

**Newspaper Clips**  
**March 11, 2015**

## **Government Appoints Dr Jagadesh and Rajiv Sharma to TRAI**



<http://www.teeanalysis.com/resources/government-appoints-dr-jagadesh-and-rajiv-sharma-to-trai-13715.html>

The government has appointed Dr M Jagadesh Kumar and Rajiv Sharma as part time members of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI).

Dr M Jagadesh Kumar is professor at IIT, Delhi whereas Rajiv Sharma is former secretary general, National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has been appointed as part-time members of TRAI for a period of three years or until they attain the age of sixty-five years, whichever is earlier.

Dr M Jagadesh Kumar was born in Mamidala, Nalgonda district of Andhra Pradesh. He obtained his MS (EE) and PhD (EE) degrees from the department of electrical engineering, Indian Institute of Technology, Madras.

Currently, Dr Jagadesh is NXP (Philips) chair professor established at IIT Delhi by Philips Semiconductors (now NXP semiconductors India). He is also chief investigator of the Nano-scale Research Facility (NRF) being built at IIT Delhi and also chief investigator of the Center of Excellence for Nanodevices and Systems funded by ministry of human resource development, government of India.

Rajiv Sharma assignments include field postings such as that of district magistrate and collector, head of public sector undertakings, departmental head in state government, senior administrative and policy planning positions in key ministries such as ministry of finance and ministry of coal.

Rajiv Sharma is the former secretary general of the National Human Rights Commission. Sharma is a 1976 batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of Rajasthan Cadre. Prior to his appointment to NHRC, he was holding the post of additional chief secretary, government of Rajasthan and principal resident commissioner at New Delhi.

## HT.COM ND 11.03.15 P-6



■ Anglo-American brands dominated the list with Harvard (above) leading the pack.

## Only one Indian institute makes it to top 100 list

### Press Trust of India

Only one Indian university could make it to the list of top 100 most prestigious global universities in the latest 'world reputation ranking' by Times Higher Education.

The rankings for 2015 based on an invitation-only survey of senior academic opinion, placed Harvard at the top, followed by University of Cambridge and University of Oxford in second and third place respectively.

In a further embarrassment to India, Brazil, Russia and China, the other BRIC nations, have at least one university in this prestigious list, the study revealed.

The latest results comes even as the Government has initiated a series of measures to place its institutes among the top globally.

"It is a matter of concern that a country of India's great intellectual history and its huge and growing economic power does not

have a single university that is regarded by academics globally as being among the world's most prestigious," said editor of the Times Rankings Phil Baty.

For the fifth year in a row, the rankings highlight an elite group of six Anglo-American brands that stand head and shoulders above the rest, headed by Harvard University.

University of Cambridge moves into second place (up from fourth) and the University of Oxford takes third (up from fifth), swapping places with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Stanford University, respectively.

The University of California, Berkeley holds on to sixth spot. Overall, the US continues to dominate, with 26 of the top 50 places and 43 of the top 100 (down from 46 last year).

University of Tokyo in 12th has topped in Asia and China has gained ground over previous years with its top institution, Tsinghua University up 10 places to 26.

HT.COM ND 11.03.15 P-6

# Sub standard education forcing Indians to go abroad



Vanita Srivastava

In the absence of quality higher education and none of the IITs making to world's top research institutions, Indian students spend USD 6-7 billion (approx ₹45,000 crore) annually to study in foreign universities with a small number of them choosing to return home, said an ASSOCHAM-Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) joint study on 'Realigning Skilling towards Make in India'.

"Indians spend about USD 6-7 billion every year in sending their children abroad for

## INDIANS FROM MIDDLE CLASS FAMILIES SPEND ABOUT ₹45,000 CRORE SENDING THEIR CHILDREN ABROAD FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

higher education. It is not just the elite who spend generously on a good education and credentials but the middle class families also spend their life time savings to educating their children abroad. "Students studying abroad often do not even get work permits which makes it difficult for them to repay

their loans", the study noted with concern.

While the much touted IITs have an annual enrolment of 10,000-15,000, focused only the brightest of the bright, not a single great worldwide patent has emerged, nor have they produced a single Nobel Laureate.

Government's spending must be refocused on higher education directly towards the needy students among the SC/ST, minorities and OBCs and other under-privileged sections.

"For all other aspiring students provide a sovereign guarantee to assess a bank loan without collateral..." the paper said.

■ Not even the IIT's make the global cut-off.

Economic Times ND 11/03/2015 P-8

# मार्स मिशन के लिए शॉर्टलिस्ट हुए तीन भारतीय

## मार्स वन संस्था ने मिशन के लिए 100 लोगों को शॉर्टलिस्ट किया, इनमें 24 लोगों को चुना जाना है

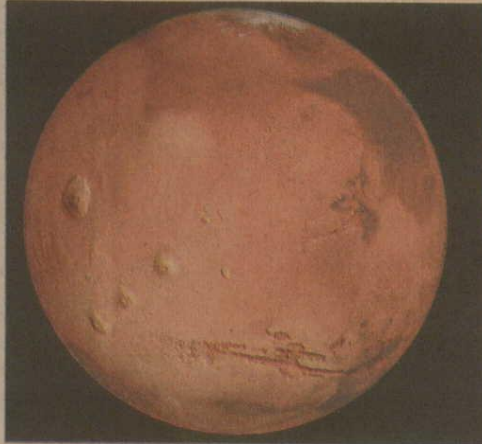
[मालविका मुरली | बेंगलुरु]

तपनजीत सिंह भाटिया यूनिवर्सिटी ऑफ सेंट्रल फ्लोरिडा में कंप्यूटर साइंटिस्ट हैं। वह मंगल ग्रह के संभावित निवासी भी हो सकते हैं। भाटिया और दो अन्य भारतीय उन 100 लोगों की सूची में हैं, जिन्हें मंगल ग्रह के ट्रिप के लिए मार्स वन नामक संस्था की तरफ से शॉर्टलिस्ट किया गया है। यह संस्था इस मिशन की मेजबानी कर रही है। तमाम टेस्ट के बाद इस मिशन के लिए कुल 24 लोगों को चुना जाएगा।

भाटिया ने इकॉनॉमिक टाइम्स को बताया, 'मुझे कंप्यूटर्स और स्पेस पसंद है। दोनों एक-दूसरे से जुड़े नहीं हैं, लेकिन हमेशा कंप्यूटर के साथ रहने के कारण ही मैं मार्स वन से रूबरू हुआ। मेरे पास अंतरिक्ष यात्री बनने का मौका है।'

नासा के पूर्व एंप्लॉयीज- बास लैसडोप और अर्नो वेल्डर्स ने 2011 में मार्स वन की स्थापना की थी। नीदरलैंड्स के इस संस्थान को 2014 तक मार्स को अपना उपनिवेश बनाने की उम्मीद है। अब तक ऐसी तमाम कोशिशें नाकाम रही हैं।

इस साहसिक ट्रिप के लिए 2,00,000 आवेदन मिले थे। दो राउंड के टेस्ट के बाद संभावित उम्मीदवारों की संख्या घटाकर 100 रह गई। दूसरे राउंड में मेडिकल सर्टिफिकेट पेश करना और मार्स वन के चीफ मेडिकल ऑफिसर नॉर्बर्ट क्राफ्ट के साथ वीडियो इंटरव्यू था। हालांकि, मिशन की व्यवहारिकता, कॉस्ट, सरकार



से सहयोग, टेक्नोलॉजी और इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर को लेकर सवाल उठ रहे हैं। अमेरिकी इंस्टीट्यूशनल एमआईटी की तरफ से छापी गई रिपोर्ट में कहा गया था कि मिशन मार्स के सदस्यों को भूख, प्यास और जकड़न जैसी मुश्किलों का सामना करना पड़ सकता है। मार्स वन के लिए पैसे जुटाने की खातिर क्राउड-फंडिंग प्लेटफॉर्म

इंडिगो गो का इस्तेमाल किया गया है और इसे नासा का समर्थन भी मिला है। साथ ही, इस मिशन से स्पेस कॉन्ट्रैक्टर्स लोकहीड मार्टिन और सरे सैटेलाइट टेक्नोलॉजी को भी जोड़ा गया है। इस मिशन की अनुमानित कॉस्ट तकरीबन 6 अरब डॉलर है। मिशन के लिए शॉर्टलिस्ट हुई दूसरी भारतीय ऋतिका सिंह ने बताया, 'हमसे फिजिकल ताकत, सोच, मनोविज्ञान और सेंस ऑफ ह्यूमर समेत कई चीजों के बारे में सवाल पूछे गए।'

सिंह दुबई की एक रिटेल फर्म में लॉजिस्टिक्स मैनेजर हैं और उन्होंने इंजीनियरिंग की पढ़ाई की है। साइंस और स्पेस की दीवानगी के कारण वह यहां पहुंचीं। मिशन के लिए टेस्ट के आखिरी दौर में उम्मीदवारों की फिजिकल, सायकोलॉजिकल और सीखने की क्षमता के अलावा परिस्थितियों के मुताबिक खूद को ढालने की उनकी काबिलियत जैसे चुनौतियों का जायजा लिया जाएगा। 29 साल की सिंह ने बताया, 'हमें मेडिसिन तैयार करने की ट्रेनिंग दी जाएगी। मिसाल के तौर पर हमें मेडिसिन पर स्टडी मैटीरियल दिया जाएगा और हमें इस आधार पर ठीक से दवाएं तैयार करने में सक्षम होना चाहिए। इस राउंड में हेल्थ को काफी गंभीरता से लिया जाएगा।' इस लिस्ट में शामिल भारतीय मूल के तीसरे कैडिडेट श्रद्धा प्रसाद से संपर्क नहीं हो सका। मार्स वन सेलेक्शन कमेटी की तरफ से चुने गए 24 लोग फाइनल राउंड में प्रवेश करेंगे, जहां उन्हें सख्त ट्रेनिंग दी जाएगी।

## उच्च शिक्षा

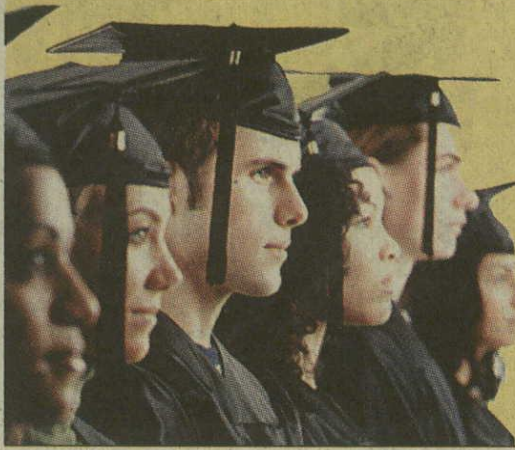
हर साल इतनी बड़ी रकम भारत से विदेश भेजे जाने पर जताई गई चिंता

## विदेश में पढ़ाई पर खर्च कर रहे 45 हजार करोड़ रुपए

नई दिल्ली (नेदु)। भारतीय नागरिक विदेशों में पढ़ाई कर रहे अपने बच्चों के पास हर वर्ष करीब 45 हजार करोड़ रुपए भेजते हैं। डॉलर के हिसाब से आंकलन किया जाए तो यह राशि छह से सात अरब डॉलर होती है। इसमें केवल उच्च वर्ग के लोग ही नहीं बल्कि मध्यम वर्ग के लोग भी शामिल हैं।

इसकी वजह है देश में उच्च शिक्षा का बेहतर इंतजाम न होना, विश्वस्तरीय शोध संस्थानों का अभाव आदि।

यह बात कही गई है वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग संगठन एसोचैम और टाटा इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ सोशल साइंसेज (टीआईएसएस) की संयुक्त रिपोर्ट में।



रिपोर्ट में देश से बड़ी पूंजी के बाहर जाने पर चिंता जताते हुए कहा गया है कि लोग अपने बच्चों को

बेहतर और विश्वस्तरीय शिक्षा दिलाने के लिए अपनी जीवन भर की गाढ़ी कमाई खर्च कर रहे हैं। हालांकि

लोग अपने बच्चों को बेहतर और विश्वस्तरीय शिक्षा दिलाने के लिए अपनी जीवन भर की गाढ़ी कमाई खर्च कर रहे हैं

भारतीय तकनीकी संस्थानों (आईआईटी) में एक साल में 10 से 15 हजार छात्रों को प्रवेश मिलता है

हम अभी तक माइक्रोसॉफ्ट, गूगल, फेसबुक, वॉलमार्ट अथवा नाइकी जैसी एक भी कंपनी नहीं खड़ी कर पाए हैं

इटली और फिनलैंड जैसे छोटे देश इस मामले में भारत से कहीं आगे हैं

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लेकिन वहां न तो विश्वस्तरीय पेटेंट हासिल किए गए और न एक भी नोबेल पुरस्कार जीतने वाले विद्वान निकले, जबकि उसकी स्थापना से लेकर लगातार संचालित करने के लिए सरकार हर साल हजारों करोड़ रुपए खर्च करती है।

एसोचैम ने कहा, 'नवाचार और स्टार्ट-अप तकनीक के लिए पेटेंट हासिल करने के मामले में भारत की बहुत ही खराब स्थिति है।

हमलोग अभी तक माइक्रोसॉफ्ट, गूगल, फेसबुक, वॉलमार्ट अथवा नाइकी जैसी एक भी कंपनी नहीं खड़ी कर पाए हैं, जबकि इटली और फिनलैंड जैसे छोटे देश इस मामले में भारत से कहीं आगे हैं।'

HT EDUCATION IMPACT

# Winners of PM's Scholarship in J&K will be admitted to DU this year: HRD minister

**GOOD NEWS** HT Education's campaign for J&K PMSSS winners is successful as Smriti Irani assures Parliament that the students will be admitted to DU this year

Jeevan Prakash Sharma  
#jeevan.sharma@hindustantimes.com

Human resource development minister Smriti Irani had good news for the winners of Jammu and Kashmir Prime Minister's Special Scholarship Scheme (PMSSS) who were denied admission to the prestigious Delhi University in 2014. The scheme will be implemented this year in various DU colleges, the minister informed Rajya Sabha on Monday, March 9.

"The University of Delhi has reported that the special scholarship scheme will be implemented in various colleges of the university with effect from the academic year of 2015-2016," Irani said in the upper house of Parliament, in response to a question by D Raja, member of Parliament. She also admitted that no PMSSS winner had been admitted to DU in 2014.

Earlier, during Parliament's winter session in December 2014, when she was asked if DU had refused admission to the students, Irani had said: "college related information, if any, is not available/maintained in a consolidated manner by the University." In response, HT Education had on January 21, 2015, published a list of 51 students who had been allotted DU colleges after counselling by the All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE), which is responsible for implementing PMSSS. The questioning on December 17, 2014, had been raised by Gopalakrishnan Chinnaraj, an AIADMK MP, after

**DELHI UNIVERSITY HAS REPORTED THAT THE SPECIAL SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IN VARIOUS COLLEGES OF THE UNIVERSITY WITH EFFECT FROM THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2015-16**

SMRITI IRANI, minister, hrd

HT Education's September 5, 2014, story highlighted the plight of the scholarship winners who had been denied admission to various DU colleges.

Interestingly in her recent Parliament response, Irani chose to blame the scholarship winners for applying late to the DU colleges instead of holding AICTE responsible for delaying the counselling and allotment of provisional admission certificates to the students. "As per the admission schedule of the University of Delhi, the last date for admission to the undergraduate courses for the academic session 2014-2015 was July 31, 2014, whereas these students from Jammu and Kashmir sought admission under the Special Scholarship Scheme for Jammu and Kashmir in the colleges in September 2014, when the process of admission was already over. Therefore, these students could not be admitted in the University

## HT EDUCATION'S FIGHT FOR J&K TOPPERS IN TROUBLE



HT Education highlighted the issue in its editions dated November 5, 2014 and January 21, 2015.



colleges in the academic session 2014-15," she said.

A senior AICTE official, however, did not agree with the minister, adding, "It was AICTE which delayed the counselling to select the students. The reason was that AICTE had appealed to the Supreme Court (SC) for relaxation in dates because, according to the SC order, all admissions had to be closed and new sessions started in all technical institutions latest by August 30 every year. The apex court allowed us to hold the counselling till September 5 and till that date we allocated different colleges to about 2,012 students under the scheme."

DU should not have had any problems in admitting the students after the admission deadline as all technical institutes (admissions of which take place under strict SC guidelines) admitted students on the basis of allotted provisional admission certificates given by AICTE, the

officials said.

According to another AICTE source, out of the 2,012 students selected for admission in countrywide colleges and institutes under PMSSS in 2014, about 700 students, including 51 who were allocated DU colleges, couldn't get admission to various colleges for all kinds of reasons. "All the medical colleges refused to admit the students saying they came under the regulatory purview of the Medical Council of India for which the Ministry of Health issues directions. AICTE also in some cases bungled up on the allocations, giving provisional admissions to male students for women's colleges etc; or asked students to join with colleges that had closed down," says the AICTE official.

"Had DU colleges and medical institutes cooperated, a large number of students would have been saved from harassment," he adds.

## J&K SCHEME: THE STORY SO FAR

- In August 2011, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approves the PMSSS for 5,000 students from Jammu and Kashmir. It is proposed that they be sent to other states for higher studies each year for five years
- For 2014-15, AICTE restricts the number of students to two intakes per college. In its counselling session in September 2014, it allocates government colleges/institutes to 2,102 students
- Many government and medical colleges, such as Delhi University colleges, refuse to admit the students saying they are unaware of any such scholarship scheme. HT Education, on November 5, 2014, highlights the plight of the students and reports that DU colleges have refused to admit any PMSSS student
- Based on HT Education's story, Gopalakrishnan Chinnaraj, an AIADMK MP, questions Smriti Irani, HRD minister, on December 17, 2014, in the Parliament on DU colleges not admitting a single student under the PMSSS. Irani says college related information, if any, is not available/maintained
- HT Education, on January 21, 2015 publishes a list of 51 students with their names and the respective college they were allotted for admission and reiterates the fact that no DU college has admitted any student under PMSSS
- This leads to another question in the Parliament, this time by parliamentarian D Raja, who asks, "Is a fact that not a single student...was admitted in DU colleges in 2014." HRD minister says DU will admit the PMSSS students in 2015

Hindustan Times ND 11/03/2015 p-10

## FUNDS CUT FOR MINISTRIES

# Big budget cuts in education sector worry activists, NGOs

## Cuts to impact child, women development

HT Correspondent

■ letters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** Massive budget cuts in the education sector in the 2015-16 Budget got activists and NGOs working in the sector worried. The outlay for programmes such as the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme, National Nutrition Mission, Rashtriya Madhayamik Shiksha Abhiyaan (RMSA) and mid-day meal scheme have seen significant cuts.

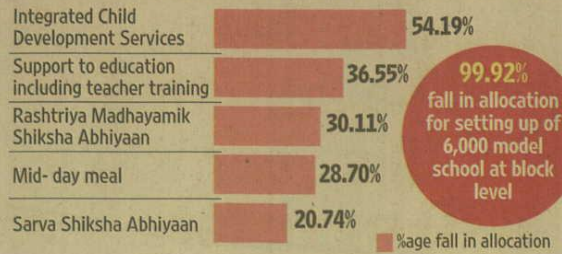
The allocation for ICDS Scheme has been reduced from ₹18,195 crore in 2014-15 budget estimates to ₹8,335.8 crore in 2015-16 budget estimates.

Similarly, the allocation for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) has been reduced from ₹27,758 crore to ₹22,000 crore, mid-day meal scheme ₹13,215 crore to ₹9,236 crore and the allocation for RMSA has been reduced from ₹5,000 crore to ₹3,565 crore.

"There has been a 29% cut in the budget for children this

### LESS FOR KIDS

Fall in allocation in 2015-16 budget as compared to 2014-15



year. It now stands at an abysmal 3% of the entire budget," said Enakshi Ganguly, of HAQ: Centre for Child Rights.

"All flagship programmes like SSA, mid-day meals, ICDS, and health related schemes, as well as allocations to key ministries that implement them, stand severely cut," she added.

Activists also debunked the theory that more funds would be

made available to states to invest in these schemes after devolution.

"The Centre's expectation that state governments will reprioritise their budget and compensate for cut in budget allocation for these programmes seems unrealistic because their overall resource envelope is not increasing much," said Subrat Das, executive director, centre for budget and governance accountability.

HT Correspondent

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**NEW DELHI:** Leading non-government organisations urged the government on Tuesday to reverse the 2015/16 Budget's steep cut in funding for children, saying it would hurt programmes to lift health and education facilities for them.

The Centre cut the allocation for children by 29% in the Budget, leaving them with just 3% of the plan expenditure, which NGOs said was one of the highest cuts in funds for children in the recent past.

"The future of Indian children remains bleak," 10 civil society organisations said in a joint statement.

The budget allocation of the HRD ministry has been cut by 17%, that of women and child development ministry by 51% and ministry of family and health welfare by 13%.

Among schemes, the one for

### THE CENTRE CUT THE ALLOCATION FOR CHILDREN BY 29% IN THE BUDGET, LEAVING THEM WITH JUST 3% OF PLAN EXPENDITURE

prevention of alcoholism and substance drugs have been cut by 67%, a statement issued by child right activists said.

Dr Vandana Prasad, former member of the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), said the budgetary cuts would hamper the fight against malnutrition in India, which has the highest number of malnourished children in the world.

Prasad also added that the budget cuts would also mean that a Supreme Court order on universalising the ICDS will not be implemented in the near future.

## Indian IIT team researching on bio-hydrogen fuel from waste

<http://www.greentechlead.com/biofuel/indian-iit-team-researching-on-bio-hydrogen-fuel-from-waste-22221>

IIT Kharagpur in India is evaluating the possibilities of a new technology, which will help to generate clean bio-hydrogen fuel from waste, as reported by PTI.

A pilot level large-scale bio-reactor plant for producing hydrogen would be ready at this year, if the research works become fruitful.

A group of Indian scientists from six institutes are engaged in research work under Debabrata Das of IIT-Kgp's biotechnology department is to produce bio-hydrogen using waste.

The pilot plant of 10 m<sup>3</sup> capacity would be ready within 3-4 months for which we are constructing a building inside the campus. Hopefully the pilot plan study would be done within a year and after that we can go for commercialization of the technology, said, Das to PTI.

He said oil major ONGC has already shown interest for higher scale studies of 100 m<sup>3</sup> biohydrogen plants.

Hydrogen is seen as an element able to provide clean energy supply to meet the growing needs and scientists are trying to generate the gas from distillery wastewater with a vision of 'waste to energy'.

Scientists apply dark fermentation process under which bacteria can work both in the presence and absence of light and several organisms have been isolated so far, one from the leaf of a tree and one from high oil containing soil, giving good results.

Large-scale production of hydrogen gas for commercial use is now at developmental stage in India.

However, storage will be another challenge as hydrogen has a very low volumetric energy density and requires large space to store.

In addition, the cost of production will also be a critical factor in getting the technology move from lab to factories.

Many other national IITs and reputed universities have joined with the institution to assist and partner in the going on research works and developmental projects.

The project is funded by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.

## IITs tie up with ONGC to explore alternate sources of energy

<http://www.dnaindia.com/academy/report-iits-tie-up-with-ongc-to-explore-alternate-sources-of-energy-2067686>

The technology institutes and the petroleum giant have joined hands to increase India's production of oil and gas. Sanchayan Bhattacharjee reports.



In order to meet the development agenda of the country, healthy and fruitful collaborations between industry and academia is important. While the Indian academia is well known for its innovative ideas, the industrial sector can always help in terms of cost as well as infrastructure. Keeping this in mind, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Pan IIT—a consortium of seven Indian Institute of Technologies (IITs).

IIT Kharagpur, Bombay, Madras, Roorkee, Delhi, Kanpur and Guwahati will work with ONGC to create a joint area for research and development work with the objective to develop native technologies that can help to explore hydrocarbons as well as alternate sources of energy. “The idea is to utilise the scientific experience of researchers of [IITs](#) along with ONGC in order to meet the [energy](#) requirement of the nation,” says Sudarshan Neogi, professor, Chemical Engineering, IIT Kharagpur.

While the collaboration will focus on different energy related areas, most of the work will be carried out at ONGC’s in-house R&D institutes and oilfields. “Initially, special attention will be paid to exploring unconventional sources of hydrocarbons, enhanced production of oil and gas, reservoir characterization and alternate energy resources,” added Neogi. He further explained that alternate energy projects would include bio-fuels, geothermal energy, hydrogen production and storage etc.

Apart from research collaborations, an ONGC Scholar Programme will be set up, with a focus on research and manpower training. It will include internships, short term as well long term exchange programmes for ONGC scientists or engineers at any of the partner IIT campuses. In addition, a number of fellowships will also be



provided at different levels. “Fellowships will be awarded to PhD, MSc, MS as well as MTech students working on projects indentified jointly by ONGC and IIT,” says Neogi.

It is no secret that India depends heavily on imports from different regions in order to meet its energy needs. Although the oil and gas sector remain profitable, their contribution meets a meagre share of domestic needs. Ultimately, this collaboration looks to remedy this inadequacy by allowing IITians to help build cutting edge technologies that will increase domestic production.

## **National innovation clubs meet at Rashtrapati Bhavan**

<http://www.newkerala.com/news/2015/fullnews-29539.html>

A meeting of National Innovation Clubs of various universities, IITs and NITs took place for the first time at the Rashtrapati Bhavan on Tuesday. The Innovation Clubs shared their achievements and ideas to promote innovations within their campus and outside.

More than 100 participants took part in the meeting.

Secretary to the President Omita Paul stated that one creative mind can unleash a flood of creativity and prosperity. She believed that the youth will rise to the occasion and take up the responsibility of bringing about change and extending the frontiers of knowledge in order to build an inclusive society.

She further added that the endeavour to set up Innovation Clubs was held in effort to help not only to bring out the needs of the local areas but the solutions to those problems as well.

At the meeting, Nobel Laureate Professor Muhammad Yunus addressed the gathering and shared his experiences regarding Grameen Bank. There were presentations by Innovation Clubs of Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Lucknow; IISER, Mohali; IIT Indore; NIT Silchar; and Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya, Wardha. Talks regarding future roadmap for development by IIT Delhi director R.K. Shevgaonkar and NIT Delhi director Ajay Sharma were also held.

The President Pranab Mukherjee had exhorted the academia to set up National Innovation Clubs in Central Universities and Institutions of Higher learning via IITs, NITs and IISERs.

The clubs which have been set up, aim to promote inclusive innovations by linking the creativity in the formal and informal sectors. Primarily, the clubs aim at four functions i.e search creativity and innovations, spread information about useful innovations, sense the unmet needs and celebrate the spirit of creativity.

Faculty, staff and students are voluntarily expected to join hands with the innovators at different levels and in different sectors to ensure widest application for creative and innovative ideas.

## Preparations in full swing for Prez's visit

<http://www.tribuneindia.com/news/himachal/preparations-in-full-swing-for-prez-s-visit/51811.html>

Preparations are in full swing for President Pranab Mukherjee's visit to Mandi on March 15. The President will arrive here to for the second convocation of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) at Kamand near here.

Talking to The Tribune, Muhammad Shakeel, Registrar, IIT, said the President would reach Kamand at 11.15 am and stay there till 12.30 pm.

Among others, Governor Kalyan Singh, Chief Minister Virbhadra Singh and Union Human Resource Development Minister Smriti Irani would be present during the function, the Registrar said. As many as 127 degrees and five medals would be awarded on the occasion, he added.

Meanwhile, an advanced security liaison team of the Intelligence Bureau today held a meeting with officials of the district administration and other security agencies at Kamand.

After the meeting, they inspected the venue and the Paddal Ground where chopper of the President would land. They also inspected the road to be taken by the President to reach the IIT campus from the Paddal Ground. Additional District Magistrate (ADM) Vivek Chandel said officials of the Public Works Department had been instructed to speed up the repair works on the road and also install a few crash barriers. He said the work would be reviewed again on March 12.

The security agencies would sanitise the venue and other places well in advance and conduct a drill from March 12.