

## Newspaper Clips

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Hindustan Times ND 01/03/2015 P-18

# IIT in Karnataka, IIMs in J&K, Andhra and 5 more AIIMS

**HT Correspondent**

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**NEW DELHI:** Finance minister Arun Jaitley announced the setting up of five new All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), an Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) in Karnataka along with Indian Institutes of Management in Jammu and Kashmir, Andhra Pradesh.

“New AIIMS would come up in Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Himachal Pradesh and Assam. Keeping in view the need to augment medical services in Bihar, I propose to set up another AIIMS-like institution in the state,” he said, during his budget address on Saturday.

“In the fiscal year 2015-16, I propose to set up an IIT (Indian Institute of Technology) in Karnataka, and upgrade Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad into a full-fledged IIT,” Jaitley said.

Reacting to the budget, Aakash Chaudhry, director, Aakash Educational Services Pvt. Ltd

## THE BUDGET ENVISAGES THE SET UP OF AN AIIMS-LIKE INSTITUTE IN BIHAR AND UPGRADING ISM, DHANBAD INTO A FULL-FLEDGED IIT

said: “The proposal to open new AIIMS and an IIT in Karnataka is a welcome step along with giving IIT status to ISM Dhanbad, which is one of the oldest technical institutes in the country.”

The finance minister said that three new National Institutes of Pharmaceuticals Education and Research are proposed to be set up in Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh along with Institutes of Science and Education Research in Nagaland and Odisha. For the Northeast, a center for film production and animation will be set up in Arunachal Pradesh, while an Apprenticeship Training Institute for Women will be set in Haryana and Uttarakhand during 2015-16.

Indian Express ND 01/03/2015 P-18

# New IIT, IIMs but education sees 17% cut

**RUHI TEWARI**

EVEN as the NDA government announced new IITs and IIMs in the Budget, the allocation for the crucial education sector was slashed significantly by nearly 17 per cent as compared to the Budget Estimates of 2014-15, with school education bearing the brunt of the cut.

While the Department of School Education witnessed a budget cut of nearly Rs 13,000 crore, from Rs 55,115 crore to Rs 42,210 crore, the Department of Higher Education saw a cut of around Rs 800 crore to around 26,800 crore this fiscal. The HRD Ministry's flagship Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan also saw a cut from Rs 28,635 crore last fiscal to around Rs 22,000 crore now.

In the revised estimates for 2014-

15, while school education allocation was cut by around Rs 80,000 crore, that of higher education was slashed by Rs 4,000 crore.

The government announced new IIMs in J&K and Andhra Pradesh, and a new IIT in Karnataka.

Finance Minister Arun Jaitley also announced the decision to upgrade the Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad, into a full-fledged IIT, going against the recommendation of an expert committee headed by former IIT Mumbai director Ashok Mishra. The panel, constituted by the previous UPA government, had said it would dilute the institute's brand.

The Budget also seeks to make educational loans easier.

HRD Minister Smriti Irani praised the Budget for being "very pragmatic".

# EDUCATION INC Govt budgets for more central institutes; TN, Assam, K'taka and J&K to benefit

## AIIMS, IITs: Country Roads, Here We Come

Our Bureau

Budget 2015-16 reinforced the Narendra Modi government's intention of setting up one major central institute in each state, by announcing five new All India Institutes of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in J&K, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Himachal Pradesh and Assam; an IIT in Karnataka and IIMs in J&K and Andhra Pradesh.

Besides, Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad will be upgraded to a full-fledged IIT. It is, however, not clear whether the IIM in Andhra Pradesh as outlined by Arun Jaitley in his speech is IIM Vizag, for which the foundation stone was laid in January.

The other proposals outlined include a Post Graduate Institute of Horticulture Research and Education in Amritsar; three new National Institutes of Pharmaceutical Education and Research in

### Who Gets What



Post Graduate Institute of Horticulture Research and Education in Amritsar

3 new National Institutes of Pharmaceutical Education: Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh



Institutes of Science and Education Research: Nagaland and Odisha

Apprenticeship Training Institute for Women: Haryana and Uttarakhand

Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh; Institutes of Science and Education Research in Nagaland and Odisha, and Apprenticeship Training Institute for Women in Haryana and Uttarakhand.

To ensure that higher education is accessible to even the financially-

### For the Financially Challenged



IT-based Student Financial Aid Authority to be set up to administer and monitor scholarship as well as educational loan schemes

80,000 Secondary schools to be upgraded

75,000 Junior or middle schools to be added to senior secondary level

challenged, the FM also proposed a fully IT-based Student Financial Aid Authority to administer and monitor scholarship as well as educational loan schemes through the Pradhan Mantri Vidya Lakshmi Karyakram. At grass-roots level, there is need to upgrade over 80,000 secondary schools and add or up-

grade 75,000 junior or middle schools to the senior secondary level, Jaitley said. More institutes are welcome, but the question is how they will be backed up, asked Narayanan Ramaswamy, partner and head, education & skill development, KPMG India. "I expected the budget to be bolder in terms of allowing the PPP model to set up IITs, IIMs," he said.

IIM Calcutta's dean (academic) Anindya Sen said while more institutes are welcome as they allow students a wider choice, the ministry could be more proactive in helping with quick decision-making, coordination with state governments and the like. Others also stressed on this.

"It is not sustainable. One of the big issues is the faculty crunch. The older IITs themselves are having a tough time filling up faculty slots. For newer IITs, it is going to be tougher," said Suneet Tuli, dean-research and development, IIT Delhi. He added: "Land and infrastructure is another major issue."

Financial Chronicle ND 01/03/2015 P-7

## Govt claims boost to education but industry remains skeptical

S SHYAMALA  
Chennai

WHILE several sectors including telecom, automotive and healthcare were not even mentioned in the budget, the education sector was given a boost, the ripple effect of which is expected to trickle down to other industries in the long run, in terms of quality manpower. A total of Rs 68,968 crore has been allocated to the sector for all schemes including mid-day meals.

"The allocation is neither more nor less. It is average because it encompasses right from primary to higher education," said Thangam Meghanathan, head of the steering committee of the education panel of CII Tamil Nadu.

"However, the emphasis on higher educational institutions including AIIMS is good news."

As per the plan announced in the last budget to have premier higher educational institutions in every state, the government has proposed to establish an IIT in Karnataka and the Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad, is to be upgraded in to a full-fledged IIT. New All India Institute of Medical Science (AIIMS) are to be set up in Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Himachal Pradesh and Assam. Another AIIMS like institution is to come up in Bihar.

A postgraduate institute for horticulture research and education is to be set up in Amritsar. Three new National Institute of Phar-

maceuticals Education and Research are planned in Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh and one institute of Science and Education Research is to be set up in Nagaland and Orissa each.

In Kerala, the government proposes to upgrade the existing National Institute of Speech and Hearing to a University of Disability Studies and Rehabilitation. A centre for film production, animation and gaming is planned in Arunachal Pradesh, for the north-eastern states; and apprenticeship training institutes for women will be set up in Haryana and Uttarakhand.

"Less than five per cent of our potential work force gets formal skill training to be employable. A 'National

### Fund allocation

■ A total of Rs 68,968 crore has been allocated to the sector for all schemes including mid-day meals

■ Allocation is average because it encompasses right from primary to higher education

■ A postgraduate institute for horticulture research and education is to be set up in Amritsar

Skills Mission' to consolidate skill initiatives spread across several ministries is to be launched. The mission will consolidate skill initiatives spread across several ministries and allow us to standardise procedures and outcomes across our 31

sector skill councils. We are also planning Deen Dayal Upadhyay Gramin Kaushal Yojana to enhance the employability of rural youth. A student financial aid authority is also planned to administer and monitor the front-end of all scholarships as well educational loan schemes, through the Pradhan Mantri Vidya Lakshmi Karyakram," the finance minister said in his budget speech. An integrated education and livelihood scheme called 'Nai Manzil' will be launched this year to enable minority youth who do not have a formal school-leaving certificate to obtain one and find better employment.

Partha Jyengar, country manager (research) - India at Gartner, said: "On edu-

cation and skills development again, there are some strong announcements like creating a skills development fund, an innovation platform, and basic education availability within five km of every village. But, where are the teachers going to come from? So I would have expected a stronger technology-driven approach to expand rural education, which is missing from the budget announcement. The traditional classroom based approach to expanding education access will be a major challenge and instead a strong technology/remoted education process would be more effective."

The government also intends to establish the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM).

The mission will be an innovation promotion platform involving academics, entrepreneurs, and researchers and draw upon national and international experiences to foster a culture of innovation, R&D and scientific research in India. The platform will also promote a network of world class innovation hubs and grand challenges for India. Initially, a sum of Rs 150 crore will be earmarked for this purpose.

The budget gives low priority to child development and education, said Komal Ganotra, director-policy, at CRY. It has seen sharp decline in the child budget as proportion of the total outlay to 3.26 per cent.

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# New IITs, IIMs, pharma institutes bring cheer to education sector

## OUR CORRESPONDENT

**NEW DELHI:** Finance Minister Arun Jaitley announced that the government will set up an IIT in Karnataka as well as IIMs in Jammu and Kashmir and Andhra Pradesh. "In the fiscal year 2015-16, I propose to set up an IIT (Indian Institute of Technology) in Karnataka, and upgrade Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad into a full-fledged IIT," Jaitley said while presenting the Union Budget.

The minister, who gave his speech for over one and a half hours, also proposed to set up a Post Graduate Institute of

Horticulture Research and Education in Amritsar. "IIMs will be setup in Jammu and Kashmir and Andhra Pradesh. In Kerala, I propose to upgrade the existing National Institute of Speech and Hearing to a university of Disability

## HIGHER EDU

Studies and Rehabilitation," Jaitley said. The finance minister said that in his budget speech in July 2014, he had indicated his intention to have one major central institute in each state. He also proposed three new National Institutes of Pharmaceutical Educa-

tion and Research, one each in Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh. "...and an Institutes of Science and Education Research in Nagaland and Odisha. I also propose to set up a centre for film production, animation and gaming in Arunachal Pradesh, for the north-eastern states and Apprenticeship Training Institute for Women in Haryana and Uttarakhand," he said.

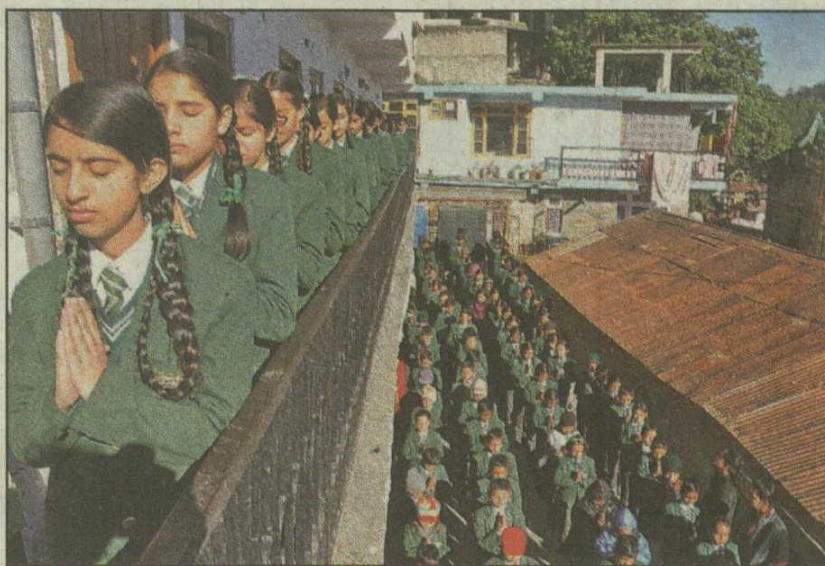
Meanwhile, the FM announced the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), an innovation promotion platform in the NITI Aayog, with an initial fund of Rs.150 crore for research and development.

# More IITs on blackboard, funding not chalked out

TEAM TOI

Finance minister Arun Jaitley continued the recent tradition of announcing new IITs, though the five announced last July and those promised by UPA-II are yet to start. The FM said a new Indian Institute of Technology will come up in Karnataka fulfilling a long-standing demand by the state, home to some of the world's biggest software companies. Higher education may have escaped the budgetary axe faced by school education but the increase of just over Rs 3,000 crore (Rs 26,855 crore from revised estimate of Rs 23,700 crore) will not be enough to power the new IITs. Five new IITs announced by Jaitley in July are yet to take off. **On an average one IIT costs Rs 1,750 crore and an IIM nearly Rs 1,000 crore.**

Experts feel, the emphasis should have been on improving infrastructure in existing IITs which face serious problems in terms of a facility and faculty crunch. Also, new Indian Institutes of Science and Education Research in Odisha and Nagaland will entail a big expenditure, though the allocation seems too conservative and well short of the aspiration. Converting the prestigious Indian School of Mines into IIT has happened after



PRAY, WHERE'S OUR HIGHER EDUCATION?

## HRD gives a ₹13,000cr shiksha shocker

Education sector faces one of the biggest budgetary cuts in recent times: from a mammoth Rs 82,771 crore to Rs 68,968 crore in 2015-16. HRD ministry officials were quick to explain that the almost 17% cut is due to transfer of some programmes like model schools to states and also due to larger devolution to states by the Finance Commission. But since the bulk of the cut has been in the school sector — “Rs 42,219 crore in 2015-16 from Rs 55,115 in 2014-15 — “flagship programmes like Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and Mid-Day Meal, both looking at improving quality, will suffer.

a committee meant to study the feasibility of the move refused to do so and agreed only if a long list of conditions was met. Jharkhand will get its first premier engineering college, but the IIT system feels a conversion will not automatically help since the legacy of the past cannot go away easily. In announcing new institutes, FM seems to have missed the larger problem afflicting

higher education, namely the pathetic condition of state universities. In its last leg UPA-II had come up with an ambitious Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) to bolster state universities subject to some conditions. Many states have come on board, others too have shown interest but the new government is less enthusiastic about RUSA.

# Sops for States going to polls



Smriti Kak Ramachandran

**NEW DELHI:** With an eye on the upcoming Assembly elections, the Centre has extended an olive branch to the poll-bound States. Presenting the budget, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley on Saturday announced new super speciality hospitals and institutes of excellence, special assistance to Bihar and West Bengal in particular and spoke of main streaming the North-eastern States.

The Centre's largesse to the poll-bound States of Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Assam, and Bihar includes the setting up of the super speciality hospitals. The Minister announced special assistance for Bihar and West Bengal on the lines of Andhra Pradesh, pointing out that though the Finance Commission has not distinguished between special category and other States, the Centre wants to give a fillip to development of these two eastern States.

The Minister said Bihar and West Bengal are going to be amongst the biggest beneficiaries of the recommendations of the Finance Commission. "...Yet, the eastern States have to be given an opportunity to grow even faster. I, therefore, propose to give similar special assistance to Bihar and West Bengal as has been provided by the Government of India in the case of Government of Andhra Pradesh. As regards Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, the Government is committed to comply with all the legal commitments made to them," he said.

New All India Institutes of Medical Sciences will be set up in Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Himachal Pradesh, Assam and Bihar. The Minister has also proposed to set up an IIT in Karnataka, and upgrade Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad into a full-fledged IIT. A Post Graduate Institute of Horticulture Research and Education will come up in

Amritsar while IIMs will be set up in Jammu and Kashmir and Andhra Pradesh. In Kerala, the Minister has proposed to upgrade the existing National Institute of Speech and Hearing to a University of Disability Studies and Rehabilitation.

In an effort to reach out to the North-east, the Minister announced a Centre for Film Production, Animation and Gaming in Arunachal Pradesh. The Minister said the North East has been given special priority in the development process, which can be seen by the two visits of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the region to launch important infrastructure projects.

States which have heritage



**Eastern States have to be given an opportunity to grow faster, so I propose to give special assistance to Bihar and West Bengal**

sites like Punjab, Karnataka, Goa and Telanagana will get aid to undertake required restoration, including landscape restoration; signage and interpretation centres; parking; access for the differently abled; visitors' amenities, including securities and toilets; illumination and plans for benefiting communities around them. The Minister proposes to provide resources to start work along these lines for the following Heritage Sites: Churches & Convents of Old Goa; Hampi, Karnataka; Elephanta Caves, Mumbai; Kumbalgarh and other Hill Forts of Rajasthan; Rani ki Vav, Patan, Gujarat; Leh Palace, Ladakh, J&K; Varanasi Temple town, U.P.; Jalianwala bagh, Amritsar, Punjab and Qutub Shahi Tombs, Hyderabad, Telangana.

# Higher education to get a leg-up with 18 new institutions

**NEW DELHI, DHNS:** The NDA government on Saturday proposed establishing 18 new higher-education institutions to fulfil its electoral promise of having at least one central institute in a state.

On the other side of the skill development spectrum, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley announced a national mission named Skill India, which seeks to impart the necessary skills among the youth that will make them employable.

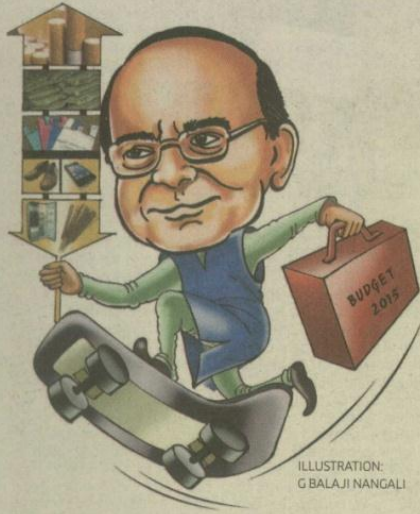
"Less than 5 per cent of our potential workforce gets formal skill training to become and stay employable," said Jaitley, insisting that the Skill India programme had to be dovetailed with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Make in India campaign. "India is one of the youngest nations in the world, with more than 54 per cent of the total population below 25 years of age. Our youngsters have to be both educated and

employable for the jobs of the 21st century," said Jaitley.

He also announced two new apprenticeship training institute for women in Haryana and Uttarakhand. On the higher-education front, Jaitley said six new All India Institutes of Medical Sciences (AIIMSes) would be set up in Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Himachal Pradesh, Bihar and Assam. This would be the second AIIMS in Bihar, as one AIIMS is at an advanced stage of completion in Patna. These are in addition to the six AIIMSes under construction at the moment.

Jaitley announced a new Indian Institute of Technology in Karnataka, though the 13 new IITs announced earlier are yet to be fully functional. Eight were started by the UPA government in 2008, whereas the remaining five were announced by Jaitley last year.

On Saturday, the finance minister also announced cre-



ation of three new National Institutes of Pharmaceutical Education and Research, in Maharashtra, Rajasthan, and Chhattisgarh, and two Indian Institutes of Science and Education Research, in Nagaland and Odisha. Jammu and Kashmir and Andhra Pradesh would get two new Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs). These are in addition to the five new IIMs announced last year.

Arunachal Pradesh, where Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently flagged off an express train to connect the state to Delhi, will have a new Centre for Film Production, Animation and Gaming, which was envisaged during the UPA regime. Jaitley also announced upgrade of the Indian School Of Mines, Dhanbad, to a full-fledged IIT, and transforming the National Institute of Speech and Hearing, Thiruvananthapuram, to a University of Disability Studies and Rehabilitation.

## Initiatives

- National Skill Mission to consolidate skill initiatives spread across several ministries
- Deen Dayal Upadhyay Gramin Kaushal Yojana to enhance the employability of rural youth
- Student Financial Aid Authority to administer and monitor scholarships as well educational loan schemes



## Institutions

- Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad, to be upgraded into a full-fledged IIT
- New All India Institute of Medical Science to be set up in J&K, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Himachal Pradesh and Assam
- Bihar to get second AIIMS
- A postgraduate institute of Horticulture Research & Education in Amritsar
- National Institute of Pharmaceuticals Education and Research in Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh
- An Institute of Science and Education Research in Nagaland & Odisha each



Mail Today ND 01/03/2015 P-11

# Education sector gets ₹69K crore

By Mail Today Bureau in New Delhi

IN an attempt to fulfill the promise of one central institute in each state, the BJP government on Friday allocated an amount of ₹68,968 crore to the education sector. Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley while presenting the Union Budget on Friday said the Centre would set up five new AIIMS, two IIMs and two IITs along with a host of other institutes of higher learning.

Jaitley announced a fully IT-based Student Financial Aid Authority to administer and monitor scholarships and

education loan schemes through the Pradhan Mantri Vidya Lakshmi Karyakram.

For the fiscal year 2015-16, ₹26,855 crore has been allocated to the Department of Higher Education and ₹42,219 to the Department of School Education and Literacy.

Among a host of new higher education institutes announced in the budget on Saturday, Jaitley promised to set up AIIMS in Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Bihar and Assam. A new IIT will be set up in Karnataka and Indian School of Mines in Dhanbad will be upgraded to IIT. Jammu and Kashmir

and Andhra Pradesh will get IIM each.

"To ensure that there is a senior secondary school within five kilometre of each child, we need to upgrade over 80,000 secondary schools and add or upgrade 75,000 junior or middle schools to the senior secondary level. We also have to ensure that education improves in terms of quality and learning outcomes," Jaitley said.

The government plans to launch an integrated education and livelihood scheme called 'Nai Manzil'. The scheme would be launched this year to enable minority youth, who do not have a formal school-leaving certificate, to obtain one and find better employment. Jaitley said.

**Govt will launch 'Nai Manzil' this year for minority youths**

# FOCUS SHIFTS TO HIGHER EDUCATION

Finance minister unveils plans to set up more institutes of excellence, cuts spending on the school sector by around 10% from previous year's allocation

By PRASHANT K. NANDA  
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NEW DELHI

Finance minister Arun Jaitley on Saturday marginally reduced overall allocations towards education but increased the planned higher education budget by nearly 22%, indicating a shift in focus from school to higher education in the national budget presented in Parliament.

Jaitley proposed to set aside ₹69,074.76 crore for education in 2015-16, as against ₹70,505 crore in the revised estimate in 2014-15. The revised budget for 2014-15 has reduced the education allocation to ₹70,505 crore from ₹82,777 crore as was pegged in the budget estimate.

Of the total outlay for 2015-16, ₹42,219.5 crore was pegged for the schools sector and ₹26,855.26 crore for higher education.

Allocations to the school sector was cut by around 10% in its planned outlay from ₹43,517.9 crore in the last budget to ₹39,038.5 crore in the year that begins on 1 April.

In comparison, higher education has been given a plan allocation of ₹15,855.26 crore in 2015-16, as against ₹13,000 crore pegged in the revised budget for 2014-15. In other words, the higher education sector saw an increase of nearly 22%.

"It seems the central government wants to focus more on higher education and try to tar-

The mid-day meal scheme suffered a drastic fund cut from ₹1,296.5 crore last year to ₹132 crore this year, in an indication that the states may be asked to spend a greater portion from their own corpus

get 30 million near-productive population in higher educational institutes," said Narayanan Ramaswamy, partner and head education practice at consulting firm KPMG. "These people, unless attended to well, may shift their base out of India and impact the economy."

There is a growing focus on higher education after the new government swept to power in May last year, according to Pramath Sinha, an educationist and founding dean of Indian School of Business in Hyderabad and dean of Ashoka University, since all the big-ticket announcements are largely in this space. "The announcement of new top schools like IIMs and IITs indicate that they are looking at higher education in a big way."

Keeping the government's focus on higher education, the finance minister announced more institutes of excellence—including two Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) and two

Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs).

While one IIT will come up in Karnataka, the second one will be created by upgrading the Indian School of Mines (ISM), Dhanbad to an IIT. ISM has been admitting students along with the IITs through the prestigious joint entrance exam system.

The school has been demanding an IIT status more so after Institute of Technology at Benaras Hindu University (BHU) was upgraded to an IIT a few years back.

"ISM upgradation will have two benefits—Jharkhand will get an IIT, and second instead of developing an IIT from scratch, this upgradation will need less resources both in terms of finance and human capital," said a human resource development ministry official, who declined to be named.

The two proposed IIMs will come up in Jammu and Kashmir and Andhra Pradesh. The announcement for an IIM in

Andhra Pradesh is not new as the government had promised to provide it an IIM, after the division of the state. The state government has already finalized land for its establishment.

In the last budget, Jaitley had announced five new IIMs and five new IITs. Last July, Jaitley had proposed to set up IITs in Jammu and Kashmir, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala, and IIMs in Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Bihar, Odisha and Maharashtra.

Once all of them are operational, India will have 20 IIMs and 23 IITs. On specific allocations, IITs have been allocated a planned outlay of ₹1,835 crore, less than the ₹2,320 crore outlay in the previous budget estimate.

Separately, the government has allocated ₹1,000 crore more to set up new IITs and new IIMs. Some of them will start operations this year.

Keeping its promise to help Andhra Pradesh get quality higher education institutes, the budget has pegged an outlay of ₹205 crore for the state—of which an IIT, an IIM, an NIT (National Institute of Technology), and a IISER (Indian Institute of Science Education and Research) will be allocated ₹40 crore each. An IIT in the state will get ₹45 crore.

Besides, the finance minister said he intends to address education sector concerns and bring about better education loan facilities for higher education.

Jaitley said his government

will ensure that no student misses out on higher education due to lack of funds.

"The setting up of additional central education institutes such as IITs, AIIMS, IIMs combined with financial aid under the Pradhan Mantri Vidya Lakshmi Karyakram will not only benefit the young population of the country, which wants better education, but will also benefit India Inc. as the quality of our work force will improve significantly with such measures," said Ravi Mahajan, a partner with consulting firm EY India.

Ramaswamy of KPMG said the central government may be thinking of asking states to focus on elementary education as this section of the school system has achieved near universal enrolment and does not have accessibility problems.

The budget also outlined government plans to establish a senior secondary school within 5km reach of every child.

"The government has to focus on quality enhancement. Return on investment is key for any sector and they may be thinking in that line. Question is after years of heavy allocation for school sector, the quality has not improved and this aspect needs attention," Ramaswamy said.

On Friday, the Economic Survey too had highlighted the issue of quality in elementary schools and need for improvements.

Ramaswamy, however, said that this budget missed the opportunity to promote private investment in higher education. "Government, according to me, should have focused more on school sector and allowed more private play in higher education. In that count, it's a missed opportunity," he said.

In the school education sector, the government has allocated ₹27,575 crore, same as last year, to the Prarambhik Shiksha Kosh that funds several schemes including Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and mid-day meal scheme.

The mid-day meal scheme suffered a drastic fund cut from ₹1,296.5 crore last year to ₹132 crore this year.

Experts said this could be because the states may be asked to spend a greater portion from their own corpus that they will receive due to tax devolution as envisaged in the 14th finance commission report.

In another development, as part of the movement towards goods and services tax, Jaitley proposed to subsume the education cess and the secondary and higher education cess in central excise duty. In effect, the general rate of central excise duty of 12.36% including the cesses is being rounded off to 12.5%.





[ केंद्रीय बजट में कर्नाटक ] खत्म हुआ वर्षों का इंतजार

# आईआईटी का तोहफा

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संसद में शनिवार को पेश केंद्रीय बजट में भले ही राज्य की आर्थिक सहायता की आस पूरी नहीं हुई लेकिन राज्य के लोगों की वर्षों पुरानी की एक मुराद केंद्र सरकार ने पूरी कर दी। बजट में केंद्र सरकार ने राज्य में प्रतिष्ठित इंजीनियरिंग संस्थान भारतीय प्रौद्योगिक संस्थान (आईआईटी) की स्थापना की घोषणा की है। राज्य में काफी लंबे समय से आईआईटी स्थापना की मांग हो रही थी। पिछले एक दशक के दौरान कई बार राज्य सरकार ने इसके लिए प्रयास भी किया लेकिन केंद्र सरकार ने कार्रवाई नहीं की। पिछली बार भी जब केंद्र सरकार ने नए आईआईटी व आईआईएम संस्थानों की स्थापना को लेकर घोषणा की थी तब भी राज्य की मांग को खारिज कर दिया गया था। इसके पीछे केंद्र सरकार का तर्क था कि राज्य में पहले से ही आईआईएम और आईआईआईटी जैसे संस्थान हैं। शनिवार को आईआईटी की घोषणा के साथ ही राज्य के उच्च शिक्षा मंत्री आर.वी. देशपांडे ने खुशी जताई है। उन्होंने कहा कि आईआईटी की स्थापना के लिए राज्य सरकार ने पहले से ही 500 एकड़ जमीन निःशुल्क देने की घोषणा कर रखी है।

शिक्षाविद् बी.एन. रघुनन्दन ने कहा कि प्रदेश में बड़ी संख्या में इंजीनियरिंग के विद्यार्थी होने से आईआईटी जैसे संस्थान का फायदा सभी को मिलेगा। साल 2008 में प्रधानमंत्री की वैज्ञानिक सलाहकार परिषद ने कर्नाटक के लिए आईआईटी की सिफारिश की थी। दक्षिण में कर्नाटक ही ऐसा राज्य था जहां आईआईटी नहीं थी। आज यह कमी भी पूरी हो गई। (कल)

आमजनों की अनदेखी, केंद्रीय अनुदान में कटौती अनुचित: सीएम

मुख्यमंत्री सिद्धरामय्या ने शनिवार को संसद में पेश आम बजट को निराशाजनक करार दिया है। उन्होंने कहा कि अंतरराष्ट्रीय बाजार में तेल की कीमतों में आई गिरावट की वजह से वित्तीय क्षेत्र में थोड़ी चेतना नजर आई है। इसका श्रेय नरेन्द्र मोदी के नेतृत्व वाली सरकार के प्रशासनिक कौशल व सुधार के कदमों को नहीं जाता है। शुक्रवार को संसद में पेश किए गए आर्थिक सर्वेक्षण में ही वित्त मंत्री ने इस बात को स्वीकार किया। हमारे द्वारा आयात किए जाने वाले कच्चे तेल की कीमतों में गिरावट की वजह से हमारी वित्तीय स्थिति में सुधार हुआ है। इससे वित्तीय घाटा रोकने में हमें मदद मिलेगी। इससे मुद्रा स्फीति भी घटी है। इस अनुकूल वातावरण में वित्त मंत्री चाहते तो आम जनता के लिए सुविधाजनक बजट पेश कर सकते थे। इसी कारण बजट से निराशा हाथ लगी है।

**कोई भी कार्यक्रम घोषित नहीं**

सिद्ध ने कहा कि बजट में किसानों, श्रमिकों, महिलाओं व बेरोजगारों के हितों की रक्षा करने के लिए कोई भी कार्यक्रम घोषित नहीं किया गया है। कृषि, ग्रामीण विकास तथा विशेष रूप से शिक्षा के क्षेत्र की घोर उपेक्षा की गई है। किसानों के ऋणमाफ करने या कृषि सब्सिडी के बारे में बजट में कोई प्रस्ताव नहीं किया गया है। देश के किसान संकट का सामना कर रहे हैं और आत्महत्याएं कर रहे हैं लेकिन केंद्रीय वित्त मंत्री ने इस तरफ कोई ध्यान नहीं दिया है। उन्होंने कहा कि यूपीए सरकार की महत्वाकांक्षी महानरेगा योजना के लिए पिछले साल 34 हजार करोड़ रुपए का अनुदान दिया गया था और इस साल इस मद में 34,6 99

करोड़ रुपए का प्रावधान किया गया है जो नगण्य है।

**मध्यम वर्ग के लिए कुछ नहीं**

मोदी सरकार कहती आ रही थी कि वह आवास व शहरी विकास को बढ़ावा देगी लेकिन बजट अनुदान में कोई बढ़ोतरी नहीं की गई। बजट में मध्यम वर्ग के लिए भी कुछ नहीं है। मुख्यमंत्री ने कहा कि कर्नाटक में आईआईटी व हम्पी को पर्यटन केन्द्र के तौर पर विकसित करने के निर्णय का हम स्वागत करते हैं। इसके लिए समुचित अनुदान देकर मूर्त रूप दिया जाना चाहिए।

**राज्यों को कोई फायदा नहीं**

सिद्ध ने कहा कि राज्यों को केंद्रीय करों में मिली बढ़त का कोई फायदा नहीं होगा, क्योंकि केन्द्र ने केन्द्र प्रायोजित परियोजनाओं के कोष में कटौती करके इस बढ़ोतरी को शून्य कर दिया है। केन्द्र ने 14 वें वित्त आयोग की सिफारिशों के अनुसार राज्यों को मिलने वाले कर हिस्से में 10 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि जरूर की है लेकिन इससे राज्यों को कोई फायदा नहीं होगा क्योंकि केन्द्र प्रायोजित परियोजनाओं के कोष में भारी कटौती कर दी गई है। उन्होंने बताया कि शिक्षा के क्षेत्र के लिए मिलने वाले अनुदान में 33,483 करोड़, ग्रामीण विकास की मद में 8401 करोड़, आवासन व शहरी विकास के क्षेत्र में 10,615 तथा सिंचाई की मद में 10,831 करोड़ रुपए की कटौती कर दी गई है। महानरेगा योजना पर प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी के कटाक्ष व इसे कांग्रेस सरकार की विफलताओं का स्मारक बताने के बारे में पूछे सवाल पर उन्होंने कहा कि प्रधानमंत्री की यह टिप्पणी अच्छी नहीं है।

एक्सपर्ट  कमेंट

## शिक्षा: क्वांटिटी भरपूर पर क्वालिटी नदारद



प्रो. इम्तियाज अहमद

जानेमाने शिक्षाविद

**आ**म बजट में कुछ नए संस्थान जैसे आईआईटी और जम्मू कश्मीर में आईआईएम की बात की है। साथ ही एक फंड बनाने की बात की है जिससे बच्चे पैसे के अभाव में पढ़ाई से वंचित ना हो। ये फंड उनके लिए इस्तेमाल होगा। वहीं पांच किलोमीटर के दायरे में सीनियर सेंकडरी स्कूल खोलने की बात भी कही गई है मगर बजट में कहीं भी शिक्षा की गुणवत्ता का कोई

प्रस्ताव नहीं है। क्वालिटी एजुकेशन के लिए अध्यापक, शिक्षा यानी टीचर एजुकेशन पर पैसा लगाना होगा। इसका कोई जिक्र नहीं है। प्राथमिक शिक्षा और न ही उच्च शिक्षा में ज्यादा पैसा दिया गया है। इस बजट से साफ जाहिर है कि सरकार के लिए शिक्षा प्राथमिकता ही नहीं है। सरकार अपनी प्राथमिकता में इसे ऊपर नहीं रख रही है। स्कूलों की संख्या बढ़ाने की

बात कही है मगर सिर्फ प्राथमिक और मध्यमिक स्कूलों की बात है। उच्च शिक्षा को सिरे से अनदेखा किया गया है। कौशल विकास की बात की गई है तो आवंटन बहुत कम है। इसे कितना मजबूत किया जाएगा और क्या हो पाएगा? इसे लेकर कई सवाल खड़े हो गए हैं। सामान्य शिक्षा पर तो कोई प्रस्ताव नहीं है और न इस बात की कोशिश की गई कि सामान्य शिक्षा का स्तर ऊंचा हो। शिक्षा सरकार की प्राथमिकता होती तो प्राथमिक क्षेत्र में निवेश बढ़ाना चाहिए था। आईआईएम और आईआईटी एक विशेष वर्ग के लिए होते हैं। आम लोगों के लिए शिक्षा की क्या सुविधा दी गई है। इसमें स्पष्टता नहीं है। देश में शिक्षा का सुधार करना है तो अच्छे टीचर पैदा करने होंगे। इसे लेकर कोई अलग से खर्चा नहीं किया गया। कुल मिलाकर शिक्षा की दृष्टि से सरकार ने साधारण प्रस्ताव रखे हैं। इससे शिक्षा में उन्नति का उद्देश्य नहीं दिखता।

**अध्यापन और सामान्य शिक्षा पर बजट में नहीं है कोई प्रस्ताव**

## ₹68,968 crore for Education sector

PNS ■ NEW DELHI



**It gives lot of thrust to infrastructure, education and skilling India**

In a departure from regional imbalance for establishing elite educational institutes, the NDA Government on Saturday announced setting up of engineering and management institutes in Jammu & Kashmir and far off Nagaland giving top priority to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of bringing equality through educational platform.

A day after the ruling party announced stitching an alliance with the PDP to form the Government in J&K, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley proposed for an IIM in the Valley. Jaitley in his Budget 2015-16, also announced elite institutions like an IIT in Karnataka, IIM in Andhra Pradesh and Institutes of Science and Education Research in Nagaland and Odisha. Two central institutes, one IIM at Shillong and Central University for English Language in the same city is already functional.

While one of the long pending demands for converting the ISM Dhanbad into a full-fledged IIT was also met in the Annual Budget, Jaitley even proposed for a Post Graduate Institute of Horticulture Research and Education at Amritsar from where he unsuccessfully contested the Lok Sabha elections last year.

For the benefit of poor and middle class students in need of finances for higher education, the Finance Minister proposed to set up a fully IT-based Student Financial Aid Authority to administer and monitor Scholarship as well as Educational Loan Schemes under the Pradhan Mantri Vidya Lakshmi Karyakram.

"We will ensure that no student misses out on higher education for lack of funds," he said.

While an IIM each will be setup at Leh and Andhra Pradesh, the National Institute of Speech and Hearing in Kerala would be upgraded to a university of Disability Studies and Rehabilitation. These are part of Jaitley's July 2014 Budget when he indicated for one major central institute in each State.

At the same time, three new National Institutes of Pharmaceutical Education and Research, one each in Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh have been proposed, besides setting up of Institutes of Science and Education Research in Nagaland and Odisha.

HRD Minister Smriti Irani said the Budget is "very pragmatic" and expressed happiness over various schemes including 'Nayi Manzil' for unemployed minority youth. The total allocation for education sector including flagship programme Mid-Day meal to arrest dropout rates is ₹68,968 crore.

"It gives lot of thrust to infrastructure, education and skilling India. I am particularly very happy to note the focus that is being given to women and culture. I am extremely grateful to the allocation of funds for higher learning and also about the thrust on innovation through funding," Irani said in her first reaction to the 2015-16 Budget.

# Education sector sees 16.5% funds cut, schools worst hit

**HT Correspondent**

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**NEW DELHI:** The 2015-16 Union Budget slashed funds for the education sector by 16.5% with schools hardest hit by the move as the government announced a raft of new schemes and initiatives to boost learning in the country.

The government proposed to set aside ₹69,075 crore for the sector, a sharp drop from ₹82,777 crore in the previous budget. The school sector was especially affected with an almost 25% cut -- ₹39,038.5 crore, down from ₹51,828 crore in 2014-15. India has one of the highest dropout rates in the world with poor quality of primary education, said a recent NGO report.

The government planned to upgrade over 80,000 secondary schools in the country, the budget said, adding that the government's target was educating India's youth to make them employable.

"To ensure a senior secondary school within a 5 km reach of each child, we need to upgrade over 80,000 secondary schools and add or upgrade 75,000 junior or middle schools to the senior secondary level. We also have to ensure education improves in terms of quality and learning outcomes," finance minister Arun Jaitley said.

The industry welcomed the

announcement with Rohin Kapoor, senior manager at Deloitte India, saying the establishment of a senior secondary school within 5 km of each child will go a long way in addressing problems of equity, access and quality in the education sector.

An integrated education and livelihood scheme called Nai Manzil will also be launched to enable young people from minority communities without a formal school-leaving certificate to obtain one and find better employment.

The education and the secondary higher education cess would be subsumed in the central excise duty as the government moved towards a unified goods and services tax regime, the government said.

The budget also announced the setting up of an authority to administer and monitor scholarships and educational loan schemes through the Pradhan Mantri Vidya Lakshmi Karyakram.

"The impetus on research and development, incubation and entrepreneurship is heartening. So is the support for innovation through the Atal Innovation Mission. If administered well, these can act as a force multiplier for both Make in India and employment generation," said Prof. Bhaskar Ramamurthi, Director, Indian Institute of Technology, Madras.

# Eastern promises mark beginning of new era

fe Bureau

**F**INANCE minister Arun Jaitley has announced special financial assistance for poll-bound Bihar and West Bengal while stressing mainstreaming of the northeastern states.

The assistance to Bihar and West Bengal is on the same lines as provided to Andhra Pradesh. However, the contours of the assistance package were not elaborated on.

On February 5, the Centre announced a ₹850-crore development package and ad hoc support for Andhra Pradesh as also tax sops to help the state attract investments in the industrial sector.

Following the 14th Finance Commission's recommendations, which increased states' share in central taxes by 10 percentage points to 42%, West Bengal and Bihar will be among the biggest beneficiaries in absolute terms, Jaitley said. West Bengal's share will increase by 56% to ₹38,461 crore while Bihar's share will go up by 37% to ₹50,747 crore in FY16.

However, the share of Bihar in central taxes will decline 1.2 percentage points to 9.6% while Bengal's share will increase marginally to 7.32%.

Also, Jaitley reiterated the Centre's commitment to comply with the legal commitments made to Andhra



Pradesh and Telengana at the time of the reorganisation.

The finance minister gave special emphasis on bringing the northeast to the mainstream. The Budget proposed the setting up of an All India Institute of Medical Sciences in Assam, an Institutes of Science and Education Research in Nagaland Centre for Film Production, Animation and Gaming in Arunachal Pradesh.

Jaitley didn't disappoint other states looking to bag central institutes. He announced that the government will set up AIIMS in J&K, Punjab, Tamil Nadu and Himachal Pradesh. He provided for setting up of an IIT in Karnataka and upgrading Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad to a full-fledged IIT.

The Budget also provides resources for development and restoration work at nine heritage sites, including the Elephanta Caves in Mumbai, Leh Palace in Ladakh and Varanasi Temple town.

## 'A thumbs up' to the focus on skill building

Jaitley allocates ₹68,968 cr for education, marginally higher than last year

CHETNA MEHRA

New Delhi, February 28

Budget may not have a sixer, but has many boundaries, says Ninad Karpe, MD & CEO of Aptech. Karpe seems delighted with the Government's proposal to set up a student Financial Aid Authority to administer and monitor scholarships as well as educational loan schemes, through the Pradhan Mantri Vidya Lakshmi Karyakram.

Meghna Ghai Puri, President of Whistling Woods International, too, gives the budget an 'almost' thumbs up for the launch of the National Skills Mission, which will consolidate skill initiatives spread across several ministries. "The education industry was looking forward to support skill development, and the ₹1,500-crore allocation for the Deen Dayal Upadhyay Grameen Kaushal Yojana is a welcome move," said Meghna Ghai Puri, President, Whistling Woods.

The disbursement of funds will be through a digital voucher directly into qualified students' bank accounts.

Finance Minister Arun Jaitley has allocated ₹68,968 crore for education, marginally higher than last year's ₹68,728 crore.

Several new institutions have also been proposed this year. An IIT will be set up in Karnataka and Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad, will be upgraded to a full-fledged IIT. New All India Institutes of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) will be set up in Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Himachal Pradesh and Assam. Another AIIMS like institution will be set up in Bihar.

"The Finance Minister's intent to provide one major central institute in each state will help raise students' aspiration levels and provide them more opportunities across the country in a functional ar-

ea of their choice," said E Abraham SJ, Director, XLRI, Jamshedpur. "However, the long-term pipeline of qualified faculty to teach in all the new central institutes is equally important."

A post-graduate institute of Horticulture Research & Education will be set up in Amritsar. Three new National Institutes of Pharmaceutical Education and Research will be set up in Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Chattisgarh and one institute of Science and Education Research will be opened in Nagaland and Odisha each. IIMs will be setup in Jammu & Kashmir and Andhra Pradesh.

### School assessment

The budget also promises to start a school assessment programme and aims to infuse new training tools and initiatives to motivate teachers.

Though the budget has garnered positive response from the education sector largely, it was disappointing to see no consideration in exempting tax on non-degree-education/vocational education and vocational training, said Ghai of Whistling Woods. "Levying service tax on such educational activities is detrimental to the proliferation of up-skilling the country," she said.

Deepak Mehrotra, MD of Pearson India, also feels budget lacks clarity on the question of private investment in education and doesn't provide fiscal incentives to attract private sector investment in the education sector.

"Loans for skill development and other high-end job-oriented training continue to be an issue not addressed yet," said Ajay Chhangani, CEO of Rise India. "The budget did not address the expectation of education reforms. So school education and higher education will continue to have investment challenges."

## It's aimed at boosting job creation in India



MK UPPALURI

CEO  
Randstad India

■ Reduction of corporate tax is part of a very powerful vision in the longer term

■ The initiative of an integrated 'national skill mission' is a welcome move

5.77 crore small business units that are mostly individual proprietorships, running small manufacturing and training businesses, this initiative has the potential to be a key job creator in the long term.

Additionally, the impetus given to R&D, incubation and entrepreneurship in this Budget is heartening. So is the support for innovation through the 'Atal Innovation Mission'. If administered well, these steps can act as a force multiplier for both 'make in India' and for employment generation.

The government has brought a much-needed relief to the human resources sector as well by announcing concrete measures and allocations to continue their focus on skill development and vocational training.

The initiative of launching an integrated 'national skill mission' is a welcome move, which has a potential to develop employability of the youth, especially below 25 years of age. Further, the education welfare scheme 'nayi manzil' for unemployed minority youth will bring confidence amongst the youth and boost employment.

Introducing flexibility on the EPF and ESI front, by making these optional for employees is going to be a key factor in motivating the Indian workforce to join the formal sector and curb the growth of informal workforce.

This move will give the workforce more power to decide how their salaries need to be utilised.

The move to set up new IITs, IIMs and medical colleges and the emphasis on quality education, innovation, research and development will ensure skilled youth, that will bridge the demand and supply gap faced by the industry.

Finally, since there was no mention of reforms in labour laws, a key aid for doing business and key indicator for attracting funds from international markets, we will await announcements in this regard post-budget.

Continuous improvement and inclusive growth is more important than a 'Big Bang budget'. Most businesses and even nations fail, not because of lack of planning, but because of lack of execution.

We are really hoping for the best execution of what has been planned in the budget, and then double-digit growth is sure to be a reality.

THE Union budget 2015 gives a message of stability and continuity. It's a progressive and well balanced budget that will lay the foundation of major structural changes in the Indian economy in the coming years.

There has been greater emphasis on tax simplification; tax compliance and infrastructure spend which is the need of the hour. Reduction of corporate tax to 25 per cent from 30 per cent along with incentivising corporates through a revitalised PPP structure echoes a powerful vision. This budget clearly reflects the focus of the government which is to create new vehicles to attract private sector investment and this is definitely in the right direction.

The effort to promote technology-based entrepreneurship is laudable. The government has taken a step forward to encourage new startups and entrepreneurship in the country by allocating Rs. 1000 crore to enable IT based start-ups.

The finance minister rightly states that, India's youth should be job creators and not job seekers and hence initiatives towards 'ease of doing business in India', seems to be more realistic and achievable.

Promotion of the MSME sector has also been a priority for this Budget. Making current loans refinanced for this segment, will enable job creation.

It's a huge temptation for expansion of the present MSME segment to think differently. For the

## Visit to IISc. leaves aspiring scientists spellbound

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/bangalore/visit-to-iisc-leaves-aspiring-scientists-spellbound/article6947414.ece>



Schoolchildren on the campus of the Indian Institute of Science during its Open Day on Saturday.— Photo: V. Sreenivasa Murthy

Young schoolchildren were left spellbound after looking at a plethora of wasps and insects exhibited by Raghavendra Gadagkar, who used them to explain human evolution.

Hundreds of students of the Indian Institute of Science played mentors for a day to students from other institutions and science enthusiasts on the Open Day on Saturday, which coincided with National Science Day. Various workshops and interactive sessions were conducted on the sprawling lawns where budding scientists familiarised themselves with new advancements and avenues in different field of science.

Tarun Sharma, an IT executive, was visibly thrilled with the opportunity to step into one of India's premier science institutes. He was accompanied by his 12-year-old son who, he claimed, is a "biochemistry buff". Savitha R., a class 10 student, was lost in admiring the heritage buildings on the campus. She said, "Coming here has motivated me to work hard and gain admission in this institute."

In the afternoon, there was panic when 11 girls from Kendriya Vidyalaya, Hebbal were trapped inside a lift in the main building for more than an hour. They were rescued by Fire and Emergency Services personnel.

March 2

## **NTPC CMD addresses management students at IIT Delhi**

Hindustan Times (Delhi)



Dr. Arup Roy Choudhury, CMD, National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC) delivered the keynote address at the Annual Management Festival Parivartan at Department of Management Studies IIT, Delhi.

## **2,000 protest at IIT-B as research stipends yet to be hike**

Hindustan Times (Mumbai)

MUMBAI: Even as Union finance minister Arun Jaitley earmarked Rs150 crore for the ‘Atal Innovation Mission’ to spur scientific development in the country, more than 2,000 research scholars and post-graduate students of IIT-Bombay went on a mass leave to protest non-revision of stipends on Saturday.

The protest comes on the heels of similar move by research scholars across the country over the lack of clarity on stipend hike by the ministry of human resource development and the department of science and technology.

“Research stipends have not been revised since 2010. This despite an assurance from the HRD minister, Smriti Irani, five months ago, after we handed over a petition signed by more than 3,800 students demanding a hike,” said Shubham Badjate, general secretary, academic affairs at IIT-B.

Badjate further said though promises for bettering research and development are made in every budget, there seems to be no implementation. While every year, the institute marks February 28 as Science Day, this time, students have unanimously refused to participate in any activity. Moreover, they have boycotted the laboratories till March 2.

At present, PhD students with more than two years of research experience get a stipend of Rs18,000 a month for the first and second years and Rs20,000 a month for the third and fourth years. They have demanded that these be increased to Rs28,000 and Rs31,000 respectively.

A peaceful protest march was also organised by the students on Friday, after which they met the institute’s director, Devang Khakhar. “I have assured the students that we will follow up the matter with the HRD minister.”

## IIT's prime need: 500 acres of dispute-free land

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/bengaluru/IITs-prime-need-500-acres-of-dispute-free-land/articleshow/46423731.cms>

Bengaluru: The availability of a large parcel of land could be one of the prime factors determining the location of the IIT in Karnataka; the requirement could be in the order of 500 acres.

Citing human resource development ministry officials, higher education department officials say the decision hinges on this issue. While huge parcels of dispute-free land may not be available in Bengaluru, there are enough sites around the state capital.

Mysuru and Chikkaballapur are among those seeking to gain by their proximity to Bengaluru. Raichur and Hubballi-Dharwad are advocated by those who see in IIT a chance to set right regional imbalances.

While Chikkaballapur's votaries point out that their district was the cradle of Sir M Visvesvaraya and is situated very close to Kempegowda International Airport (KIA), those in favour of Mysuru and Dharwad cite the cities' status as educational hubs.

A former director of a reputed institute said the government should first form an expert committee to examine how many acres of land are required, and zero in on some ideal spots which it can recommend to the government.

During the 2014 Lok Sabha elections, both Congress and BJP candidates in different cities promised to bring the IIT to their constituency. "We want the IIT to be set up in Dharwad, considering it's the educational hub of Karnataka and has good connectivity," said BJP MLA Aravind Bellad, a campaign strategist for the party in Karnataka.

In 1996, an expert committee headed by eminent scientist UR Rao had recommended the IIT be set up in Hubballi-Dharwad.

Former CM BS Yeddyurappa wanted it in Shivamogga, his home district. Former Union law minister M Veerappa Moily argued for his constituency, Chikkaballapur, as it's located just about 25km from KIA.

Incumbent CM Siddaramaiah is said be batting for his home district Mysuru, and is even citing a suggestion from Bharat Ratna CNR Rao to buttress his case, a source said. Higher education minister RV Deshpande had, however, batted for Raichur, considering it was the most backward district in the state and the institute would help its growth.

MPs and MLAs from Belagavi are demanding the IIT in their district, dubbing it the centre of technical education. Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU) is headquartered in Belagavi since its inception in 1998.

### LOOK FOR OTHER OPTIONS

IIT must be established in North Karnataka. If a big project of this kind is taken up here, it will also develop other sectors in the region. But farmers should not be deprived of agricultural land to establish IIT. Manipal University was established on a barren hill. The government should look for similar places

GK Prabhu | registrar, Manipal University

Bengaluru already has many engineering colleges. If we look long-term, there's a need for reputed institutes in every district. I would prefer IIT in a city like Mysuru

KRS Murthy | former director, IIM-B



## Faculty crunch doesn't spare national institutes: 32% at IITs, 22% at IIMs

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/coimbatore/Faculty-crunch-doesnt-spare-national-institutes-32-at-IITs-22-at-IIMs/articleshow/46429347.cms>

COIMBATORE: Private engineering colleges across the country are about 30% short of faculty, but premier national institutes aren't in a better place. The average faculty shortage in IITs is 32%, while it is 31% in IITs, 22% at IIMs and 25% in NITs.

Only six out of the 16 IITs have met the guideline of a student to faculty ratio of 10:1. All six are among the eight IITs that were founded in 2008. IIT Hyderabad and Jodhpur are the other two, which have a student-faculty ratio of 16:1 and 17:1 respectively. The other eight older IITs face an average faculty shortage of 41%, according to a reply to a question raised in Lok Sabha last week.

In 2008, the Union ministry for human resource and development announced eight new IITs under the Institutes of Technology Act (amended), 2011. In July 2014, the Centre announced five new IITs in Jammu & Kashmir, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Chattisgarh and Goa. In the Union Budget presented on Saturday, one new IIT has been proposed for Karnataka, and the Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad, has been proposed for conversion to an IIT.

"The Union government should stop announcing new IITs. With existing IITs facing acute shortage of faculty, finding quality teachers for the new institutions will be hard," said D P Kothari, former director of IIT-Delhi. Chennai: D P Kothari, former director of IIT-Delhi, said stringent rules for promotion and lack of incentives stop many from applying for the positions.

"Publishing research papers, writing books, managing academia and other related activities are the standards for a good faculty.

But, the rules for promotion in IITs and NITs are so stringent that most teachers change jobs," said Kothari.

Bhaskar Ramamurthi, director of IIT-Madras, said the expansion of established IITs in 2008-10 led to faculty shortage.

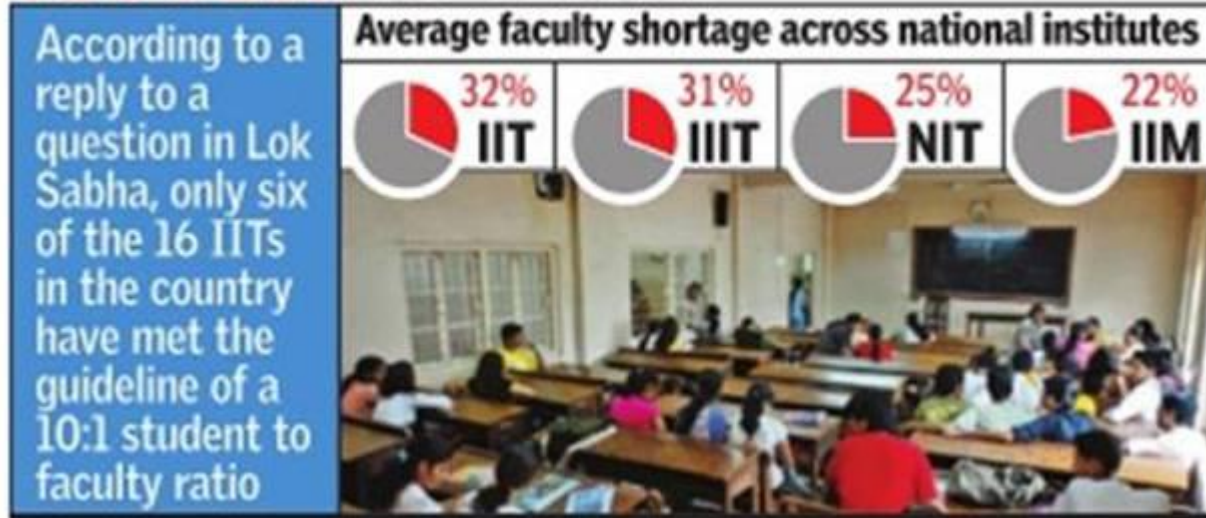
"The established IITs expanded at almost 50% of their strength. Thus, we fell short of faculty," Ramamurthi said.

"But, all IITs have been recruiting faculty every year, and nearly 30 new faculties join each institution. If an average of 10 faculties retire, we still get 20 new teachers," he added.

He indicated that it might take another five years for all IITs to meet the student-faculty ratio guideline.

According to J P Gandhi, an educational consultant, only around 30% of the PhD students from IITs and NITs join an IIT or an NIT as faculty.

# TOO FEW TO TEACH



"Most prefer a job in the research wing of a corporate or pursue postdoctoral studies abroad. When it comes to academia, private deemed universities seem to offer former IIT students better pay," he said, adding that some universities in Noida offer Rs 2.5lakh a month to former IIT professors.

At IIMs too, the lack of enough PhD holders to take up faculty positions is the reason for the shortage.

J Philip, president and director of Xavier Institute of Management and Entrepreneurship and former director of IIM-Bangalore, said, "There is a shortage in the number of management graduates pursuing doctorates on one the hand, and on the other, almost half of those who pursue PhD prefer a career outside the academic system."

He said, "We have been asking All India Council for Technical Education to allow the top 50 B-schools to have their own fellow programme which will help produce nearly 500 PhD candidates every year."

## IIT tag brings early Holi to ISM campus

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/ranchi/iit-tag-brings-early-holi-to-ism-campus/articleshow/46421429.cms>

DHANBAD: The students of Indian School of Mines (ISM) were ecstatic and the entire Institute turned into a party venue after listening to the Budget where IIT status was proposed for ISM. Techies came out of their hostel and played holi with colours and congratulated each other a week ahead of the festival. "It is a matter of pride for us. All of us came through a common entrance test but we were deprived of the facilities that students of IIT enjoy," said Priyansh, a second year student of B Tech.

The students have been struggling for this status since 2002 and have always been assured. The demand gained momentum in the year 2009 when a series of protest was started. Students left no stone unturned to get the tag of IIT. In the last parliamentary elections, Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his election campaign in the coal city assured ISM of the IIT status. "Modiji had already promised in his speech in Dhanbad. We are happy that he stood by his words," said Kalpesh Agarwal.

Deccan Herald ND 02/03/2015 P-6

# Lack of faculty to plague govt plans for new institutions

**NEW DELHI:** Finance Minister Arun Jaitley might have announced 18 new higher-education institutions in the Budget, availability of faculty for them will be a critical challenge for the government.

Faced with shortage of teachers, the Human Resource Development (HRD) Ministry recently approved filling up vacant posts with “adjunct faculties”—non-PhDs taken from the industry—as a short-term measure to run Central institutes and technical colleges.

However, this may not be sufficient for the new institutes, as the shortage ranges is 30-55 per cent across Centrally-funded institutes.

The previous UPA government had announced 16 new Central universities, eight In-



dian Institutes of Technology (IITs), seven Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) and five Indian Institutes of Science and Education Research (IISERs).

While the vacancy of teachers in these institutes continues to be 43-82.85 per cent, the shortage of faculties at the eight new IITs set up by the previous government is 4-39 per cent.

Except IIMs Raipur and Udaipur, the vacancy of teachers at five of the seven new IIMs is 21-48 per cent.

The IISERs too are facing acute shortage of faculties, with 4.5-39.78 per cent vacancy.

Notwithstanding the fact that every new IIM and IIT is still operating from a temporary campus with reduced capacity, the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government announced five more IITs and IIMs each last year to fulfil Prime Minister Narendra Modi's electoral promise of at least one such institute in a state.

There is no timeline for shifting to permanent campuses for these new institutes, which are set to start from temporary campuses this year.

## Economic Times ND 02/03/2015 P-6

# वादे पर अमल: तमिलनाडु, जम्मू-कश्मीर, पंजाब, हिमाचल और असम, कर्नाटक और AP को होगा फायदा फैकल्टी की तंगी के बीच नए IIT, IIM, AIIMS खुलेंगे

कर्णिका बहुगुणा | नई दिल्ली

नरेंद्र मोदी सरकार ने हर राज्य में एक बड़ा सेंट्रल एजुकेशनल इंस्टीट्यूट खोलने का वादा किया था, जिसकी झलक 2015-16 के आम बजट में दिख रही है। बजट भाषण में वित्त मंत्री अरुण जेटली ने जम्मू-कश्मीर, पंजाब, तमिलनाडु, हिमाचल प्रदेश और असम में पांच नए ऑल इंडिया इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ मेडिकल साइंसेज (AIIMS) खोले जाने की घोषणा की। इसके अलावा उन्होंने कर्नाटक में एक आईआईटी के साथ जम्मू-कश्मीर और आंध्र प्रदेश में आईआईएम की ब्रांच खोले जाने की घोषणा की है।

जेटली ने धनबाद के इंडियन स्कूल ऑफ माइंस को आईआईटी में बदले जाने की घोषणा भी की है। हालांकि अभी यह साफ नहीं हो पाया है कि विशाखापत्तनम के आईआईएम को लेकर क्या रणनीति होगी, जिसका शिलान्यास जनवरी में किया जा

## कैसे क्या मिला?

• अमृतसर में पोस्ट ग्रेजुएट इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ हॉर्टिकल्चर रिसर्च एंड एजुकेशन

• महाराष्ट्र, राजस्थान और छत्तीसगढ़ में नेशनल इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ फार्मास्युटिकल एजुकेशन

• नगालैंड और ओडिशा में इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ साइंस एंड एजुकेशन रिसर्च

• हरियाणा और उत्तराखंड में एप्रेंटिसशिप ट्रेनिंग इंस्टीट्यूट फॉर विमेन की स्थापना का ऐलान

चुका है। अन्य प्रस्तावों में अमृतसर में पोस्ट ग्रेजुएट इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ हॉर्टिकल्चर रिसर्च एंड एजुकेशन के अलावा महाराष्ट्र, राजस्थान और छत्तीसगढ़ में नेशनल इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ फार्मास्युटिकल एजुकेशन एंड रिसर्च की शुरुआत करना शामिल है। इसके अलावा नगालैंड और ओडिशा

## निर्धन छात्रों के लिए...

• आईटी बेस्ड स्टूडेंट फाइनेंशियल एड अथॉरिटी के गठन का प्रस्ताव। इससे स्कॉलरशिप और एजुकेशन लोन स्कीम्स की निगरानी हो सकेगी

• 80,000 सेकेंडरी स्कूलों को अपग्रेड करने पर जोर

• 75,000 स्कूलों को अपग्रेड करने या उन्हें नए सिरे से शुरू करने पर जोर

में इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ साइंस एंड एजुकेशन रिसर्च के साथ हरियाणा और उत्तराखंड में एप्रेंटिसशिप ट्रेनिंग इंस्टीट्यूट फॉर विमेन की स्थापना की जानी है।

गरीब लोगों तक हायर एजुकेशन पहुंचाने की कोशिशों के तहत वित्त मंत्री ने आईटी बेस्ड स्टूडेंट फाइनेंशियल एड अथॉरिटी

का प्रस्ताव रखा है ताकि प्रधानमंत्री विद्या लक्ष्मी कार्यक्रम के तहत दी जाने वाले स्कॉलरशिप और एजुकेशन लोन स्कीम्स की निगरानी की जा सके।

जेटली ने कहा है कि 80,000 सेकेंडरी स्कूलों को अपग्रेड किए जाने की जरूरत है और इसके अलावा जूनियर और मिडल लेवल पर 75,000 स्कूलों को अपग्रेड करने या उन्हें नए सिरे से शुरू किए जाने की जरूरत है।

केपीएमजी इंडिया में एजुकेशन एंड रिस्कल डिवेलपमेंट के पार्टनर एंड हेड नारायणन रामास्वामी ने कहा कि अधिक संख्या में इंस्टीट्यूट खोले जाने का फैसला स्वागतयोग्य है, लेकिन सवाल यह है कि इन्हें कैसे खड़ा किया जाएगा।

उन्होंने कहा, 'मुझे उम्मीद थी कि आईआईटी और आईआईएम खोले जाने के मामले में पब्लिक-प्राइवेट पार्टनरशिप के मॉडल को लेकर और अधिक साहसिक फैसले किए जाएंगे।'

## Business Standard ND 02/03/2015 p-4

# संस्थानों की घोषणा सही, गुणवत्ता पर भी हो ध्यान

एम सरस्वती और कल्पना पाठक मुंबई, 1 मार्च

वित्त मंत्री अरुण जेटली ने नए भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (आईआईटी) और भारतीय प्रबंध संस्थान (आईआईएम) की घोषणा कर उच्च शिक्षा को बदल देने की कवायद की है। हालांकि उद्योग जगत का कहना है कि विभागों व शोध की गुणवत्ता को प्राथमिकता दी जानी चाहिए।

वित्त मंत्री ने कहा है 2 और आईआईएम स्थापित किए जाएंगे, जो जम्मू कश्मीर और आंध्र प्रदेश में होंगे। इसके बाद देश में आईआईएम की संख्या 20 हो जाएगी। बजट भाषण में जेटली ने कहा कि इंडियन इंस्टीट्यूट आफ माइंस, धनबाद को आईआईटी में बदला जाएगा और कर्नाटक में एक नए आईआईटी की स्थापना की

## पिछले बजट में घोषित 6 आईआईएम की स्थिति

राज्य	स्थिति
बिहार	बोधगया में जमीन की पेशकश
ओडिशा	भुवनेश्वर में जमीन की पेशकश
महाराष्ट्र	नागपुर में जमीन, केंद्र ने स्वीकारा
पंजाब	अमृतसर में जमीन, केंद्र ने स्वीकारा
हिमाचल प्रदेश	सिरमौर में जमीन की पेशकश
आंध्र प्रदेश	विशाखापत्तनम में जमीन की पेशकश, 17 जनवरी 2015 को शिलान्यास

जाएगी। जेवियर स्कूल आफ मैनेजमेंट (एक्सएलआरआई) के निदेशक ई अब्राहम ने कहा कि यह भी महत्वपूर्ण है कि सभी नए केंद्रीय संस्थानों, आईआईएम, इंजीनियरिंग कॉलेजों के साथ अन्य संस्थानों में अध्यापन के लिए योग्य अध्यापक हों। जुलाई 2014 में पेश किए गए बजट में सरकार ने हिमाचल प्रदेश,

पंजाब, बिहार, ओडिशा, महाराष्ट्र और आंध्र प्रदेश में 6 नए आईआईएम स्थापित करने की घोषणा की थी। साथ ही सरकार ने जम्मू कश्मीर, छत्तीसगढ़, गोवा, आंध्र प्रदेश और केरल में 5 नए आईआईटी स्थापित करने की भी घोषणा की थी। इस साल के बजट प्रस्तावों के बाद आईआईटी की कुल

संख्या 23 हो गई है।

एक आईआईटी के निदेशक ने कहा, 'नए शैक्षिक संस्थानों की घोषणा अच्छी बात है। लेकिन हमें गुणवत्ता सुधारने की भी जरूरत है। भारत का कोई भी संस्थान विश्व के 10 विश्वविद्यालयों में शामिल नहीं है। सरकार को संस्थानों के लिए धन का आवंटन करना चाहिए, जिससे इन संस्थानों में शोध कार्य को बढ़ावा मिले और युवा वर्ग शोध के लिए प्रेरित हो।'

मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय के आंकड़ों के मुताबिक पिछले साल प्रस्तावित 6 नए आईआईएम के लिए जमीन पहले ही आवंटित हो चुकी है। बिजनेस स्कूल के शिक्षाविदों का भी कहना है कि नए आईआईएम स्थापित किए जाने के पहले मौजूदा प्रबंध संस्थानों की गुणवत्ता में सुधार करने की जरूरत है। मुंबई के एक प्रबंध संस्थान से जुड़े शिक्षाविद ने कहा, 'मौजूदा और नए संस्थानों को

आईआईएम जैसे संस्थान बनाने या वैश्विक पाठ्यक्रम लागू करने को प्रोत्साहित किया जाना चाहिए, जिससे न केवल नौकरियां करने योग्य लोग तैयार होंगे बल्कि इससे पश्चिम के संस्थानों से मुकाबला भी किया जा सकेगा।'

एक और मानव संसाधन विशेषज्ञ का कहना है कि ढेर सारे आईआईएम की स्थापना से संस्थान की गुणवत्ता प्रभावित होगी। नई दिल्ली की एक मानव संसाधन सलाहकार संस्था के निदेशक ने कहा, 'दो हार्वर्ड बिजनेस स्कूल न होने की वजह है कि यह सिर्फ एक हो सकता है। आईआईएम के तहत तमाम संस्थान आने से इसकी ब्रांड वैल्यू नहीं बढ़ेगी, बल्कि इससे नियुक्तियों को लेकर भेदभाव होगा और हो सकता है कि पुराने और नए संस्थानों के विद्यार्थियों को पैकेज देने में कंपनियां भेदभाव करें।'

Hindustan Times ND 02/03/2015 P-5

# New authority for education loans a welcome step

## CONSUMER FOCUS



PUSHPA GIRIMAJI

I would like to draw the attention of consumers to two interesting proposals in the Union budget presented on Saturday. While one is the Student Financial Aid Authority to administer and monitor scholarships as well educational loan Schemes through the Pradhan Mantri Vidya Lakshmi Karyakram, the other is the creation of a task force to establish a sector-neutral financial redressal agency to address grievances against all financial service providers. Both were long overdue and need to be welcomed.

Given the fact that a large percentage of students do not pursue higher studies on account of lack of funds and the education loan scheme introduced through the banks have failed to live up to expectations, one tends to look at the Student Financial Aid Authority with lot of opti-

mism and hope. Whether this will eventually succeed in fulfilling the objective will depend on the structure and the scope of the authority.

It was way back in 2001 that the government introduced, through the banking system, a scheme to advance education loans so that meritorious students did not discontinue studies for want of funds. Subsequently on the basis of complaints from students and parents on the difficulties faced by them in securing the loans, the Reserve Bank even revised the scheme to ensure 'more affordable terms and conditions'.

Yet, there any number of complaints of eligible students being denied the loan on the flimsiest of grounds (because the official in charge was ill and was not attending office!), of inordinate delays in grant of loans, leading to students losing the admission, of banks demanding collateral security even for amounts that do not require any and of banks demanding bribe for sanctioning the loan. There have also been complaints of banks demanding repayment of EMIs even before

the student's completion of the course and encashing post-dated cheques without the consent of the customer!

So one really hopes that the new authority contemplated in the budget will fulfill the promise of the finance minister- that lack of funds will not deter students from pursuing higher studies.

A redressal agency to deal with complaints against financial service providers would be equally welcome. For a long time now, consumers and consumer groups have been demanding such a set-up to deal exclusively with complaints pertaining to all financial service providers, including insurance, banking, non-banking companies and chit fund companies. This demand has now become more strident in the wake of several ponzi scheme scandals in recent years.

It would be good if the finance minister expands the scope of the task force to include a close look at the financial sector regulators vis-à-vis consumer protection. Are they fulfilling their mandate when it comes to protecting the interests of consumers?

# The billion people challenge

While SETU and National Skills Mission are steps in the right direction, implementation is key to the Budget's skilling plan



**SANJEEV DUGGAL**

**I**N ITS first full Union Budget, the government seems to be making good on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Make-in-India initiative. The core campaign revolves around making India the manufacturing hub of the world, and for this to happen we need a highly skilled pool of human resources. Finance minister Arun Jaitley's announcement to launch a National Skills Mission to provide employability skills to the rural youth is a step in the right direction.

Jaitley rightly pointed out that while India is one of the youngest nations in the world, yet today less than 5% of our potential workforce gets formal skills training to be employable and stay employable. The employability skills gap is costing India dearly with uncoordinated initiatives between the Centre and the states, and disjointed efforts from various organisations, the private sector and educational academies.

By 2020, we will have over 12 million youth entering the workforce every year and most of them will not be first-day work ready. The efforts towards providing skills development need to be made more comprehensive and cohesive. The National Skills Mission's objective to consolidate skill initiatives, spread across several ministries, and standardise procedures and outcomes across 31 Sector Skill Councils, will provide the much-needed structure and hopefully stop turf wars between ministries whose proposals run parallel to each other.

However, the funds proposed to buttress the skills development agenda are meagre, given the enormity of what needs to

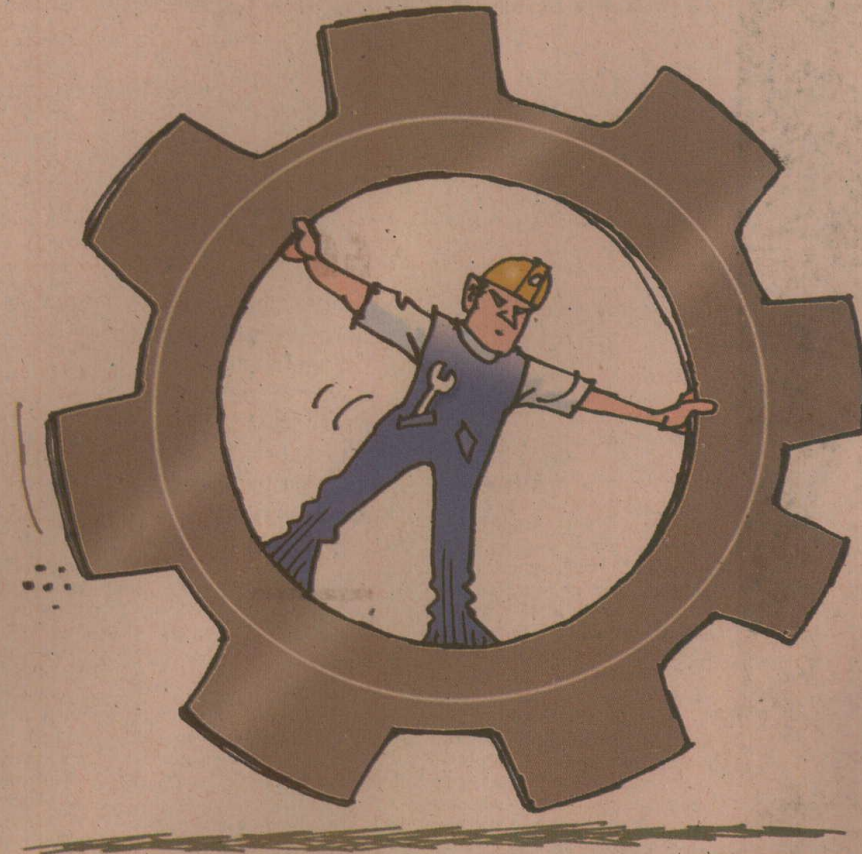


ILLUSTRATION: ROHINIT PHORE

be achieved. Jaitley's announcement that ₹1,500 crore has been allocated for the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana, which seeks to enhance employability of rural youth, is inconsequential if compared with the allocation for, say, defence. In fact, Sarbananda Sonowal, the minister of state for skills development & entrepreneurship, who has the daunting task of coordinating with 20 Union ministries that handle skills development programmes, remarked that Skill India is Modi's dream project and hence "there can't be a crisis of budget."

The focus on higher education, enabling realisation of India's extraordinary potential and aspirations for economic and technological development

through up-gradation of 80,000 secondary schools and ensuring that they are within a 5-km reach of students, along with the lofty commitment to make sure that no student misses school due to lack of funds, is noteworthy. But the government needs to engage in a high decibel campaign to make skills development and vocational training an "acceptable, alternative" education option for the youth. Even today, career options such as plumbers, masons, electricians, painters and other 'trades' are looked down upon by both urban and rural youth as most would prefer having a lower-paying white-collar job than a relatively well-paid blue-collar job.

Interestingly, the government has proposed Nai Manzil, a scheme that would enable youth

without the school-leaving certificate to get employment. This also means that we have to do away with our preference for paper degrees. This may just be what is needed to turn around the current 'negative' perception around vocational training and employable skills development. Jaitley noted that skills development should start from class XI for those who opt for it. Urging the industry to give stipends to these students who will work as trainees shows that the government has given thought to making skills development a reality instead of remaining a mantra. Several countries including China, Germany and Japan have already adopted such a model and have shown success in skills development for its youth.

## Self-employment instead of salaried employment

India is a nation ready to fly but for this to take place at warp speed our youth need to be skilled, risk-hungry, educated and motivated. And what better motivation than being a job-creator than a job-hunter. The Budget announcement of setting up a Self-Employment and Talent Utilisation (SETU) mechanism will go a long way in encouraging entrepreneurship in the country. Jaitley announced that SETU will be a techno-financial, incubation and facilitation programme to support all aspects of start-up businesses, and other self-employment activities, particularly in technology-driven areas. An amount of ₹1,000 crore is being set up initially in the NITI Aayog for SETU.

The finance minister also noted that there is a growing interest in start-ups. "Experimenting in cutting-edge technologies, creating value out of ideas and initiatives, and converting them into scalable enterprises and businesses is at the core of our strategy for engaging our youth and for inclusive and sustainable growth of the country," he said. But setting up a SETU mechanism by itself will not suffice, what is required is industry participation that could be by way of mentorship, alliances and technology know-how. An initiative of this sort does not only have the wherewithal to generate billions of dollars in value but also millions of jobs for the unemployable youth. If India's unemployment and never-ending skills gap is to be tackled, then self-employment and entrepreneurship is the key.

The Union Government's first Budget is pro-infrastructure and investment in infrastructure will go up by ₹70,000 crore in 2015-16. What this also means is that the Budget is pro-employment since the infrastructure projects that will come up over the next couple of years will need skilled workers who will help in nation building. If all of these proposals take off, India will truly rise.

*The author is CEO & director, Centum Learning*

## Indian Express ND 02/03/2015 P-3

# HRD plans an arts and crafts university

RUHI TEWARI

NEW DELHI, MARCH 1

THERE may soon be a university dedicated to arts and crafts, which will be the first of its kind, with the government mulling over such a possibility and setting up a committee to examine its feasibility.

As per a notification of the HRD Ministry dated February 20, the ministry has set up a five-member committee with representatives from both the HRD and the Textiles ministries to “explore the possibility of opening a university dedicated to arts and crafts”.

## IT HAS set up a five-member committee to explore the possibility of such a university

According to sources, the initial proposal by the Ministry of Textiles was for an arts and crafts institute but the HRD Ministry sought to explore the option of a university offering degrees. The ministry could be considering the possibility of establishing a Central University for the purpose.

However, while the ministry is looking at a dedicated arts and crafts university, traditionally a university is multi-

disciplinary, offering a range of courses. In terms of nomenclature, a dedicated course is offered mostly by an ‘institute’.

“The university as an institution has changed continuously over the centuries of its existence, yet it has also functioned as a repository of traditional knowledge and values. At the same time, in creating knowledge through research, the university is also the natural site of new discoveries and in-

ventions, and challenging existing systems. Arts and crafts being the vehicles of creative expression, the promotion of studies in these disciplines is essential for human resource development and capacity building in higher forms of expression and creative thought,” the notification says.

No contours for the committee or the proposed university have been defined, and the former has been left to lay down its procedures and formulate its modalities. The committee has to submit its report within three months from the date of its first meeting.

## Times of India ND 02/03/2015 P-17

# Human head transplant in 2 years?

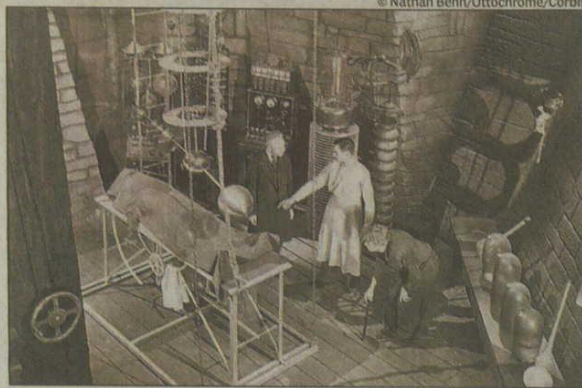
## Italian Claims To Have Devised Frankenstein-Style Radical Surgery Technique

**London:** The world's first human head transplant could take place within the next two years, according to an Italian surgeon who claims to have developed a technique for the radical surgery.

Sergio Canavero, from the Turin Advanced Neuro-modulation Group in Italy, who first proposed the idea in 2013, has published a summary of the Frankenstein-style technique he believes will allow doctors to transplant a head onto a new body.

The technique, published in the journal *Surgical Neurology International*, involves cooling the recipient's head and the donor body to extend the time their cells can survive without oxygen.

The tissue around the



A scene from the 1931 movie version of Mary Shelley's 'Frankenstein'

neck is dissected and the major blood vessels are linked using tiny tubes, before the spinal cords of each person are cut. Cleanly severing the

spinal cord is key, said Canavero.

The recipient's head is then moved onto the donor body and the two ends of the spinal cord—which resemble

two densely packed bundles of spaghetti—are fused together. To achieve this, Canavero intends to flush the area with a chemical called polyethylene glycol, and follow up with several hours of injections of the same stuff.

Just like hot water makes dry spaghetti stick together, polyethylene glycol encourages the fat in cell membranes to mesh, *'New Scientist'* reported.

Next, the muscles and blood supply would be sutured and the recipient kept in a coma for three or four weeks to prevent movement. Implanted electrodes would provide regular electrical stimulation to the spinal cord, because research suggests this can strengthen new nerve connections. When the recipient

wakes up, Canavero said they would be able to move and feel their face and would speak with the same voice.

He said physiotherapy would enable the person to walk within a year. Several people have already volunteered to get a new body, he said. The trickiest part will be getting the spinal cords to fuse. Polyethylene glycol has been shown to prompt the growth of spinal cord nerves in animals, and Canavero intends to use brain-dead organ donors to test the technique. Canavero aims to use the surgery to extend lives of people whose muscles and nerves have degenerated or whose organs are riddled with cancer. He plans to announce the project at a conference in Maryland in June. PTI

# Soon, you could talk with computers like friends

© Michael Poehlman/Corbis

**New York:** Humans may soon be able to talk to computers and robots the same way they talk to their friends, scientists say.

A new programme from the US Defence Advanced Projects Agency (DARPA) aims to get computers to express themselves more like humans by allowing them to use spoken language, facial expressions and gestures to communicate. "Today we view computers as tools to be activated by a few clicks or keywords, in large part because we are separated by a language barrier," said Paul Cohen, DARPA's communicating with computers (CwC) programme manager. "The goal of CwC is to bridge that barrier, and in the process encourage the development of new problem-solving technologies," Cohen said.

One of the problem-solving technologies CwC could help further is the computer-based modelling used in cancer research.

Computers previously developed by DARPA are already tasked with creating models of the complicated molecular processes that cause cells to become cancerous. But while these computers can churn out models quickly, they are not so adept at judging if the models are actually plausible and worthy of further research. If the computers could



## CHATTY MACHINES

somehow seek the opinions of flesh-and-blood biologists, the work they do would likely be more useful for cancer researchers.

To get computers up to the task of communicating with people, CwC researchers have devised several tasks that require computers and humans to work together toward a common goal, 'Live Science' reported.

Better communications technologies could help robot operators use natural language to describe missions and give directions to the machines they operate both before and during operations. PTI



**Times of India ND 02/03/2015 P-17**

# First 'space selfie' by Buzz Aldrin sells for £6,000

**London:** The first 'selfie' taken in space by Nasa astronaut Buzz Aldrin in 1966 has fetched almost £6,000 — ten times its estimate — at a London auction.

The space selfie was part of a collection of 700 vintage Nasa photographs that sold for a total of £4,89,440 at London's Bloomsbury Auction. The selfie was snapped by Aldrin during the Gemini 12 mission in November 1966 and fetched £5,952 at the auction.

The auction on February 26 lasted nearly ten hours and brought in a total of £4,89,440 from over 300 bidders, 'Business Insider' reported. The photos, from a previously unseen private collection, were Nasa originals bearing a unique stamp, caption and identification number.

The first photograph from space that was taken on October 24, 1946 sold for £1,736. PTI



Nasa

Buzz Aldrin's photograph snapped during the Gemini 12 mission in November 1966

## Perfectly round egg goes for £480

A perfectly spherical chicken egg in the United Kingdom has fetched an "unbelievable" £480 in an internet auction on eBay. Kim Broughton found one of her hens had laid the round egg in her garden in Essex on February 17. She decided to auction the egg in aid of the Cystic Fibrosis Trust after a friend's son died from the disease. PTI