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■ Raging waters of the Ganga.

GANGA CLEAN UP: IIT REPORT WANTS CURBS ON ENCROACHMENT

Bhadra Sinha

■ bhadra.sinha@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: To have an unpolluted Ganga is important not only to preserve it but also to ensure that the holy river doesn't become the reason for catastrophic disasters in future.

A detailed report submitted to the government, now filed before the Supreme Court, by the IIT consortium has recommended several measures to clean Ganga, including curbing land-use disturbances and encroachment by humans. This is to withstand ecological disasters such as the 2013 flash floods in Uttarakhand that led to thousands of deaths.

According to the report, given to the ministry of water resources in January 2015, extreme floods are typical in the Ganga river basin. To combat this, the consortium has advised floodplain regulations and vegetative measures in the embankment area. Deforestation, construction of road and building and unsafe debris disposal into the river has aggravated the possibility of landslides in the Upper Ganga Basin, the report stated.

"Early rejuvenation of disaster-struck ecosystems should be aided by re-introducing indigenous species resistant to the specific disaster types and re-creating an enabling physical environment," mentioned the report, which is part of the government affidavit filed in the SC. The top court is monitoring Ganga Action Plan aimed at cleaning the river.

The consortium has pointed out that polluted agricultural runoff is also a source of contamination. It has suggested adoption of conservative approach to agriculture involving no tillage, diversification and permanent organic soil cover. Organic farming is one of the possibilities recommended.

**Deccan Herald ND
13/03/2015 P-6**

Govt yet to accept IITs' report on Ganga

NEW DELHI: The Centre has told the Supreme Court that it is yet to accept a report submitted by the IIT-consortium recommending different measures including maintaining "wholeness of national river Ganga".

In an affidavit, the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation submitted the finer points of the report stating that given the escalating impact of human activities on the river basin, eight important areas were identified for carrying out restorative actions in a mission mode.

Among the measures are maintaining 'aviral dhara' (continuous flow), 'nirmal dhara' (unpolluted dhara), ecological restoration, sustainable agriculture, geological safeguarding, basin protection against disasters, river hazard management and environmental knowledge-building and sensitisation.

The report also described strategy, information, methodology, analysis, suggestions and recommendations pertinent to Ganga River Basin Management Plan-2015.

The IIT-consortium has submitted its report on Ganga River Basin Management Plan-2015 on January 31, this year. It advocated for adopting holistic approach for invigorating and preserving the Ganga. It also identified various aspects like industrialisation, urbanisation and over-drawl of resources relating to human activities affecting the aquatic environment. The Ministry said that the report was being examined and yet to be accepted.

Complying to the apex court order of January 14, the government said that 70 projects of sewage treatment plants projects were going in the Ganga river basin states.

DH News Service

**Rashtra Sahara ND
13/03/2015**

आईआईटी कंसोर्टियम ने रिपोर्ट पेश की

नई दिल्ली (भाषा)। सरकार ने बृहस्पतिवार को बताया कि सात भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (आईआईटी) के कंसोर्टियम ने गंगा नदी बेसिन प्रबंधन योजना 2015 पर अपनी रिपोर्ट पेश कर दी है। आईआईटी कंसोर्टियम को गंगा नदी बेसिन प्रबंधन पर समग्र कार्ययोजना पेश करने का महत्त्व साँपा गया था। लोकसभा में एक प्रश्न के लिखित उत्तर में जल संसाधन राज्य मंत्री सांवर लाल जाट ने कहा कि सात आईआईटी के कंसोर्टियम ने गंगा नदी बेसिन प्रबंधन योजना 2015 पर अपनी रिपोर्ट पेश कर दी है। उन्होंने कहा कि सिंचाई, उद्योग और घरेलू क्षेत्र के लिए पानी के उचित ढंग से उपयोग को प्रोत्साहित करने और इसके नियमन के लिए राष्ट्रीय जल ब्यूरो के गठन का प्रस्ताव किया गया है।

Millennium Post ND 13/03/2015 P-1

IIT students to develop village level storage facilities

TANIA AMEER

NEW DELHI: The government is working on a sustainability model to help farmers store the produce. Students from Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) have been roped in for a research and development project sanctioned by the ministry of food processing industries to help create village level storage facilities, so that there is maximum output in terms of storing the goods, right from the time they are reaped.

Explaining the concept, Union Minister for Food Processing, Harsimrat Kaur



Badal, in an exclusive chat with Millennium Post said: "Students from IIT Kharagpur have been allocated a research and development project by the ministry, to come up with a village level

facility, wherein the farmer can store food grains immediately after they are reaped. The farmer can store the fruits or vegetables there unless there is a period of glut and all the produce goes waste."

Badal said that the project is essentially working on solar energy and is currently in the testing phase. "We have offered them (IIT students) every possible aid from the ministry, but they are using natural resources – for example, there is extensive use of solar energy for this project. The project essentially functions with the help of solar energy and most of it is already in place. They are already trying the method out on certain farms to see how the project functions.

But, we need to monitor nearly two crop cycles to see how the concept works out.

After we have reviewed it and seen its progress, we will be able to take a final call," she added.

Offering details on the viability of the project, the minister said, "We will implement it on the national level, only after we are certain of its feasibility. Crucial factors to gauge its viability include, how much does the farmer make out of it; what is the total cost of setting up these projects; up to how many months can the goods be stored and many of such other factors will have to be taken into consideration, before it is implemented on a nationwide scale."

HT.COM ND 13.03.15 P-6

Show your love for your alma mater

Rozelle Laha

While private investments, loans and grants to students have been the traditional means of funding education in India, some institutes have also managed to make the best out of alumni funding. Globally, the alumni funds are primarily utilised for the development of academic infrastructure, scholarships and research. "In India, this trend is yet to pick up. These funds can be utilised for subsidising fees of existing students, improving infrastructure, funding student and teacher exchange and research by the academic institutions," says Rohin Kapoor, senior manager education practice at Deloitte.

PRIVATE INSTITUTES ALUMNI ENDOWMENTS AND INITIATIVES

Some private institutes have already set up dedicated cells for monitoring alumni funds. The Indian School of Business (ISB) Hyderabad has raised nearly ₹3.5 crore from its alumni. It has established an alumni endowment fund for scholarships and research support to faculty members. Alumni have been contributing to the development of infrastructure, offering scholarships to students and nurturing entrepreneurship activities.

In 2013, BITS Pilani launched BITS Connect 2.0, a virtual faculty-student-alumni interaction platform through immersive telepresence, video conferencing and live streaming technologies with the help of alumni funding. "BITS Alumni Association (BITSAA) International contributed 50% of the share of the project priced at approximately ₹32 crore. Through such initiatives alumni contribute not just by donating funds but significantly with their time and expertise," says Hareish Gur, VP (Outreach), BITSAA International.

THINKING BEYOND CENTRAL GOVT. FUNDING

As an endeavour towards becoming self-sufficient, some public funded institutes too have been raising funds from their alumni rather than depending on just government money.

During 2013-14, the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay received ₹19 crore from alumni and other well-wishers. "The efforts of the alumni leaders round the year help them to identify potential donors, engage with them and provide a match between our needs and their wishes," says Professor Ravi Sinha, dean (alumni and corporate relations), IIT Bombay.

IIT Madras has managed to raise ₹24 crore in 2014, up from ₹12 crore per annum raised consecutively in 2011, 2012 and 2013, and ₹3 crore per annum in prior years. They intend to touch ₹500 crore by 2020. Alumni funds at IIT Madras are deployed towards various causes- infrastructure, scholarships and awards, travel grants, campus sustainability, student amenities and facilities, event sponsorships, chair professorships, research labs and projects, socially-relevant initiatives among others.

Similarly, at IIM Ahmedabad, the batch of 1987 contributed to CIIE conference hall, the batch of 1989 contributed to IIMA sports complex, the batch of 1971 contributed towards staff welfare.

Prof Arvind Sahay of 1989 batch contributed ₹2.3 crore towards the building of the sports complex and now spearheads our alumni funding activities. Most of these publicly funded institutes have high cut-off rates for admissions. Clearly, some of these institutes have nurtured students who make it to the admission list and made them successful enough to be able to share the institute's burden.



IIT to tighten screws on plagiarism, malpractices

<http://www.mumbaimirror.com/mumbai/others/IIT-to-tighten-screws-on-plagiarism-malpractices/articleshow/46546924.cms>

Strict guidelines proposed, including fail grades, community service for copying, to suspension for two semesters for more serious offences.

In an open house meeting held with student representatives and faculty members on Thursday, the ethics committee of IIT Bombay has proposed strict guidelines regarding academic malpractices. Punishments - including a fail grade, community service and suspension for two semesters - are set to become part of institute rules, if cleared at a meeting next month.

The premier engineering institute has been under pressure to tackle problems of plagiarism from published research, and cheating in projects and take-home assignments, after an internal survey two years ago revealed a significant number of students felt that ethical standards were low and needed improvement.

A survey of outgoing students, conducted last year by the student magazine Insight, had painted a grim picture, with more than 50% confessing to cheating during their course. Another survey found that exchange students from foreign countries did not have a high opinion of students' ethics - with around 75% saying yes to the query "Is the average student at IIT-B more likely to use unfair means than one at your home institute?" Only 15% of exchange students felt that teachers at IIT-B were as strict in punishing cheating, while 40% said IIT-B teachers were more lax (the rest selected the 'Can't say' option).

In two years since the internal survey, individual departments have adopted a stricter attitude towards malpractices, but no common rules for the entire institute were agreed upon. According to students, while some professors made use of plagiarism detecting software compulsory, others had not.

The punishments proposed at Thursday's meeting ranged from a fail grade plus community service for offences such as copying in exams or assignments, to suspension for two semesters for serious offences such as impersonating another student in an examination. Student representatives plan to conduct a referendum to solicit opinion regarding the rules.

"This is a positive move, though one that took time in coming. Plagiarism devalues all our efforts and the establishment of common rules will help create a general culture of ethics," said a student who attended the open house discussion.

"While we may not have reached the high standards of the West, it is widely known that the problem of cheating is far less at IIT-B compared to other Indian universities. The proposed rules reflect how serious students and faculty are about tackling the issue," said a research scholar.

From IIT Bombay to Harvard Business School, and everything in between

Posted on [March 11, 2015](#) by [ecell](#)

<http://ecell.in/blog/from-iit-bombay-to-harvard-business-school-and-everything-in-between/>

[Sagar Sheth](#)

Abhishek Sharma and a few of his friends started an internship portal called Hellointern.com during their days at IIT Bombay. Hellointern.com created quite a few ripples across the country, winning B-plan competitions and gaining widespread media coverage, before being sold off to a larger company. Abhishek then moved on to the highly sought after management consulting industry, working with Booz & Co., eventually moving on to pursue an MBA at the prestigious Harvard Business School. Here are excerpts of an interview with him.



What is the story behind Hellointern?

When I came to IIT, I was personally a big believer in the concept of internships. In fact I did 5 internships while I was at IIT, and that too in completely unrelated areas. One with CNBC, one was with a research group in Germany, one in Corporate Technology at Airtel, and two in automobiles. I felt that it was a great opportunity for one to step outside the campus and check what other areas you are good at. At IIT I saw that in spite of being in one of the better institutions in the country, it was not merit that got internship opportunities to students but rather a function of nepotism or, so to say, jugaad. That's when I and a few wing-mates in Hostel 13 decided that we should come up with some platform which puts some method to the madness and we came up with Hellointern. Incidentally, it also coincided with the Summer Founders program which E-Cell came up with in 2006, where students could submit their business ideas and E-Cell shortlisted a few of those ideas and allotted mentors to them for the summer. My mentor was Mahesh Murthy.

The initial few months were very challenging, given that nobody thought we would be able to attract companies to hire students online for internships. But we stuck to it and believed in what we were doing. Starting off with SINE incubatees, we gradually reached out to IIT Bombay alumni. So after we had a critical mass of 50 to 100 companies, the process became quite catalytic. Instead of us approaching people, people started approaching us. We got a lot of interest from start-ups because they looked to hire interns in a cost-effective way and interns also brought a fresh perspective to the table, so that was a win-win proposition. We all tried to make sure our academics never suffered while doing this, and last but not the least, we kept participating in a lot of business

plan competitions and strategy contests to gain media recognition and get some seed funding. In fact, we ended up winning 6-7 of them, including IDEAZ Pan IIT Business Challenge. I've seen that entrepreneurs spend a lot of money to promote their idea to establish their product in the market. In our case, we were smart enough to gain media attention as and when we wanted, by ensuring that our PR efforts were not just outbound, in fact, they were more inbound.

Why did you decide to not continue with Hellointern full-time?

There were a couple of reasons why we deviated away from Hellointern. One was the lack of cash flow, even though the start-up had made it really big in scale. And when we were passing out, that was also around the recession year, and because all of us came from middle class families we wanted to be safe. Let me be honest, in hindsight, we could have probably been a little more perseverant and risk taking. A lot of alumni and seniors suggested that having taken it to this point, we shouldn't take up jobs. But I think cash flow was something we cared too much about. Now that in the western world I've seen entrepreneurial ecosystems evolve, where lots of companies, for a very long time, don't even care about any cash flows, I've understood that monetisation comes second and traffic comes first. Wish we were that smart at the age of 17 or 18, but we weren't.

So how big a role do you think IITB and E-Cell has played in your entrepreneurial journey with Hellointern?

The very fact that you're a student entrepreneur at IITB gives you a lot of leverage because everybody in the media would like to cover you as it makes news which can easily sell. So Bombay as a city, IITB as an institution, and the very thought of student entrepreneurship which was very unique in itself, at least back then, gave us a good starting point. E-Cell, per se, I would definitely regard the Summer Founders program as a catalyst to our start because had it not been for that program we wouldn't have acted in a time bound fashion. Other than that SINE was pretty helpful.

In hindsight, do you think it would have been better if you had started up after graduating and gaining some work experience?

Starting-up is something I still might end up doing. I don't think my entrepreneurial itch is over yet. But I definitely don't see one competing with another because you can start-up as many times as you want and fail and restart, so I think it was a great learning experience even then. Even after that, when I went into consulting, I worked in a pretty entrepreneurial firm as I was one of the early employees of Booz in India. My entrepreneurial experience in Hellointern continued to help me throughout my consulting career and continues to help me in many ways today. So definitely no regrets, although I think now that I have some work experience and know how things operate in the Valley, definitely there are more learnings now, than when I had started 8 years ago.

So do you think that students who are still in their undergrad have the skills, abilities and contacts to make it as entrepreneurs or should they wait till later to execute that idea?

There is literally no age bar. You should start as early as possible. Resources have multiplied so much in the past few years and you just have to knock on the right doors. You don't always need to know everything yourself, you need to know the right people who know those things. I mean I have met people, several IITB alumni in the US, they're very supportive, be it financially or for strategic guidance. Also, let's not forget that college offers you a 4 or 5 years risk-free runway to do whatever you want to. But I would like to add that entrepreneurs can be of 2 types – real entrepreneurs and vanity entrepreneurs. Because being entrepreneurial nowadays is considered very fashionable, so at times, just out of peer pressure, we end up starting something for the sake of it.

Do you think you made the right choice by choosing consulting as a career option given the lack of opportunities when you graduated?

Oh absolutely! I think consulting offers you, I would say, a pretty wide platform early on in your career and life. It exposes you to a lot of things in the world, a lot of different types of problems any corporation or govt. would face and how you would realistically go about solving them in a way such that your solution is worthy enough for someone to pay you. Today, having worked across 7 different verticals, right from energy to engineering services to pharma to financial services, I've experienced a lot of breadth early on in my career.

Why did you decide to pursue an MBA and why at HBS in particular?

To be honest, things were going pretty well for me, and I think I was getting quite comfortable because I love consulting. And probably within a year's time, had I not come to B-school, I would have probably made it to Manager. MBA struck me because of three reasons:

- a) I was 27 and thought probably this is the right time to do a MBA if at all – either now or never.
- b) Secondly, I just wanted to round off my management toolkit. Even after continuing for 4 years in consulting, I saw there were several new areas which I don't think I ever knew in detail, for example, how entrepreneurial finance works, or how VC returns work or how global economies work.
- c) Third and the final reason was to meet great people from different parts of the world. So that's why I never even thought of doing an MBA in India. I have always believed in the power of diversity and I think global B-Schools give you a perfect opportunity to experience that.

And why HBS, I don't think it was a tough choice to be honest. Who would not want to go to the best B-School in the world? After all, they are the authors of most of the cases taught globally in any business school. Another answer to why HBS in particular would be the fact that HBS happens to be the few pioneering institutions who continue to believe in teaching the MBA through a case method. I think that's amazing because even as a consultant, I believed that management theories were not relevant in practical situations unless you were able to apply them appropriately.

What have been the major takeaways from HBS and how has your experience been?

Again, I'd like to stress on the effects of diversity in terms of the students and the case method in terms of the teaching. Academically, it is rigorous. 100% of the classes are mandatory, there is no 80% rule. Plus, every class is a 80-minutes class and every class is a case on a real life situation, on a real company, a real problem. That really excites me and makes me look forward to the next morning. Academically, on top of that, the big advantage is that most of the protagonists of the cases will come to our classroom and share their views on what they were thinking in any particular situation mentioned in the case. We have had people like Preet Bharara, the famous attorney and the founder of Dropbox visit us in the past. It also helps when the case that you're studying in the class has been authored by the professor who is teaching you because the professor knows it inside out. Also, it's not just HBS, there are several other schools at Harvard, right from law school to medical school and there are so many cross-disciplinary activities that keep happening. MIT is also across the river and that's helpful, I go and attend a few talks there too. I think this entire Harvard area is pretty infectious!

What would be your parting advice to students?

First and foremost, if I remember my IIT days, I just feel there is a lot of blind peer pressure. I always tell my juniors to not worry about what is happening on your right and left. Just focus on what you really want to do. Most of the times, in that cocoon of peer pressure, we never really think about why we are here. Secondly, I would say, identify areas where you want to improve. For example, when I came to IITB, I could barely speak

English as I'd studied in a Hindi medium school in a relatively small town. There were certain reasons why I wanted to come to Mumbai and IITB, because I thought it presented an opportunity to plug certain holes. My suggestion is that you should forget the fact that you have cracked JEE and made it to IITB, and concentrate on how you can improve further, and that would take you a long way.