

# Newspaper Clips

June 4, 2011

Hindustan Times ND 4/06/2011

P-8

## Log on and give your opinion about IIT-JEE reforms

**Charu Sudan Kasturi**

■ charu.kasturi@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** Students, parents and all other stakeholders in India's vast higher education system can now go online and tell the government what they think about dramatic reforms to the country's engineering entrance examinations.

The human resource development (HRD) ministry and the department of science and technology (DST) have launched a first-of-its-kind opinion poll on the proposed reforms to tests, including the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) of the Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT). The Centre is also using social networking site Facebook to popularise the online poll.

The Centre has proposed replacing the multiple entrance tests conducted by states, private engineering schools, and the IIT-JEE and the All India Engineering Entrance Examination (AIEEE) with a single national testing scheme (NTS). Over 20 lakh students annually appear for about 20 engineering entrance tests to take the multiple examinations.

But the proposal to replace tests like the IIT-JEE has faced criticism from sections within the country's academic community. The poll, sources said, is aimed at accomplishing two goals. "We believe that while sections may support multiple tests, the majority will support the initiative to save students

### SC: No disclosure of AIEEE answer keys

The Supreme Court on Friday refused to direct the CBSE to disclose answer keys of the questions of the AIEEE prior to declaration of results. A vacation bench headed by Justice BS Chauhan dismissed a petition filed by some students and instead asked them to make a representation to the board, which will consider their representation immediately.

The court was not impressed with students' counsel Somesh Arora argued that like IIT-JEE, the answer sheets of AIEEE should be declared prior to declaration of results. **HTC**

the trouble of having to sit for repeated entrance tests. The opinion poll will help us establish that support, and make the task of pushing the NTS easier," a source explained.

This mass support — which the government is confident it will garner — will also help it counter opposition likely from some states that run their own entrance tests, the sources said.

The online poll will also help the Centre to get suggestions of people across the country and even abroad on reforms.

# Why IITs are not world-class



P.V.INDIRESAN

## VISION 2020

There is a story about Bernard Shaw attending a cocktail party. He looked at the crowd and remarked to himself: Here are a bunch of well-to-do upper class persons who have come evidently to enjoy themselves. Why, then, are they so grumpy? Look at the chap in front of me, can you find a grumpier person? Then, he realised he was looking at himself in a mirror.

This is 304th in the Vision 2020 series. The last article was published on May 16. The column will henceforth appear on Saturdays.

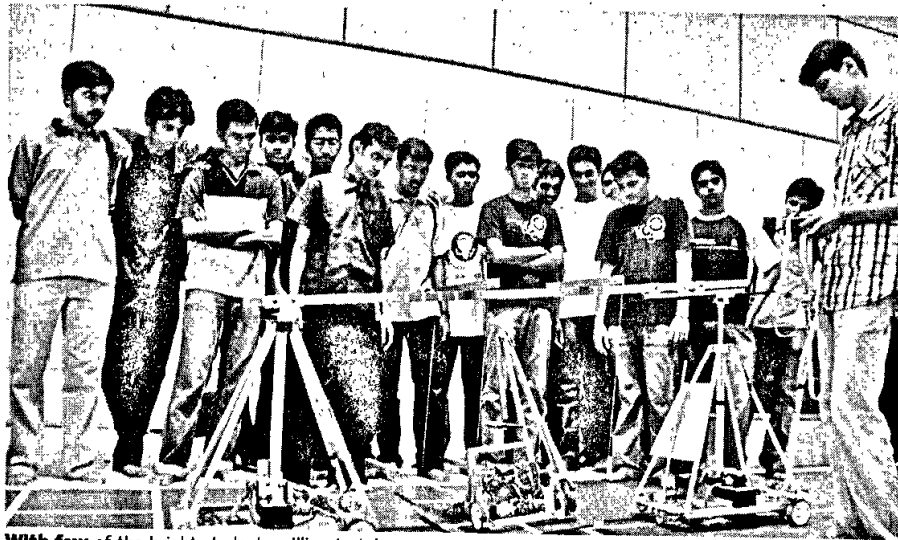
The Union Environment Minister, Mr Jairam Ramesh's criticism of the IITs reminds me of this story. Let us consider the environment in our country for which Mr Ramesh is in charge. Can we find, anywhere in our country, a clean street without garbage strewn around? Is there one place which offers quality water? Is the Central Secretariat, or even the Ministry of Environment really clean and up to "world standards"?

### NO INDUSTRY INVOLVEMENT

However, let us confine ourselves to the Minister's remark that the IITs and their faculty are not world-class, though their students are. In the developed countries, engineering research is done mostly in association with industry. Industries support both basic and applied research through large grants and constant interaction with faculty. But virtually no Indian industry offers that kind of support to Indian institutions.

Some MNCs do offer a measure of support for research in the IITs. But there are problems here as well. I

*Mr Jairam Ramesh is right in asserting that the IITs do not measure up to global standards. The reasons for this are: lack of industry involvement, inadequate funds and infrastructure for research and stifling bureaucratic control.*



With few of the bright students willing to take up research careers, the IITs are starved of talent.

have heard a major laboratory of an MNC complaining that its offer for collaborative research was rejected by one of our most prestigious educational institutions. In another instance, an MNC actually located its laboratory inside an IIT, but ran into so much hostility that it moved out.

Therefore, there are few Indian industries that are willing to fund research, and few educational institutions that are willing to welcome them. Evidently, there are not many among the IIT faculty who are willing to take up the responsibility of conducting research to the exacting standards of industry. It must also be said that many MNCs (and practically no Indian industry) are hesitant to trust Indian scholars with really challenging problems.

### RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE

Yet, the IITs do conduct most of the

research that is done in science and engineering in the country. In the Indian National Academy of Engineering, (an exclusive club of top engineers) the IITs hold sway - virtually 90-95 per cent of the academic membership is from the IITs and the Indian Institute of Science.

Thus, the IITs are undoubtedly the most prestigious engineering institutions in the country. If proof is needed, we have to look at the hundreds of thousands of school children who slog for years to gain admission to the IITs.

However, ardour for admission is not the same as zest for engineering. Most IIT students seek only management careers and not in engineering. If they want to do research in engineering, they prefer to go abroad. However, some of them do return to teach in the IITs. On the other hand, practically no one is

willing to take up doctoral work in India. With few or none of our bright students willing to take up research careers, the IITs are starved of talent. American universities have always had a number of teaching assistants and research assistants. The IITs have no teaching assistants and few research assistants to assist them. Further, the IITs used to have a student-faculty ratio of 6:1; now that figure has more than doubled.

Class sizes were restricted to 45; now some of them are large as 200. With heavy teaching loads, no teaching assistants, very few research scholars and next to no support from industry, the IIT faculty have little opportunity to excel.

### GOVERNMENT ATTITUDE

Our rules and regulations do not help either. The IITs have freedom only to do what the government

wants. The IITs cannot pay research scholars well enough to be competitive with what businesses offer. Hence, students and parents are interested only in managerial positions in industry and rarely consider research as an alternative.

It is also a fact that the government's attitude to research is negative. Not long ago, virtually every telephone exchange in the country was of local C-DoT design. Systematically, the state, as a matter of policy, has driven out C-DoT and other similar institutions.

The Space and Atomic Energy departments are so obsessed with security that they do not collaborate with educational institutions in their research. I know of at least one case where a research laboratory took a project proposal from an IIT, copied it and submitted it as its own.

Money too is a problem. The United States spends over 50 times more on research than what we do. It offers useful incentives, too. I know of a proposal which was returned for modification from the National Science Foundation of USA because not enough had been asked for travel.

The NSF argued that research is useful only when it is widely circulated and discussed - that required the researcher to travel. Such a view is unthinkable in our country.

Handling an educational institution is like handling a bird: Hold it too tight, it chokes; hold it loose it flies away. Bureaucratic control over the IITs is such that they choke.

That is why the Minister is correct; the IITs are not world-class research institutions. However, he is not correct in asserting that the students are world-class. The JEE has become so trainable that it puts out more mug-pots than brilliant minds. Even those who, like the Minister, are good, opt out of research. Hence, his statement is a half-truth.

That reminds me of Gandhiji who said "a half-truth is worse than a lie; therefore, I call it a lie and a half".

(The author is a former Director, IIT Madras. [blfeedback@thehindu.co.in](mailto:blfeedback@thehindu.co.in) and [indiresan@gmail.com](mailto:indiresan@gmail.com))

Economic Times ND 4/06/2011 P-11

# Think IIM Faculty First, Mr Sibal

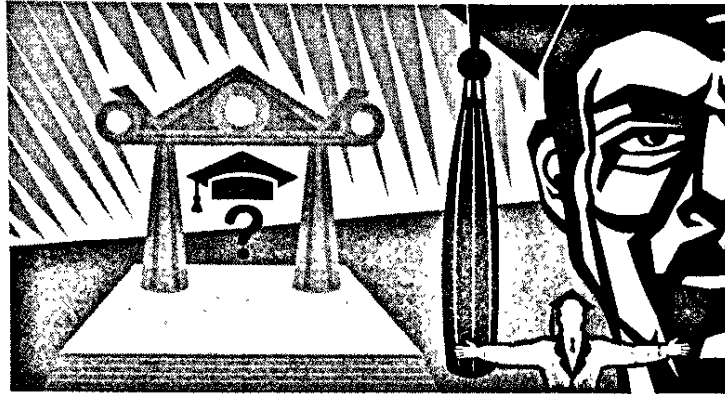
How can you expect scholarly output from the corruption- and nepotism-riddled IIMs?

**KRAMAKRISHNAN**

Recent articles in ET by Profs Nirma-lyya Kumar and Puranam on scholarship in Indian business schools are topical and laudatory. On May 16, 2011, ET carried a piece on a book by Prof Ram Mohan of IIM-Ahmedabad that discussed the need to reduce the autonomy of the IIMs. This debate on scant research and unbridled autonomy is only symptomatic of a deeper malaise: the inefficient faculty recruitment and career progression system in the IIMs, as also the resultant non-academic environment and anarchy due to this underlying lacuna.

What are the overwhelming faculty-related issues threatening the IIMs? The most important is the absence of academics and scholars at the helm of a majority of these institutes. It is an open secret that most of these institutes are havens for politics and politicking. Cohorts and coteries in power indulge in rampant nepotism and favouritism, brazenly helping recruit close relatives such as sons and brothers. In fact, last year, the Central Vigilance Commission reportedly ordered the re-opening of some cases against the director of one of the IIMs on the same allegations of nepotism and favouritism. Some of the IIMs are infamous for the caucuses that are running them, and are known as well-established fiefs.

Many of the hires for faculty positions have dubious academic backgrounds but strong 'connections'. The boards of governors of many of these IIMs play second fiddle since the person at the helm has cultivated the



ARINDAM

members of the board. Recruitments to teaching posts and the designations given are generally on the whims and fancies of the incumbents, supposedly based on 'norms'. Assistant professors far better in performance and calibre languish whereas several were made full professors without demonstrated scholarship. In some IIMs faculty, selections and promotions are allegedly rigged through selection committees made up of cronies of the persons in power. It is well-known that sycophants and caucus members are rewarded with chairmanships and dean posts, promotions without the requisite academic credentials, etc. So, all the king's men occupy important positions influencing others' careers. The coterie in some of the IIMs corners most of the training programmes to make a neat pile and also allocates foreign trips, a part of these programmes, to each of its members. Reminiscent of an academic mafia?

The situation is similar in most IIMs though the rot is deep, at especially some. For instance, some leading IIMs only bask in unjustified glory lent to them by media hype. The majority of their faculty is really not a proven group of scholars. There are quite a few horror stories of how good candi-

dates, both from India and abroad, are not even invited for recruitment processes since they pose a credible threat to the incumbents. Their arrival probably heralds the exposure of the below-average quality of the current faculty. It is a ridiculous sight to see these old hands evaluating others who are actually better than them and deciding they are not good enough. What also causes concern to these insiders is the spectre of erosion of their earnings from consulting and training. The existing structure of groups of faculty around areas such as strategy, marketing, etc, makes the members of each area collude to varying degrees to induct favoured persons and allows

**It is well-known that sycophants and caucus members are rewarded with chairmanships as well as dean posts**

them the facility of erecting entry barriers. Another fallout of this is inbreeding, with fresh PhDs joining their alma mater, being safe bets for the incumbents. The truth is that it is very difficult to join the IIMs as a faculty member on merit. You need to be well-connected. Even after joining, career progression depends on criteria

other than competence.

The term 'mediocre' for the prevailing faculty quality in the IIMs is an insult to this word. A majority of the faculty is regarded as below-average by industry. In fact, it is a blessing in disguise that there are unfilled faculty-level vacancies in the IIMs since you are going to have more of the current kind joining in!

There appears to be an academic mafia at work in many of these institutes and a conspiracy of silence. Most faculty members would rather keep quiet about the rot since they may either be beneficiaries of the inefficiencies or are afraid of losing a stable, secure government job for life standing by what is right and ethical.

It is time we stopped deluding ourselves about the greatness of the IIMs. The government should intervene to make the recruitment and career progression process transparent, fair and world-class. Else, the tax-paying public's money will keep lining the pockets of this mafia.

I strongly advocate centralising IIM faculty recruitments through a UPSC-like body at an all-India level. When the system is bereft of the expected and requisite intellect, hand-holding is necessary to restore its health. Else, death is a certainty. The faculty components and system in the IIMs are now comatose with vultures greedily gobbling up their chunks of putrid flesh. Autonomy needs to be greatly curtailed. Checks and balances are needed. The appropriate people need to be inducted and the mob ejected out.

Where is the scholarship? Where is that pristine intellect that India is supposed to have nurtured in ancient universities such as Nalanda? Most real scholars have already fled to foreign shores. Only God can help this country become intellectually competent and honest.

*(The author is associate professor at MDI-Gurgaon and ex-faculty member at IIM-Lucknow. Views are personal)*

# AIIMS admission racket busted, nine detained

## CBI Sleuths Raid 10 Places In Delhi And Suburbs

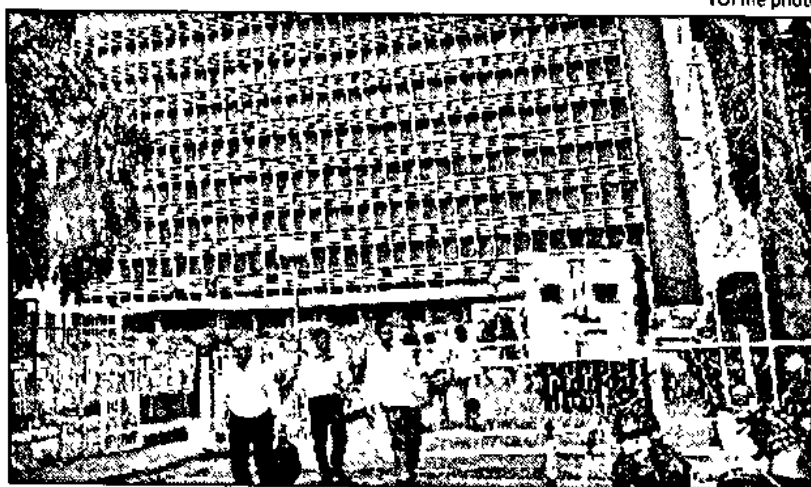
TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Friday busted an admission racket at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) where answersheets for the postgraduate entrance test were allegedly being manipulated to favour some of the candidates.

CBI registered a case and conducted raids at 10 places in Delhi, Ghaziabad and other places in the NCR. CBI spokesperson Dharini Mishra said nine persons have been detained in connection with the admission racket. However, officials did not confirm if any AIIMS official has been detained.

The nine detained persons were being questioned till late in the night by CBI officials but no arrests have been made so far. Sources said those detained include a person who runs a coaching institute for medical students. The accused persons were reportedly manipulating answersheets in return for bribes from candidates. The agency is examining the number of candidates who were approached by the accused persons after which the answersheets would be checked.

Officials said the postgrad-



TOI file photo

**PRESTIGE AT STAKE?:** The accused persons were manipulating answersheets for the PG entrance test at AIIMS in return for bribes

**Those detained include a person who runs a coaching institute for medical students. AIIMS officials could be involved in the racket, say sources.**

uate entrance test took place recently. The agency was tipped off about the racket after which a case was registered. Sources said AIIMS officials could be involved in the racket. Explaining the modus operandi, a source said, "The answersheets were left blank by the candidates and were later filled." The agency is also

trying to ascertain the amount of money paid by the candidates to the accused persons. "We have taken several documents from the detained persons. The answersheets have also been taken from the AIIMS after informing the authorities. These are being examined and the accused are being interrogated. We are also checking call details of one of the accused who runs a coaching institute because he played a key role in the racket," said a source.

This is not the first time that AIIMS is in news for the wrong reasons. In 2006, CBI had conducted raids in connection with the PG course after it was found that 37 students had topped from Chennai and Pondicherry region.

Financial Express ND 4/06/2011

P-5

# Tech Sabha '11 takes off in Goa

**By** Special  
**Reporters**

**Mumbai, Jun 3:** The Goa Marriott Hotel is playing host to a gathering of IT professionals from various agencies, technology vendors and independent subject matter experts from across the country. Technology Sabha, the IT event hosted by The Indian Express Limited, provides a platform for government and IT leaders to come together and discuss, debate and share their experiences about how they are employing information and communication technology to further the cause of e-governance in their respective regions. The Sabha, held twice a year, is India's premier e-governance event.

The event was inaugurated by Goa chief minister Digambar Kamat. BB Nanawati, DDG, UIDAI was also present at the event. Speaking on the progress of the UIDAI project, Nanawati said, "Although we have only just begun our journey of providing unique identities to the masses, we intend to intensify our efforts greatly and reach the 600 million unique IDs mark by 2014. We remain firm in our commitment to provide identities to those who, despite being eligible to all sorts of government entitlements, can't access the same because they don't have any means of identification."

Technology Sabha is set to focus on new and emerging technologies and how they can be used to deliver people-centric services to Indians.

In his welcome address, Dinesh Gulati, president, The India Express Ltd said, "Although we as a country have come

a long way in our e-Governance efforts, which beginning from simple computerisation initiatives have now evolved to projects such as the UIDAI, we still need to do much more in order to bring the benefits of ICT to the masses. Platforms such as the Technology Sabha can contribute greatly towards this endeavor."



**TECHNOLOGY  
SABHA IS SET  
TO FOCUS ON  
NEW & EMERGING  
TECHNOLOGIES  
AND HOW THEY  
CAN BE USED  
TO DELIVER  
PEOPLE-CENTRIC  
SERVICES  
TO INDIANS**

This is the tenth edition of the Technology Sabha, the premier ICT event designed especially for IT leaders from the government space currently being held at the Goa Marriott Hotel in Panjim, Goa. With the progress that technology and communications in India are making every year, Technology Sabha keeps growing its wings.

Tribune ND  
4/06/2011 P-8

# SC rejects students' plea on AIEEE answer keys

**LEGAL CORRESPONDENT**

**NEW DELHI, JUNE 3**

The Supreme Court today rejected students' plea for directing the CBSE to disclose answer keys of the questions of the All-India Engineering Entrance Examination (AIEEE) before declaring the results.

A Vacation Bench of Justices BS Chauhan and Swatanter Kumar asked the students to approach the Board seeking the information. The students' counsel argued that the AIEEE answer keys should be provided on the lines of the IIT-JEE.

Hindustan Times ND  
4/06/2011 P-4

## DU ADMISSIONS WEB CHAT A HIT; 3 MORE SESSIONS TO GO

**Shefali Saxena**

■ htreporters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** The first web chat conducted by DU on the ongoing admission process was a success. A number of students logged in with queries about the new admission rules and courses.

Friday's web Chat—from 3:30pm to 4:30pm — with the dean, students welfare, JM Khurana, saw several questions on the Combined Aptitude Test for English with the most common query being on the non-availability of admit cards.

Another common query was on admission under the foreign student category and through foreign or NRI quota. "The good thing about the chat was that we got immediate help," said Pawan Lakhani, a DU aspirant.

Students can call 011-27666756 for detailed answers on these issues. The web chat aims to reach students outside Delhi, who can clear their confusions without having to come to the city. There are three more web chats scheduled for next week, to participate in which students have to log on to the university website, du.ac.in.

Indian Express ND  
4/06/2011 P-10

## AIEEE: Plea for answer keys rejected

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**

- NEW DELHI, JUNE 3

THE SUPREME Court on Friday refused to direct the CBSE to disclose answer keys of the questions of the All India Engineering Entrance Examination (AIEEE) prior to declaration of the results.

A vacation Bench of Justices B S Chauhan and Swatanter Kumar dismissed the petition filed by some of the students and asked them to make representation before the board in this regard. Advocate Somesh Arora, appearing for the students, contended that on the line of IIT-JEE, the answer sheets of the examination should be declared prior to the declaration of results. The court, however, was not convinced and asked the petitioner to approach the board which will consider their representation immediately.



# संस्थानों पर सीमित बहस

आइआइटी-आइआइएम की गुणवत्ता पर जारी बहस में मूल मुद्दा हाशिए पर जाता देख रहे हैं निरंजन कुमार

पिछले दिनों आइआइटी और आइआइएम को लेकर दिए गए पर्यावरण मंत्री जयराम रमेश के बयानों से उठे विवादों ने भारतीय उच्च शिक्षा संस्थानों की गुणवत्ता पर नए सिरे से विचार करने के लिए मौका दे दिया है, लेकिन दुर्भाग्यवश पूरा विवाद और चर्चा बिल्कुल एकांगी हो रही है। बहस सिर्फ इस बात पर सिमट कर रह गई कि हमारे आइआइटी और आइआइएम विश्वस्तरीय हैं या नहीं? विवाद की शुरुआत रमेश की इस टिप्पणी से हुई कि आइआइटी और आइआइएम के विद्यार्थी तो विश्वस्तरीय हैं, लेकिन शिक्षक नहीं और यह कि आइआइटी और आइआइएम के शिक्षकों का शोध और शिक्षण में मौलिक योगदान नगण्य है। इस पूरे शोरगुल में एक ज्यादा बहुत महत्वपूर्ण बात जो जाने-अनजाने लोगों की आंखों से ओझल हो गई और जो इस देश के आम अवागम से जुड़ी हुई है वह थी इस बात का इशारा कि आहिस्ता-आहिस्ता सरकार उच्च शिक्षा से पांच खींचने वाली है।

जयराम रमेश का यह कथन कि हम सरकारी क्षेत्र में एक विश्व स्तरीय अनुसंधान केंद्र की स्थापना नहीं कर सकते हैं, सरकारी सेट-अप युवा लोगों को कभी नहीं आकर्षित कर सकते हैं, बताता है कि हमें इस मामले पर नए सिरे से ध्यान देने की जरूरत है। रमेश ने इसके लिए पब्लिक-प्राइवेट पार्टनरशिप की वकालत की। इस पब्लिक-प्राइवेट पार्टनरशिप से कोई असहमति नहीं। देश की विशाल जनसंख्या और जरूरतों के मद्देनजर अब समय आ गया है कि विभिन्न सामाजिक विकास के कार्यक्रमों में निजी क्षेत्र आगे आए, क्योंकि निजी क्षेत्र की कमाई और मुनाफे में अंततः इस देश के संसाधनों का भी इस्तेमाल होता है। अतः शिक्षा, स्वास्थ्य, रोजगार और विकास आदि सोशल सेक्टर से वे मुंह मोड़ नहीं सकते। यहां तक तो बात ठीक है, लेकिन सार्वजनिक या सरकारी क्षेत्र को एक तरह से खारिज करते हुए सीधे-सीधे यह कहना कि सार्वजनिक या सरकारी क्षेत्र के संगठन कभी भी श्रेष्ठ संस्थान या संगठन नहीं बन सकते, न केवल सही नहीं है, बल्कि खतरनाक भी है। दुनिया के अनेक देशों में सार्वजनिक या सरकारी क्षेत्र के संस्थानों ने अपना परचम लहराया है। अमेरिका के निजी क्षेत्र के विश्वविद्यालय हार्वर्ड, स्टेनफोर्ड या यूनिवर्सिटी ऑफ पेन्सिल्वेनिया अगर विश्वस्तरीय हैं तो सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के यूनिवर्सिटी ऑफ मिशिगन या



गलत धारणा

◆ यह कहना कि सरकारी अथवा सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के संगठन कभी भी श्रेष्ठ संस्थान नहीं बन सकते, न केवल सही नहीं है, बल्कि खतरनाक भी है।

यूनिवर्सिटी ऑफ कैलिफोर्निया आदि विश्वविद्यालय भी उसी टक्कर के हैं। फिर जिस चीन के छह संस्थान टॉप 200 में हैं, उनमें सभी सरकारी क्षेत्र के ही हैं। कुछ ऐसा ही फ्रांस, जर्मनी या स्कैंडिनेवियन देशों में भी है। अपने यहां भी देखें तो इसरो, झीआरडीओ आदि संगठन निश्चित रूप से श्रेष्ठ हैं, जिन्होंने तमाम विपरीत परिस्थितियों भी देश के अंतरिक्ष अनुसंधान या मिसाइल कार्यक्रमों को बहुत कम लागत में और सफलतापूर्वक चलाया है।

सार्वजनिक या सरकारी क्षेत्र को सिरे से खारिज कर देना ठीक नहीं। इसका यह कतई मतलब नहीं कि सार्वजनिक या सरकारी क्षेत्र के संस्थानों में सब कुछ ठीक है, बल्कि मेरा स्पष्ट मत है कि इन संस्थानों में काफी कुछ गड़बड़ है। सही हल तो यह होगा कि इन्हें दुरुस्त किया जाए। हमारे देश में जहां 40 प्रतिशत से भी ज्यादा लोग गरीबी रेखा के नीचे हैं और लगभग इतनी ही बड़ी जनसंख्या निम्न मध्यम वर्ग की है, वहां उनके पास उच्च शिक्षा और उसके द्वारा विभिन्न उच्च सेवाओं में प्रवेश ही उच्च गतिशीलता के लिए सबसे सहज माध्यम है। यह सर्वज्ञात है कि देश के विभिन्न विश्वविद्यालयों और तकनीकी संस्थानों, जो अधिकांश में अभी तक सार्वजनिक या सरकारी क्षेत्र के हैं, ने इस वर्ग के प्रतिभाशाली लोगों के आगे बढ़ने में मदद की

है और जो अंततः देश की उन्नति में ही सहायक हुए। चाहे मिसाइलमैन अब्दुल कलाम हों या पूर्व राष्ट्रपति के.आर. नारायणन या वर्तमान के अर्थशास्त्री प्रधानमंत्री मनमोहन सिंह या ऐसे हजारों-लाखों डाक्टरों, इंजीनियरों, वैज्ञानिकों, वकीलों, पत्रकारों और उच्च अधिकारियों के उदाहरण दिए जा सकते हैं जिनकी प्रतिभा लुप्त हो रही है अगर सार्वजनिक शिक्षा संस्थान न होते, लेकिन आज इन संस्थानों में आमूल-मूल बदलाव की जरूरत है। इस गड़बड़ी के लिए कोई अन्य नहीं, बल्कि सबसे पहले सरकारी तंत्र ही जिम्मेदार है। कठघरे में सभी राजनेता हैं। जिस तरह से नेताओं का सार्वजनिक संस्थानों में हस्तक्षेप है और सरकारी अधिकारियों द्वारा विभिन्न अड़ों लगाए जाते हैं वह सर्वविदित है। एक-दो उदाहरण देखें। अपने देश में वाइस चांसलरों या निदेशकों की नियुक्ति में जिस कदर राजनीतिक हस्तक्षेप होता है वह किसी से छिपा नहीं। दूसरी तरफ इन वाइस चांसलरों या निदेशकों को किसी भी महत्वपूर्ण निर्णय लेने में सरकार या उच्च अधिकारियों का जिस तरह से मुंह ताकना पड़ता है वह कहीं से भी इन संस्थानों के हित में नहीं है।

मैं अमेरिकी विश्वविद्यालयों के अपने अनुभव का साझा करना चाहूंगा। वहां वाइस चांसलर को प्रेसिडेंट कहा जाता है। मैंने देखा कि उनकी नियुक्ति में राजनीतिज्ञों का दूर-दूर तक कोई वास्ता नहीं। संस्थान और शिक्षा की गुणवत्ता के प्रति समर्पित। सार्वजनिक संस्थानों की समस्या का एक अन्य, लेकिन बहुत ही महत्वपूर्ण पहलू आर्थिक अभाव है, जिसका कुपरिणाम है समुचित इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर की कमी। ऐसी स्थितियों में विश्वस्तरीय शिक्षकों या संस्थान की उम्मीद करना बेमानी होगा। अमेरिका या यूरोप के देशों की बात करें तो वहां शिक्षा पर जोड़ीपी का 6 प्रतिशत खर्च किया जाता है। कुछ देशों में तो यह और भी ज्यादा है, जबकि अपने यहां यह अभी भी 4 से 5 प्रतिशत के बीच ही है। उन देशों में उच्च शिक्षा के बिना भी उच्च गतिशीलता के अवसर मौजूद हैं, जबकि अपने यहां बहुसंख्यक जनता के पास इसके सिवा और कोई चारा नहीं और यह वर्ग कम फीस वाले सार्वजनिक संस्थाओं में ही जा सकता है। समय आ गया है कि सार्वजनिक शिक्षा संस्थानों को दुरुस्त किया जाए।

(लेखक दिल्ली विवि में एसोसिएट प्रोफेसर हैं)