

# Newspaper Clips

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# IITIAN TO TAKE OVER GOOGLE'S ANDROID UNIT

**Yashwant Raj**

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**WASHINGTON:** An IIT Kharagpur alumnus, Sundar Pichai, 40, was on Wednesday named the new head of the Android division of Google, making him one of the most powerful executives at the internet giant.

Android is the most widely used smartphone operating system in the world.

Pichai, who replaces the architect of Android, Andy Rubin, 50, is from Tamil Nadu. He moved to the US to pursue advanced studies at Stanford and Wharton School of Business.

He joined Google in 2004 and is currently senior vice president of Chrome — the operating system for computers and Web.

The shift in leadership, analysts feel, reflects the “natural confluence” of the two operating systems going forward.

# Directors split over govt move on statutory status to IIMs

**Dateline**

**New Delhi**

**Prakash Kumar**

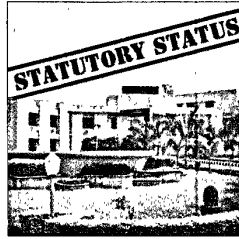
The pot is boiling once again. About six years after the government shelved the idea of bringing 13 premier Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) under the purview of Parliament, a fresh move initiated by the human resource development (HRD) ministry to give them a statutory status, is facing stiff resistance from a section of the institutes' faculties. The IIM-Ahmedabad is at the forefront in opposing the Institutes of Management Act, being formulated by the ministry on the lines of Institutes of Technology Act, 1961.

In 2007, the immediate provocation for bringing IIMs under Parliament's purview was the reluctance of these institutes to implement the OBC quota in their admission process. Arjun Singh, who was then the HRD minister, wanted to make them 'accountable' to Parliament (so that he, as

minister, too could play a role) but later, in the face of stiff opposition, he chose not to proceed with the proposed legislation.

In the latest move the ministry has initiated the process of drafting a new Bill to give these premier B-schools statutory status following a demand from some of the IIMs themselves. During a review meeting at IIM-Lucknow last year, many directors of the institutes had requested the then HRD minister Kapil Sibal, to give them powers to issue degrees instead of post-graduate diplomas of their programmes, which they currently offer.

As of now, none of the 13 premier B-schools can grant degrees as they have been set up as societies under the Societies Registration Act. Only universities and institutes, equivalent to varsities established under a law by Parliament or legislatures or those which have been declared deemed-to-be-universities under the University Grants Commission (UGC) Act, have the powers to grant degrees. The statutory status to IIMs will not only enable them to offer MBA courses but also post doctoral (PhD) programmes instead of fellowships.



The IIMs are considered to be a bright spot in an otherwise dismal scenario of higher education in the country. There is little dispute over their claim to quality and excellence. They were created in the initial stages of nation building and kept out of the traditional university structure to give them a free play to be able to help the country have a pool of excellent managerial talent. To a fair extent, these insti-

tutions have succeeded too.

The PGDM (post graduate diploma in management) offered by the IIMs is considered equivalent to MBA (Masters in Business Administration) and their fellow programmes to PhD. Although, IIMs have their own brand name, many IIM faculties feel, change in the nomenclature of the courses offered by them will make them on par with international standards. They could have more foreign students opting for these programmes. Once IIMs start granting degrees, it will also help them open branches abroad.

## Globally recognised

Samir Barua, director of The IIM-Ahmedabad, however, argues that there was no need to change the nomenclature as the diploma awarded by the institute was globally recognised as equivalent to an MBA degree. "We are the best B-school in the country. The government should give options to other IIMs," a senior faculty member of the IIM-Ahmedabad said, requesting anonymity.

The newer IIMs, however, are very ex-

cited about getting statutory status to award degrees. They are also in favour of setting up of an overarching body as it will help them to be at par with older IIMs and get similar recognition worldwide.

"MBA is the most acceptable terminology even as our diploma has a brand name worldwide. Why should we not offer MBA instead of PGDM? It is a very good move," IIM Raipur Director B S Sahay said.

Those supporting the Bill also feel that sooner or later, foreign varsities will come to India and set up their campuses as another Bill seeking to regulate their entry was pending before Parliament for passage. "If we have powers to grant degrees, it will help us in competing with the foreign institutes as they offer MBAs," one of the directors said.

The IIM-Ahmedabad is particularly against the proposal in the Bill that seeks to set up a council of the premier B-schools like the one that IITs have. The institute's faculty members feel that setting up of an overarching body will lead to unnecessary interference in the autonomy of the IIMs. Faculties of some other IIMs, including

newer ones too share similar views and suggest that government should address the 'concerns' and formulate the Bill taking all the 13 institutes on board.

"IIM council will just be a coordinating body and a forum to meet, unlike IIT council (which is the highest decision making body of the premier technical institutes). It will not have powers to review or issue any directive to B-schools. IIMs will remain autonomous," HRD minister M M Pallam Raju recently clarified as the voice of dissent against the proposal to set up overarching body of the institutes started growing.

The ministry is cautiously moving ahead with the Bill as it does not want to lose this opportunity of bringing all the IIMs under the purview of Parliament. "Unless a consensus among all the IIMs emerges, this can not be achieved. We have to bring all of them on board before finalising the Bill," a ministry official said.

The HRD minister is planning to have another round of meeting with the IIM directors at IIM-Kozhikode this month to address their concerns.

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# ईको फ्रेंडली होगा आईआईटी

16 अप्रैल को आईआईटी के नए कैम्पस के निर्माण का शुभारम्भ एमएचआरडी मंत्री पल्लम राजू करेंगे शुभारम्भ

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वर्तमान समय में तकनीकी और उच्च शिक्षा से जुड़े परिसर अब पूरी तरह से 'ग्रीन कॉन्सेप्ट' को फॉलो कर रहे हैं। इसके अनुसार ही आईआईटी राजस्थान के करवड स्थित नए परिसर का भवन निर्माण 16 अप्रैल से शुरू होगा। इसका शुभारम्भ केन्द्रीय

मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री एम. पल्लम राजू करेंगे। यह जानकारी बुधवार को आईआईटी जोधपुर के बोर्ड ऑफ गवर्नेस अध्यक्ष प्रो. गोवर्धन मेहता ने पत्रकारों को दी। मेहता ने बताया कि अब तकनीकी व भौतिक रूप से भी परिसर को पर्यावरण फ्रेंडली बनाया जाएगा। भवन निर्माण में एन.जी.सेविंग और सभी तरह के ग्रीन कॉन्सेप्ट को शामिल किया जाएगा। सोलर पॉक में सोलर पैनल लगाए जाएंगे। प्रस. वार्ता में आईआईटी जोधपुर के निदेशक प्रो. फेसर पीके कालरा और असिस्टेंट प्रोफेसर विवेक विजय भी मौजूद थे।

## नवाचारों का करेंगे सम्मान

आईआईटी जोधपुर के निदेशक प्रो. पीके कालरा ने बताया कि राजस्थान सरकार ने इंस्टीट्यूशन के इन्वेंशन सेंटर (आईआईसी)

## तीन फेज में होगा निर्माण

प्रो. मेहता ने माना कि आईआईटी परिसर के निर्माण में देश हुई है लेकिन इसे तय समय में पूरा कर लिया जाएगा। परिसर का निर्माण अलग-अलग तीन फेज में पूरा होगा। पहला फेज अगले 3 से 4 वर्ष में पूरा कर लिया जाएगा, जिससे आईआईटी को अस्थायी परिसर से वहां स्थानान्तरित किया जा सके। 16 अप्रैल को ही आईआईटी कैम्पस के मास्टर प्लान के बारे में बताया जाएगा।

को हर वर्ष बढ़ करगेड रूप अनुदान देने की घोषणा की थी, जो आईआईटी को मिल रहा है। इस सेंटर में उन 11 ग्रुप को पुरस्कार दिए जाएंगे, जिनके आईडिया रिसर्च के लिए चुने गए हैं। यह पुरस्कार समारोह भी 16 अप्रैल को होगा, जो मुख्यमंत्री अशोक गहलोत देंगे।

## अगले सत्र से नई ब्रांच

प्रो. कालरा ने बताया कि अगले सत्र से आईआईटी जोधपुर में बीटेक पाठ्यक्रम में नई ब्रांच बायो इन्वेंप्रियर सिस्टम साइंस खुलेगी, जिसमें कुल 40 सीटें होंगी। इस तरह कुल बीटेक में पांच ब्रांचों में कुल 200 सीटें हो जाएंगी। वर्तमान

में आईआईटी में कम्प्यूटर साइंस एंड इंजीनियरिंग, इलेक्ट्रिकल, मैकेनिकल व सिस्टम साइंस ब्रांच संचालित है।

## अन्य कर सकेंगे रिसर्च

आईआईटी के नेशनल मल्टी इंस्टीट्यूशनल फेसिलिटी के तहत अब अन्य आईआईटी और संस्थाओं के शोधार्थी यहां आ सकेंगे। आईआईटी ऐसे शोधार्थियों को रिसर्च के सभी सुविधाएं उपलब्ध कराएगी जिससे उन्हें रिसर्च में सहायता मिल सके। यह सुविधा खासकर सोलर क्षेत्र में रिसर्च करने वाले छात्रों को यह सुविधा मिलेगी।

# IIM Grads Take Start-Up Route, Skip Placements

Cushioned by deferred placements, up to 5 students walk out of placements at each institute

## Going It Alone

**Venkat R | 26**  
Institute: IIM Ahmedabad

**START-UP:** Focaloid.  
Connects photographers  
with clients for assignments

**INVESTMENT:** ₹5 lakh  
from CIIE and ₹4 lakh  
bootstrapped along  
with 2 other partners



**Gaurav Midha | 26**  
IIM Lucknow

**START-UP:** Data analytics firm  
Beyond Numbers

**INVESTMENT:**  
None yet

**Niranjan KM | 23**  
IIM Indore

**START-UP:** Selling  
sanitary napkins  
to rural India

**INVESTMENT:** Needs  
₹1 crore, of which  
₹25 lakh has been  
approved by Tamil  
Nadu government



**Ajusal Sugathan & Achin Agarwal | 24**  
IIM Bangalore

**START-UP:**  
Hedge Quants

Specialises in quantitative trading and investment strategies across Indian equities, fixed income, currency, volatility and derivatives

**INVESTMENT:**  
Tied up with Kolkata-based brokerage firm Shivmangal Securities on a profit-sharing mode

**DEVINA SENGUPTA & SREERADHA D BASU**  
BANGALORE | MUMBAI

An odd lot of students at the premier Indian Institutes of Management has decided to make way for their classmates jostling for jobs in a tight economy. Some of them from the 2013 batch have opted out of placements to sell sanitary napkins to rural India, start a network for photographers, and make algorithms that predict the market. The entrepreneurial road is less travelled, but the drive is strong.

Niranjan KM (23), an IIM Indore graduate, plans a start-up to manufacture and sell sanitary napkins in rural India. He had earlier thought of being a candy maker or mineral water producer but realised the market potential for sanitary napkins was big. Niranjan will start the plant in global manufacturing hub Tirupur. The expenses will be around Rs 1 crore, of which the Tamil Nadu government has approved Rs 25 lakh. He plans to raise the rest through a loan.

"The big companies see money in the urban areas, while I plan to concentrate on rural areas. I can sell each napkin for around Rs 3-4 which is about half the cost for such a product from an FMCG major," he says. Niranjan's research showed rural women know little about sanitary napkins and his marketing campaign includes raising awareness through skits during festivals.

It may not be the best time to walk out on campus placements, with the economy on the slouch, but students feel their ideas cannot wait for long as others may pick them up. They are wired differently and prefer to have their own start-ups rather than take the plunge into the corporate world, says Rajesh Aithal, placement head for IIM Lucknow. Final placements at the IIMs start in February-March and typically, three to five students are seen walking out of placements from each of the institutes.

In a weak economy, such a decision involves more than the regular dose of risk involved in starting up on their own. But the comforting factor is that the alma mater will watch the entrepreneurs' back in case the ventures fail. In the past three to four years, all big IIMs have introduced deferred placements, wherein a student who has opted out of the placement process is allowed to sit for company interviews after a gap of two to three years. IIM Bangalore, for instance, provided this choice from 2011 onwards. This practice gives students like Ajusal Sugathan and Achin Agarwal the cushion they need.

The two IIM Bangalore students have started an alternative investment management firm called Hedge Quants that will specialise in quantitative trading and investment strategies across Indian equities, fixed income, currency, volatility and derivatives. "We have developed seven to

eight models and our simulation tests show we can predict market movements," says 24-year-old Ajusal Sugathan.

The two students have entered into an alliance with Kolkata-based brokerage firm Shivmangal Securities on a profit-sharing model and will start work from April. "Unlike the West, Indian markets do not use the algorithm-based trading method, but our live simulations have shown good results," adds Sugathan.

The IIMs, where an all-inclusive fee for a two-year course is Rs 12 lakh to Rs 16 lakh, say students with educational loans too digress from placements to start their own firms. In 2005, when fees at IIMs were at Rs 3 lakh to Rs 3.5 lakh, and students would typically take a Rs 2 lakh loan, at least three to four students would opt out of placements to incubate their own firms, says Shashank Rastogi, director operations for Centre for Innovation, Incubation and Entrepreneurship (CIIE) at IIM-A. Now, the loan amount has shot up to Rs 14 lakh to Rs 15 lakh, with the fee at around Rs 16 lakh. Yet, six to eight students at the institute

want to build their own start-ups, he says. No student from IIM-A who opted out of placements returned for deferred placements since 2008, he says.

Then there are others who form an alliance with friends who have just quit regular jobs and want to start their own company.

Venkat R from IIM-A started an online firm called Focaloid, where photographers get assignments, and clients pay the start-up. Venkat has received a seed fund of Rs 5 lakh from the CIIE and has raised another Rs 4 lakh along with two other friends who have just quit regular jobs.

There are also those who choose to go it alone. Gaurav Midha's start-up partners took up job offers during placements at IIM Lucknow, but Midha decided to take it forward. Midha, along with two batch mates, started a data analytics firm, Beyond Numbers, within months of joining campus. But he is the only one who's stuck to the course—his dream kept him going. "Data analytics is still a relatively new concept in India but it's been growing at 20%-25%. I want a share of that pie," he says.

In the final analysis, the entrepreneurial path has nothing to do with the state of the economy, says Rastogi. "The initial years for an entrepreneur are always tough, so there is never a good or bad economy," he adds. But what he finds encouraging is that the budding entrepreneurs are building companies that are extremely diverse and reflect their passion. "We know of students who have taken up regular jobs but are interested in start-ups, and keep themselves abreast of this industry," he says.

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# JNU library goes online

## Students can access e-material from anywhere

**NEW DELHI:** Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) students and faculty will now be able to access e-resources of the central library from any place.

A senior official said that the new system will be helpful to research scholars working on their thesis and to those who do not visit the campus frequently.

"Students and faculty can access e-journals, e-books and other database subscribed in the central library from their homes, hostels or if they are traveling abroad or otherwise. It can be accessed from anywhere in the world," said the official.

Around eight lakh digital news clippings, 20,000 thesis and dissertations, in-house publications and reprints of faculty articles will be soon be made available under this service.

"There will be a search engine similar to Google to sort multiple databases and e-resources which will be accessible to students and faculty" said the official,

The search results will be restricted to in-house and subscribed database only, he added.

To keep a check on plagiarism, a software 'Turnitin' has been provided to all the students of MPhil and PhD of the university.

**AN OFFICIAL: Students and faculty can access e-journals, e-books and other database subscribed in the central library from their homes, hostels or if they are traveling abroad or otherwise**

"The idea is to electronically deliver information to our students who cannot come to the varsity frequently. There will be more innovative library services to reach out to our student community," the official

added.

Students responded positively to the move as it will help many students residing in small towns to access study materials.

"Big cities have good libraries, well stacked books and they are updated. It is difficult to find many libraries in small cities. Thus, before leaving for home, we have to photocopy study materials. But many times, while writing thesis, you realise the need for more research articles and research materials. That used to be a problem. This is a good move by the university," said Sidharth, a research scholar of political science.

**DH News Service**