

## Newspaper Clips June 24, 2014

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# No more hang ups

IIT Delhi student SAURAV LASHKARI has won a TV reality show for his idea for a mobile app that allows you to block the numbers you wouldn't wish to call when drunk

We all have our 'when drunk' moments and habits. And the most common one is calling people, we otherwise would not like to talk to.

Saurav Lashkari, 22-year-old IIT Delhi student, claims he never had such an experience but he was inspired by his friend's experience to come up with an idea of app called 'drunk check'.

"Every now and then people have 'those nights' when they are drunk and they do crazy things that they don't even remember the next day. Something similar happened to one of my friends when we were in third year of college. My friend got drunk, called up his ex-girlfriend and conveyed nasty things. So when I went to France as an exchange student, I felt that there should be an application to keep track of our 'those nights,'" explained Saurav.

His app idea has made Saurav win a million rupees as the winner of app reality show — *Nokia Your Wish is my App*.

Drunk check allows you to block the numbers you wouldn't wish to call when drunk. The user can blacklist certain numbers before going to a party and the application will prevent the user from contacting the blacklisted numbers.

The application also allows you to 'whitelist' certain contacts, which when needed can receive your location via GPS. The app records your location every 15 minutes and stores links to the pictures you take when the app is activated to provide you a detailed report the next morning.

To prevent the person from accessing the application in a fiddly mood, the app has a sobriety test which uses the phones gyroscope to complete a calibration test which when passed gives you access to the blacklisted contacts, even when you select a number to call, the app will display the picture of the contact selected. If a call is made while the app is active, it will record the conversation and store it if some clarity is required while recovering from the hangover.

Saurav has graduated as a chemical

The screenshot shows the 'new+rising top' section of the Nokia Pulse Beta app store. It lists five apps with their icons, names, developers, and ratings:

App Name	Developer	Price	Rating
Speedtest.net	Ookla	free	25 ratings ★★★★★
Snes8x	m.k	free	17 ratings ★★★★★
Facebook+	FlooNetwork	free	4 ratings ★★★☆☆
Nokia Pulse Beta	Nokia Corporation	free	3 ratings ★★★★★
Battery Sense	Bonny Vasan	free	14 ratings ★★★★★

engineer and will be starting his work in Hindustan Unilever in a few months.

"It was my first experience in a TV reality show and it was great. The judges contributed with valuable ideas. I still can't believe I won a million rupees and probably a million hearts of drunk Indians. It wouldn't have been possible without the support of my brother Gaurav Lashkari and my parents," said Saurav.

Nokia received a pool of 61,000 astounding app ideas across the globe. Four thousand ideas will be shared with top developers to be converted into applications for the Windows phone store.

Gurgaon-based Kritika Verma is the first runner up for her app idea 'encycloPETia' aimed at creating one stop destination for pet lovers.

Devyani Ruhela from Delhi is the second runner up for her app idea 'bunking buddy' which allows you to organise your class bunks.

# IIT-Delhi, Japanese firm to study Agra highway mishaps

[Aditya Dev](#), TNN | Jun 23, 2014, 07.59 PM IST

AGRA: IIT-Delhi and a Japanese organization will soon join hands to help the Agra district administration identify accident-prone spots on the city's busiest roads like MG road and National Highways 2 and 11.

The city has one of the highest road fatality rates and the project will study the causes of the mishaps and how they can be prevented.

Divisional commissioner Pradeep Bhatnagar has appointed the Agra Development Authority (ADA) as a nodal agency, which will coordinate with IIT-Delhi's transportation research and injury prevention programme (TRIPP) and the international association of traffic and safety sciences (IATSS) on road issues.

The focus of the study will be to analyze intersections of city roads and national highways and identify causes of accidents at such spots. The team will also offer solutions to the ADA to bring down the incidence of road mishaps. While MG road is considered the lifeline of the city, NH-2 connects Agra with Delhi and NH-11 connects the city with Jaipur.

TRIPP project officer Mahesh Gaur said, "We will try to find blind spots on the roads where a majority of accidents take place. For this, we have collected all the FIRs registered at 16 police stations of Agra and analyzed them."

Gaur added that a team of TRIPP has been involved in studying road safety issues in Agra for over a year and will use the findings in the upcoming surveys.

On Agra's high fatality rate, he said, "The city had a fatality rate of 41 persons per 1,00,000 persons in 2011, whereas it was 11 in Delhi, 10 in Vadodara and 24 in Vishakhapatnam."

Gaur said the study has also brought to light that current locations and designs of highways are unsafe.

The project is being funded partially by IATSS, while the rest of the cost will be borne by ministries of road transport and highways and urban development.

Similar projects are being carried out in Amritsar and Ludhiana in Punjab, Kota in Rajasthan, Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh and Vishakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh.

## The problem with Modi's dream of IITs in every state: What about faculty?

[http://www.firstpost.com/india/problem-modis-dream-iits-every-state-faculty-1586079.html?utm\\_source=FP\\_HP\\_LATESTNEWS](http://www.firstpost.com/india/problem-modis-dream-iits-every-state-faculty-1586079.html?utm_source=FP_HP_LATESTNEWS)

The Narendra Modi government's promise to set up IITs and IIMs in every state has left educationists and experts wondering how the government plans to execute the seemingly ambitious proposal.

It's needed, they aver, but also warn the gargantuan exercise is fraught with challenges.



The decision to increase the number of IITs and IIMs was first taken by Arjun Singh, who was the human resource development minister under the United Progressive Alliance government. Today, India has 13 IIMs offering 3,335 seats and 16 IITs and an Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad, having 9,784 seats.

### Does the country then need more?

Yes, says Debashis Chatterjee, director, Indian Institute of Management, Kozhikode, pointing to the demand-supply gap. "There are more students wanting to study in an IIT and IIM every year," he pointed out.

The competition to get into these prestigious universities is stiff. An IIT is an undergraduate course while IIM is a postgraduate course. More than 13.56 lakh aspirants across the country appeared for this year's Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) (Main) exams conducted by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) – a 7.6 percent increase over 12.6 lakh students who tried to crack it in 2013.

JEE Main is the first hurdle that a prospective student to IIT has to clear. For JEE (Advanced)—a student can aim for it only if he is among the 20 percentile of his/her concerned XII board—[1.26 lakh students registered compared with 1.23 lakh in 2013](#).

The candidate's chances of getting into an IIT is less than half a percent, says economist Ajit Ranade, himself an IIT-B, IIM-A alumnus.

"For every 100 students who apply, 99 get rejected. The success rate in IIMs is 2 percent. So while there is definitely a demand for IITs and IIMs, the question is how will the government fulfil it?" asked Ranade.

Of a population of 120 crores, India has only half a percent that pursues engineering, say academicians. India churns out 10 lakhs of engineers. Only a minuscule population gets into the IITs. That is a very small percentage in any society aiming to be called a developing country. There is a need for more such institutions (IITs), they insist.

## Challenges

No institution can come up overnight. When IIT-Gandhinagar was set up, IIT-B pitched in with administrative support and mentored it, and even today there is an IIT Gandhinagar cell in IIT-B.

“It is not easy to set up an institution like an IIT. Every new IIT requires the help and support of the earlier established ones to get on its feet,” a source at IIT-B said.

Having proposed an ambitious expansion plan, the Modi government is bound to face numerous challenges.

“IIM is not about building an institution. It is about value creation,” says Chatterjee of IIM-K. While this will be achieved only with high quality teaching faculty, as of now, the faculty is drawn from the same pool of teachers across other IITs and IIMs.

[Getting faculty to move to IITs and IIMs](#) at remote locations is a challenge. Started in 2008, IIM Shillong lost seven of its 13 permanent faculty members to other accessible IIMs in the first year itself. Even placements become difficult as corporates fight shy to go to hilly areas to make job offers.

The political compulsions that every government faces with regard to education should go hand-in-hand with teaching and this important facet should not be treated as a matter of convenience, warn academicians.

## A few suggestions

Chatterjee suggests that the alternative would be to create a school that will train faculty in keeping with the high standards of IITs and IIMs. “A school for good teachers in management and engineering that can run mainstream institutions like the IIT and IIM should be done first and then scaled up,” he suggests.

“Another alternative would be to build complexes near existing older IITs and IIMs that can mentor new institutions,” says Ranade, adding that there is a demand for good quality engineering colleges.

“Just calling them IITs will not let them make the cut. It’s the faculty that defines the IITs and IIMs and this is an area that the government should focus upon,” adds Ranade.

Finding good faculty is a global challenge. China countered it by increasing the salaries of teachers manifold. “If an IIT faculty who has studied abroad, chooses to return and teach, he should be compensated hugely,” explain academicians.

The government’s decision is feasible, says Chatterjee, as long as quality faculty come up in the geographies where these institutes will be established.

## Bizarre situation

There are private engineering colleges in the country where seats go abegging. In 2014, as many as 58 engineering colleges in Uttar Pradesh had the dubious distinction of not getting a single student.

In 2013, [about 1.44 lakh seats in Maharashtra](#) were vacant across engineering, management and architecture streams. Part of the reason for this is a lack of good infrastructure and in the few private colleges that have taken

care of this lacuna, it is the crying need for good faculty whose absence is driving away aspiring students from their gates.

“This is a very strange phenomenon,” say academicians.

Around 99 percent of students do not get a seat into an IIT and 50 percent of private college seats are vacant. If a student does not get into an IIT, he tries for National Institutes of Technology (NIT), which are funded by the central government. The private engineering college is not on the student’s radar.

This strange situation should provide the government some food for thought, perhaps.



**BHASKAR  
RAMAMURTHI**

# Left out of the rankings

IITs must be assessed along several dimensions — not all of them relevant globally

**I**NTERNATIONAL ranking of universities has gained much traction in recent years. There are several commercial organisations that provide them annually. They collect vast amounts of data from the universities, and from different bibliographic databases. They also mine the data to offer consultancy to universities that wish to improve their ranking vis-à-vis their peer institutions.

With the increasing privatisation of higher education, universities need to compete to attract the best fee-paying students, as well as faculty from across the world. Students look at rankings to choose their destinations. The prestige associated with higher ranks also drives publicly funded universities to benchmark themselves globally. Ranking agencies are, therefore, at the centre of the ongoing commercialisation and globalisation of higher education.

The annual publication of the ranks of the IITs and some Indian universities by global agencies has attracted media attention and much despair about the absence of our institutions in the top 100 or 200. It is important to understand how the ranks are derived and their relevance to us. We shall restrict ourselves to the IITs for the present.

Few students in India use international rankings to choose between the IITs and foreign universities, nor do the top faculty joining the IITs. For the IITs, therefore, the rankings are solely for the purpose of global benchmarking.

It is pertinent to note that

publicly funded higher education in India is organised by verticals. We have the IITs, law universities, medical universities, the IIMs, the IISERs and so on, each for a specialised field. We do not have comprehensive universities such as Stanford, Harvard, Tsinghua or NUS. Our older universities focus on the arts and sciences. Therefore, we ought to focus on the subject-wise rankings published by the agencies to obtain any meaningful insight. In one survey, for example, the older IITs are consistently ranked in the 50-60 range globally in the engineering/technology category.

**The IITs have created the world's largest free online repository of engineering courses. This is of no relevance to ranking agencies, nor is their strong commitment to affirmative action.**

The parameters employed by different agencies vary in scope and weightage. The number of research publications by faculty in peer-reviewed journals, and how much they are cited (measured by a variety of hotly debated indices) are important criteria for all. The student-faculty ratio is also incorporated in many rankings. It is widely accepted that a lower ratio is better. The IITs have a sanctioned ratio of 10:1 and have had an in-place ratio of 12:1 for the most part (except for a worsening to 14:1 in recent years due to the 54 per cent increase in enrolment, which will correct itself in a few years). These numbers are comparable to the best universities worldwide.

Employer recognition and ac-

ademic peer recognition are often used by the agencies. A large number of employers and academics worldwide are polled for their opinions about the universities. These surveys attempt to measure the name recall, the presence of alumni in global corporations and the visibility of faculty and their research in international conferences and journals.

Headcounts of the international students enrolled for degree programmes and the foreign faculty on the university rolls are considered important measures of internationalisation. On both these counts, the IITs score nearly zero.

While the benefits of diversity on a campus are undisputed, we have to decide as a country whether we are willing to pay the price for it in terms of seats lost to Indians and the payout of globally competitive salaries to faculty.

The weightage given to these parameters vary among the agencies, and some also give significant weight to the presence of Nobel laureates on the faculty. Surprisingly, the quality of teaching is not assessed, presumably because of the inherent difficulties. In most cases, weightage for data-oriented factors is lower than weightage for survey-oriented factors. However, none of the agencies measures certain parameters that are important to the IITs and India, such as col-

laborative research and development with the space, defence and nuclear energy sectors, and industry in general. The IITs also routinely provide the government expertise on technologically challenging projects. To cite just one recent example, IIT Madras is collaborating with the ASI in the restoration of the Uttarakhand temple. The IITs have also created the world's largest free online repository of engineering courses. This is of no relevance to the ranking agencies, nor is the strong commitment of the IITs to affirmative action. The rankings also do not consider alumni impact.

The contributions of the IITs are to be assessed along several dimensions. Some of these are relevant globally and are used by international ranking agencies, while other important ones are totally ignored. We should reflect on the relative weightage given to the dimensions assessed and not lose sight of those that are not. To the extent that the rankings tell us something about where we stand globally with respect to research, visibility, etc, they are relevant, and the IITs should strive to improve their position. Above all, we should not blindly adopt these rankings as an end in themselves, nor allow ourselves to be railroaded into pursuing select dimensions of performance while neglecting others, especially those that are critical to our national development goals.

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## HRD Minister Smriti Irani Holds Interactive Session with IISc/IISERS

Monday, June 23, 2014

<http://indiaeducationdiary.in/Shownews.asp?newsid=29990>

**Report by India Education bureau, New Delhi:** The Union Minister of Human Resource Development Mrs. Smriti Zubin Irani held a meeting with the Directors/Chairpersons of IISc/IISERS, in New Delhi today.

The meeting was an interactive session to understand the goals and challenges faced by IISc/IISERS including infrastructure, capacity building, research, international co-operation, patents, IPRs and publications in peer reviewed journals. Addressing the meeting, the minister said it is very important to develop a national system of rankings which will work as a national benchmark for various science education and research institutions to achieve. This will further help us to compete at an international level, and we must give special attention to South-South collaboration, she added. To increase international presence on campus, IISERS need more publicity and creation of brand value.

The Minister also emphasized the need to enhance the research quotient and shared her views about Rashtriya Avishakar Abhiyaan. She observed that IISc and IISERS need to have a robust interface with research & development of the industry. The Minister further added that these institutes must promote international co-operation in critical areas like solar energy and plant genome/bio technology. She suggested some areas of research with social impact such as pollution and impact on health, climate change and productivity. There should be scientific research to promote medical facilities for the common man. Mrs Irani suggested that IISERS could form a consortia approach for such research initiatives.

To achieve their targeted goals, the institutes must follow a system of performance audit. The Minister highlighted the importance of Know Your College (KYC) drive which places critical information on the website and enables stakeholders like students and parents to make informed choices.

As IISERS are new institutions they should focus on alumni engagement. The Minister said that for professionalizing the administrative set up of the institutions, management capacity programs conducted by IIMs could be considered.

The Minister also suggested that like IITs, IISERS should be involved in mentoring and anchoring TEQIP (Technical Education Quality Improvement Program) to create an eco-system for improving the quality of science and engineering education in the country.

Secretary (HE), Shri Ashok Thakur and Ms. Amita Sharma, Addl. Secretary (TE) were also present in the meeting as also Chairman IISER, Thiruvananthapuram.

The Institutions which were present at the meeting include IISc, Bangalore, IISER, Kolkata, IISER, Pune, IISER, Mohali, IISER, Bhopal, IISER, Thiruvananthapuram.

## NIT suspends protesting research scholar

TNN | Jun 24, 2014, 05.06 AM IST

**WARANGAL:** A mechanical engineering research scholar Vishnumurthy who undertook a fast in National Institute of Technology (NIT) Warangal for being denied scholarship was suspended from college on Monday.

Vishnumurthy alleged that NIT director Prof T Srinivasa Rao deliberately did not allow his name to be included in the scholarship list as he had raised issues of amenities in varsity with the authorities.

Vishnumurthy said he did not get scholarship for the last two months, as the director, supported by HOD Prof N Krishnan and guide CSV Rao, rejected his name from the list.

# Deregulate, Depoliticise

*UGC's diktat on FYUP is precisely what Smriti Irani must fight against in education*

UGC's diktat to Delhi University to scrap the Four Year Undergraduate Programme (FYUP) is a textbook example of what's wrong with India's overly centralised education system. It denies autonomy to institutions leading to whimsical flip-flops in policy and pervasive mediocrity all round, curtailing opportunities for India's youth. That the directive comes in the middle of the admission process for the next academic year makes it all the more irrational.

This has nothing to do with the merits or otherwise of FYUP, a controversial issue within DU. The point is that it is a matter for the university to decide through its internal mechanisms. Even if one leaves the autonomy point aside, if UGC is so hell-bent on scrapping FYUP why did it allow FYUP's introduction in the first place? The only plausible answer is that UGC honchos want to curry favour with the current NDA administration, which it senses is against FYUP.



Such politicisation of education, however, flies in the face of the new government's desire to formulate a new education policy. Instead of eliminating political patronage and fostering autonomy among institutes of higher learning, UGC's move harks back to the licence-permit raj. Whereas the aim ought to be deregulation which allows universities and colleges to experiment and compete, rather than conform to a straitjacket defined by bureaucrats in Delhi.

The UGC-DU face-off is the first serious test for HRD minister Smriti Irani and her resolve to revive the education sector. The government's goal must not be to micro-manage schools and colleges under a powerful licence raj, but rather to expand educational choice at all levels of the system. In this regard, it must follow a two-pronged strategy. Firstly, it must encourage greater participation of the private sector which will mitigate the demand-supply gap and bring in much-needed choice and diversity in the system. Secondly, it must ramp up the quality of government institutes by shoring up their accountability and encouraging them to compete against each other as well as the private sector. Both steps should flow from a light-handed approach to regulation, leading to greater choice for students across the board. As part of dismantling the licence raj that cripples Indian education today, UGC's wings must be clipped. Instead of determining policies and courses of universities, it can be set to work evolving a comprehensive rating system for colleges that will be useful to students.



## उच्च शिक्षा का मखौल

दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय में चार वर्षीय कोर्स को लेकर जो चर्चा हुआ है, उसमें सही-गलत का फैसला करना मुश्किल है। इसकी वजह यह है कि शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में इतनी अराजकता और राजनीति व्याप्त हो गई है कि जो कुछ सही परंपराएं कभी पड़ी होंगी, वे खत्म हो गई हैं, इसलिए सारे मुद्दों का हल राजनीतिक सुविधापरस्ती और निहित स्वार्थों के आधार पर ही तय होता है। शिक्षा मंत्रालय यह कह रहा है कि वह दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय और विश्वविद्यालय अनुदान आयोग (यूजीसी) के बीच कुछ नहीं बोलेगा। यूजीसी ने दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय को चार वर्षीय डिग्री कोर्स खत्म करने का आदेश दिया था। शिक्षा मंत्रालय यह जताने की कोशिश कर रहा है कि यूजीसी ने अपनी स्वायत्त समझ के आधार पर यह कोर्स खत्म करने का फैसला किया है, जबकि यह वास्तविकता सभी जानते हैं कि यूजीसी ने मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय की इच्छा से यह आदेश जारी किया है। भारतीय जनता पार्टी ने यह वादा किया था कि अगर उसकी सरकार बनेगी, तो चार वर्षीय डिग्री कोर्स को फिर से पहले की तरह तीन वर्षीय कर दिया जाएगा, इसीलिए भाजपा की सरकार बनते ही यूजीसी ने यह आदेश जारी कर दिया। अगर यूजीसी इस कोर्स के खिलाफ था, तो उसे पिछले साल ही ऐसा करना था, जब भारी विवादों के बीच दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय ने यह फैसला किया था।

सिद्धांततः यूजीसी को यह आदेश नहीं देना चाहिए था, क्योंकि यह दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय की स्वायत्तता का उल्लंघन है। दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय के प्रशासन और अकादमिक काउंसिल को ही यह तय करने का अधिकार है कि विश्वविद्यालय में कैसे पढ़ाई होगी। इस मामले में दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय ने जो प्रतिरोध किया, वह ठीक है। लेकिन इसका दूसरा पहलू यह है कि

पिछले साल छात्रों और शिक्षकों के भारी विरोध के बावजूद चार वर्षीय डिग्री कोर्स शुरू किया गया था। शिक्षक और छात्र संगठन अब तक इसका विरोध करते आ रहे हैं और इनमें वामपंथी और दक्षिणपंथी, दोनों संगठन शामिल हैं, इसीलिए भाजपा ने तीन वर्षीय पाठ्यक्रम को फिर से लागू करने का चुनावी वादा किया था। अगर तत्कालीन मानव संसाधन मंत्री कपिल सिब्बल की पहल पर चार वर्षीय कोर्स को लागू करना राजनीतिक हस्तक्षेप था, तो राजग सरकार के आते ही इसे खत्म करने का फैसला राजनीतिक दखलंदाजी का ज्यादा सीधा उदाहरण है, क्योंकि इस बार दिखाने के लिए भी किसी प्रक्रिया का पालन नहीं किया गया। सवाल फैसले के सही-गलत होने का नहीं है, सवाल शैक्षिक स्वायत्तता और सही प्रक्रिया के पालन का है। इससे यह समझ में आता है कि भारत में शिक्षा में सुधार क्यों नामुमकिन होते रहे हैं। हर समूह अपनी हर सही-गलत मांग मनवाने के लिए राजनीति करता है और ऐसे में शैक्षिक मुद्दे पीछे छूट जाते हैं।

उच्च शिक्षा में सुधार के लिए जरूरी है कि यूजीसी, एमसीआई और एआईसीटीई जैसी संस्थाओं में व्यापक सुधार हों। ये तमाम संस्थाएं राजनीति और भ्रष्टाचार के गंभीर आरोपों में हमेशा घिरी रहती हैं और इसलिए इनसे उच्च शिक्षा की बेहतरी की उम्मीद करना बेकार है। जरूरी है कि इनमें प्रतिष्ठित शिक्षाविद् ही हों, इन्हें पूरी स्वायत्तता मिले। इसके बाद इनकी देखरेख में विश्वविद्यालयों को स्वायत्तता और जवाबदेही से कामकाज चलाना सिखाया जाए। हमारे ज्यादातर विश्वविद्यालय डिग्रियां बांटने के कारखाने बन गए हैं। इनका बुनियादी इलाज जरूरी है। दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय उन कुछ विश्वविद्यालयों में से है, जिनकी कुछ प्रतिष्ठा अब भी बची हुई है, पर इस प्रकरण से उसकी प्रतिष्ठा पर आंच आई है।

**दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय में चार वर्षीय डिग्री कोर्स का पिछला फैसला और अब उसे खत्म करने का नया फैसला, दोनों शैक्षिक स्वायत्तता के खिलाफ हैं।**

# HRD ministry won't intervene in UGC-DU tussle

HT Correspondent

htreporters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** The Human Resource ministry will not intervene in the war between the University Grants Commission (UGC) and the Delhi University over the four-year foundation programme but said the course was a blatant violation of the law.

The Delhi University had reportedly started the programme with permission of the President, who is also the visitor of the Central University. The visitor is the overall custodian of the university and the educational institution is required to take his permission before initiating any new programme.

"This is a blatant violation of the law. In the absence of a formal permission, the degrees cannot be valid," said a senior government source on the condition of anonymity.

He also made it clear that the ministry will not intervene and

wanted the commission and DU to resolve the matter amicably. The sources expected the university to comply with the UGC directive by Tuesday.

HRD Minister Smriti Irani held two meetings with UGC Chairman Ved Prakash on Monday in which the commission's directive to scrap the course and the issue of the university not complying with the order by the evening were reportedly discussed.

The UGC had sought compliance of its orders by forenoon.

Sources say Irani is also understood to have expressed her displeasure over the delay in resolving the matter as the admission process to the undergraduate programme kicks off from Tuesday.

Prakash also held a meeting with Delhi University Vice Chancellor Dinesh Singh, who is in the eye of the storm for introducing the four-year programme in DU last year. Secretary Higher Education Ashok Thakur was

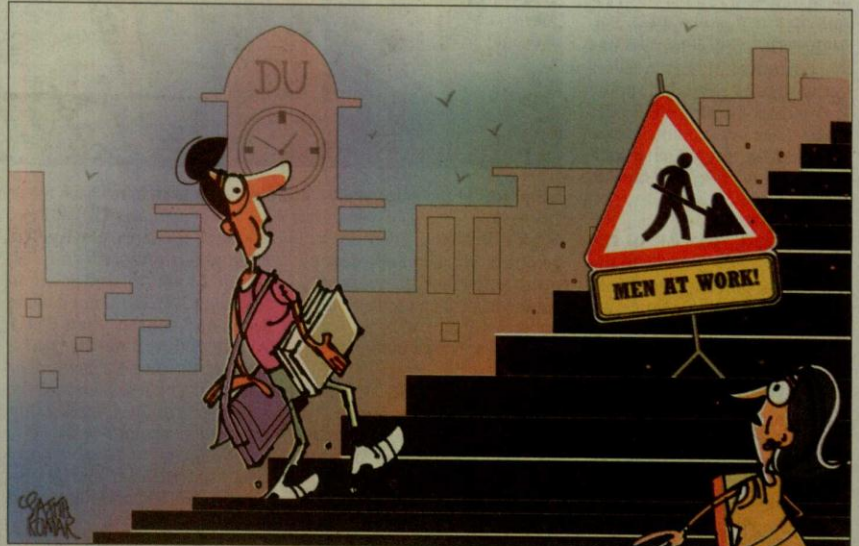


ILLUSTRATION: SAJITH KUMAR

also present in the meeting.

There are, however, questions over the UGC's silence over the programme which began in violation a year ago.

### VARDHAN HAPPY

In a statement released by the Delhi BJP, Union health minister Harsh Vardhan has welcomed the 'scrapping' of

the FYUP and said the government has 'fulfilled' its promise by scrapping the course.

WITH PTI INPUTS

Times of India ND 24/06/2014 p-4

# DU can do what it wants: FYUP camp

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** While one group of students held a slightly premature celebration of the FYUP rollback—still not announced formally—a teachers' group, Academics for Action and Development (Mishra) got together to tell students, teachers and the media all the reasons the UGC doesn't have the right to intervene. On top of the list is that Delhi University is an autonomous institution and UGC's actions are in violation of that. This group also reminded that the HRD ministry and UGC, which has suddenly found FYUP "illegal", hadn't objected to its introduction last year.

"UGC's diktat not only violates the long-standing autonomy of DU since its inception in 1922, but it is also in contradiction of its own rules, regulations and letters to DU where it clearly states the freedom on duration of courses with a cap only on the minimum number of years for awarding a degree," says a statement by AAD. "UGC has



Yogesh Kumar

**GLAD TIDINGS:** Students rejoice at the news of FYUP being rolled back after a sustained fight

overstepped its own mandate, act and regulation in acting as a more than willing instrument of the HRD ministry," "UGC can only advise and recommend," argues Mishra.

Mishra also said that DU had written to the Visitor, President Pranab Mukherjee, informing him of the changes. "The President never

writes 'I am pleased to sanction these'," he says, "If there's no objection, it is understood the changes have been approved."

The meeting, however, didn't end well for AAD-Mishra with a prominent member being roughed up by students during a debate for a television channel. Student groups

ABVP and NSUI—for once, on the same side of the FYUP debate, that is, against it—passed the blame. "The fight was between ABVP activists and Surendra Kumar (the history department)," says NSUI's Amrish Ranjan Pandey. ABVP's Rohit Chahal says, "I'm not so stupid that I will try to beat up a teacher in

front of a TV crew. In fact, I was stunned to see Congress' student wing beating up its teachers' wing."

Earlier, unaffected by the silence maintained by the authorities, students of ABVP participated in frantic, if slightly premature, celebrations at the arts faculty on North Campus on Monday. It wasn't the speech-and-march affair promised but it involved crackers, colour, *dhols* and hysterical dancing. Thinking the rollback is already in the bag, Chahal says, "It's not over yet as the VC is yet to resign."

Meanwhile, AISA, which essentially began the student campaign against FYUP in 2013, took their campaign away from campus on Monday. They demanded an "immediate intervention of the HRD ministry to ask the Visitor to annul the FYUP Ordinances, ensure AICTE-approved B.Tech degrees for the first batch" and argued that the rollback "cannot be left to DU principals who have been vociferous supporters of FYUP".

## 2,500 B Tech students stare at uncertainty

HT Correspondent

■ letters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI** : Aspiring students have suffered in the FYUP mess but the biggest losers are the nearly 2,500 students who have already studied one year of B Tech courses — formed under DU's four-year programme.

When FYUP was rolled out, the Delhi University (DU) had converted its BSc courses in computer science and electronics into B Tech courses bringing them at par, in nomenclature at least, with some engineering courses offered in the country.

The 2,500 unfortunates who opted for the courses took admission in the courses under the assumption — and rightly so — that they would get a B Tech degree, something that seems unlikely now. If FYUP is rolled back, the nomenclature of these courses will go back to BSc and the students will be left with an uncertain job future.

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 6**

» **STUDENTS ANGRY, P3**

# BTech students left in lurch

Subhash Singh, a student of B Tech computer science, said: "We took admission in these courses because they gave us a degree that we could get a job in the IT market with. Scrapping the programme is not the solution. B Tech four-year courses are running in various universities. If something has to be scrapped, it should be the BA honours courses for four years. Our course is not violating any rules."

"We have been getting desperate calls from parents and students, wondering what will happen to them. Hundreds of them chose DU's B Tech degree over engineering degrees. They are now blaming us for this mess but we are as clueless as they are," said a professor who teaches computer science at Hansraj College.

Teachers have said that B Tech courses started under

FYUP could perhaps be retained. Many have suggested that the students could be given a BSc honours degree in three years and if they wished to continue with the fourth year, they should be given a B Tech degree.

This year 78,135 applications have already been received for B Tech in computer science and 70,460 for B Tech in electronics.

Times of India ND 24/06/2014 p-4

# 7 colleges tell UGC they will offer 3-year courses

Akshaya Mukul | TNN

**New Delhi:** The see-saw battle between Delhi University and UGC over FYUP continued till late on Monday night, even as some colleges—reportedly seven of them—have written to the UGC clarifying that they will observe the traditional three-year degree course.

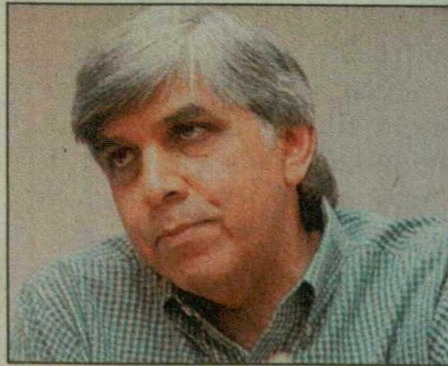
On Monday evening, in response to its directive of compliance of its order doing away with FYUP, the UGC received the copy of a letter in Hindi from DU, addressing college principals. The letter merely annexed UGC's Sunday directive and told principals that "it is self-explanatory".

UGC has responded to that asking DU if its communication to principals should be taken as compliance of its order. "We do not want to leave any room for interpretation. Compliance should be stated clearly," a source said. At the time of going to the press, DU had not replied to UGC's query.

Earlier, DU had sent the legal opinion of senior counsel P P Rao which said that the university had followed all the pro-

cedures while introducing FYUP, indicating that the DU administration was digging in its heels and still seeking to avoid a rollback of FYUP.

With most colleges having deferred admission by a week, UGC sources said DU administration should be prepared for action. "Long ago Supreme



**IN A SPOT:** Dinesh Singh

Court had settled that UGC is supreme. The case relates to a fight between DU and UGC," a source said.

The day began with a meeting between HRD minister Smriti Irani, UGC chairperson Ved Prakash, education secretary Ashok Thakur and senior ministry officials. Sources said it was decided that DU has to comply with the UGC directive of discontinuing FYUP. vice-

chancellor Dinesh Singh was also summoned. However, Irani did not meet the VC. Singh and DU registrar Alka Sharma had nearly two hour meeting with Ved Prakash, Thakur and other higher officials.

Sources said that Singh kept insisting that no wrong has been done by the university in introducing FYUP. However, when asked specific questions about various ordinances related to introduction of FYUP, Singh and Sharma did not give any reply. For instance, it was pointed out that BSc degree for a course in Innovation and BTech in humanities were not part of the UGC list of approved degrees.

But the VC and Registrar argued that movement against FYUP was inspired by Left political groups and other vested interests who should not be taken seriously. However, they are learnt to have been told that decision to scrap FYUP was final.

Singh was asked to comply with UGC's Sunday order immediately. It was decided that till compliance comes from DU, every two hours UGC will fax the directive to VC's office.

Tribune ND 24/06/2014 P-4

# Retired judge offers to sponsor studies of tea vendor's son

**TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE**

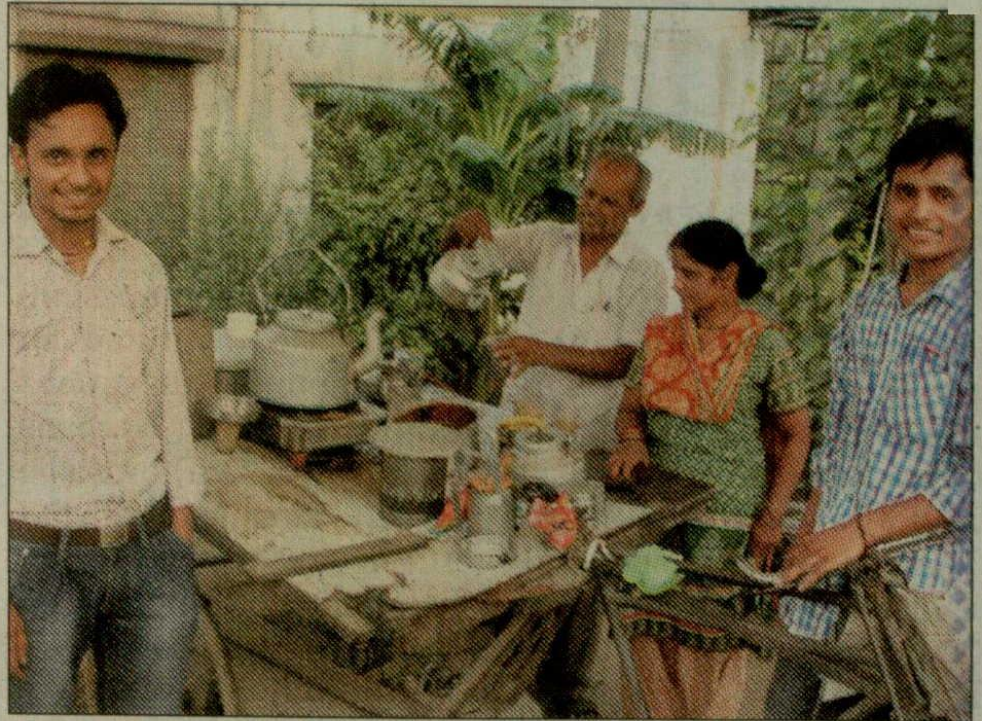
**JALANDHAR, JUNE 23**

Moved by the plight of a local tea vendor's sons who could not take admission in an IIT last year, despite good ranks, retired Supreme Court Judge Ashok Bhan and owners of the Jaypee Group have offered them help.

Amit and Sumit secured top ranks in the JEE (advanced) this year too. The Punjab Government has announced to honour the brothers at a ceremony in Mohali on June 25.

Justice Bhan has offered to fund the education of one of the brothers. He has asked the brothers to meet him.

Justice Ashok Bhan said: "I am willing to pay the fee of one of the brothers for their entire stay at any IIT. I hope to meet them in a day or two." The Jaypee Group plans to



Amit and Sumit, who have cleared the IIT-JEE, with their father at his tea stall in Jalandhar. TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO

honour both Sumit and Amit.

A representative of the Jaypee Group said Sunny Gaur, Managing Director (Cement), Jaypee Group, had invited the brothers to the company's cement plant in Riva in Madhya Pradesh for a discussion on their future plans. The

Jaypee Group runs several educational institutes where coaching classes are held for students from all income groups.

The brothers have received a little more than Rs 2 lakh from various sources in Jalandhar. They have been provided laptops by the SBI.

Hindustan Times ND 24/06/2014 P-21

## BHEL organises Industry Academia meet

Aimed at exploring potential collaborative areas for new technology and product development, Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL) organised an Industry-Academia meet at its Corporate Research & Development (R&D) division at Hyderabad.

Leading academicians from Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) at Kanpur, Delhi, Mumbai, Kharagpur, Roorkee, Guwahati, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Patna, Jodhpur, Bhubhaneswar and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) participated in the meet and presented their areas of strength, possible synergy, nature of on-going research activities and relevance



to BHEL.

Addressing the distinguished gathering, B. Prasada Rao, CMD, BHEL stressed that the company's

products have market dimensions with a focus on customer requirements and that R&D projects should align with market needs.

Times of India ND 24/06/2014 p-14

## Industry-academia meet held in Hyderabad

Aimed at exploring potential collaborative areas for new technology and product development, BHEL organized an industry-academia meet at its



corporate research and development (R&D) division at Hyderabad. Leading academicians from Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) at Kanpur, Delhi, Mumbai, Kharagpur, Roorkee, Guwahati, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Patna, Jodhpur, Bhubhaneswar and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), participated in the meet and presented their areas of strength, possible synergy, nature of on-going research activities and relevance to BHEL.



Times of India ND 24/06/2014 p-14

## **GAIL's CSR initiative**

As many as 39 students from economically marginalised backgrounds, sponsored by GAIL's flagship education programme Utkarsh, have made it to the most coveted and prestigious engineering



Kalraj Mishra, Union Minister of MSME, speaking on the occasion of inauguration of the Centre of Excellence in Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Campus, Bengaluru.

institutions of the country – the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs). In what is considered to be one of the toughest entrance examinations in the world, 91 out of 100 students qualified in IIT mains this year and 39 out of 91 cleared the IIT advance round, all supported by GAIL (India) Ltd as part of its CSR intervention Utkarsh, in Kanpur district of Uttar Pradesh. These students come from rural backgrounds whose parents are small/marginalized farmers or daily wage earners

Indian Express ND 24/06/2014 (Express Newline) p-1

# As spat gets uglier, DU points to letter from UGC approving four-year course

SHIKHA SHARMA  
& ADITI VATSA

NEW DELHI, JUNE 23

THE UGC has now directed DU to scrap the four-year undergraduate programme (FYUP), but it was around the same time last year that the UGC and the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) gave the go-ahead for implementing the course.

On April 5, last year, DU Vice-Chancellor Dinesh Singh had sought approval from the UGC for the recognition of a new nomenclature for its four-year undergraduate programme.

In reply, the UGC while asking DU to change the nomenclature of the programme, had not objected to the implementation of the FYUP. It, however, asked the university to ensure that the "minimum duration of the programme be kept as per the provisions given in the relevant UGC Regulations".

"I would like to inform you that the proposal for the specification of Baccalaureate degree and Baccalaureate (Hons) was examined in this office and it was decided that the university may adopt any suitable nomenclature out of the list of degrees already specified by the Commission under Section 22 of the UGC Act, 1956. While the duration of the course may vary from University to University and even within the University... it may please be ensured that the minimum duration may be kept as per the provisions given in the relevant UGC regulations," reads the communication sent by UGC secretary Akhilesh Gupta to the V-C.

On July 23 last year, the MHRD had written to the Central

government counsel at the Delhi High Court explaining that the FYUP was "a misnomer".

"Four-year undergraduate programme is a misnomer. Only students seeking Honours degree will have to put in four years. Those interested in joining a job

can exit after the 2nd and 3rd year with Diploma and Degree," reads the communication.

The MHRD correspondence further states, "According to the University, it has complied with all formal requirements... for intro-

ducing four-year undergraduate programme from July, 2013. In view of the above, there is no ground or occasion for the ministry to take an otherwise view on an academic issue like this."

DU's Academic Council, in its

last meeting, had pointed to these letters, saying it had made FYUP compliant with the national policy on education.

The UGC in its last few communications to DU has asked the university to scrap FYUP stating that it violates the national policy on education, which advocates a 10+2+3 format.

The UGC also conveyed to the DU administration that it has failed to get the Visitor's (the President) approval for its amended ordinance enabling the FYUP, and also failed to respond to the MHRD's queries on the same in 2013.

The UGC, in its latest communication to the university and its constituent colleges, had ordered DU to conduct undergraduate admissions "only under the three-year undergraduate programme which was offered prior to the introduction of FYUP", warning that any deviation from its directives would have consequences.

**LAST YEAR,  
UGC had only asked  
DU to change  
nomenclature of the  
course and to ensure  
minimum duration of  
FYUP as per rules**