

# Newspaper Clips

June 9, 2011

Times of India ND 9/06/2011 p-7

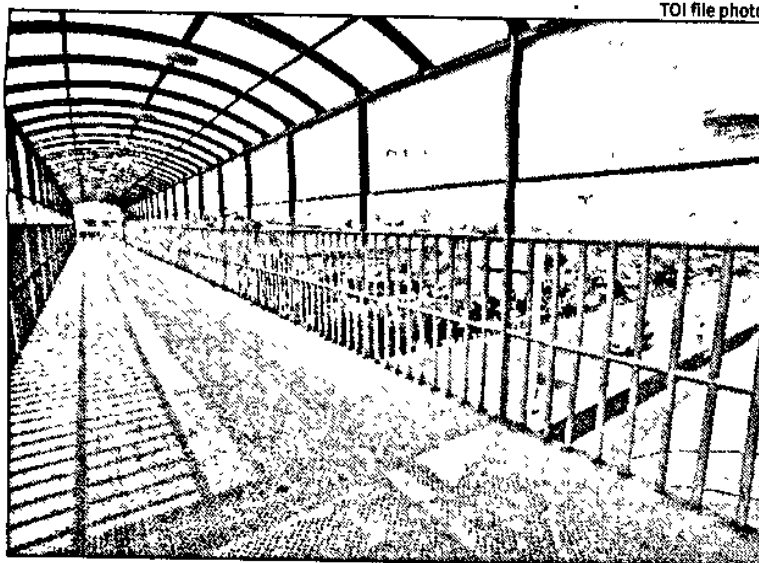
## PWD to check 'dubious' projects

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** After the Delhi government ordered a thorough quality checking of all infrastructure projects about which the chief vigilance commissioner had raised questions, the Public Works Department (PWD) said that load testing and other tests would be carried out after consultation with IIT Delhi in connection with six of its projects.

The chief technical examination wing of CVC and the CBI have raised questions in connection with six PWD projects - grade separator at Raja Ram Kohli Marg, flyover at Nariana, Ghazipur grade separator, streetscaping work, elevated road on Barapullah nallah and Ring Road bypass project.

"We have provided them with files relating to all these projects," said an official. A load test or other tests will now be carried out after consultation with IIT Delhi. "The samples for three of the projects - grade separator at Raja Ram Kohli Marg, flyover at Nariana and Ghazipur grade separator - have been failed



TOI file photo

**UNDER SCRUTINY:** PWD will carry out quality checks of six of its projects in consultation with IIT-Delhi

by CTE we are going to be writing to IIT Delhi to carry out load samples of these projects," said PWD spokesperson, Sudhir Kumar.

A recent report on deficiencies in CWG-related works by CTE, specifically mentioned higher rates, poor quality control and substandard material, among others, in the PWD-approved projects worth Rs1,315.66 crore.

Meanwhile, foot overbridges (FOB) in many parts

of the city, which were constructed at a cost of crores, are lying in a state of neglect as the PWD is yet to install escalators in these FOBs. In fact, in areas like Srinivaspuri where an FOB has been constructed along the Ring Road, escalators parts have been stolen and the escalator is lying on the roadside gathering dust.

The civic body has now had to send a notice to blacklist the contractor carrying

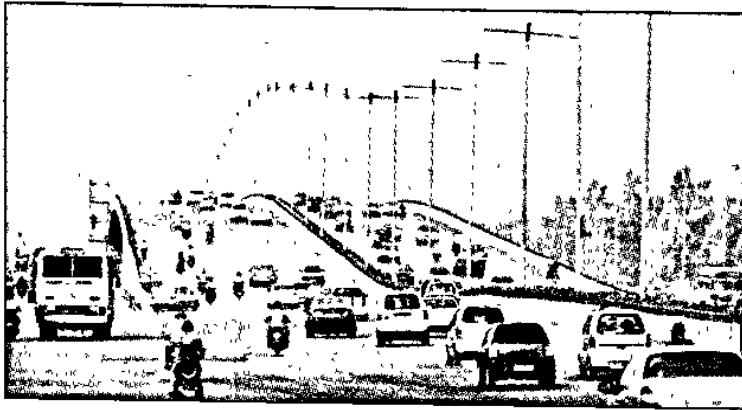
out work on-site asking them to complete the work of installing escalators to avoid being blacklisted. Meanwhile, the civic body admitted that some of the FOBs in the city were under-utilized and claimed that they are now going to make FOBs with lifts to ensure that more pedestrians make use of them.

"The support structure of the FOB in Srinivaspuri was stolen. The escalators have been lying there since before the Commonwealth Games. As per the contractual agreement, it is the responsibility of the contractor to replace the stolen parts. We have asked the contractor to do so to avoid being blacklisted. Since these are imported parts, it is taking time to procure them but the escalators should be installed by July-end," said an official.

Escalators at the FOB near Hasanpur are yet to be installed and according to a recent survey carried out by traffic police, this FOB is hardly being used by pedestrians. In many areas, the escalators which have been installed are not even in working condition.

## DURABILITY ASSESSMENT

# Load testing: PWD to check flyover facts



■ For better maintenance of roads, flyovers and bridges constructed during the Games, the public works department has strengthened its maintenance team.

HT FILE PHOTO

### HT Correspondent

■ htreporters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** The public works department (PWD) will carry out 'load testing' on three flyover projects — Raja Ram Kohli Marg, Naraina and Ghazipur — some time later this month.

The three flyovers were constructed before the Commonwealth Games and concrete samples lifted by the chief technical examiner office (CTEO) of the central vigilance commission (CVC) had later failed. "Load testing has to be done under the supervision of the Indian Institute of Technology. The CTEO is likely to write to the IIT next week. We will then discuss it with the IIT and carry out the exercise," PWD director (works) Sudhir Kumar said.

He, however, added that load testing is not required to be carried out on the Barapulah elevated road. "The CTEO has also dropped most of the paras of objections on these three flyovers, the Ring Road bypass project, Barapullah elevated road project and the streetlight works, after getting convinced by the replied we had sent."

Apart from the CVC, the CBI

and the Comptroller and Auditor General office are also probing into various projects taken up by the PWD during the Games.

### NEW PROJECTS

Briefing the media on new projects being taken up by the PWD after the CWG, Kumar said the focus has now shifted on the BRT corridors. "We are getting the detailed project report (DPR) on seven BRT corridors. The technical and financial bid for the DPR on Narela-Azadpur corridor has already been called.

### PEDESTRIAN BRIDGES

Accepting that there are several pedestrian bridges that should have been completed before the Games but got delayed, PWD engineers said they have put the project on fast track. Bridges, including the one near Hasanpur depot and Road no. 56 in east Delhi, will also be completed in a month, he added.

### MAINTENANCE ZONE

For better maintenance of roads, flyovers and bridges constructed during the Games, the PWD has strengthened its team and created a new maintenance zone, Kumar said.

Deccan Herald B'lore 07.06.11, p-9

## IIT Kanpur designs cheap knee implants

**KANPUR,PTI:** In order to produce an indigenous and cheaper alternative to the existing costly knee implants, IIT-Kanpur has tied up with GSVM medical college to design cheaper knee implants.

These implants would soon replace the costly internation-

ally designed models and make the treatment economical.

IIT Kanpur will provide technical support to GSVM Medical College to jointly design these knee implants within six months.

The implants, currently being used for treatment cost between Rs 35,000 to 40,000.

However, with the new indigenously designed implants the cost would come down to approximately around Rs 13,000.

"For people suffering from knee pain, a technique known as High Tibial Osteotomy (HTO) can serve as a substitute for knee replacement surgery. It has a faster recovery period

and is significantly cheaper."

"Internationally designed implants made HTO extremely expensive for patients. This compelled us to start designing our own cost effective implants, for patients," Prof Anand Swaroop, principal and Head of the Orthopaedic Department of GSVM Medical College said.

Hindustan Times ND 9/06/2011

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# AIIMS cancels 11 selections

**Abhishek Sharan**

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**NEW DELHI:** An inter-state network of racketeers, who allegedly manipulated the All India Institute of Medical Sciences' (AIIMS) May 8 entrance examination, had helped 11 candidates qualify and even get high ranks on the merit list in lieu of money, a probe by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has revealed.

AIIMS authorities have cancelled the selection of these 11 candidates and struck off their names from the merit list on receipt of the probe's findings from the CBI.

The CBI had on Friday bust-

ed the racket, allegedly led by radiologist Mahipal Singh, who has done his post graduate course in radiology from AIIMS.

"We are aware of the CBI's probe's findings. We have corrected the deficiencies in the AIIMS-PG entrance exam's merit list that was published on May 27. The selection of the 11 candidates has been cancelled

**THE CANDIDATES HAD ALLEGEDLY NOT ANSWERED A MAJORITY OF THE QUESTIONS ASKED IN THE TEST, SAID A CBI OFFICIAL**

," Aiims's spokesperson Dr YK Gupta told HT. "We had retained the original answer sheets submitted by the candidates that were compared with the manipulated copies and the differences were seen," Gupta added. The candidates had allegedly not answered a majority of the questions asked in the test, said a CBI official.

"Some candidates, who appeared in the AIIMS PG exam on May 8, answered only a few questions and left most of the OMR (optical mark recognition/reader) sheet blank, but still secured high positions in the merit list published by AIIMS on May 27," said a source from the CBI source.

**REFORM PROPOSAL**

# Higher education plan finds few supporters

BY PRASHANT K. NANDA  
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NEW DELHI

A day after giving their nod to the Union government's plans for school education reform, state education ministers on Wednesday cold-shouldered proposals for reforming higher education.

Union human resource development (HRD) minister Kapil Sibal's suggestions on setting up so-called model colleges and Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIITs), and reforming state universities found few supporters at a meeting that included ministers from some Congress-ruled states.

Sibal's proposal to set up 374 model colleges in backward districts drew virtually everyone's ire, with state ministers disagreeing with the land requirement and fund-sharing aspects of the plan.

"They want ₹8 crore for setting up a college and ₹6 crore will be the state's share. This is not fair," said Jitendra Singh, higher education minister of Rajasthan. The state is ruled by the Congress party, which also heads the Union government.

The recurring cost of running these colleges is also to be borne by the state government, according to the Union ministry's proposal.

Singh said states need not report to the Union ministry if they can raise so much money on their own.

Laxmikant Sharma, Madhya Pradesh higher education minister, said the Union and state governments should equally share the investment in such

colleges. His colleagues from Bihar and Uttar Pradesh agreed.

Although the Union government plans to establish 374 model colleges, it had received only 125 proposals from various states by the end of May.

Bihar's human resource development minister P.K. Shahi objected to the Union ministry's proposal that there should be no political interference in the appointment of vice-chancellors at state universities.

"We can understand about academic autonomy, but to say that there should not be any political interference is not fair," he said. "At the end of the day, they are people's representatives and if anything goes wrong with the education system, then they are accountable."

States have also shown little interest in setting up 20 IIITs as public-private-partnership projects. "We have received only three-four proposals. The response has been slow," said Ashok Thakur, additional secretary at the Union HRD ministry.

Sibal said he would sit down again with state representatives later this year to discuss university reforms. "We will ask them to give us a long-term road-map."

The minister said he would also talk to university authorities to implement 27% reservation for other backward classes (OBCs) as some universities have not done so.

On Tuesday, state education ministers had agreed to Sibal's proposal to make education compulsory until class X and bring a law to curb unfair practices in schools.

Publication: The Times Of India Delhi; Date: Jun 9, 2011; Section: Times Nation; Page: 15;

# Low-cost laptops set to roll out after 6 yrs

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Six years after it was conceived, the first lot of 10,000 laptops—the HRD ministry calls it low-cost access-cum-computing device — would be delivered to IIT-Rajasthan in late June, and over the next four months 90,000 more would be made available at Rs 2,200 apiece.

The announcement was made at the state education ministers' conference. Ministry officials said once the supply of one lakh devices is made, each state would be given 3,000 pieces. The Centre would subsidize 50% of the cost. Effectively, a student would have to pay Rs 1,100. Officials said manu-

facturing of one lakh laptops has been done in India.

As for the cost escalation from the earlier promised price of Rs 1,500, officials said it is due to increase in input cost.

“But once more orders are placed, the price would be renegotiated and brought down to Rs 1,500,” an official said.

IIT-Rajasthan is the nodal institute for conceiving and monitoring the progress of manufacturing of these gadgets. The delay in rolling out the laptops, officials explained, took place as the first company, which was given the contract to manufacture one lakh pieces, was bought over.



## Low-cost 'tablets' for college students

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 8

STATES will soon get around 3,000 'tablets' or low-cost computing devices each for field tests by the end of next month. Around a lakh of such devices have been purchased. The sample pieces will soon be dispatched to testing centres at IIT Jodhpur and Kanpur before they are given to the states.

They are meant for undergraduate and postgraduate students. Manufactured by Canadian firm Datawind Ltd, each device costs around Rs 2,200, of which the Central government will contribute around 50 per cent. The government is planning to procure around 1 million units in the first phase.

Union Minister for Human Resource Development Kapil Sibal launched the tablet called *Sakshat* last year. Aimed to bridge the class divide and providing technology access, the tablets use Linux and include features such as WiFi connectivity, PDF Reader, Open Office, touchscreen ability, remote device management capability, multi-media input-output interface option, built-in keyboard, 2 GB RAM and a USB port.

## B-schools consortium flags off common admission

**Our Bureau**

*Hyderabad June 8*

Consortium of Management Education (COME), a collaboration of 52 business schools in India, mostly from Mumbai and Pune, has created a common platform for holding Centralised Admission Process (CAP) for its member institutes.

The online common selection process for admission into various PG diploma courses on business management will be conducted in Hyderabad on June 14 and 15.

The admission process includes a group discussion and personal interview, which will be conducted at various locations such as Mumbai, Pune, Nagpur, Hyderabad, New Delhi, Bangalore and Bhubaneswar.

"The 52-member institutes in the consortium is offering about 36 verticals, such as bio-technology, agriculture, pharmaceutical, banking and insurance business management," Dr Pradeep Bawadekar, a member of the consortium, told newsmen here on Wednesday.

He said the consortium, which invites only AICTE-approved institutes, was willing to take on board institutes from other States as members. The consortium is offering a total of 10,000 seats across its member institutes.

There is an estimated 550 AICTE-approved institutions with a total offering of 50,000 seats.

On the placement rate, Dr Bawadekar said the average track record across the member institutes was between 85 per cent and 90 per cent placement.

# 'Indian B-schools need to make a global mark'

**Our Bureau**

*New Delhi, June 8*

Indian B-schools need to encourage students to go in for management research to make a mark globally. This may also help the country tackle the problem of lack of quality faculty, said Professor Sanjay Kallapur, Senior Associate Dean - Faculty & Research, ISB-Hyderabad.

"Indian B-schools have a much longer history than China, but virtually no global presence," he said in a media interaction here on Wednesday.

According to the US National Science Foundation, in 2009, the number of Chinese students enrolled in US B-schools for Ph.D was 1,260 compared with only 390 from India.

"Most Indian Ph.D students in the US are lapped up by B-schools in countries



other than India, creating a faculty vacuum here," he said, and added that B-schools here needed to create an atmosphere of research.

## **PUBLISHED PAPERS**

In the field of published pa-

pers in US management journals, too, India is way behind China.

Citing a study by UT Dallas, which ranks B-schools by the number of research papers published in the top 24 US management journals, Prof Kallapur said during

2008-11, there were 25 B-schools from China with published papers compared with only three from India.

"Data availability is rich in India, but the material is not accessible to management researchers in a friendly format," he said.

Prof Kallapur said ISB had made some headway in encouraging students to pursue Ph.D.

"Two of our students have done well. One has joined Wharton and the other is part of the ISB faculty. We are also recruiting research associates."

Admitting that faculty salaries was a key reason for not drawing students to research, he said India, despite having abundant talent, was losing out to not only the US but also Singapore and Hong Kong on this front.

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# All In The Cloud

## *Apple raises the stakes with iCloud*

**A**nother IT revolution is impending, which may make the personal computer go the way of the typewriter or the cassette tape recorder. This week Apple launched iCloud – its cloud-computing service. Transferring all data processing and storage capacity to the cloud – or remote server factories – has radical consequences for the PC market. Desktop computers could soon contract to basic input/output devices. Theoretically, smartphones or tablets would suffice to cater to all our computing needs. And these would be ubiquitous, rendering personal work files, music, pictures and data radically mobile. With Apple throwing down the gauntlet competitors are bound to join the fray, maturing the cloud-computing market. Instead of lugging our laptops around everywhere, we could afford to unchain ourselves from them.

Cloud computing has the potential to shrink our computing world, making hardware smaller and cheaper. Digital illiteracy is a serious impediment to empowerment in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, but allowing many people to share the same digital infrastructure could make the digital divide a thing of the past. Cloud-computing technology can have knock-on effects on education, as cheap and simple devices could enhance learning in schools and colleges. It will also boost small businesses as they harness the power of the cloud to avail of quality IT services with minimal investment. On the supply side, demand will be driven by the need for customisation. Security is a prime concern with cloud computing, and service providers that tackle this issue effectively will have the edge. The domestic cloud-computing industry is projected to grow into a Rs 2,434-crore market by 2014. Once hooked on, the cloud could redefine our digital lives.



# India's top 50 engineering colleges 2011

June 9, 2011 08:23 IST (<http://www.rediff.com/getahead/slide-show/slide-show-1-career-indias-top-50-engineering-colleges-2011/20110609.htm> )

Ranking the top colleges is a very difficult task. While it is relatively easy to create clusters of colleges, it is differentiating within clusters that became the most difficult exercise. So for the first time in the country we have used balanced scorecard methodology to arrive at the ranking of the top 50 colleges.

## **Ranking methodology**

We scanned the last five year rankings of about 241 colleges and normalised their ranks, by assigning differential weights to subjective and objective ranking. Such a process is used to develop clusters of institutions. The research standing of individual institutions were further used to refine the clusters and remove the odd men out.

Individual clusters were ranked serially. In each of these clusters the differences in cut-off marks, wherever possible (like in case of IITs and AIEEE institutes and some States) were used to arrive at individual ranks.

## INDIA'S TOP 50 ENGINEERING INSTITUTIONS 2011

INSTITUTE	2010 GRADE	2011
IIT-Bombay	AAA+	1
IIT-Delhi	AAA+	2
IIT-Madras	AAA+	3
IIT-Kanpur	AAA+	4
IIT-Kharagpur	AAA+	5
IIT-Roorkee	AAA	6
IIT-Guwahati	AAA	7
IT-BHU, Varanasi	AAA	8
BITS, Pilani	-	9
Jadavpur University, Jadavpur	AAA+	10
Anna University, Chennai	AAA+	11
NIT-Tiruchirappalli	AAA	12
NIT-Rourkela	AA	13
BIT-Mesra	A+	14
ISM-Dhanbad	AA+	15
VIT University, Vellore	AAA	16
Thapar University, Patiala	AAA+	17
NIT-Warangal	-	18
NIT-Surathkal	AAA	19
NSIT, New Delhi	AAA+	20
IIIT-Hyderabad	AAA	21
ICT Mumbai (UDCT)	-	22
NIT-Calicut	AAA	23
Delhi Technological University	AAA+	24
MNNIT-Allahabad	AAA	25

# आईआईटी विशेषज्ञ करेंगे तीन बड़े फ्लाईओवरों की जांच

नई दिल्ली (एसएनबी)। कामनवेल्थ गेम्स से जुड़ी लोक निर्माण विभाग की तीन महत्वपूर्ण परियोजनाओं की गुणवत्ता की जांच अब आईआईटी के विशेषज्ञ करेंगे। आईआईटी के विशेषज्ञों से जांच कराने की संसृति मुख्य तकनीकी परीक्षक ने की है। इन परियोजनाओं में राजाराम कोहली फ्लाईओवर, नारायणा फ्लाईओवर तथा गाजीपुर ग्रेड सेपरेटर है। जांच के दौरान इनकी भार वहन क्षमता तथा निर्माण सामग्री को परखा जायेगा।

लोक निर्माण विभाग के डायरेक्टर वर्कर्स सुधीर कुमार ने बुधवार को पत्रकारों से बार्ता करते हुए यह जानकारी दी। उनके साथ विभाग के चीफ इंजीनियर विनय कुमार तथा दिनेश कुमार के अलावा दिवाकर अग्रवाल भी मौजूद थे। उन्होंने बताया कि मुख्य तकनीकी परीक्षक सीटीई द्वारा राजाराम कोहली, नारायणा फ्लाईओवरों, गाजीपुर ग्रेड सेपरेटर,

बारापुला एलीवेटेड रोड, रिंग रोड बाईपास तथा स्टीट लाइट का निरीक्षण किया गया था तथा इस निरीक्षण के दौरान जितने भी नमूने लिये गये थे उनमें अधिकतर सही साबित हुए हैं। उन्होंने बताया कि नारायणा फ्लाईओवर तथा राजाराम कोहली व गाजीपुर ग्रेड सेपरेटर को लेकर कुछ आपत्तियां हैं जिसके लिए सीटीई ने आईआईटी के विशेषज्ञों से जांच कराने की सिफारिश की है। उन्होंने बताया कि सीटीई की सिफारिश पर अब आईआईटी

के विशेषज्ञ उक्त तीनों परियोजनाओं की भार वहन क्षमता व निर्माण सामग्री की जांच करेंगे। इसके अलावा स्टीट स्केपिंग की जांच भी की जायेगी।

उन्होंने बताया कि कामनवेल्थ परियोजनाओं का काम खत्म होने के बाद अब लोक निर्माण विभाग ने आगामी परियोजनाओं की तैयारी शुरू कर दी है जिनमें सात प्रमुख बीआरटी कोरीडोर की विस्तृत परियोजना रिपोर्ट तैयार कराने सहित कालिंदी बाईपास निर्माण, बारापुला एलीवेटेड रोड के दूसरे चरण का निर्माण, ईस्ट वेस्ट कोरीडोर का निर्माण, अस्पतालों का निर्माण, मौजूदा इमारतों को भूकंप रोधी बनाने

▶ लाइट स्ट्रेट के अलावा होगी निर्माण सामग्री की जांच

संबंधी कार्य शामिल हैं। उन्होंने बताया कि उक्त परियोजनाओं के लिए विभाग ने कंसल्टेंट नियुक्त करने आदि की प्रक्रिया शुरू कर दी है। उन्होंने बताया कि बारापुला एलीवेटेड रोड का निर्माण इससे आगे

दूसरे व तीसरे चरण में किया जायेगा, दूसरे चरण में इस रोड का विस्तार आईएनए तक तथा तीसरे चरण में इस रोड को यमुना पर ब्रिज बनाकर पूर्वी दिल्ली तक ले जाया जायेगा। एक सवाल के जवाब में उन्होंने बताया कि कालिंदी कुंज बाईपास को विभाग ने पब्लिक प्राइवेट पार्टनरशिप के तहत बनाने का निर्णय लिया है और अब बस कंसल्टेंट की नियुक्ति हेतु अनुमति का इंतजार किया जा रहा है।

Nai Duniya ND 9/06/2011 P-8

# भारत और अमेरिका की शिक्षा प्रणाली

## उपकार चोपड़ा

बात 1977 की है। मैं नया-नया प्रवासी भारतीय बनकर अमेरिका पहुंचा था। नौकरी की तलाश कर रहा था। कहीं भी नौकरी के लिए जाता तो मुझे भारतीय इंजीनियर तो स्वीकार किया जाता परंतु अमेरिका में नौकरी का अनुभव नहीं होने के कारण कोई भी नौकरी देने को तैयार नहीं था। यहां तक कि क्लर्क की नौकरी भी देने के लिए कोई तैयार नहीं था। ओवर क्वालिफाइड कहकर मुझे टरका दिया जाता। एक दिन मैं एक ऐसी नौकरी के लिए इंटरव्यू देने गया जहां नया-नया हाई स्कूल पास करके एक और लड़का आया हुआ था। दोनों को एक टेस्ट पेपर दिया गया जिसमें सीधे-सादे जोड़-घटाव और गुणा-भाग के प्रश्न थे। मैंने तुरंत उन प्रश्नों के उत्तर लिख दिए। सभी प्रश्नों के उत्तर सही थे। दूसरी तरफ हाई स्कूल पास नवयुवक ने उन प्रश्नों के उत्तर देने में काफी समय लगाया, फिर भी उसके सभी उत्तर ठीक नहीं थे। दोनों में से एक को भी वह नौकरी नहीं मिली क्योंकि मैं तो ओवर क्वालिफाइड था और दूसरे के उत्तर ठीक नहीं थे।

उस नवयुवक के उत्तर ठीक नहीं थे तो इसके लिए उसे संपूर्ण रूप से दोषी नहीं ठहराया जा सकता, कुछ दोष शिक्षा प्रणाली को भी दिया जा सकता है। भारत की शिक्षा प्रणाली में बचपन से ही पहाड़ों पर जोर दिया जाता है और अमेरिका में दस से ऊपर की संख्या के पहाड़े पढ़ाने को महत्व नहीं दिया जाता, क्योंकि अधिक संख्या के गुणा-भाग के लिए कैलकुलेटर होता है। अमेरिका के छात्र कैलकुलेटर का प्रयोग सहायता प्राप्त करने के लिए ही नहीं करते बल्कि उस पर निर्भर होते हैं, जिसकी वजह से उन बच्चों की दिमागी कसरत नहीं होती और वे अपने दिमाग से गणित हल करने की ओर अधिक ध्यान नहीं देते।

भारत की शिक्षा प्रणाली 10+2 है और इस प्रणाली के अंतर्गत पहली कक्षा से लेकर बारहवीं कक्षा तक अर्द्धवार्षिक और वार्षिक परीक्षा पास करने के बाद ही छात्र को अगली कक्षा में शिक्षा के लिए भेजा जाता है। इसके बाद दसवीं और बारहवीं की बोर्ड परीक्षाएं होती हैं और इन परीक्षाओं के पास होने के बाद ही कॉलेज में शिक्षा प्राप्त करने का पासपोर्ट मिलता है।

हाल ही में प्रसारित एक कार्यक्रम में दिखाया गया था कि कुछ छात्रों ने एमआईटी में प्रवेश पाने के लिए प्रार्थना पत्र भरा था। आईआईटी की प्रतियोगी परीक्षा में अच्छे अंक नहीं होने के कारण उन्हें आईआईटी में प्रवेश तो नहीं मिला पर विश्व की सर्वश्रेष्ठ संस्था एमआईटी में प्रवेश मिल गया यानी भारतीय शिक्षा संस्थान में प्रवेश पाना अमेरिकी शिक्षा संस्थान से अधिक कठिन है।

तकनीकी और मेडिकल कॉलेजों में प्रवेश पाने की परीक्षाओं में भी अच्छे अंक लाने की विशेष जरूरत होती है। अमेरिकी शिक्षा प्रणाली में भी कक्षा 12 के बाद कॉलेज में प्रवेश हो सकता है। अंतर सिर्फ इतना है कि वहां अगली कक्षा में जाने के लिए वार्षिक या अर्द्धवार्षिक परीक्षाएं नहीं होतीं। सिर्फ नियमित रूप से होने वाले टेस्टों पर ग्रेड ए, बी, सी, डी, ई और एफ दिए जाते हैं। स्कूल के अध्यापक, अध्यापिकाएं छात्रों को स्कूल समय के अलावा कक्षा में ग्रेड बढ़ाने में सहायता करने के लिए तैयार रहते हैं और छात्रों के ग्रेड बढ़ाने के सुझाव अंभवावकों को देते हैं। इसके बावजूद किसी छात्र का ग्रेड यदि एफ आता है, तब भी उसे अगली कक्षा में भेज दिया जाता है। यह कैसी विडम्बना है? इस प्रश्न का उत्तर एक अध्यापिका इस तरह देती हैं कि हर कक्षा में एक ही उम्र के बच्चे होते हैं। यदि ग्रेड एफ की वजह से छात्रों को उसी कक्षा को दोबारा करने के लिए मजबूर किया जाए तो उन छात्रों के मस्तिष्क पर तनाव बढ़ जाएगा और वे छात्र दूसरे छात्रों के साथ झगड़ा करेंगे जिससे दूसरे छात्रों की पढ़ाई पर भी असर पड़ेगा। ऐसा भी देखा गया है पिछली कक्षा में ग्रेड एफ आने के बावजूद वे अगली कक्षा में अच्छा करते हैं।

मेरा एक अमेरिकी मित्र अपने पुत्र के बारे में बताता है कि जब वह कक्षा नौ में पहुंचा तो उसका ध्यान शिक्षा की ओर से



हटकर संगीत की ओर बढ़ गया। वह स्कूल की कक्षाओं में देर से जाने लगा और कभी-कभी कक्षाएं छोड़कर घर आ जाता और संगीत का अभ्यास करता। पिता के समझाने का असर बिल्कुल नहीं होता। दसवीं कक्षा में पहुंचते ही कक्षाओं में उसकी उपस्थिति कम होती गई। कक्षा सारह में पहुंचते ही वह पचास प्रतिशत से भी कम कक्षाओं में उपस्थित होने लगा। कक्षाओं में होने वाली परीक्षा पत्रों के उत्तर में सिर्फ कोरा कागज अध्यापक को थमा आता था। कुछ समय तक यह सिलसिला चलता रहा, फिर उसने स्कूल जाना बिल्कुल बंद कर दिया और अपने पिता से कह दिया कि अध्ययन उसके बस का रोग नहीं है। इस तरह उसने कक्षा 12 की शिक्षा कभी पूरी नहीं की।

अमेरिका के पचास बड़े शहरों में 58 प्रतिशत छात्र हाई स्कूल की शिक्षा समाप्त होने से पहले ही पढ़ाई छोड़ देते हैं। यदि पूरे अमेरिका के आंकड़े देखें तो लगभग दस प्रतिशत छात्र अपनी हाई स्कूल की शिक्षा पूरी नहीं करते। यह अमेरिकी शिक्षा की एक शोचनीय अवस्था है जिसका हल अमेरिकी सरकार के पास अब तक तो नहीं है।

भारत के विभिन्न राज्यों में कक्षा 10 तथा 12 की बोर्ड परीक्षाएं होती हैं। इन परीक्षाओं के आधार पर छात्र कॉलेज में प्रवेश पा सकते हैं। अमेरिकी शिक्षा प्रणाली थोड़ी भिन्न है।

12वीं की पढ़ाई पूरी करने के बाद हाईस्कूल डिप्लोमा तो मिल जाता है परंतु किसी अच्छे कॉलेज में प्रवेश पाने के लिए एसएटी स्कॉलैस्टिक एटीट्यूट टेस्ट या स्कॉलैस्टिक एसेसमेंट टेस्ट देना पड़ता है। जिन छात्रों के हाई स्कूल के विषयों में अच्छे ग्रेड और एसएटी परीक्षा में अधिक अंक होते हैं उन्हें अच्छे कॉलेज या विश्वविद्यालय में प्रवेश मिलने में आसानी हो जाती है।

मेसाचुसेट्स इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ टेक्नोलॉजी (एमआईटी) में किसी छात्र का प्रवेश एक गर्व की बात मानी जाती है। हाल ही में सीबीएसटीवी नेटवर्क '60 मिनिट' पत्रिका में प्रसारित कार्यक्रम भारतीय शिक्षा प्रणाली में दिखाया गया था कि भारतीय तकनीकी संस्थानों में प्रवेश पाने के लिए छात्रों को कक्षा 12वीं की परीक्षा पास करने के बाद प्रतियोगी परीक्षाएं देनी पड़ती हैं और सर्वश्रेष्ठ छात्र ही इन तकनीकी संस्थानों में प्रवेश पा सकते हैं। इस कार्यक्रम में यह भी दिखाया गया था कि कुछ छात्रों ने एमआईटी में प्रवेश पाने के लिए प्रार्थना पत्र भरा था और आईआईटी की प्रतियोगी परीक्षा में सर्वोच्च अंक न होने के कारण उन्हें आईआईटी में प्रवेश नहीं मिला पर विश्व की सर्वश्रेष्ठ संस्था एमआईटी में प्रवेश मिल गया। इसका अर्थ यह हुआ भारतीय शिक्षा संस्थान में प्रवेश पाना अमेरिकी शिक्षा संस्थान से अधिक कठिन है। इस कार्यक्रम में यह भी बताया गया था कि भारत में शिक्षा प्राप्त इंजीनियर विषय में सर्वश्रेष्ठ हैं।

भारत में कक्षा 12 के छात्र प्रतियोगी परीक्षा पास कर एमबीबीएस की शिक्षा प्राप्त कर सकते हैं परंतु अमेरिका में मेडिकल शिक्षा स्नातक की डिग्री के बाद शुरू होती है और एमडी की डिग्री मिलती है। यही कारण है कि अमेरिकी अस्पतालों में विदेशी शिक्षा प्राप्त अधिक डॉक्टर मिलते हैं।

अमेरिका में 2618 विश्वविद्यालय और कॉलेज हैं जबकि भारत में 300 विश्वविद्यालय और 15,600 कॉलेज हैं। भारत में हर वर्ष 25 लाख छात्र स्नातक की डिग्री प्राप्त करते हैं, जबकि अमेरिकी स्नातकों की संख्या बहुत कम है। अमेरिका में भारतीय शिक्षा प्राप्त इंजीनियरों ने अपने देश का सम्मान बढ़ा रखा है। शायद इसी वजह से एक बार भूतपूर्व राष्ट्रपति बिल क्लिंटन ने कहा था कि आने वाले दस वर्षों में भारत संसार का सबसे शक्तिशाली देश बन जाएगा।

(लेखक अमेरिका में स्वतंत्र पत्रकार हैं।)