests to improve JEE score

Hemali Chhaphia Shah | TNN

Mumbai: Prepping for a high-intensity test is no longer equated to sleepless nights or attendance at coaching centres.

At a point where seconds make a difference and one wrong answer could place you a few hundred ranks lower on the merit list, looking at your performance through a microscope could give a clearer picture.

Several research analytics testing services — like toppr.com, embibe.com, testbook.com and oliveboard.in — are studying patterns and telling students exactly what should

and should not be done.

JEE (advanced) topper Chitraang Murdia took mock tests on embibe.com, which pointed out problems a paper-pencil test or private tutor could miss. Several IIT aspirants signed up for toppr.com, a platform that allows subscribers 4,200 hours of intensive problem solving.

"The algorithm on our website can capture details like students being over committed to a question, as also when there is a blind spot or a wasted attempt," said Aditi Avasthi, founder of Embibe.

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

eral others, the fat pay package was the sole reason for making the shift. "I earn Rs 8 lakh per month, which is Rs 3.5 lakh more than my previous job. This hike became possible only after I shifted to the coaching sector. In no other job I would have gotten such a hike," said Suresh Singh (name changed), a faculty member at a coaching major.

The job pressures in the corporate world coupled with uncertainty, especially during recession, has made this route

more popular with IITians. Coaching majors also don't mind hiring the cream by paying a premium. "The package is not a problem. If we access the potential, we hire them," said PK Bansal, CEO, Bansal Classes.

RK Verma, an IITian from Madras 1994 batch, had foreseen the potential of IIT coaching and founded Resonance Eduventures Pvt Ltd in 2001. "They understand the process of clearing IITs. The students also relate better with them."

Times Of India ND 22/06/2014 P-3

FYUP critics say UGC allowed it to happen

Claim Apex Body Has Failed To Fulfil Its Responsibilities, Ask Why No Action Taken Earlier

Shreya Roy Chowdhury | TNN

New Delhi: University Grants Commission may have ordered a rollback of the four-year undergraduate programme (FYUP) at Delhi University but that's not winning it any points with the critics of FYUP.

UGC's June 20 order to DU has three clear directions – the 2014-15 admissions "shall be made in the three-year structure which was prevalent in the University of Delhi prior to introduction of FYUP"; "appropriate arrangement shall be made...for students already admitted in the...FYUP to mi-

grate to the three-year undergraduate programme structure so that they do not lose an academic year"; and "all other steps as necessary (must be taken) to adhere to the three-year undergraduate programme as envisaged under the 10+2+3 structure under NPE 1986."

Sunny Kumar of All India Students' Association is unimpressed. "UGC as the apex body has failed to do any justice to its responsibilities. We should review how the UGC allowed this to happen in the first place," he says.

"And the letter seems like more propaganda. Why is

Sunny Kumar of AISA says the HRD minister is not openly declaring that FYUP should be rolled back. This has only 'emboldened' the DU administration

there no statement on the Academic Council meeting? They knew it was happening. While their present stand is welcome, it is clear how inept they are in overseeing higher education."

S C Panda, former executive council member, agrees with Kumar: "The UGC's role

should be probed," he says. "Why did it let DU implement FYUP in violation of the national education policy? The use of OBC funds for laptops and funding of Antardhvani and Gyanodaya should also be probed. UGC's silence so far is damaging for higher education and we hope the intervention it is making now will continue against such illegal reforms," he says.

Kumar, however, is less optimistic. He says the minister of human resource development (MHRD) not openly declaring that FYUP should be rolled back has simply "emboldened" the Delhi University

administration.

"We made representations to the UGC, MHRD and secretary, MHRD, Ashok Thakur, but they failed to take cognizance of the gross violations," claims Nandita Narain, mathematics teacher and president, DU Teachers' Association.

"Now under pressure from the new HRD minister, who obviously studied the unanimous and prolonged opposition to this policy assault by the university's vice-chancellor in the name of reforms, UGC was made to write to the university for FYUP rollback. We welcome this move even though it came a bit late and

hope that the new batch of students will not be made guinea pigs," she adds.

Rohit Chahal of Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) too is critical of the UGC. "We welcome UGC's letter to DU but it is amply clear that the UGC didn't play its role as DU continued to violate rules and regulation. It is only because of the pressure from MHRD it has now been forced to act," he says.

As Kumar puts it: "The moment of solution should not be allowed to pass. Tension has increased and even during holidays there are protests in Delhi University."

We'll devise a new education policy, Smriti Irani says

Akshaya Mukul, TNN | Jun 21, 2014, 02.58AM IST

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/Home/Education/News/Well-devise-a-new-education-policy-Smriti-Irani-says/articleshow/36913818.cms>

NEW DELHI: Nearly three decades after the last such exercise was undertaken, the Modi 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 will 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 controversial four-year undergraduate programme. "I see the role of MHRD if there is a blatant violation of law. I respect 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 will be saffronized under the rightwing regime. "The President's speech and PM's resolve reflect what MHRD seeks to do," she said on the issue.

To question on how she would go about implementing the promise of setting up IITs in all states, the 38-year-old former actor said she intended to find a way through consultations. "I am aware of the challenges of existing IITs and IIMs," the minister said, adding that she had set the ball rolling on consultations with IIT directors. "I will undertake a similar exercise with IIM directors," she added.

Govt seeks IIT for State, writes to Centre

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-karnataka/govt-seeks-iit-for-state-writes-to-centre/article6137817.ece>

The State Government has renewed its demand for an Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) in Karnataka. Higher Education Minister R.V. Deshpande wrote to Union Human Resource Development (HRD) Minister Smriti Irani asking for an IIT in the State. In the letter written to Ms. Irani earlier this month, Mr. Deshpande, while promising ‘full support and cooperation’ to the Ministry for MHRD, said the State’s hope for an IIT was renewed after the Union Government’s promise to establish an IIT in all remaining States.

Pressing for the need for an IIT in Karnataka, Mr. Deshpande said, “...(it) is necessary to fulfil the requirement of a large technological manpower for industries of international reputation and R&D organisations in multinational companies in the State.” He added that almost all southern States except Karnataka, already had IITs and that meritorious students from here were forced to migrate to other States in pursuit of IIT education.

‘Meritorious students are forced to migrate to other States in pursuit of IIT education’

Improved global mobility for engineers

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-miscellaneous/tp-others/improved-global-mobility-for-engineers/article6140337.ece>

Though India’s permanent membership in the Washington Accord brings more opportunities for engineering graduates, no college in Kerala offers a Tier-1 NBA-accredited programme, reports ABDUL LATHEEF NAHA.



Premier centres:As per the National Board of Accreditation norms, the Indian Institutes of Technology are among the institutions than can enjoy Tier-1 status.

Engineering education in the country got a shot in the arm last week when India became a permanent signatory member of the Washington Accord. An international accreditation agreement for engineering degrees among prominent countries of the world, the Washington Accord will create equivalence of engineering programmes and allow Indians to practise engineering in other member countries.

But the agreement does not give any blanket equivalency certificate to Indian engineering degrees. Only the Tier-1 programmes accredited by the National Board of Accreditation (NBA) will get the benefit of the

Washington Accord. The NBA is a body appointed by the All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE) for evaluation of engineering education programme and institutions.

None of the engineering institutions in Kerala currently offers a Tier-1 NBA accredited programme. Tier-1 programmes are housed in institutions with autonomy to review the content of curriculum and make changes as a result of recommendations from accreditation visits.

These institutions, unlike the affiliated institutions, have the fiscal and academic independence to engage in continuous improvement in the local settings without waiting for the approval of outside bodies.

As per the NBA stipulation, the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Indian Institute of Information Technology Design and Manufacturing (IIITDM), Indian Institutes of Science Education Research (IISERs), Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIITs), National Institutes of Technology (NITs), Central universities, deemed-to-be universities, and autonomous institutions can enjoy Tier-1 status.

The Cochin University of Science and Technology (CUSAT) has applied for Tier-1 NBA accreditation for its programmes in Civil Engineering, Electronics and Communication engineering, Electrical and Electronic Engineering, Computer Science Engineering, Information Technology, Mechanical Engineering, and Fire Technology and Safety.

Although 50-odd engineering colleges in Kerala have NBA general accreditation, none of them have qualified for Tier-1 status. The Washington Accord ensures that graduates of accredited programmes in any signatory country will be recognised by the other member countries as having met the academic requirements for entry to the practice of engineering.

The Washington Accord came into being in 1989 with Australia, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States originally signing the agreement. Hong Kong joined the Accord six years later, followed by South Africa in 1999, Japan in 2005, and Singapore in 2006. Chinese Taipei and Korea joined in 2007.

After failing twice in the initial attempts, India got provisional membership in the Washington Accord along with Germany, Russia, Malaysia and Sri Lanka about seven years ago. The provisional status is a step close to becoming a signatory.

Global opportunities

According to Union Minister for Human Resource Development Smriti Irani, the signatory status will substantially increase the global employment opportunities for Indian engineering graduates. “This will ensure highest quality assurance standards in our engineering programmes and provide global mobility to our engineering graduates,” she said. The Washington Accord requires member nations to ensure that the highest quality assurance standards are implemented in their technical and engineering programmes. The Washington Accord will, however, not be valid for information technology engineers. India will have to sign the Seoul Accord to create similar equivalence of programmes.

The International Engineering Alliance (IEA), Secretariat of the Washington Accord, sent a review team in December 2013 and January 2014 to carry out a comprehensive review and audit of NBA accreditation systems and practices. The review team submitted its report in March 2014.

Several people, including R.M. Unnikrishnan of California State University, Fullerton, former NBA member secretary Dinesh K. Paliwal and education secretary Ashok Thakur, had played a significant role in pushing for the prestigious Washington Accord.

Social science teaching

The NBA has asked the Tier-2 institutions to prepare themselves for becoming members of the Washington Accord. Universities have been asked to permit affiliated technical institutions to design at least 50 per cent of their programmes. The Washington Accord gives importance on teaching social science along with engineering. According to NBA officials, engineers should have a good understanding of society, and also good management and communication skills.

Hindustan Times ND 22/06/2014 P-9

Educational institutions must come clean on fees

CONSUMER FOCUS



PUSHPA GIRIMAJI

A letter from a parent that I received recently raises some very pertinent questions about the rights of students and parents as consumers of educational services. It also focuses on certain highly exploitative and unfair practices by educational institutions in recent years.

According to the parent, Mr

Pranav Kumar, he had to sign an agreement that had a clause saying that he would pay the full course fee, even if his son left the college mid-way. The clause was never pointed out to him, but even if it had, he admits that he would still have signed it, for his son's education.

After a year, his son did not wish to continue there, but the college has his original certificates which they say, would be returned only after receiving the promised fee. In other words, the college is forcing a student who does not wish to continue, to either stay against his will or

pay the fee for four years for his 'release'. This is highly unethical and unfair.

The University Grants Commission (UGC) and the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) have issued guidelines directing educational institutions to refund the fee paid by students who wish to withdraw before the start of the course. If a student wishes to leave after the start of the course, and if the seat vacated by the student is taken up by another, then the educational institution should return the fee with proportionate deductions

of monthly fee. They have also said that colleges cannot retain the original certificates to force retention of admitted students.

But what about situations such as described above, where the student wishes to leave after a year? A student may realize that he/she made a mistake with the choice of the course and wish to pursue some other stream.

The educational institution is taking away the student's right to choice, thereby adversely affecting the his/her academic career and may be his/her entire life. The institution's demand

that the parent pay the fee for the entire course, would also take away that choice for the student because after all, the parent has to pay for the other course too. Besides, it raises the question of whether an educational institution can collect payment from a student for a service that it is not rendering.

Both UGC and AICTE should consider situations such as these that could have a serious repercussion on the academic future of the student and come up with clear guidelines against such exploitation by educational institutions. Institutions will

argue that they lose the revenue if a student leaves. But then, how many such students leave? Surely, it can absorb that cost?

I am sure colleges take into consideration some of these aspects when they calculate the fee. Besides, in many cases, it was found that colleges had admitted more students than permitted. Students have even alleged that colleges had collected more (illegally and in cash) than that declared as fee. It's time the regulators ushered in more transparency in the fee structure of educational institutions.

Can the nervous system be hacked?

Welcome to the brave new world of bioelectronics—implants that can give physicians a 'remote control' to a patient's body in their fight against diseases ranging from cancer to the common cold

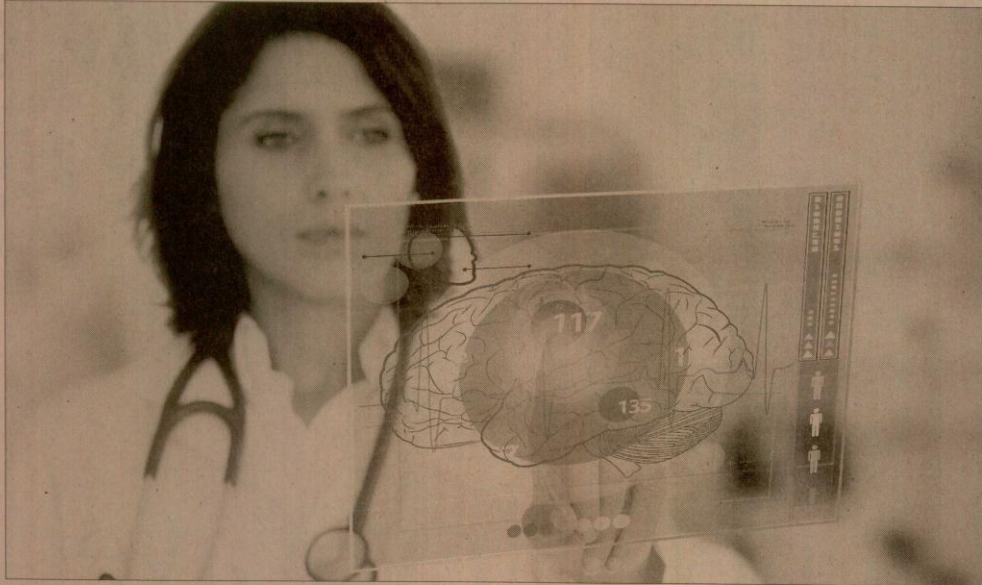
Michael Behar

ONE MORNING in May 1998, Kevin Tracey converted a room in his lab at the Feinstein Institute for Medical Research in Manhasset, New York, into a makeshift operating theatre and then prepped his patient—a rat—for surgery. A neurosurgeon, and also Feinstein Institute's president, Tracey had spent more than a decade searching for a link between nerves and the immune system. His work led him to hypothesise that stimulating the vagus nerve with electricity would alleviate harmful inflammation. "The vagus nerve is behind the artery where you feel your pulse," he says.

The vagus nerve and its branches conduct nerve impulses—called action potentials—to every major organ. But communication between nerves and the immune system was considered impossible, according to the scientific consensus in 1998. Textbooks from the era taught, he says, "that the immune system was just cells floating around. Nerves don't float anywhere. Nerves are fixed in tissues." It would have been "inconceivable", he adds, to propose that nerves were directly interacting with immune cells.

Nonetheless, Tracey was certain that an interface existed, and that his rat would prove it. After anaesthetising the animal, Tracey cut an incision in its neck, using a surgical microscope to find his way around his patient's anatomy. With a handheld nerve stimulator, he delivered several one-second electrical pulses to the rat's exposed vagus nerve. He stitched the cut closed and gave the rat a bacterial toxin known to promote the production of tumour necrosis factor, or TNF, a protein that triggers inflammation in animals, including humans.

"We let it sleep for an hour, then took blood tests," he says. The bacterial toxin should have triggered rampant inflammation, but instead, the production of tumour necrosis factor was blocked by 75%. "For me, it was a life-changing moment," Tracey says. What he had demonstrated was that the nervous system was like a computer terminal through which you could deliver



commands to stop a problem, like acute inflammation, before it starts, or repair a body after it gets sick. "All the information is coming and going as electrical signals," Tracey says. For months, he'd been arguing with his staff, whose members considered this rat project of his harebrained. "Half of them were in the hallway betting against me," Tracey says.

Inflammatory afflictions like rheumatoid arthritis and Crohn's disease are currently treated with drugs—painkillers, steroids and what are known as biologics, or genetically-engineered proteins. But such medicines, Tracey points out, are often expensive, hard to administer, variable in their efficacy and sometimes accompanied by lethal side-effects. His work seemed to indicate that electricity delivered to the vagus nerve in just the right intensity and at precise intervals could reproduce a drug's therapeutic—in this case, anti-inflammatory—reaction. His subsequent re-

search would also show that it could do so more effectively and with minimal health risks.

Tracey's efforts have helped establish what is now the growing field of bioelectronics. He has grand hopes for it. "I think this is the industry that will replace the drug industry," he says. Today, researchers are creating implants that can communicate directly with the nervous system in order to try to fight everything from cancer to the common cold. "Our idea would be manipulating neural input to delay the progression of cancer," says Paul Frenette, a stem-cell researcher at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in the Bronx who discovered a link between the nervous system and prostate tumours.

"The list of TNF diseases is long," Tracey says. "So when we created SetPoint"—the start-up he founded in 2007 with a physician and researcher at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston—"we had to figure out what we were going

to treat." They wanted to start with an illness that could be mitigated by blocking tumour necrosis factor and for which new therapies were desperately needed. Rheumatoid arthritis satisfied both criteria. It afflicts about 1% of the global population, causing chronic inflammation that erodes joints and eventually makes movement excruciating. And there is no cure for it.

In September 2011, SetPoint Medical began the world's first clinical trial to treat rheumatoid-arthritis patients with an implantable nerve stimulator based on Tracey's discoveries. According to Ralph Zitnik, SetPoint's chief medical officer, of the 18 patients currently enrolled in the ongoing trial, two-thirds have improved. And some of them were feeling little or no pain just weeks after receiving the implant; the swelling in their joints also disappeared. "We took Kevin's concept that he worked on for 10 years and made it a reality for people in a real clinical trial," he says.

Conceptually, bioelectronics is straightforward: get the nervous system to tell the body to heal itself. But, of course, it's not that simple. "What we're trying to do here is completely novel," says Pedro Irazoqui, a professor of biomedical engineering at Purdue University, where he's investigating bioelectronic therapies for epilepsy. Jay Pasricha, a professor of medicine and neurosciences at Johns Hopkins University who studies how nerve signals affect obesity, diabetes and gastrointestinal-motility disorders, among other digestive diseases, says, "What we're doing today is like the precursor to the Model T."

The biggest challenge is interpreting the conversation between the body's organs and its nervous system, according to Kris Famm, who runs the newly-formed bioelectronics R&D unit at GlaxoSmithKline, the world's seventh-largest pharmaceutical company. "No one has really tried to speak the electri-

cal language of the body," he says. Another obstacle is building small implants, some of them as tiny as a cubic millimetre, robust enough to run powerful microprocessors. Should scientists succeed and bioelectronics become widely adopted, millions of people could one day be walking around with networked computers hooked up to their nervous systems. And that prospect highlights yet another concern the nascent industry will have to confront: the possibility of malignant hacking. As Anand Raghunathan, a professor of electrical and computer engineering at Purdue, puts it, bioelectronics "gives me a remote control to someone's body".

Despite the uncertainties, in August, GlaxoSmithKline invested \$5 million in SetPoint, and its bioelectronics R&D unit now has partnerships with 26 independent research groups in six countries. Glaxo has also established a \$50-million fund to support the science of bioelectronics and is offering a prize of \$1 million to the first team that can develop an implantable device that can, by recording and responding to an organ's electrical signals, exert influence over its function. Instead of drugs, "the treatment is a pattern of electrical impulses," Famm says. "The information is the treatment." In addition to rheumatoid arthritis, Famm believes, bioelectronic medicine might someday treat hypertension, asthma, diabetes, epilepsy, infertility, obesity and cancer. "This is not a one-trick pony."

Tracey, who is 56 years old, came to bioelectronics because of two significant deaths. The first occurred when he was in pre-school. He was five years old when his mother died as a result of an inoperable brain tumour. Shortly after the funeral, Tracey found his maternal grandfather, a professor of pediatrics at Yale, alone in his den. "I climbed on to his lap and asked what happened," Tracey says. "He explained that surgeons tried to take it out, but couldn't separate the brain-tumour tissue from the normal neurons. I remember saying to him, 'Somebody should do something about that.' That was when I decided to be a neurosurgeon. I wanted to solve problems that were insolvable."

NYT

Check it out: Florida university library to lend drones to students

By Jareen Imam, CNN

<http://www.cnn.com/2014/06/21/us/college-lends-drones-to-students/>

updated 11:47 AM EDT, Sat June 21, 2014



Why a college is using drones on campus

STORY HIGHLIGHTS

- University of South Florida will let students checkout drones at its library.
- The drone rental programs aims to give students access to more technology.
- Remote-controlled drones will be flown on campus with faculty supervision.

(CNN) -- Students at the University of South Florida will be soaring to new academic heights, with drones.

College students will be getting their hands on more than just books at the USF come the fall semester. The Tampa campus plans to offer remote-controlled drones for students to check out for school-related projects.

It's a bold move considering that more places are starting to limit the access of drones, including the National Park Service, which announced a [temporary ban on the use of drones](#) on Friday. The NPS announcement basically bars the access of unmanned devices to 84 million acres of land in the U.S.

Yet, USF is taking a different approach to drones, making the technology more accessible to its students. The library purchased two drones with some leftover money from a grant to remodel its facility with new technology. These drones are capable of taking aerial video and photography.



A DJI Phantom drone captured in action.

The library's hope is to integrate new technology to its services. In the past year, the library has worked to expand its "Digital Media Commons" in an effort to promote digital learning. Now, USF's library is taking it a step further by giving students the opportunity to operate the drones, which are valued at \$1,500 apiece.

[Learn how to shoot amazing videos with drones](#)

Dean of USF Libraries Bill Garrison says the drones could be a great resource for students working on multimedia projects, and sees the program working in conjunction with other departments at the university.



Your most amazing videos, from above

"We have a global sustainability program, and they are mapping out the campus to see energy usage, so they can use the drones to help map out the campus," he explained. "There are a lot of opportunities for research and learning by using drones. And the faculty can use it, too."

Flying these drones will not be as simple as swiping a library card, though.

Students will need to enroll in a training course before they can check out the equipment. They'll also be required to provide an explanation on how the drone will be utilized in a school project, and they must be supervised by a faculty member while operating it around the campus. As of now, the program aims to keep the drones on USF's campus unless a professor makes the case for an exception, and students will be liable for any damages to the equipment.

Garrison says the move to introduce drones to the school's library service is part of a larger effort to stay relevant on campus by providing more digital learning tools.

"One of the things many libraries have struggled with is how do you become a real part of the campus and not be viewed as a book warehouse," he said. "I find it very exciting that we are able to do this, and I think the students will appreciate it."

June 23

Hindustan Times ND 23/06/2014 P-1

Admissions only under 3-yr course: UGC to DU

TOUGH TALK Regulator tells varsity, colleges not to admit students under 4-year course, threatens withdrawal of aid

Vanita Srivastava, Mallica Joshi
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Admissions for the new academic session would only be under the three-year programme, the UGC told DU, its colleges and students on Sunday, warning any deviation would have serious consequences.

The University Grants Commission's latest directive, which comes two days before admissions open and a day after the Delhi University defied its order to junk the controversial four-year degree course, has put colleges in a fix. They are not sure if they should wait for the Delhi University guidelines or implement the regulator's order.

"We are caught in the middle. Technically we take orders from the university on admission related matters but this is a situation where we don't know what to do," the principal of a top north campus college said. "We are hoping that the university reconciles with the UGC's

view," the principal, who didn't wish to be identified, said.

St Stephen's College, which is already in the process of admitting students, has decided to defer final admissions till the matter is decided.

Setting a deadline for Monday "forenoon", a tough-talking UGC told DU that failure by it and its 64 colleges to comply with the order could result in punitive action like freezing of grants.

Apart from informing the colleges individually, it also put a notice on its website telling students and parents that admissions would only be for the three-year undergraduate programme offered prior to the introduction of the four-year course and fees should be paid for only three years. Adding to DU's embarrassment, the regulator is expected to put notices in newspapers as well.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

» **CONFUSED COLLEGES, P4**

» **DU ADMISSION MESS, P4**

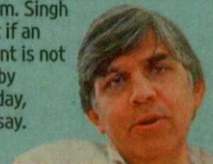
» **STUDENTS ANXIOUS, P5**

SOME QUESTIONS

- Will admissions start on time?
- What will happen to BA, BCom and BSc courses scrapped under the four-year course?
- Will those enrolled in BTech courses will now be given a BSc degree?
- Will DU challenge UGC's order in court?

V-C to quit?

DU vice-chancellor Dinesh Singh backed the controversial four-year programme ignoring bitter protests by students and teachers. Right from its inception to implementation, Singh was involved at every stage. With the UGC ordering a rollback, all eyes are on him. Singh may quit if an agreement is not reached by Wednesday, sources say.



» UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHALL THE UNIVERSITY OF DELHI OR ANY OF THE COLLEGES UNDER IT ADMIT STUDENTS TO THE FYUP FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2014-15. University Grants Commission

STEPHEN'S ADMISSIONS ON HOLD

St Stephen's College, in the process of admitting students, has decided to defer final admissions. "St Stephen's will admit students only to approved courses. Students seeking admission to a particular course need to have defini-

tive information about the structure and duration of the courses they join," a statement issued by principal Valson Thampu said.

The "admission list" being put up was provisional, the principal said on Sunday.

HTC

Admissions only under 3-year course: UGC to Delhi University

The university has also been asked to ensure that students in the four-year programme were moved to the three-year system.

The UGC came in for criticism for communicating with colleges directly. "Directly communicating with the col-

THE UGC CAME IN FOR CRITICISM FOR COMMUNICATING WITH COLLEGES DIRECTLY.

leges will cost heavily in terms of erosion of university autonomy. The unprecedented alacrity of the UGC in passing orders one after another, assaulting the university autonomy smacks of politically motivated designs," Academics for Action and Development, a teachers body, said.

Introduced last year, the four-year undergraduate programme was bitterly opposed by both the students and teachers but the university stood by it. The BJP in its manifesto for the Delhi elections had promised to scrap the course.

The standoff not only leaves 60,000 students already pursuing the course facing uncertainty but also threatens to derail the admission process. This year, DU has received 275,000 applications for 54,000 undergraduate seats.

UGC gives DU a day to scrap FYUP

Wants Report On Compliance Before Noon

Akshaya Mukul | TNN

New Delhi: Leaving little scope for Delhi University to defy the government on the four-year undergraduate programme (FYUP), the University Grants Commission on Sunday issued another directive to the varsity to revert to the three-year course and asked for a compliance report by forenoon on Monday.

UGC, which controls the university's purse strings, told DU that any deviation from the directive shall be "deemed to be in contraven-

EXEC COUNCIL MEET PUT OFF

- > UGC again directs **DU to scrap FYUP** and revert to 3-year undergrad course
- > This time, UGC has sought compliance by **Monday forenoon**
- > **DU executive council meeting scheduled for today postponed** in view of developments
- > Commission sends letters to college principals, telling them to **'strictly follow' the 3-year course or face withdrawal of grants**
- > UGC also issues public notice asking **students to take admission only in 3-year UG courses**

tion of the UGC Act, with its consequences". This is the second directive by UGC on scrapping FYUP in the past few days. The previous one was sent on Friday.

"There will be serious costs for the DU administration if it defies the government. Top university offi-

cials should not play with the future of students any longer and not turn an issue of public interest into a private battle," said a highly placed source.

Sources said DU vice-chancellor Dinesh Singh was expected to make a statement on the development at the ex-

ecutive council meeting on Monday. However, late on Sunday evening, the varsity administration postponed the meeting.

Sources said UGC has an action plan ready in the event of the university not falling in line by Monday forenoon.

UGC sent letters on Sunday to the principals of DU's 70-odd colleges, asking them to strictly follow the three-

FULL COVERAGE: P 2

year undergraduate course. Principals have been told that "any deviation or contravention shall be viewed seriously by UGC and may attract action under the UGC Act including withdrawal of grant to the college". UGC staff delivered the directive to each college principal by hand.

The commission has also decided to issue a public notice to be carried by newspapers on Monday, asking students to take admission only in three-year courses.

The notice, issued by the UGC chairperson, also says a standing committee is being set up to advise DU on the migration back from FYUP to a three-year undergraduate programme so that students "do not lose an academic year... and for this purpose, ensure that students acquire necessary academic and other competence during the next two years."

The committee will comprise members of the university's academic and executive councils, teachers' and students' unions, and senior academics.

Hindustan ND23/06/2014 P-2

‘डीयू के नियमों के खिलाफ है यूजीसी का आदेश’

नई दिल्ली | कार्यालय संवाददाता

यूजीसी के आदेश के बाद लागू होने जा रहे तीन साल के कोर्स को लेकर दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय पेच फंसा सकता है। डीयू ने अपनी कार्यकारी परिषद की सोमवार को होने वाली बैठक स्थगित कर दी है।

एक वरिष्ठ अधिकारी का कहना है कि चार साल के पाठ्यक्रम को लागू करते समय नियमों का उल्लंघन नहीं किया गया। उन्होंने कहा कि कोई भी पाठ्यक्रम कोर्स कमेटी, कार्यकारी परिषद और अकादमिक परिषद की सहमति के बाद ही लागू किया जाता है।

अधिकारी ने कहा कि तीन साल के कोर्स को हटाने के बाद ही चार साल के पाठ्यक्रम को लागू किया गया था। उस दौरान सभी परिषद से इस बाबत सहमति ली गई थी। ऐसे में अगर अब चार साल के पाठ्यक्रम को हटाया जाता है तो दोबारा सभी परिषद के समक्ष इस प्रारूप को लाना होगा।

यूजीसी अगर जबरन इसे लागू करवाती है तो यह डीयू के नियमों का उल्लंघन होगा। अधिकारी ने कहा कि शनिवार को हुई अकादमिक परिषद की बैठक में भी दो तिहाई शिक्षकों ने तीन साल के पाठ्यक्रम का विरोध किया था।

Financial Chronicle ND 23/06/2014 P-11

Get going

Delhi University battles existential dilemmas on the eve of admissions

JUST when the mad scramble for admissions reaches feverish pitch in Delhi University, authorities on campus are consumed with another battle of the mind, the four-year undergraduate programme (FYUP) course, which had been foisted upon students using the ordinance route. The controversial course, which was the brainchild of the former UPA government hell bent on changing the established order of undergraduate studies in India's most elite university, has not found favour with the new government. Close to a year, the Delhi University campus has been in the agitation mode with teacher and student bodies putting up their stiffest opposition possible to this scheme — to be equally successfully stonewalled by varsity authorities led by its vice chancellor, who believes this is what students need in their quest for higher studies in the west, notably the United States. For reasons unknown, despite the university grants commission's (UGC) suggestion to the Delhi University to scrap the course, the university's academic council has refused to relent. Astonishingly, it has asked the UGC to reconsider its decision. This exchange between the UGC, the federal funding agency for central universities in India, and one of its primary recipients, has created a piquant situation for every one, not the least for students caught in the crossfire between people who should have known and planned better. The academic council has gone so far as to disagree with the UGC that the FYUP violated the national policy on education, a pretty serious charge to begin with. The first cut-off list for admissions are expected anytime now — certainly this week — and given the fluidity of the situation, there is good chance that an already confusing scenario is going to get worse. Authorities would be well advised to look at the plight of students; the first batch of the FYUP is already under threat of losing a year in case the course is rolled back, their future uncertain. The new admission seeker, equally at sea, does not know what would happen even after a precious admission has been obtained. It is time for the UGC and the central government to get their act together and firmly ask the varsity to fall in line. Not to be able to decide the course of action just hours before the admission clock begins to tick, can be considered quite unprecedented in a university where close to 54,000 students from all over the country will seek admissions in 61 colleges this year. The central government would also be well advised to lay down the line on the role of a central university vis-a-vis the UGC, ultimately the controlling authority. The Delhi University academic council's 'defiance' of a statutory authority could lead to a situation where individual universities begin charting out their own course of action without consulting the centre. Frankly, these issues should have been settled before the beginning of a new semester, but the fact that it has not, suggests lack of coordination at the highest level. There is no reason why students should pay a price for this.

HT.Com ND 23.06.2014 P-3

Poor kids scramble for IIT fee

Indo-Asian News Service

PATNA: For students from underprivileged families, who studied at Super 30 and cracked the IIT-JEE advance examination this year, the next hurdle is to arrange ₹60,000 as counselling fee, following which they will be admitted to a college.

Three days after the sons and daugh-

ters of a cobbler, daily wage labourers, vendors, security guards, and landless farmers, among others, cracked the highly-competitive exam, their parents are struggling to arrange the required fee.

“At Super 30, Anand Kumar sir took care of all our needs. We just had to study. Now, it is proving to be difficult,” said a student.

Financial Chronicle ND 23/06/2014

P-3

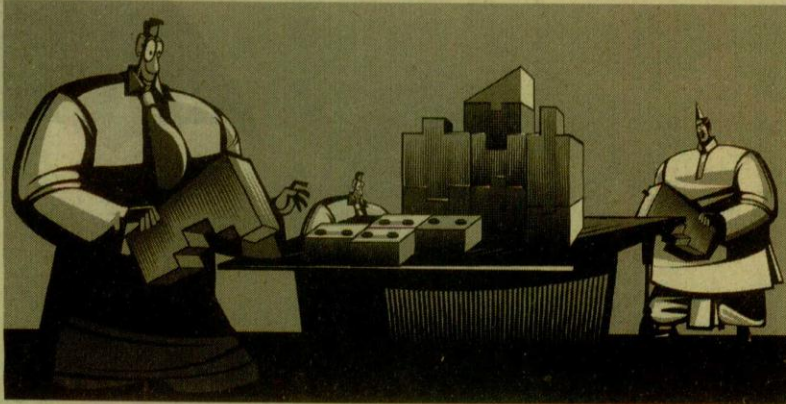
Tapping technology

TO resolve the water woes of Dwarka, the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) is planning to use ‘soil bio-technology’ developed by IIT-Bombay, which will use water from Palam drain. The pilot project is likely to be implemented soon to deliver 5 MLD of potable water, which is equivalent to supply from 50 tubewells, by January next year. “This technology is already being utilised by the Bombay Municipal Corporation and many other places in Maharashtra,” an official said.

Can India's higher education be saved from the rule of *babus*?

Greater decentralisation of higher education governance is key to meaningful reform, says Devesh Kapur

ILLUSTRATION BY AJAY MOHANTY



SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATION TRENDS (1990-2011)

	CHINA		INDIA		UNITED STATES	
	Number of publications	Number of highly cited articles	Number of publications	Number of highly cited articles	Number of publications	Number of highly cited articles
1990	6,104	—	12,346	—	130,559	—
2001	25,730	174	15,522	103	150,817	2,894
2011	122,672	980	36,456	191	184,253	3,137

Source: Xie et al, 2014

A recent paper details the striking rise of China as a major contributor to science and technology over the past three decades, buoyed not only by the country's extraordinary rapid economic growth and quick expansion of education but also "a labour market favouring academic meritocracy, a large diaspora of Chinese-origin scientists, and a centralised government willing to invest in science".

The rapid emergence of China as one of the leading producers of knowledge in global science is not just about quantity; there is a similar increase in highly cited (top one per cent) articles (see table). There is much to celebrate in China's laudable achievement. Scientific research – at least much of it – is a public good and China's growing contributions to the global production of knowledge benefit all humanity, including India.

At the same time, historically, leadership in global science and technology has been closely linked to global political and economic leadership – whether England in the 19th century, Germany in the late 19th and early 20th century or the United States since then. Indeed, scientific prowess is a *sine qua non* for global power. While emerging powers have to be adept at using advances in science and technology, they are net consumers of knowledge; global powers, on the other hand, have to be at the leading edge of science and technology and inevitably become net producers of knowledge.

In 1990, India's gross domestic product, or GDP (using purchasing power parity), was 83 per cent that of China, while the number of publications was double that for China. By 2011, India's GDP was 43 per cent that of China but the ratio of publications was less than 30 per cent (see table). Clearly, despite rapid economic growth and the expansion of higher education over the past two decades, India has severely underperformed relative to China on a key performance indicator of higher education: scientific publications.

The key reasons for China's rise are also ones that have hobbled India. Just as a self-confident China embraced global economic integration and leveraged it to turbocharge its economy, it has used global faculty, institutions and benchmarks to improve its higher education system. Make no mistake: if a foreign institution wants to establish itself in China, it has to have a meaningful collaboration with a Chinese institution that can learn, copy and improve over time, just as Chinese businesses have done. But this self-confidence

is lacking in India. If India's political elites have been apprehensive of globalisation, the country's intellectuals have been, for the most part, hostile; they have viewed themselves as valiant defenders of the nation against marauding foreigners. Patriotism is the best cover for self-interest.

It should be emphasised, then, that China's gains have resulted from massive increases in public investment, but in such a manner that public money is linked to clear national goals in which getting publications in international journals is seen as a priority. While one can contest that priority, there is at least clarity about what the expenditures are meant to achieve.

Not only is meritocracy a much more contested terrain in India, but the idea that there should be clear links between academic productivity, salaries and tenure, as in China, would meet fierce resistance from a vocal interest group, namely faculty. The University Grants Commission (UGC) rules, that faculty members in public institutions should automatically get promotions based on the length of service and have a common salary structure linked to civil service salaries set by an anachronistic authority called the Pay Commission, have reduced faculty to the status of *babus*. It is not surprising that so much of higher education in India – both overall regulation and the internal governance of universities – is what Pankaj Chandra, former director of the Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Bangalore, termed "*babudom*" – a regime of, for and by *babus*.

It is ironic that regulation and governance of higher education in authoritarian China are far more decentralised than in democratic India. Indeed, one might even say that higher education functions more democratically in China than it does in India, where the UGC (and other regulators) and the human resource development (HRD) bureaucracy have stifled the openness and creativity that are necessary for higher education to flourish.

Consider this: between 2000-01 and 2011-12, the number of colleges in India increased from 12,806 to 35,539, which meant an average of nearly six new colleges a day for more than a decade. What a fabulously hard-working and accommodative regulatory system – unless, of course, one asks how this really happened, and what happens inside these institutions. The Indian higher education regulatory system has allowed every politician worth her name to start a college. How much

worse could it get if it did not exist? At least there wouldn't be barriers to those few foolhardy idealists who want to try something different but lack the wherewithal of the politically connected?

There are two pointed realities of higher education institutions in India, even the elite ones. One, they have weak leadership; and two, the dominance of a remarkably small number of individuals in selection and review committees of central higher education institutions and the country's science laboratories. This ensures pliability, *de facto* patron-client relationships and that few openly challenge the system. Everyone knows this, but can't say it openly because, of course, as the saying goes, the nail that sticks out gets hammered. Science advances not because of the vice-like control of old men, but because of brash young challengers to the *status quo*. Except in India.

Unless India's higher education system gets rid of the *babu* mentality – both at the regulatory and at the ministry level as well as within universities – it will betray its promise to its young and to the country's future. Why should the HRD ministry have a role in the selection of an IIT or IIM director, or in the appointment of the vice-chancellor of a central university? The key stakeholders are the campus community (faculty, students and staff), alumni, and, yes, the national government. At the same time, an alumnus of an IIT has a far greater emotional stake in the success and future of his alma mater than a dozen bureaucrats in the HRD ministry or the selection panels they appoint.

The core function – and competence – of the ministries is designing and implementing policy. The more the HRD ministry gets involved in personnel selection, the more it undermines the governance of universities and leaves itself with little time to focus on its core policy-related goals. And the more the UGC pretends it can regulate the massive numbers of higher education institutions in the country, the more one is tempted to pray: deliver us to our enemies but save us from our higher education regulators.

* "China's rise as a major contributor to science and technology", *proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, June 16, 2014 (Yu Xie, Chunni Zhang and Qing Lai). The writer is director of the Centre for the Advanced Study of India at the University of Pennsylvania

HT Indore

HC's new roster system gets

RATIONALISED This will improve work flow and reduce burden on a section of officials. It will also help in listing

Punya Priya Mitra

punya.mitra@indiatimes.com

INDORE: Amidst a raging debate within the legal community in Madhya Pradesh over the newly introduced rationalised system for movement of files in the MP high court, which has replaced the old roster system, an Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Indore study has given thumbs-up to the new system.

The study, done by prof Rohit Kapoor and prof Pattaraja Selvaraj, says the new system has improved the efficiency of the courts and benefited the

litigants.

When the new system was introduced by the chief justice of the MP high court, Justice A M Khanwilkar, there was resistance from the lawyers. Even now, a petition regarding the changeover to the new system is pending in the Jabalpur high court.

According to the study, as the old roster system led to an unbalanced work flow, a section of the administrative staff was overburdened.

Also, there was no measure of standard time for filing, verification and listing of cases. There was also under utilisa-

OLD SYSTEM

- Particular class and category of cases were listed before specific benches comprising either a single judge or two judges.
- Uncertainty when the freshly filed case will be listed for first hearing.
- Lawyers were compelled to seek early mentioning even for fresh cases.
- Uncertainty, in most of the cases, as to the further listing of dates.
- Less reliance on technology made management of cases tedious.

NEW SYSTEM

- Every bench to hear all types of cases.
- First listing of cases within three to five days of filing, subject to there being no filing objections/default.
- With cases getting listed within three to five days, the need for mentioning for fresh cases greatly reduced.
- Now, either the judges or the registrar gives a fixed date for next hearing.
- Use of technology besides enabling effective management brings about transparency.

tion of information technology tools leading to poor monitoring and control system.

The listing of cases depended on the performance of the administrative staff members.

There were possibilities of administrative staff members being subjective and also

playing to the stakeholders and scheduling.

So, many cases were listed far to the process of justice. For every case, application was pending in court till the

The study rationalised about 60% of a litigant whether the his petition is successful

HT Chandigarh

Punjabi varsity opens online study centre in US

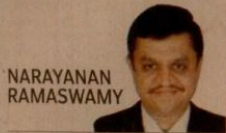
PATIALA: In a mission to promote Sikh studios and Sikh music, Punjabi University opened 'gurmat gyan online study centre' at the Sikh Centre of the Gulf Coast Area in Houston, USA. The university was the first to recognise gurmat saangeet as an independent academic subject in 2003 and this is the university's second such centre after the one at New Jersey. Gurmat saangeet is a form of singing started by Sikhism's founder Guru Nanak and used in worship.

HTP

UNION BUDGET

Investing in education

With a government that seems genuinely concerned about educating & skilling our youngsters and has been showing signs of an action-oriented approach, we expect a Budget that will provide the much-needed fillip to the education sector



NARAYANAN RAMASWAMY

IN INDIA, the Budget sessions have always been associated with a lot of expectations and fervour. Unlike many other countries, Budget in India is not just a financial statement—but a reinforcement of the policies and allocations that underline the relevance and importance of these policies. Hence, the first Budget of this new *sarkar* is eagerly awaited.

Skilling and education have been key points of discussion by the new government. The HRD minister has gone on record to say that the spend on education should be at least 6% of GDP—given the huge gap in supply and ever-rising demand. Accounting for a moderate 5% growth in GDP, this means almost a 65-70% increase over the budget allocated last year! If we look at this Budget as the first of a series of Budgets to come, then we need to have a good mix of quick results and a long-term planning.

Research

Research needs to be given a big push. This applies to both fundamental research and applied research. Clear allocation to research—in the intended areas/disciplines where India wants to be seen as a leader—should begin with this Budget. A thought is to consider a model that countries like New Zealand follow—identify key impact areas and disciplines that will bring

about them to happen and create centres of excellence around them. Many a times, this impact could be caused by more than one discipline or an overlay of many disciplines. The impact areas need to be manifested through the centres of excellence with clear objectives and goals. Funding to universities that work towards the identified impact areas and disciplines will be financed through the centres of excellence. Collaborations and knowledge partnerships with other globally-renowned universities will be through the centres of excellence.

Faculty

Equally important is the issue of shortage of faculty. An initiative for increasing the quantity and quality of faculty should be launched. The Budget should include measures—perhaps a separate varsity specialising on faculty development—to train and engage the teaching community. With the changes in curriculum, free access to information, ubiquitous reach of technology, globalisation of learning outcomes, unless we strengthen the base for deeper reforms in education. This should include allocation for infrastructure, trainers for training, augmented remuneration and continuous learning. Efforts should also be made to upgrade and modernise existing teacher training institutes across primary, secondary, tertiary and vocational education.

Curriculum

School education needs a comprehensive and a zero-based review of the curriculum. While CBSE has been continuously upgraded, the need of the hour is a forward-looking, future-

ready curriculum. A detailed effort in understanding the rapid changes in education and research requirement—which will take into account the current teaching—learning environment and outcomes will be a game-changer in school education in India. This becomes all the more critical—given the fact that majority of human resources for the globe is going to come from India in the next decade. It also underlines the need to have a globally accommodating and relevant curriculum at our schools.

SSA, RMSA & RUSA

In the short to medium term, the three major schemes—Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) for primary, Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) for secondary, and Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) for tertiary education—should be strengthened and streamlined. While SSA should focus on access, availability and quality; RMSA should look at means of extending the schooling

The government should meaningfully involve the private sector in skilling and education. Successful PPP models should be made available in those areas where private participation does not happen voluntarily. In higher education, a formula for allowing private sector to get nominal returns should be considered

years to increase gross enrolment ratio (GER). Vocational education should be a key part of RMSA and should include alternate pedagogy such as open school and technology-based models. RUSA should focus on research, employable skills and en-

abling life skills—including a focused programme to make Indian university education globally competitive.

The schemes should also have sufficient monitoring and innovation component built in. In the past years, utilisation of funds allocated has been unsatisfactory (for example, the government spent just 70% of the funds allocated for SSA and Right to Education in 2010-11, according to the Planning, Allocations and Expenditures, Institutions: Studies in Accountability—PAISA—report, by the Accountability Initiative) and the trend is not promising. Even where utilised, benefits are lost to the end-consumer due to the 'trickle-down' effect. A strong monitoring mechanism—which also allows for last-mile innovation and independence—should be in place for each of these schemes.

Skill development

Skill development should be given a special status—given the proximity to employment and employability. In-

dustries through Sector Skill Councils (SSC) should arrive at a consolidated view of the skill gap and talent availability. Each SSC should be given autonomy to define its sector's occupational standards and also allow for inter-sector mobility. The national registry for skills and employment will help in having a holistic view of training requirement. This will help organisations like the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) to focus its attention in developing training providers in the relevant areas.

PPP

It is time also for the government to start thinking of meaningfully in-

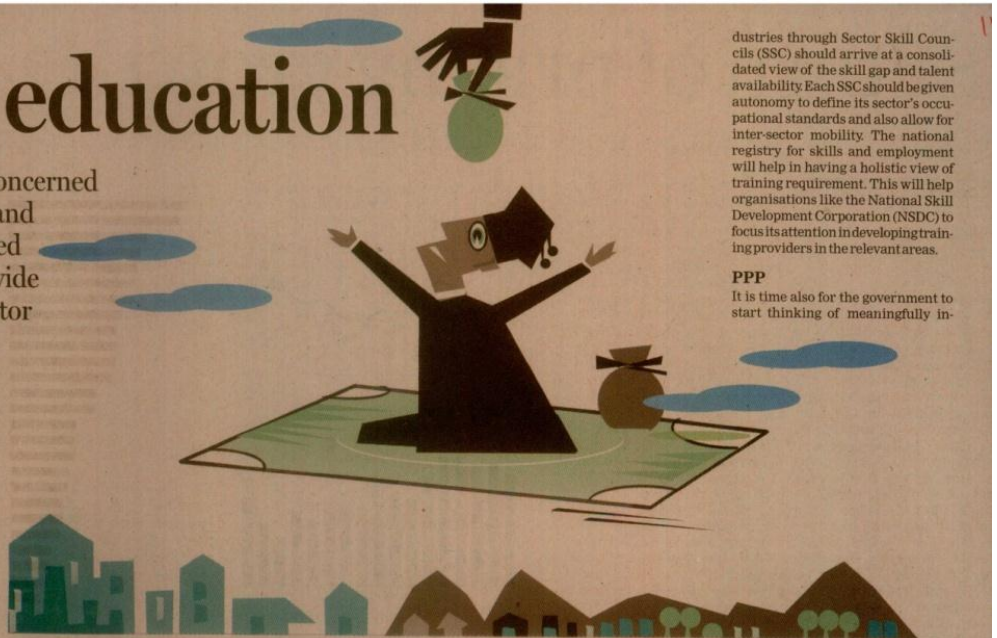


ILLUSTRATION: ASIT BAGCHI

World's most powerful telescope to be built in space

4 Times Hubble's Size, It'll Be Assembled 1M Miles From Earth; Will Hunt For Life Up To 30 Light Yrs Away

Jack Simpson

Scientists have announced plans to build a telescope that may give us clues to whether alien life exists on planets millions of miles away.

The *Atlast*, or Advanced Technology Large-Aperture Space Telescope, will be the biggest and most powerful telescope in the world and will be able to analyse atmospheres of planets and solar systems up to 30 light years away.

It is hoped that the tele-

scope will give astronomers crucial insights into whether extra-terrestrial life forms are capable of existing in undiscovered areas of space.

To be able to analyse these planets, the telescope will have to be four times bigger than the 44-foot Hubble Space Telescope. Inside it will be a mirror with a diameter of 52 feet, the largest man-made mirror ever.

Its size implies that no rocket is capable of transporting it into space. Instead, a team of astronaut con-



FACING GIANT COMPETITION: The Hubble Space Telescope in orbit

struction workers will be ferried by NASA's Orion rocket to assemble the telescope around 1 million miles from the earth's surface.

The details of the project will be revealed at this week's National Astronomy Meeting in Portsmouth by the president for the Royal Astronomical Society, Martin Barstow.

According to Barstow, the telescope will allow astronomers to discover around 60 new planets and provide information on the levels of ox-

xygen and other gases that might indicate potential life.

Barstow told the Sunday Times: "This telescope could see Earth-like planets around stars up to 30 light years away. There are tens of thousands of stars within that distance and we estimate that at least a few thousand of those will be similar to the Sun."

He added: "Once it finds a planet, the telescope will analyse its atmosphere for ozone, methane, oxygen and other gases which suggest

the presence of life."

For the *Atlast* telescope to progress past the planning stage, it is believed that a global collaboration between all of the world's space agencies will be required.

Barstow said: "NASA will have to take the lead as it is the biggest space agency, but it is already in discussion with the European Space Agency, of which Britain is a member. We're looking at 2030 because that is how long these projects take." THE INDEPENDENT

NIT Silchar MoU with University of Illinois

Correspondent

<http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=jun2314/state05>

SILCHAR, June 22 – In a bid to facilitate the creation of a world class innovative, inviting and flexible library system, the National Institute of Technology, Silchar (NITS) has recently signed a memorandum of understanding with University of Illinois, USA.

Prof NV Deshpande, Director, NIT Silchar said that the MOU will help the institute to enhance campus learning, add support to its research activities, and provide community outreach and service in its campus through consultation and collaboration with the university Library at Illinois.

Prof Deshpande who was instrumental in going for the MoU lauded the efforts of Dr Kishore Chandra Satpathy, Librarian at NITS in the initiative. He said that there will be a planned collaborative effort between the two libraries, especially on specific activities including development of a technology roadmap for the upcoming library at NIT Silchar, professional development for staff, exploration of possible exchange of academic staff, support in the development of a community outreach programme, assistance in planning library facilities that support research, services and studying, support in the development of community outreach programme, joint library programmes on research and training, consultation on the design of an online digital library course etc.

“We are happy to have signed the agreement with the University of Illinois. It is one of the top ranking universities in the world and as such the NIT Silchar will benefit immensely from this association. There are plans to introduce a double degree programme which will help the students to study three years at NITS and two years at the University of Illinois. ” Prof Deshpande said adding that a consortium of three NITs (Jaipur, Patna and Silchar) will visit the University of Illinois shortly to augment faculty to faculty interaction. Also, the students of NIT Silchar can make use of laboratories there, he said.

Further, he said that there will be an international library workshop to be jointly organised by both the libraries to add fillip to the improved library system and if every thing falls in place there will be a centre of the University Library of Illinois here.

‘Help Establish IIT in Bangalore’

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/cities/bangalore/%E2%80%98Help-Establish-IIT-in-Bangalore%E2%80%99/2014/06/22/article2293609.ece>

BANGALORE: Minister of Higher Education and Tourism R V Deshpande sought help from Union Minister for Chemicals and Fertilizers Ananth Kumar to establish an Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) in Bangalore.

Speaking after inaugurating a function organised by the Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce (FKCCI) to distribute Export Excellence Awards 2014 here on Saturday, Deshpande asked Ananth Kumar to prevail upon Human Resource Development Minister Smriti Irani and get an IIT for Bangalore.

Ananth Kumar assured he would try his best to get the IIT sanctioned for Bangalore. He said the HAL airport in the city will be converted in to a maintenance and repair hub for aircraft.

A special recognition certificate was given to Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals, J K Tyre and Industries.

The Best Manufacturer Exporter Award was presented to Bosch Limited, while the Best Merchant Exporter Award went to Aryan International.

The Best Software Exporter Award was presented to Robosoft Technologies Pvt Ltd.

Afghanistan Ambassador to India Shaida Mohammed Abdali called upon Karnataka businessmen to invest in Afghanistan as there were numerous business opportunities and assured that there have been a lot of improvements in the administrative sector to help foreign investors. Nahid Rashid, commercial consul from the Embassy of Bangladesh, R Shivakumar President, FKCCI and others were present.

Hindu ND 23/06/2014 P-16

NASA to launch experiments of Indian student into space

DUBAI: An 11-year-old Indian student is the only participant from the UAE who has got her two experimental payloads for space approved by NASA through the space agency's programme for budding young scientists.

Two experiments by Prerna Pai, a seventh grader at Sharjah's Delhi Private School (DPS), are among the 100 selected experiments that will be fired into space by NASA on June 26, *Gulf News* reported.

Ms. Pai, an aspiring scientist, has been a regular participant in NASA student activities.

NASA had launched its Cubes in Space (CIS) Programme in May and had invited students from around the world in the age group

of 11-14 to devise experimental payloads for space. "I had to think a lot when I learnt about this contest and sent them [NASA] many proposals. My science teacher has always encouraged me to think out of the box and that inspired me. Once my ideas were selected, NASA sent me a kit into which I had to place my experiments and mail it to them. I was so thrilled by the news that I even dashed off a thank-you note to NASA," *Gulf News* quoted Ms. Pai as saying.

She submitted two experiments that she called "To stick or not to stick" and "Time and pressure".

The first experiment is about studying how different adhesives are likely to behave in space in the absence of atmospheric pres-

sure.

For this, Ms. Pai used a thermocol cube of 12 pieces in which each corner was stuck using a different kind of adhesive such as modelling clay, wax, cello tape, metal wire, thread, school glue and super glue.

The second involves two tiny bottles — one made of plastic and the other of glass — sealed with a modelling clay cork and placed in a cube. The experiment will focus on how the bottles react to lack of atmospheric pressure: Will they disintegrate, get damaged or remain intact?

Once the experiments are back from space and mailed to her, Pai intends to begin research on the effects, film the results and mail them back to NASA. — PTI