

Newspaper Clips June 5, 2014

HRD Minister Smriti Irani Meets IIT Directors, Reportedly Plans a 'Retreat' With Them

<http://www.ndtv.com/article/india/hrd-minister-smriti-irani-meets-iit-directors-reportedly-plans-a-retreat-with-them-536591>

Human Resource Development Minister [Smriti Irani](#) met directors of six elite Indian Institutes of Technology over two hours this week and reportedly plans a "retreat" with them for more discussions.

She also met the director of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), Vineet Joshi today.

One of the IIT directors who attended the meeting with the minister told NDTV that Ms Irani, 38, "seemed well informed and very positive."

Sources said the 38-year-old minister heard out the problems of the academics and asked them their ideas for areas of improvement

She is expected to go to Gujarat soon and visit the Gandhinagar IIT, one of the newer institutes.

The ruling BJP has promised an IIT in every state in its election manifesto for this year.

Ms Irani has also helped 700 students who studied in School of Planning and Architecture (SPA) in Bhopal and Vijaywada and in IIIT Kancheepuram who have not received their degrees since 2005 to finally get accreditation.

Ms Irani is a popular TV actor turned BJP leader, whose qualification to handle the country's education ministry was questioned by Congressman Ajay Maken soon after she was sworn in, on account of the fact that she does not hold a graduation degree.

While the BJP stoutly defended its young minister, Mr Maken was ticked off by his party colleague Manish Tewari, who suggested that "distinction must be made between literacy, education and intelligence. Such individual attacks are avoidable." ([Congress Frowns Upon Ajay Maken for Remarks on Smriti Irani's Education](#))

The Congress also sought to raise a question over an alleged discrepancy in Ms Irani's details of education in her election affidavits. The minister has requested people to "[judge me by my work](#)."

आईआईटी ने घोषित कीं सीटें

कानपुर। जेईई एडवांस का परीक्षा परिणाम 19 जून को घोषित होगा और अगले ही दिन से ऑनलाइन च्वॉइस फिलिंग शुरू हो जाएगी। इसे घर बैठे भी किया जा सकेगा।

जेईई एडवांस के लिए आईएसएम, धनबाद समेत सभी आईआईटी की सीटें घोषित कर दी गई हैं। इनमें सबसे ज्यादा सीटें आईआईटी, खड़गपुर में हैं। आईआईटी कानपुर में 827 सीटों पर प्रवेश होगा। छात्रों को आधी फीस भी जमा करनी होगी।

जेईई एडवांस के सफल छात्रों की काउंसिलिंग के लिए ई-प्रॉस्पेक्टस जारी कर दिए गए हैं। छात्रों का रिजल्ट घोषित होने के बाद उन्हें अगले ही दिन से ऑनलाइन च्वॉइस फिलिंग करानी होगी। जिसके साथ ही प्रवेश प्रक्रिया आगे बढ़ाई जाएगी।

(हि. टी.)

Smriti likely to scrap DU's 4-yr UG programme

Akshaya Mukul | TNN

New Delhi: Delhi University's Four Year Undergraduate Programme is all set to go. Highly-placed sources said the HRD ministry has come to this conclusion even though DU vice-chancellor Dinesh Singh on Monday made a desperate attempt to convince education secretary Ashok Thakur about the effectiveness of FYUP and its long-term implications.

A senior government functionary involved with the FYUP review said, "Theatre of action is not the HRD ministry but backroom work being done by RSS and BJP-backed National Democratic Teachers Front and other bodies." Asked when the decision will be made public, a source said, "It is a big decision and a poll promise by the BJP. There is a general consensus against FYUP across the left and right spectrum. But the secretary has advised caution. We are discussing it with all stakeholders. The poll promise will be delivered soon."

The source added, "Immediately after the minister (Smriti Irani) joined, there was controversy about her. To scrap FYUP at that stage would have provoked criticism. The idea is to take well-thought decisions. It could be part of the 100-day plan."

Sources in the ministry said there were various ways in which the old three-year

system could be brought back. "Students who have done one year of FYUP will find it difficult to get back to the old system since they only did foundation course in the first year. Still, some way out can be devised. New students can be admitted to three-year undergraduate programme," an official said.

The fight in favour and against FYUP has also resulted in machinations by the DU administration to win over RSS over to its side. "A small group of teachers who claim close relationship with the RSS leadership have promised the vice-chancellor that

'IN 100-DAY PLAN'

they will convince the Sangh on the importance of FYUP. The VC is relying on them but he does not realize that RSS outfits like India Policy Foundation are openly against FYUP. The tide has turned against him," a senior NDTF functionary said.

On May 30, when an NDTF meeting took place at the BJP state unit office on Pant Marg, also attended by Irani, the overwhelming opinion of teacher activists like Inder Kapahy and Rajendra Bhatia and new MPs was that FYUP has to go and should be seen outside the prism of left and right. IPF director Rakesh Sinha had alleged that in its long history, DU had never witnessed an arbitrary decision like FYUP.

HT,COM ND 05.06.2014, P-2

IIT-D URGES AAMIR TO BUILD AWARENESS ON ROAD SAFETY ON SHOW



■ IIT-D students feel Aamir should highlight road safety on Satyamev Jayate HT

Vanita Srivastava

NEW DELHI: Some former students of Delhi IIT have requested Aamir Khan to create an awareness on road safety through his show Satyamev Jayate.

The students had started an online petition a few days after the death of their four colleagues in Delhi IIT in a road accident on March 31, 2014.

“One person dies every five minutes on Indian roads. Many victims are left to die on the streets even when hospitals are close by. Personal apathy makes it worse,” said Dikshant Sharma who started the petition.

The petition has so far received around 33,000 petitions. Aamir Khan, has highlighted social issues on his show Satyamev Jayate.

If he can highlight the plight of accident victims, it would help in saving thousands of lives, Sharma said. The organisers of the show have not given any confirmation but have assured they will consider it.

Hindustan Times, ND 05/06/2014 P-2

Forget qualification, people hopeful that minister Irani will bring in change

Neha Pushkarna

neha.pushkarna@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The appointment of Smriti Irani as HRD minister may have raised some eyebrows, but she has also managed to raise many hopes too.

People have been writing open letters to her since she took charge of the ministry. Suggestions, complaints, best wishes and backgrounds on challenges for the education sector — they are packing it all in these letters written to Irani, mostly online.

The most hopeful are over 33,000 aspirants who took the Common Law Admission Test this year. Their result declared on May 31 was withdrawn by the Organising Committee soon after due to 'technical discrepancies'. Several open letters have been written, seeking Irani's help and venting their anger. The competition in CLAT is fierce as the number of undergraduate seats is only 1,660.

"At a bare minimum, it depicts a high level of inefficiency which has to be understood from the perspective of thousands of professionally committed and hardworking law aspirants who are currently undergoing nothing but a test of patience and emotional harassment," reads an open letter by Debjyoti Das, a law graduate who now prepares aspirants for law school.

Hundreds of students and parents also took to Twitter to urge Irani to intervene. Das further wrote, "It is in deep hope that your esteemed office will urgently intervene and absolve us all from this information blackout that I am writing to you."

While he post-scripted the background of CLAT and a list of required reforms for the new minister, Ravi Lochan Singh, CEO of a consultancy, gave Irani a wishlist by means of another open letter on his blog. "Quality audit of IITs/

IIMs be done. Syllabus of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, the vehicle of RTE, should be recast. Mid-Day Meal (scheme) needs a serious revamp. We do have a shortage of teachers but a hasty mass-drive to hire teachers will not be advisable. Simplify and fix the issue of recognition of globally-valid degrees and don't reverse some good decisions taken by the previous government," he advised Irani.

Another blogger, George Paul, expressed initial surprise at her being given such an important ministry but ended up showing confidence in her in his 800-word-long open letter.

"HRD ministry does not need doctorates to head it. We need honest persons who can empathise with the plight of disadvantaged meritorious students who have been systematically sidelined in the last decade and a half. Ms Irani, you may be in a position to do what your 'highly educated' predecessors failed to do!" he wrote.



■ Union HRD minister Smriti Irani at Parliament House to attend the first sitting of the 16th Lok Sabha on Wednesday.

SONU MEHTA/HT PHOTO

Dainik Bhaskar ND 5/06/2014 P-5

**आईआईटी इंदौर
का दीक्षांत
समारोह आज
डॉ. कलाम
शामिल होंगे**

इंदौर | आईआईटी (भारतीय तकनीकी संस्थान) इंदौर का दूसरा दीक्षांत समारोह गुरुवार को होगा। सिमरोल रोड स्थित आईआईटी परिसर में होने वाले इस आयोजन के मुख्य अतिथि पूर्व राष्ट्रपति डॉ. एपीजे अब्दुल कलाम होंगे। हालांकि आईआईटी प्रबंधन पिछली बार की तरह इस बार भी सौ फीसदी प्लेसमेंट से चूक गया।

IIM-B is 53rd on FT 2014 exec education rankings

Only Indian B-school in rankings; moves up 10 places from 2013

BS REPORTER

Ahmedabad, 4 June

For a consecutive year, the Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore (IIM-B), continued to be the only Indian B-school to be ranked on the *Financial Times* 2014 Executive Education Rankings.

What is more, the premier B-school moved up by 10 positions to be ranked 53rd among the top 70 open executive education programme providers on the *FT* rankings. At its debut last year, IIM-B was placed at the 63rd position on the *FT* 2013 Executive Education Rankings.

The *FT* 2014 Open Executive Education Programmes survey, which had around 6,500 participants, was open only to internationally-accredited business schools that generated executive education programme revenues of over \$2 million in 2013.

Talking about the rankings,

Shyamal Roy, chairperson of executive education at IIM-B said, "IIM-B enables those who have been working after their graduation to formulate an action plan that identifies periodic goals and strategic steps for career advancement."

Through executive education programmes, IIM-B offers executives new knowledge, based on solid research, to enhance their managerial skills, he said. "This experience also helps us enrich our teaching in the degree-granting programmes by citing real life examples underlying the theoretical concepts," Roy added.

Welcoming the rankings, Devanath Tirupati, director-in-charge, IIM-B, said, "The rankings reiterate that we are on the right track and offer information that helps our prospective students and stakeholders to make their choice."



FINANCIAL TIMES EXECUTIVE EDUCATION RANKINGS 2014

Top 5 global executive education programme providers

Institute (School)	Country	Ranking	
		2013	2014
IMD	Switzerland	1	1
University of Chicago: Booth	US/UK/Singapore	5	2
HEC Paris	France	7	3
University of Virginia: Darden	US	14	4
INSEAD	France/UAE/Singapore	6	5

Top 8 Asian executive education programme providers

Institute (School)	Country	Ranking	
		2013	2014
University of Chicago: Booth	US/UK/Singapore	5	2
INSEAD	France/UAE/Singapore	6	5
Centre for Creative Leadership	US/Belgium/Singapore/Russia	16	9
Essec Business School	France/Singapore	19	12
Kaist College of Business	South Korea	28	24
Ceibs	China	29	29
IIM-Bangalore	India	63	53
Xiamen University School of Management	China	NA	53

IIM-Bangalore Executive Education Ranking

Institute (School)	Country	Ranking	
		2013	2014
IIM-Bangalore	India	63	53

Students at Indian B-schools Do Better on Placement Front

Above 91% Indian grads got jobs last yr while in US only 57% students got placed

SREERADHA D BASU
MUMBAI

More than 91% students at Indian graduate B-schools have a job offer this year compared with 75% last year, making theirs by far the most successful job search story globally so far this year, based on the 2014 Global Management Education Graduate Survey conducted by GMAC (Global Management Admission Council) of 3,049 graduate management students in the class of 2014 at 111 universities in 20 countries.

In comparison, students at US B-schools have received job offers (57%) at a rate similar to that in 2013 (58%). Canadian B-schools came in at 37% up from 32% in 2013, while in European B-schools, offers have dropped from 55% last year to 47% this time around.

As much as 31% of the offers made to students in India came from technology companies while consulting came next with 26%. Finance/accounting (16%), products/services (11%), manufacturing (7%), health care (6%) and energy/utilities (1%) made up the balance in terms of industries.

The most successful job search method in the country was using career services—74% of those who used it had an offer of employment—followed by job boards, coming in with 59%.

“The success of Indian B-School graduates in job search is reflective of the significant premium that corporate recruiters continue to place on the skills of management graduates from India’s leading business schools, and the depth of opportunities in various sectors that are available to these graduates. It is also a strong reaffirmation of the value of quality management education,” Ashish Bhardwaj, vice president, Asia Pacific, GMAC, told ET in an emailed response.



Overall, 90% of students in Indian B-schools gave their programmes a thumbs-up, considering them to be of good to outstanding value.

Eighty seven percent said they would recommend their programme to others. Over 86% of students in India said their education prepared them not just to meet the challenges of the job market, but also gave them a competitive advantage. Some 40% said they preferred a case study method and said that 26% of their programme was taught using this, followed by team projects and lectures.

Globally, the survey found that the scenario for the 2014 graduating class was significantly better than their counterparts who graduated five years ago.

Nearly three in five (57%) graduating students in an active job search in 2014 had received at least one job offer at the time the survey was conducted. This is slightly below, but still on par with the Class of 2013 graduates (60%) and nearly twice the rate of students in the Class of 2010 (32%). More than half of graduating students globally this year received job offers in finance/accounting, consulting and products/services. The median expected increase in post-degree salaries is 80% over pre-degree salaries, an increase from 73% in 2013. As in India, the value of a graduate business education remains high overall and close to 89% in the class of 2014 consider theirs to have good to outstanding value.

Times of India, ND 05/06/2014 P-23

Indian B-School grads get jobs easily

Survey: 92% Of Students Have Offers

Manash Pratim Gohain | TNN

New Delhi: Are Indian management graduates industry's first choice. A survey by Graduate Management Admission Council, which conducts GMAT, shows that 92% of Indian management students had an offer of employment, as against 33% in Asia-Pacific region and 57% globally. Industry-wise, for management graduates of India, jobs are raining from technology (31%), consulting (26%), finance/ accounting (16%). Globally the highlight of the

GLOBAL MANAGEMENT EDUCATION GRADUATE SURVEY 2014

The survey has been conducted Graduate Management Admission Council

INDIA SPECIFIC

92% of the students seeking jobs had an offer of employment, compared to 75% in 2013

Sector wise highest

(31%) job offers are from technology, followed by consulting (26%) & finance/ accounting (16%)

Job functions: Max offers are for consulting (26%) & marketing/ sales (21%)



9 in 10 students at Indian schools have job offers

GLOBAL HIGHLIGHTS

- > 50% of graduating students this year received job offers
- > 26% of the graduates with job offers will work in finance/ accounting
- > Nearly three in five (57%) of students seeking jobs received at least one offer of employment
- > 91% (79% in 2013) of students pursuing PG course have job offers
- > 53% of full-time MBA have job offers
- > More than 57% job-seeking students intends to switch industries after graduation

2014 batch has been that 46% of the graduates launched their own businesses after getting enrolled in B-schools. The survey was carried out among the students of the class of 2014 across 111 universities in 20 countries. In all 3,049 graduate management students were surveyed.

It's a rosy picture for graduates from Indian B-schools compared to the global scenario. The Global management education graduate survey 2014, which also included 260 management students across eight institutions, stated that 9 in 10 students at Indian schools have job offers. This is pretty

high if compared to the Asia-Pacific region as well as globally. Maximum jobs are coming from the technology sector in India, which amounts to 31% of the offers to management graduates, which is followed by consulting and finance/ accounting with 26% and 16% respectively. Consulting remains

the top job function with 26% of the offers are for this work profile followed by 21% in marketing/ sales.

Globally 57% of the students graduating this year have already received at least one job offer. Finance/ accounting remained the top choice with 26% to work in this job function. Postgraduate programme students seemed to be preferred over those pursuing full-time MBA. Nearly 91% of students pursuing PGP have job offers compared to 53% of those in full-time MBA. And more than half of the management graduates of the class on 2014 are likely to switch industries after graduation. Percentage of job seeking students of European business schools having job offers has decreased significantly – down to 47% from 55% in 2013.

Millennium Post ND 5/06/2014 P-9

NEED FOR A QUALITATIVE THRUST

Human Resource Development minister has a daunting task of nurturing a talent pool that will fire up the Indian economy

H CHATURVEDI

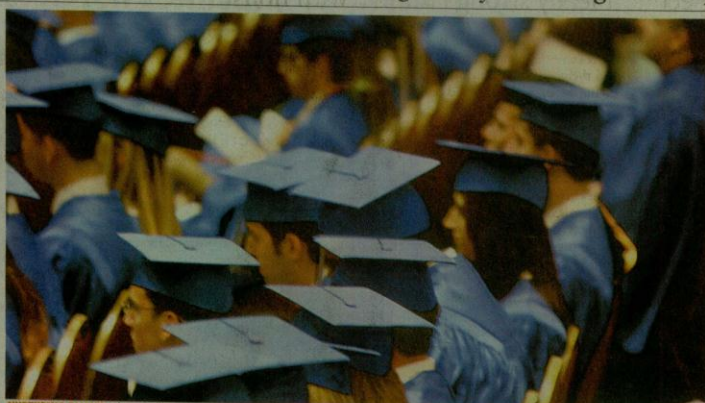
Millions have pinned their hopes on the new government, at the centre, which has come to power with the strongest mandate in over a quarter of a century. The new ground rules for governance, policy making and bias for action articulated by the government indicate its resolve to step up economic growth.

The government's immediate concern and focus, as it should be, will be to address urgent issues at hand – reviving the sluggish economy, fixing law and order, securing India's borders, strengthening relations with its neighbours as well as the economic super powers. However, the huge mandate also puts the onus of ensuring long-term growth momentum, on them. This can be only achieved only through a dramatic shift in approach, transforming its youth into a talent pool comparable with best, coming out of hallowed portals of learning, in Europe and the Americas.

People are India's meta resource, one which can drive the growth of every other sector. And clearly education has a huge role in shaping the future of India by firing a new quest for knowledge on all fronts – liberal arts, science, technology, engineering and management.

The Union Minister for Human Resource Development has a daunting task – of developing a talent pool that will fire up the Indian economy, literally, on all cylinders. From its role in creating a skilled manpower pool that can fit the 100 million jobs, to enabling researchers and scientists create technology, that India can proudly call its own, the Ministry of Human Resource Development has one of the most challenging roles in the government.

Vision 2030 for Indian Higher Edu-



NURTURING TALENT: Education has a huge role in shaping the future of India by firing a new quest for knowledge

Regulatory bodies should regulate the broad outcomes of an institution or a university rather than monitoring inputs like number of teachers, books, computers etc. Each institution should be allowed to frame its vision and mission under the broad national vision of higher education

cation to my mind will have a quantitative and a qualitative component. It will reverse the system where our schools, colleges and universities churn out graduates with poor employability. Millions of degree holders – ranging from unemployed to under employed – need re-orientation so that the industry gets manpower that is trained, creative and matches the best productivity levels. On the quantitative side can we get one-half of Indian population between 18-24 years enrolled in colleges and universities to achieve a Gross Enrollment Ratio of 50 per cent? If yes, it

would mean that by 2030 the enrollments will more than double to 71 million from the current 31 million.

Can we improve India's human development index rank to 90 from 136 by improving education, health, gender equality, life expectancy and opportunities? By 2030 if we reach 90 per cent employability, we will make India the single largest provider of global talent.

The Ministry of Human Resource Development needs to enhance its focus on the qualitative front. Today, only four Indian universities feature

in the top 400 universities of the world and none in the top 200 universities. Is it too much, to expect global recognition for Indian universities and research institutions by improving their overall standards? Can India aspire to be one of the top five countries in terms of research papers, citations and number of PhDs? Is it too much to expect half a dozen researchers from Indian university system get a Nobel each year?



in the top 400 universities of the world and none in the top 200 universities. Is it too much, to expect global recognition for Indian universities and research institutions by improving their overall standards? Can India aspire to be one of the top five countries in terms of research papers, citations and number of PhDs? Is it too much to expect half a dozen researchers from Indian university system get a Nobel each year? Vision 2030 can be achieved by

doing away with debilitating regulations that inhibit Indian higher education sector. There is a need to restore the autonomy of the institutions of higher education. In the past, institutions of higher learning had to contest many of these stifling regulations and seek justice from the courts.

Here are some suggestions, for consideration of the new government and the Minister for Human Resource Development, which will reform governance of higher education. The current rigid and bureaucratic control in higher education can be replaced by an indirect form of control based on accreditation and performance-linked funding. Regulatory bodies should redefine and reinvent their roles as 'nurturing the quality' and 'promoting autonomy and accountability' which will ultimately lead to 'self-regulation' and 'introspection' among the higher education institutions.

As suggested by the Narayana Murthy Committee, both private and public universities should learn from each other and collaborate in a healthy spirit. It means that private universities should pay attention to their responsibility towards 'public' (society) and public universities should generate funding from industry based on the strength of the knowledge that they create as if they are 'private university'.

Regulatory bodies should regulate the broad outcomes of an institution or a university rather than monitoring inputs like number of teachers, books, computers etc. Each institution should be allowed to frame its vision and mission under the broad national vision of higher education.

Instead of making the accreditation compulsory, there should be visible and concrete incentives to those institutions which opt for accreditation. Making it compulsory will create worst kind of bureaucratic problems. Secondly,

there should be multiple independent accreditation agencies rather than a few controlled by the government (i.e. NAAC and NBA). Engaging industry bodies like CII, Ficci, Nasscom, AIMA, NHRDN, EPSI, AIMS by assigning them specific responsibility for accreditation, may be a step in this direction.

Further, foreign universities should be allowed without any preferential treatment vis-à-vis the Indian institutions. There are some fears about entry of the foreign universities among certain quarters. But by applying principle of 'level playing field', these fears can be allayed. Healthy competition in the market for higher education and providing more choices to the students will be good for the health of Indian higher education.

All the top universities and institutions, both public and private, should be encouraged to internationalize their academic and administrative working by recruiting more and more foreign students and faculty. They should also send their students and faculty to join partner universities abroad. Leadership of these top institutions needs to be encouraged to join global networks of higher education so as to be connected with global trends.

The new Indian Government headed by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has generated lot of expectations in all spheres, including education. Revitalising the MHRD will mean several big initiatives in primary education, school education and in tertiary or higher education. For reforming the education sector, the policy makers may need to shed their 'we know all' attitude and look at 'gathering wisdom available among academicians of the country. Aiming for radical improvements in higher education will require setting up much higher goals and work towards achieving in next 2-3 Five Year Plans.

Private varsities add verve to syllabi, impress recruiters

APARNA KALRA
New Delhi, 4 June

Jahanara Rabia Raza speaks well, can be an electrifying dancer, has worked on a documentary on transgenders, and was part of a Smiles' project to make the city happier.

Though Raza, 22, is unclear as to how her personality took on many hues, she is clear the programme she is currently enrolled in helped a lot. After graduating with an honours degree in history from St Stephen's, the oldest college of Delhi University, she felt disconnected from the education system, and directionless.

A postgraduate fellowship sponsored by the upcoming private Ashoka University, founded by big names in business such as Jerry Rao and Sanjeev Bikhchandani, came to the rescue.

Raza is now surer of what she wants to do: Make films.

"I wish I could put it down," said Raza, her mass of long curls moving as she gestures passionately, on what changed for her during the fellowship. "It is like life. It happens to you," she said, listing getting mentored by a documentary film-maker to living in a co-ed hostel and interacting with peers as pluses, while she says graduation was all about "sitting in a class".

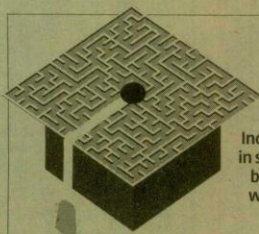
She says her parents were supportive of her decision to delay work to attend a relatively lesser known university.

Meanwhile, Ashoka University is gearing up for students, a permanent campus in Sonapat, bordering Delhi, and a fresh round of funding from people such as Dilip Shanghvi of Sun Pharmaceuticals and Raamdeo Agrawal of Motilal Oswal Financial Services.

The young and the restless, soon to be unleashed on the job market, are not the only ones attracted by private universities. So are new recruiters. Sameer Maheshwari, an IIT-Delhi alumnus who runs healthkart.com, hired from IITs, IIMs and ISB, top-rung technology and business schools. One of healthkart.com's hires was a computer science engineering graduate from Thapar University located in Patiala, Punjab. He clicked, and based on his referrals, the three-year-old company which sells fitness equipment and health products online, now looks favourably at job applications from Thapar University graduates.

Private universities, despite struggling with a regulatory mess, are riding a boom in India. They are offering scholarships to ensure that high fees do not keep out students, they are innovating to teach maths to history students and — after a wave of technology and management colleges — some are bringing back social sciences and liberal arts into syllabi.

Growth in private education in India is tough to track, not only because of its federal structure. Education was initially an area state govern-



THE UNIVERSITY MAZE

India has a complex higher education system, which runs in several formats. Of late, private universities have grown, but there is no clear data capturing this growth. Here is what can be gleaned from UGC and AICTE websites, plus from several conversations with private colleges

PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES:

Privately-run, have university status by legislation passed by state governments

NOTABLE ONES Amity University (Haryana), Lovely Professional University (Punjab), Shiv Nadar University (Uttar Pradesh), Rai University (Gujarat), Azim Premji University (Karnataka)

DEEMED UNIVERSITIES:

Given university status by the central government. Privately-run but of the total, 2 are funded by the central government, six get partial grants

NOTABLE ONES Thapar University (Punjab), Manav Rachna International University (Haryana), Banasthali Vidyapeeth (Rajasthan), BITS, Pilani (Rajasthan)

CENTRAL AND STATE UNIVERSITIES:

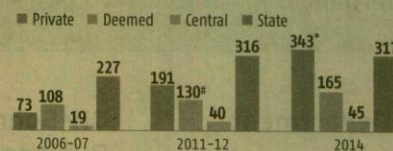
Managed, funded by the central government or managed, funded by state governments

NOTABLE central universities are Delhi University, Jawaharlal Nehru University; state universities include University of Mumbai, Jadavpur University and Anna University

Total number of universities in 2014

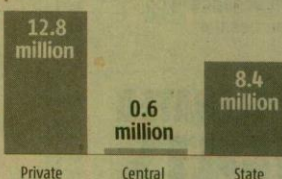
Private	178
Deemed	165
Central	45
State	317

Growth is tough to chart, due to the various formats



*The 12th Plan lists private degree-awarding institutions till 2011-12. This data can be compared by adding number of private universities and deemed universities as shown by the UGC and AICTE websites, as both are private and award degrees.
This figure is of 2009

Enrolment: Data on enrolment in deemed universities is not available, AICTE puts private university seats approved for 2012-13 at 3.4 million, the 12th Plan document estimates private enrolment at 12.8 million**



**The 12th Plan document, in discussing enrolment, does not clarify if private institutions include private colleges, which are different from private universities
Sources: Websites of UGC and AICTE, Report of the Committee of Officers appointed by the UGC, 2011, 12th Plan document

ments were responsible for, like law and order. Its shift to a concurrent list means both the 29 states and the Union government at the Centre can set up schools, colleges, universities, make policy on education, and appoint regulators. Private education is regulated by an age-old "inspector raj" where inspection teams visit colleges and universities and tick off criteria as vague as number of laptops per student.

India's 12th five-year Plan document, setting the agenda for 2012-17 in higher education, says "... central institutions, which account for 2.6 per cent of the total enrolment; state institutions which account for 38.5 per cent of enrolment; and private institutions that cater to the remaining students". This means one in every two college-going students, and soon more than that, is getting a degree from a private university or college.

For some time, private universities such as Amity University and Lovely Professional University's mega campuses offered the fall-back option where India's young demographic, whose members did not manage to win seats in state-run universities, found a place.

It may well be that these universities are emerging as a real alternative, sought after by parents, endorsed by recruiters.

For Kiran Kamra, a single mother who runs a beauty parlour in Delhi, seeing her son graduate as an engineer was a cherished dream she and her late husband had. She rued the fact that she could not give him guidance at home or the expensive coaching which would enable him to get into a venerable IIT. He won an engineering seat, and a scholarship, at Lovely Professional University four years ago, reducing his fees by half but still at a substantial

₹40,000 per semester. Kamra was ecstatic.

"The atmosphere in the university was good. I felt they will keep an eye on my son," said Kamra, whose son moved to a hostel in Punjab for his undergraduate course. "The only thing is that he would not get home food".

Private universities are learning to tap into their surplus or funding from angel investors to prevent fees from becoming a barrier.

"For 2011, our entire batch got full fee waiver. Now, 65-70 per cent will get some form of fee waiver," said Nikhil Sinha, vice-chancellor of Shiv Nadar University, which admits a small class size of roughly 650 undergraduate students. The university is funded by annual grants upwards of ₹250 crore from the Shiv Nadar Foundation set up by Nadar, an information technology czar.

In a well-argued critique of

private education, Dhanwanti Nayak, who, ironically, teaches at the private Manipal University, argues in *Economic and Political Weekly* that private education, because of high fees, neither offers a real choice to students nor a diverse-enough environment.

"The kind of courses and degrees young people would be willing to take loans for would unsurprisingly be the ones that will get them the jobs to repay their loans. Loan-driven education thus compromises on the substantive choices that young people may have, sacrificing educational and other goals to instrumental ones," writes

Nayak.

But bodies such as the World Bank have long believed that for developing economies like India, job-linked education is not such a bad thing, as it can lift people out of poverty. Yet, private universities are working at bringing back history, languages and fine arts into curriculum. Both Shiv Nadar University and Ashoka University offer a two-year integrated course as part of an undergraduate programme where students learn all streams before choosing their specialisation. They also offer a flexible combination of subjects, allowing an economics major to, say, have a minor in dance.

UPA's DBT Haste Made Waste?

Report submitted to govt on May 31 gives several reasons for failure of DBT scheme

VIKAS DHOOT & RAJEEV JAYASWAL
NEW DELHI

A high-level committee on direct benefits transfers for LPG cylinders has castigated the UPA government for showing undue haste to garner political mileage from the 'cash in hand' element of a crucial programme that could have curtailed India's subsidy bill significantly, if it was instead carried out in a well-planned manner.

The committee, led by former IIT-Kanpur director Sanjay Dhande, has identified several reasons for the failure of the direct benefit transfer (DBT) scheme in its report submitted to the government on May 31, said two members of the panel who spoke to ET. One of the key causes for the scheme's implementation problems was the decision to roll it out nationwide without adequate Aadhaar enrollments and banking penetration.

The DBT for LPG (DBTL) scheme was launched in June 2013 in 20 districts and later scaled up to 291 districts. It required consumers to pay the market price for LPG cylinders, with the government subsequently crediting the subsidy on the cylinder directly to their Aadhaar-linked bank account.

The Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs had decided to suspend the DBT scheme for LPG cylinders on January 30, after a parliamentary panel led by a Congress MP had unanimously called for scrapping the scheme due to difficulties posed to users at the ground level. The UPA government had set up the committee to examine the issues plaguing the scheme.

According to committee members, the popular perceptions against the scheme were fuelled by the government's pressure on distributors to forcefully seek Aadhaar numbers of consumers and initially deprive non-Aadhaar holders from cylinders.

There was also widespread confusion among citizens about the necessity and eligibility for them to get an Aadhaar or Unique Identity (UID) number in view of Supreme Court cases questioning the legality of the Unique Identification exercise.

Moreover, the flip flop on the number of cylinders that will be available at a subsidised rate created more disenchantment – from an initial cap of six cylinders per year, this was raised to nine cylinders after an intervention from Congress president Sonia Gandhi, and subsequently raised to 12 after the party's vice-president, Rahul Gandhi championed, the issue.

This was done despite oil ministry mandarins pointing out that the national average consumption per household per year is just 7.2 cylinders of LPG, which the Dhande committee has also highlighted in its report. Officials said that giving 12 cylinders per household in any case encourages diversion as consumption isn't as high and the cost paid by users for each cylinder is less than the subsidy that the government bears on it.

The committee interacted with users and citizens in 8 to 9 cities and even conducted a survey to gauge their impressions of the DBT scheme, only to find widespread instances of harassment and confusion.

"We have recommended making the scheme more user-friendly, as the scheme is a good idea but must be pursued only after refinements and improvements in the system," said a committee member, requesting anonymity.

"The scheme was launched in haste, without enough coordination among different agencies including the banks who were non-cooperative. Enrollment and authentication should be made easier and people shouldn't be harassed," he added.

Another reason for the scheme's unpopularity was the delay in crediting full amount of subsidy in the consumer's account. Congress MPs have blamed the scheme for the party's performance in the Lok Sabha polls, pointing out that people were made to pay the full price of the cylinder upfront and then wait for the subsidy to hit their bank accounts.

SBI's representative on the panel is learnt to have questioned the exercise to review the DBT when the Supreme Court had asked the government to stop the linkage of Aadhaar with subsidy payments altogether. The committee's report will now be examined by the Narendra Modi government.

"Diversion of subsidy is a major concern and the DBT for LPG scheme was a step to check the diversion. The committee has only pointed out what went wrong. It is up to the government to implement with Aadhaar or with another identification tool that can effectively help weed out people with duplicate connections," an official in the Planning Commission said.

India over-reporting green cover, study finds

[Jayashree Nandi](#), TNN | Jun 5, 2014, 06.30 AM IST

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/environment/flora-fauna/India-over-reporting-green-cover-study-finds/articleshow/36083420.cms>


NEW DELHI: On World Environment Day, this could be worrying news for the new environment minister. A study by forest researchers from the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) has concluded that India could be grossly "over-reporting" its forest cover.

The researchers say that the existing forest cover, in reality, may be what the Forest Survey of India had reported back in 1997. This is because, they say, a large area that the government has been including under the forest category actually comprises commercial plantations, including those for coffee, arecanut, cashew, rubber, fruit orchards, parks and gardens.

The reason behind this, the study claims, is that India's ambiguous definition of the word 'forest' which doesn't differentiate between tree cover on agricultural land and natural forests.

The Forest Survey of India (FSI) defines forest cover to be "all lands more than one hectares in area, with tree canopy density of more than 10%, irrespective of ownership and legal status". This definition could well mean that manmade forests or monocultures (farmland used to grow only one type of crop) are being considered forests.

BURSTING THE BUBBLE

69 mha Total forest cover	63 mha Forest cover in 1997	Plantation	Land (in hectares)
8.79 mha under plantations and orchards		Tea	579.4
		Coffee	409.6
		Arecanut	463.9
		Coconut	1894.6
		Rubber	734.8
		Citrus	846.5
		Mango	2297.0
		Saffron	2.9
		Oil palm	164.0
		Almond & walnut	137.0
		Apple	282.9
		Cashewnut	978.8
FSI DEFINITION OF FORESTS All lands more than one hectare in area, with a tree canopy density of more than 10%, irrespective of ownership and legal status		Total	8791.4

"If plantations are being included in forest area, it has huge implications for biodiversity and may even change the way we look at forests," said NH Ravindranath, lead author of the study.

The FSI has been reporting a steady increase in forest cover — from 63 million hectares (mha) in 1997 to 69mha in 2011. But to verify the exact area under natural forests which can represent biodiversity, the team of researchers gathered data of area under various plantations from the agriculture ministry.

It put together all probable monocultures that may be being reported as forests and found this to together measure 8.79mha or 12.7% of our total forest area. They also calculated the year-wise increase in the area under plantations, which also showed a steady increase. The increase in plantation area may be even masking deforestation in India.

"Inclusions of plantations of eucalyptus, casurina and poplar under forest area is questionable from a conservation perspective. India could be potentially under-reporting deforestation by reporting only gross forest area," the study concludes.

"Our afforestation rates could be higher than deforestation rates, showing a continuous increase in forest cover," the study points. TOI had earlier reported about a study by Ravindranath on April 19, 2012, that found that FSI's method of reporting forest cover was masking deforestation to a large extent.

The current study raises doubts about India's tall claims about afforesting 1 mha every year.

"India has been implementing one of the largest afforestation programmes in the world and annually between 1 and 1.5 mha has been afforested since 1980. Large investment is going into afforestation programmes in India and it is not clear how much of the planted area has survived and matured into forests," Ravindranath said. The team suggests the government modify the current forest area reporting format.

CAT to be Conducted Again by IIM- Indore

<http://www.jagranjosh.com/articles/cat-to-be-conducted-again-by-iim-indore-1401864319-1>

The Indian Institute of Management (IIM-Indore) has again been entrusted with the responsibility to conduct Common Admission Test (CAT) for the year 2014, regardless of facing many cases filed against it for alleged discrepancies found in the results of CAT 2013.

IIM-Indore will be the only institute to be given the responsibility of conducting CAT for two years consecutively, which is usually handed over to distinct IIM's in a rotational manner.

Before IIM-Indore, the task was given to IIM-Kozhikode to convene the CAT, which brought many disagreements since, scorecards of 80 were found to be tampered with. The joint statement issued by IIMs mentioned that fiddling with scorecards did not affect the results in anyway and admission process remained unbiased since they used the master database for short listing candidates.

After the scam of tampering with scorecards surfaced in June 2013 the Ministry of human resources and development (MHRD) noticing that the rotational pattern was unfit, asked IIM directors to hand over the CAT conducting task to the same institute if it was found successful in conducting the test.

Hence, the IIM – Indore have been assigned with this duty of conducting CAT again as told by an IIM-I professor.

For 2014 CAT, IIM Indore's computer test conducting partner will be Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) since the former firm, called Prometric, based in US had its contract of 5 years ended in 2013.

CAT is a way to get admission in 13 IIM's and some 150 other reputed non-IIMs Management colleges and B-schools.