

# Newspaper Clips

**March 10, 2012**

Indian Express Pune 08.03.2012 P-9

## IITs rely on govt funds, hence interference: paper



IIT-Bombay. Compared with world-class universities like MIT, the IITs have a long way to go, says the paper, funded by the World Bank.

MIHIKA BASU  
MUMBAI, MARCH 8

THE “continued dependence” of the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) on government funds is an “open invitation for greater political interference”, concludes a paper on premier institutions across several countries. The paper, titled “the road to excellence, the making of world-class research universities”, is funded by the World Bank.

“Comparing IITs with engineering colleges and universities in India would surely reveal IITs to be islands of excellence, far beyond the reach of the universities. But if one compares IITs with high-ranking world-class universities including the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)

— the model on which IITs were based — IITs have a long way to go,” says the paper on the IIT system by Prof N Jayaram from the Centre for Research Methodology at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS).

The study covers universities from South Asia (India), East and Southeast Asia (China, Hong Kong, Singapore, Korea, Malaysia), Latin America (Chile and Mexico), eastern Europe (Republic of Russia) and Africa (Nigeria).

It analyses how 11 research universities have developed and matured in these countries while grappling with challenges.

For India, the growth of the IIT system, its recognition as a brand internationally and the threats it faces were analysed.

“If any institution in India can aspire to world-class status, other than the Indian Institute of Science-Bangalore, the original five (IITs) are potential candidates. Degrees awarded by IITs are recognised and respected globally. The success that IIT alumni have achieved in various walks of life and professions have also contributed immensely to the brand IIT,” says Jayaram in the paper.

However, while calling IITs institutions of excellence, the paper simultaneously says the “extra effort” made by IITs may only help it “stay where it is”.

It questions the capabilities of the new IITs and whether they can replicate achievement of the older IITs.

“One fears that the fledgling IITs will hardly take off, and even if they

do, it will be several decades before they reach a modicum of what the original five achieved during the quarter century of their existence,” it says. The paper says the IIT system needs to tackle the immense internal and external challenges it currently faces.

“Governmental decisions like the starting of new IITs without adequate preparation, the pay packages for the faculty and other options, suggest that the government has begun treating IITs as regional universities, if not as its own departments. The increasing proclivity of politicians to interfere in the IIT system seems to be related to the decline in their pride about the system,” it says.

The quota system and the political interference it brought into the functioning of IITs too are mentioned.

Hindu Kochi 09.03.2012 P-7

## New Inter syllabus will benefit government college students

Change necessitated with Centre proposing to introduce common entrance tests for engg., medical streams

Special Correspondent

**HYDERABAD:** Government college students can now dream of competing with the private colleges students what with the new syllabus for Intermediate first year ready to be adopted from the coming academic year.

The syllabus is in tune with the CBSE syllabus at national level, which the corporate colleges have been teaching

• The new syllabus is in tune with that of CBSE

• English medium books to be ready by April 15, Telugu medium by May 15

to their students in addition to the State syllabus to compete at the national level entrance exams like IIT and AIEEE. “The syllabus has been prepared by experienced lecturers following the

NCERT syllabus. It is almost same with little variation in some chapters,” said M. Subrahmanyam, Secretary, Board of Intermediate Education (BIE).

Syllabus has been changed

in all science subjects – Botany, Zoology, Physics, Chemistry apart from Mathematics. The prepared syllabus has been given to the Telugu Academy after being checked for errors four times. The English medium books will be ready by April 15 and the Telugu medium books by May 15. About 80 per cent Intermediate students in the State pursue the course in English medium and 20 per

cent in Telugu medium, which is mostly offered in 1,000-odd Government junior colleges.

**Training for lecturers**

Work for preparing the second syllabus will start this November and it will be finished by April next as it will be introduced from 2012-13 to ensure that students joining now will automatically study fresh syllabus even in

their second year. Officials said that Government college lecturers will be trained to teach the new syllabus.

The syllabus change has become crucial with the Central Government proposing to introduce common entrance tests for both engineering and medical at the national level. Apart from Andhra Pradesh, several State governments have been opposing its introduction

from 2012 itself arguing the syllabus variation.

Despite the variation, State students were bagging maximum ranks in IIT and AIEEE all these years as private colleges prepared their students both with the State and CBSE syllabus. Government colleges’ students have been denied of this benefit all these years but with the changed syllabus they can prove themselves at national entrance tests too.

It is only a matter of time before technologies come in to replace teachers entirely

# ICT revolution to solve India's education crisis

SRIRAM SHANKAR

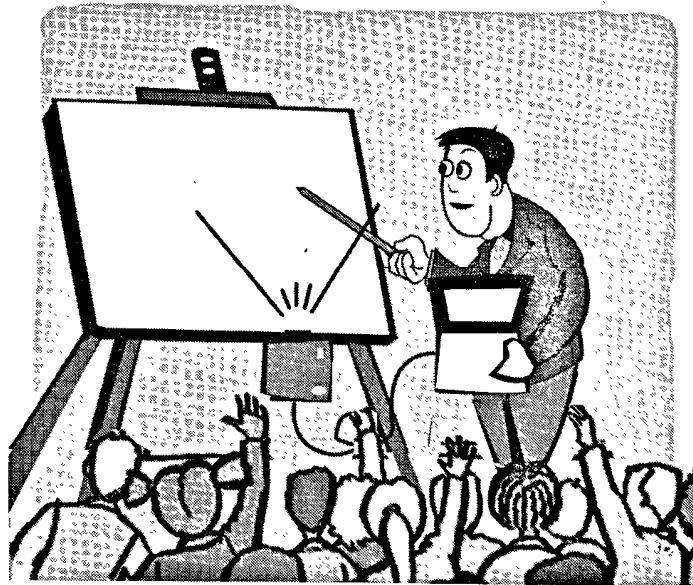
THE SONG *Brick in the Wall* by Pink Floyd is perhaps best remembered for the lines that exhort the teacher to "leave us kids alone". That captures the state of education, in terms of content and delivery, for millions of us who have been through 'the system'.

In a country like India, which is perennially short of funds for education, often critically so, it is well nigh impossible to train teachers adequately and in numbers to service a large number of children who need to be educated. Add to that badly maintained facilities in schools, high absenteeism among teachers, and the stage is set for a new set of solutions, a revolution by some accounts, to solve this age-old problem.

This revolution might very well be under way on the back of three seminal advancements – lower cost of data (accessing the internet is now cheaper), lower cost of technology (hand-held devices like tablets and smartphones) leading to mass adoption and improvement in the quality of tools that allow developers to fashion content and make it more presentable.

A good teacher who can inspire students by staving off the pressure of a competition-only culture is an increasingly rare commodity. Help, however, is at hand. If a picture is worth a thousand words, then an animation or a movie must be worth a million or maybe more.

A surfeit of digital devices and increasingly cheap digital communication methods can ensure that a good teacher no longer needs to be confined to a classroom. A video of a classroom lecture, recorded and uploaded on to Youtube, can help other students, who may not even be on the same continent, listen to and be inspired by good



Pullavi

teachers. In such an environment, perhaps the only constraint to learning is one's own willingness.

The internet is awash with stories of educators uploading lectures and other materials online (mostly Youtube) for free. One of the most prominent examples is that of Khan Academy. MIT graduate Salman Khan's venture has received a lot of interest from venture capitalists and philanthropists alike, such as Google, which has donated some \$2 million to help him make such content in languages other than English. The reach of the internet is evident in a comment attributed to Salman Khan, who said, "With so little effort on my part, I can empower an unlimited amount of people for all time. I can't imagine a better use of my time." Universities such as Stanford, MIT, Harvard and IITs have been quick to jump on to the bandwagon. Often criticised as elitist and facing calls to make education more inclu-

sive, these universities have put taped lectures of some of their most popular courses online. A computer engineering student in India, for instance, can now listen to a lecture delivered by a leading computer scientist, who is also a member of the faculty at Stanford. A philosophy student or enthusiast can similarly view philosophy courses at Harvard University's Youtube channel from the comfort of his/her home.

Competition in the smartphone and tablet industries has also benefited end consumers greatly. Decreasing prices have ensured that the cheapest Android phone is now available for about Rs 5,000 and the cheapest Android-based tablet can now be bought for about Rs 7,500. The government, eager for education to leap into the modern times, has adopted technology as a centrepiece for increasing the quality of education delivered in institutions of higher learning.

The NME-ICT (National

Mission on Education through Integrated Communication Technologies), seeks to bring low-cost yet fully functional technologies to students at institutions of higher learning with a view to helping them take advantage of the material that is now increasingly available online. Launched by Vigyan Prasar and IGNOU, on the Science Day, Science@Mobile, an SMS service, will give its subscribers information on a wide variety of science topics free of cost. Subscribers can access this service depending on their level of familiarity with science. The service is now available only in English, though efforts are on to localise this service.

LHSee, an application developed by CERN, is an educational application available on Android that acts as a guide on LHC for the general public. Through videos and complex graphics, each and every part of the massive LHC complex has been laid bare for the layman, and ex-

plained in a way that makes this information accessible.

The existing model of delivering education is remarkably democratic and based on assumptions that do not hold in the real world. One such underlying assumption is that all children are equal. Children of the same age are grouped together in a class without taking into account that even at the same age, not all children are at the same level of mental development. Some children may be inherently good at some skills, be it hand-eye coordination or spatial skill, and extremely poor in others, such as reading and writing skills.

Given the rapidly evolving nature of technologies to deliver content in innovative ways and the wide dissemination of low-cost devices to deliver such content, it is perhaps only a matter of time before technologies come in to replace teachers entirely. While it does seem to make sense, this notion that teachers can somehow be replaced with content developed in a studio is false. Educational content, no matter how attractive, might never be able to replace a teacher entirely. The way a good teacher can interact, inspire and lead you to question your beliefs is not something that a computer can, at least not for the foreseeable future, do.

Though man has made a lot of progress in a number of fields, education, in terms of the content taught and in the way it is delivered, still follows models and methodologies that have seen little change from the time of the ancient gurukul.

Imbalances between the rich and poor have denied the right to good education to many students who found themselves on the wrong side of the divide. The churn brought about by the 'democratisation' of technology is good as it erases this divide and delivers education to a greater number of people at a time and place of their convenience. In the absence of concrete data, the effect of technology on learning outcomes remains to be seen. But the destruction of barriers to learning is a very welcome step.

*(The writer is an engineer and is involved in developing technologies such as speech recognition and text-to-speech systems for Indian languages)*

Surfeit of digital devices ensures that a good teacher no longer needs to be confined to a classroom .....

## IISERs OK WITH SINGLE ENTRANCE FOR ENGINEERING

AGE CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 9

Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research on Friday accepted HRD ministry's proposal for a single common entrance test for engineering courses from 2013. The common test entails merger of IIT-JEE and AIEEE for admission to undergraduate science and engineering programmes in central institutes like IITs and NITs.

The IISERs gave approval to the proposal at a meeting chaired by HRD minister Kapil Sibal in the national capital.

The five IISERs in Bhopal, Kolkata, Mohali, Pune and Thiruvananthapuram have a total student strength of 600, of which roughly 150 seats are currently filled up through IIT-JEE channel. International Baccalaureate is also an approved basis for admission to IISERs.

HRD minister Kapil Sibal stated that the government will try its best to get the NIT amendment bill passed in the Budget Session of Parliament, officials in the ministry said.

The passage of the bill is expected to facilitate awarding of degrees to the students of IISERs.

Official sources stated that the HRD minister also emphasised on the need to reduce the time taken to obtain a Ph.D degree.

"Directors were in agreement that in case of exceptional students, provision should be made to complete in shorter period of time without diluting quality," sources said.

## Business Standard ND 10/03/2012 P-2

### Tata opens Harvard's India classroom

Tata Sons chairman Ratan Tata on Friday inaugurated Harvard's classroom at the Taj Lands End, Bandra in suburban Mumbai. With a space of 2,400 sq feet and a seating capacity of 82 students, the classroom took a year for the Taj Group to build.

BS REPORTER

## Business Bhaskar ND 10/03/2012

P-10

# ई-लर्निंग ने बढ़ाया डिस्टेंस एजुकेशन में छात्रों का रुझान

नेट की मदद से नौकरीपेशा लोगों के लिए पढ़ाई करना बनाया आसान  
प्रिंसी शर्मा • नई दिल्ली

डिस्टेंस एजुकेशन में शैक्षणिक संस्थानों द्वारा ई-लर्निंग और ऑनलाइन परीक्षा जैसी प्रक्रियाओं को अपनाने से इनमें छात्रों की संख्या तेजी से बढ़ रही है। संस्थानों का मानना है कि आज के समय में डिस्टेंस एजुकेशन के जरिए पढ़ाई कर रहे ज्यादातर छात्र कहीं न कहीं नौकरी कर रहे हैं, ऐसे में किसी केंद्र पर जाकर परीक्षा देने के लिए छात्रों के पास समय नहीं होता। इसी को ध्यान में रखते हुए संस्थान इंटरनेट का इस्तेमाल करके स्टूडेंट फ्रेंडली उपायों को अपना रहे हैं। संस्थान इस तरह की सुविधाओं के लिए किसी तरह का अतिरिक्त शुल्क नहीं ले रहे हैं।

सिंबॉयसिस में सेंटर फॉर डिस्टेंस लर्निंग की निदेशक स्वाति मजूमदार ने बताया कि संस्थान ने वर्ष 2001 में ई-लर्निंग शुरू की थी और 2004 में ऑनलाइन परीक्षा और असेसमेंट जैसी सुविधाओं को शुरू किया था। वर्ष 2001 में डिस्टेंस एजुकेशन के जरिए पढ़ रहे छात्रों की संख्या 8,000 थी, जो 2004 में बढ़कर 25,000 हुई और अभी संस्थान के साथ 2,00,000 से ज्यादा छात्र पंजीकृत हैं। हर साल तकरीबन 50,000 नए छात्र जुड़ रहे हैं। ई-लर्निंग का इसमें बहुत बड़ा योगदान है। उन्होंने बताया कि वर्चुअल क्लास रूम के जरिए छात्रों को घर बैठे फैकल्टी पढ़ा रहे हैं। आगे छात्राओं के लिए परीक्षा देने के विकल्पों को सुविधाजनक बनाए जाने की योजना पर काम किया जा रहा है। डिस्टेंस एजुकेशन में शिक्षा की गुणवत्ता को बेहतर बनाने में

### हार्डटेक पढ़ाई



ऑनलाइन लर्निंग,  
ऑनलाइन परीक्षा,  
ऑनलाइन असेसमेंट  
और ई-लाइब्रेरी से  
सब आसान

वर्चुअल क्लास रूम के  
जरिए छात्रों को घर बैठे  
ही पढ़ा रहे हैं संस्थान



ऑनलाइन प्लेटफॉर्म बेहतरीन साबित हुआ है।

इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ मैनेजमेंट टेक्नोलॉजी (आईएमटी) में सेंटर फॉर डिस्टेंस लर्निंग के निदेशक डॉ. अरुण मोहन शौरी ने बताया कि संस्थान ने पिछले पांच सालों में इंटरनेट के जरिए डिस्टेंस एजुकेशन में पढ़ रहे छात्रों को सहूलियत देने और इसमें छात्रों की रुचि को बढ़ाने के लिए ऑनलाइन लर्निंग, ऑनलाइन परीक्षा देने का विकल्प, ऑनलाइन असेसमेंट और ई-लाइब्रेरी जैसे प्रयासों को अपनाया है। इसके जरिए बढ़ रही सहूलियत के चलते न केवल छात्रों को पंजीकरण बढ़ रहा है, बल्कि ऑनलाइन परीक्षा देने का विकल्प चुनने वाले छात्रों की संख्या भी कुल संख्या की 75 फीसदी हो गई है, जबकि 25 फीसदी छात्र अभी भी ऑफलाइन परीक्षा का चुनाव कर रहे हैं। इसके अलावा इससे डिस्टेंस एजुकेशन में क्वालिटी एजुकेशन की समस्या का भी समाधान हुआ है।

Publication: The Times Of India Delhi; Date: Mar 10, 2012; Section: Times Business; Page: 23;

# L&T names new CEO, but Naik stays on

## Co Splits Roles of Chairman & MD After 9 Yrs

Piyush Pandey | TNN

**Mumbai:** Larsen & Toubro (L&T) named longtime executive Krishnamurthi Venkataramanaschieff executive officer and managing director, ending more than a year of speculation over who would lead India's largest engineering and construction company. Current chairman and managing director Anil Manibhai Naik will, however, continue as executive chairman of the \$11.5-billion enterprise for another five years.

L&T will split the position of chairman and managing director after nearly a decade. It is one of the rare board managed companies with no identifiable shareholder in an otherwise promoter-driven Indian set-up.

Incidentally, Venkataramanan, 67, will retire in little over three years even before Naik's new term as chairman gets over, which some analysts slamming the much hyped succession move as shortsighted. Reacting to Naik staying on as executive chairman, K Sudarshan, managing partner at EMA Partners, tweeted: "Shambolic and farcical succession plan at L&T. Seriously, independent boards are failing to crack the whip when needed. Not a good sign." But L&T shares gained 5% to close at Rs 1,302 in a firm Mumbai market on Friday, valuing the firm about Rs 80,000 crore.

Venkataramanan will be responsible for daily management of L&T's businesses, while Naik retains focus on portfolio restructuring, institutionalizing its different business units and developing the leadership team.

Venkataramanan, who is currently a whole-time director and president of the hydrocarbon business, will step into his new role next month, becoming the sixth CEO of

### CHANGE OF GUARD

► K Venkataramanan, 67, joined L&T on June 12, 1969 after completing B.Tech in chemical engineering from IIT, Delhi

► Has worked with L&T chairman A M Naik for 43 years

► Appointed whole-time director on May 20, 1995

► Laid foundation for project engineering and execution in L&T

► Was president, hydrocarbon before being named MD & CEO



Follow your passion and salary will follow you... For us, L&T stands for love and trust... learning and training

### Being Venkat

Voracious reader, sports enthusiast with interests in cricket, lawn tennis, table tennis and basketball; even today, he runs on Juhu beach before reaching office at 8.30 am and tries to squeeze in time to play tennis the evening

the 75-year-old company L&T's retirement policy requires MDs to relinquish their position at 70 years.

Naik, who turns 70 this June, said that the search committee comprising of non-executive directors looked at internal and external candidates with Venkataramanan emerging as the best choice. "We hired international consultants to get us a person who would have good knowledge of our diversified business but they couldn't," said Naik, adding that "he knows most of L&T's businesses and is the best man to steer the company in these challenging times."

An IIT Delhi alumnus, Venkataramanan, called KV by his friends and colleagues, has been with the company for 43 years, having joined as a trainee engineer. An ardent sportsman, he played a key role in setting up new businesses like defence and power for L&T.

The change in leadership comes at a time when the com-

pany wants better focus on its core businesses including heavy engineering, shipbuilding, software services and electrical equipment while exiting marginal businesses. Naik said that the company will start fresh search for Venkataramanan's successor by January 2015 and will have a new leadership team in place by 2016.

Venkataramanan and Naik are L&T lifers—people who have spurned attractive MNC jobs and invested their careers to keep the company independent. "Great companies are built by people who stay. You can't build a legacy spending few years in and out," Venkataramanan said.

Naik and his top team succeeded in keeping corporate raiders at bay even when L&T was eyed by some of the most influential business houses like Reliance Industries. Naik joined the company in 1965 as junior engineer who went on to be its chairman & managing director in December 2003.

**HindustanTimes**

**Title : IB students can now apply in IISER**

**Author :**

**Location : NEW DELHI:**

**Article Date : 03/10/2012**

### **IB students can now apply in IISER**

**NEW DELHI:** Students with International Baccalaureate (IB Board) at higher secondary level can now seek admission in any of the five Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER). So far, students from all the boards except the IB board could apply for admission in IISER. The decision was announced at a meeting chaired by Union HRD minister Kapil Sibal with the chairmen and directors of the IISERs .

**HindustanTimes**

**Title : R.K. Tyagi takes over as Hindustan Aeronautics Limited's new Chairman**

**Author :**

**Location :**

**Article Date : 03/10/2012**

### **R.K. Tyagi takes over as Hindustan Aeronautics Limited's new Chairman**

R.K. Tyagi has taken over as chairman of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL). Previously, he was CMD of Pawan Hans Helicopter Ltd. He is an engineering graduate in Electronics and Telecommunication from IIT Roorkee and also possesses a degree of Master in Business Administration. Subsequently, he has also attended an Advanced Leadership course on Public Sector Management for 15 months at Indian School of Business (ISB Hyderabad) in the year 2004-05.



## INTERVIEW MANOHAR PARRIKAR

# Illegal mining has to be stopped, else Goa will perish

**Ramesh Babu**

ramesh.babu@hindustantimes.com

Manohar Parrikar (56), a metallurgy engineering graduate from IIT Bombay, admits to illegal mining in Goa but denies there is any mafia involved. Rather, he puts it down to lax administration, which he wants to tone up after taking over as CM on Friday. Edited excerpts:

### Did you expect such a win?

Yes. Our target was 28 seats (out of 40 in the assembly). The demand for change was getting louder by the day. We could gauge the feeling of the common man. They are fed up with corruption and nepotism. Youngsters, who usually take little interest in the poll process, turned up in large numbers. We have to live up to their expectations..

### Corruption was a main issue. Will you impose a blanket ban on mining?

There is no need for a blanket ban. My priority is getting the administration back on track. But we have to check illegal units and rationalise the sector. Illegal mining will have to stop, else Goa will perish. We will appoint a lokayukta and let it probe everything.

### But the mining mafia is well-entrenched?

I don't think there is any mafia behind this. But when the authorities slackened, illegal mining thrived. Those who supported it will have to pay a heavy price. Let the (MB) Shah Commission report be made

public. I assure you illegal mining will be stopped.

### There are reports that Russians are buying property in Goa.

I am aware of this. Many bought property by proxy. I think effective policing and revenue norms will help check this. I will examine these cases personally.

### With the influx of outsiders, do the Goans feel insecure?

In a federal polity, we can't control outsiders. But we have to protect local interests also. With the realty boom, illegal mining and other maladies, it is natural that the locals will feel insecure. My government will help dispel these fears.

### Any larger role for you in national politics? Being a favourite of the RSS, there were talks that the sangh first proposed your name but later Nitin Gadkari came in (as BJP chief).

I am not aware of this.

