

# Newspaper Clips

March 20, 2011

**Business Line ND**  
**20/03/2011 P-16**

## **Cornell, IIT submit bids for Science Campus in New York**

**Bloomberg**  
*March 19*

Cornell and Stanford universities and the Indian Institute of Technology were among 27 institutions that offered plans to open an applied-science campus in New York City, Mayor Michael Bloomberg said on Friday.

The mayor asked for proposals to open a research facility to attract engineers from around the world in December.

The offer is part of an economic strategy that promises a potential \$100 million capital contribution by the city and possibly a municipally owned site.

"We were enormously optimistic that this once-in-a-generation opportunity would draw the interest of top caliber universities," Bloomberg said in a statement.

Among them, the institutions produced 18 proposals describing possible concentrations from environmental studies to neuro-engineering, the press release said. The city aims to choose one by the end of this year.

The mayor is founder and majority owner of Bloomberg News parent Bloomberg LP.

The list of solo and collaborative responses included also from: Amity University, India; the City University of New York, the University of Toronto and IBM; and Carnegie Mellon University with Steiner Studios.

Economic Times 20/03/2011 P-2

# If it ain't broke, don't fix it

## Instead of maximising resources, AICTE is hell-bent on destroying it



ASHOK KUMAR (name changed) is a dynamic, high-profile executive with a leading multinational company in the capital. He is the epitome of the successful corporate executive and is regarded as something of a legend within his company, having overseen its transformation from a small representative office to become one of the biggest foreign companies in India. Those who meet him are invariably impressed by his drive and commitment. Ah, another of those go-getting MBAs from the Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs), you think. Not quite!

Few outside a close circle of friends know, but Ashok has come up the hard way. Forced to become the sole breadwinner of his family after his father died when Ashok had just completed his graduation, he'd had taken up the first job that came his way. Then through dint of hardwork, he cleared a tough entrance examination and joined the part-time MBA programme at one of the country's top-rated MBA institutes, where needless to say, he outshone many of his classmates from far more privileged backgrounds.

Picked up by a MNC that was hesitantly testing the waters in India, he'd been instrumental in opening his overseas bosses' eyes to the promise of the Indian market. Along with the company, his career, too, prospered.

Great story? By all counts! But the All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE) that oversees technical education (and the MBA for some reason is regarded as 'technical') in India is not impressed. The council has declared it will not approve new part-time MBA programmes or allow fresh admissions in existing ones from the next academic year. Why? The reason given by the AICTE is that 'Many B-schools are misusing the facility and running other programmes on the pretext of a part-time MBA programme. They are not working within the regulated framework.'

But if that is so, who is responsible? The B-schools the AICTE claims are found wanting? Or the body (AICTE) that has certified them and is charged with regulating them? More importantly, is it right to penalise all B-schools, good and bad, merely because there are a few black sheep amongst them? Is it not

akin to imposing a ban on driving because there are a few rash drivers when the right approach would be to make licencing norms more stringent and punish rash drivers who cause accidents?

There are presently around 2,500 AICTE-approved management schools in the country, most of which offer part-time courses as well. In one fell move, the AICTE has scotched the dreams of thousands of Ashoks.

In a country where there is a crying need for skills and a serious dearth of them, the attempt should be to maximise the available infrastructure to add to the talent

pool. Instead of which the AICTE seems hell bent on doing exactly the opposite. Remember part-time MBA programmes are cheaper than regular MBAs. A three-year part-time management programme will, typically, cost around ₹5 lakh spread over three years while a full time two-year management programme puts a student back by anywhere between ₹10 to ₹15 lakh. Moreover, doing a part-time course does not entail giving up one's current job; a major benefit for vast numbers from the not-so-privileged lower middle class for whom an MBA degree would always remain a dream.

There are a number of shady management institutes and medical and engineering colleges that have been approved by the AICTE. But the solution is not to cramp their functioning but to lay down high standards and pull up those that don't comply.

Ironically, the AICTE is itself under a cloud. Not only is it reputed to be a hotbed of corruption the CBI has found former Chairman, RA Yadav in possession of assets much in excess of his known sources of income—it has often been in the news for granting recognition to institutes that don't meet minimum standards.

Strangely, these drastic policy changes have been made though it is presently functioning under an Acting Chairman. It is one of the basic tenets of public administration that a person who is 'officiating' does not take major policy decisions. Instead of which the AICTE under the present dispensation seems set on a collision course. Its philosophy should be, 'If it ain't broke, don't try to fix it'.

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### kaleidoscope

MYTHILI BHUSNURMATH

Economic Times 20/03/2011 P-3

# Reduce extensive outside control on Central institutions: HRD panel

URMI A GOSWAMI  
NEW DELHI

**IN** A bid to carry forward the reforms agenda in higher education, a human resource development ministry-appointed committee has called for reducing extensive control from outside to ensure autonomy for central education institutions.

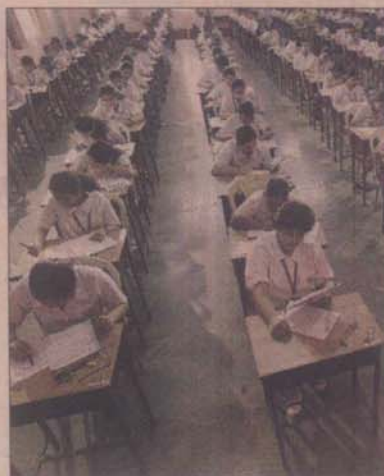
The committee headed by NR Madhav Menon was set up last year to chalk out a policy for autonomy of central educational institutions. It has attempted to provide a solution to the problems of constraints to access and autonomy by suggesting that established colleges with good track record be upgraded to universities.

The suggestion for upgradation comes even as the government is yet to resolve the situation over deemed universities. The logic of upgrading established colleges with good track record to the status of universities appears to mirror the rationale of the deemed to be university scheme. As a safeguard, the committee suggests the upgrade in a phased manner to give institutions time to address the ensuing challenges of becoming a university. Another suggestion given to ease access constraint looks at jointly upgrading a cluster of institutions to the status of a university or giving them autonomy in academic and administrative matters.

On the autonomy issue, the committee has suggested doing away with the office of the visitor in central universities. At present, the President is the visitor to all central universities. The committee has recommended that the powers of the visitor be transferred to the Chancellor. The powers of the visitor include appointing the vice-chancellor, certain members of the court, executive council, finance committee, selection committees. The visitor also has the power to order enquiries and institute inspections, give or withhold assent to the statutes, arbitrate disputes between selection committees and executive councils on the appointment of teachers and annul any proceeding of the universities which is not in conformity with the laws and regulations.

It has suggested that the practice of posting civil service officials to university positions be discontinued. Instead, the universities should create a pool of education-administrators with expertise in managing educational and research institutions. It has also recommended establishing an office of ombudsman in each central university to intervene in crisis situations.

"There is a need to free universities and central educational institutions from extensive control from outside for which statutes establishing them have to be revisited.



Clauses subversive to institutional autonomy need to be repealed or modified to enable institutions to function with freedom and accountability. In this process, it is desirable to ensure that the membership of academic bodies is strictly restricted to eminent academicians and independent experts," the committee states in its report to human resource development minister Kapil Sibal. In order to pave the way for creating a Central Universities Council, on lines of the IIT Council, the committee has suggested a single legal instrument for all central universities.

Barring the 14 universities set up under the Central Universities Act, 2009, each of the remaining central universities has been set up under separate Acts of Parliament. While there are historical reasons for this, the committee is of the view that it is now time to bring in some uniformity in the legal framework and subsume all these separate legislations into one. It has suggested changes in the legislation for IIMs to give the institutes the power to confer degrees.

To ensure autonomy in academic matters, the committee suggested that all central universities adopt a system of choice-based credit courses along with semester system. This would help promote flexibility in the academic structure and promote students mobility.

In a longer time frame, the committee has suggested switching over to complete internal evaluation of students with faculty members having full autonomy in evaluation matters. In the transition period, it has suggested a mix of internal and external evaluation. The committee has said all faculty members shall be subjected to a review once every five years by a review committee appointed by the executive council.

## DISASTER MANAGEMENT



Police officers work on recovery operations in Otsuchi, northern Japan on Saturday. The Japan Meteorological Agency put out its first tsunami warning at 2.49pm just three minutes after the quake on March 11.

AP PHOTO

## Lessons from Japan's tsunami warning system

Charu Sudan Kasturi

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**NEW DELHI:** Experts say Japan's tsunami warning system won a seemingly impossible race against giant ocean waves, offering possible lessons to countries like India.

The Japan Meteorological Agency put out its first tsunami warning with details of which prefectures were likely to face the most dangerous waves, at 2.49pm just three minutes after the quake on March 11.

A detailed warning listing the height of waves likely to strike each prefecture and the time of arrival of the tsunami at each place followed a minute later - at 2.50pm. The warnings were too late for Iwate prefecture, where the tsunami struck first at 2:49 PM, but beat the waves to all other prefectures.

"...This is the best timing I have seen for a tsunami warning system, and is an example for all of us," Sri Lankan tsunami expert Rohan Samarajiva said.

Japan's timing is significant for countries such as India and Sri Lanka because the nearest fault-line in the Indian Ocean lies near the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. While Japan is forced to face tsunamis - generated just off its coast - India has up to 120 minutes before a tele-tsunami (long-distance tsunami) hits the Tamil Nadu coast.

India's tsunami warning system is how much better than it was in 2004. But there are things to learn from the Japanese

PK BHASKARAN  
IIT-Kharagpur professor

Reducing the time needed for issuing warnings increases the time available for evacuations, experts said. Indonesia took 14 minutes to issue warnings about the 2004 tsunami off Sumatra.

The Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services took eight minutes to put out its first bulletin on the Japan quake last Friday. The key to the Japanese success appears to lie in pre-analysed models that allowed a fully-automated warning system to make near-immediate announcements, the experts said.

"India's tsunami warning system is now much better than it was in 2004. But there are things to learn from the Japanese..." IIT Kharagpur professor PK Bhaskaran said.

The process of warnings involves sensors on the ocean bed picking up wave signals, transmitting them to land stations, evaluating the wave height and time before the tsunami hits land, and obtaining clearances for evacuation.



# ASSISTED CONCEPTION

**BABY BOOM** Advances in aided reproduction technology is delivering results even in complex infertility cases

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**D**r Manika Khanna has granted Archana, 25, and Mantu Charan Jana, 30, what nature denied. It's because of her medical expertise that the childless couple are expecting a baby later this week.

Infertility affects one in 10 couples worldwide, of which 19-20 million live in India, says the World Health Organisation. Though in-vitro fertilization (IVF) techniques — popular referred to as test-tube babies — still does not promise 100 per cent success, advances ensure childless couples have a greater chance of conceiving today than ever before. Some clinics in India show 50% success, compared to the global average of 40%.

The IVF procedure involves extracting an egg from a woman and fertilising

it in a lab-dish using the husband's or donated sperm. When the egg divides and develops into an early-stage embryo, it is inserted into the uterus where it develops into a baby.

"About 10-15 per cent of our clients have age-related infertility. Urban working women want to have children late, little realising that fertility starts declining after 33 years," points out Dr Sushma Sinha, senior consultant, IVF at Indraprastha Apollo Hospital.

"With each passing year after 30, the graph of success rate for IVF goes down. And beyond 40 years, it is only 5%," says Dr Khanna. Other common causes for infertility are blocked fallopian tubes due to tuberculosis, male infertility (contributing to as much as 45%), hormonal imbalance and, in some cases, fibroids in the uterus.

With most couples thinking of starting a family after the age of 35, infertility clinics are generally the place to start.

But IVF centres require physical and emotional rigour that can test the toughest of couples.

Soma Sharma, a housewife from Shashtri Nagar in Delhi, had twin sons in February after undergoing IVF treatment. "There were no side effects whatsoever due to injections, but waiting for the results of the treatment has harrowing. I was so desperate for a baby after undergoing weeks of injections," says Sharma.

"Also, the thought whether the hormones being injected will be a problem gnawed till my pregnancy was confirmed. Then, nothing mattered," she says.

Says Dr Khanna, practising IVF specialist for last eight years, "Every single step (see box), right from taking out a woman's eggs to introducing the embryo into her womb is crucial. We just cannot afford any mistake."

And it is not just the procedural part that is important. Equally important is the counseling for both the husband and the wife.

Says Jana, a jewellery designer from Trilokpuri, who is expecting his first child this week, "The period immediately after the first cycle, which did not yield result, was bad. We were heartbroken, but counselling saw us through," he says.

With the cost ranging between ₹ 60,000 to 2 lakh per cycle, everyone cannot afford treatment. Only two government hospitals — All India Institute

## GREAT EXPECTATIONS

**What to expect while undergoing IVF treatment**

- Childless couples are told about what the treatment involves.
- The woman is put on medication, investigations are done.
- On the second day of her period, she is injected with fertility medication in her thigh or stomach to stimulate the follicles to grow as many eggs as possible. These injections are given daily for 12-14 days.
- About 7-8 ultra-sonographies are done over two weeks to monitor the growth of the eggs.
- Almost 36 hours after the last injection, the eggs are mature enough to be taken out.
- Two to three eggs are harvested and fertilised. If necessary — for instance, when sperm count is low or the sperm are having difficulty penetrating the egg — the lab embryologist might also perform intracytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI), a procedure in which sperm are injected directly into an egg.
- The fertilized egg is put in an incubator at body temperature. It takes 48 hours for the embryos to form and 72 hours for them to start dividing.
- The embryos are then transferred into uterus.
- Blood tests done about three weeks later to confirm pregnancy.

## MEDICAL HISTORY MADE WITH BIRTH OF THE FIRST TEST-TUBE BABY

**WORLD'S FIRST:** Louise Joy Brown, the world's first test-tube baby, was born in London on July 25, 1978.

**INDIA'S FIRST:** India's first test-tube baby is mired in controversy. According to the Indian Council of Medical Research, the world's second IVF baby was born 67 days later in Kolkata on October 3, 1978, but Dr Subhash Mukhopadhyay's effort was not accepted as an IVF procedure initially as it was not scientifically documented.

The first validated IVF baby in India was born eight years later on August 6, 1986, when Indra Hinduja used the technique

for the birth of Harsha Chawda at KEM Hospital in Mumbai

**WHERE DID THE TERM 'TEST-TUBE BABY' COME FROM?**

The eggs are fertilised in a test-tube or petri-dish before being transferred to an incubator to develop into an embryo.

### COST

- Corporate Hospitals, such as Apollo: ₹1.25 lakh to ₹1.7 lakh
- Private Clinics, such as Gaudium: ₹60,000 to ₹1.25 lakh
- Govt Hospitals, like MAMC: ₹ 20,000-45,000 for injections, rest free

of Medical Sciences and Maulana Azad Medical College — offer IVF services, which cost between ₹ 30,000 to 50,000 per cycle. "The easiest option remains having at least one child before 30 and if you have trouble conceiving after that age, visit an IVF specialist as early as possible," says Dr Khanna. (Names of patients changed to protect their privacy)

# How Quake-Resistant Are Our Skyscrapers?



Vertical growth helps economies, say some urban planners. But do we have proper building codes in place? Ravi Teja Sharma finds out

**T**HE SIGHT of some of the tallest buildings in Tokyo's skyline shaking violently during the recent earthquake is a reminder of how far ahead earthquake engineering has moved. None of them fell. These buildings were designed to sway, but not collapse. Considering the number of earthquakes Japan faces and the kind of pressure there is to go vertical in that small country, its engineers have tried hard to perfect the art of earthquake engineering and have put in very high standard codes to be followed.

As India urbanises, similar pressures will come into play for our cities as well—the pressure of going vertical. In fact, in many cities it has already started to happen. Mumbai already has a few 60-storey buildings. There is talk of a 100-floor building in Hyderabad. Gurgaon, near Delhi, is already a city of skyscrapers of all sizes. Supertech recently announced its 60-storey residential tower in Noida, Uttar Pradesh.

The question though is: do we have the kind of high quality codes for earthquake resistant structures?

"The inadequacy is not in our building codes. It's more to do with the implementation," says Abha Sheth, managing director, VMS Consultants, which provides consulting services in structural and civil engineering.

The need for high-rises seems to have been recognised by various states across the country with new master plans reflecting it. Cities are also getting more liberal with floor area ratios (FAR), which will certainly promote high-rises. An example is the Delhi master plan 2021 that talks about increasing population density in existing areas of the city by incentivising high-rises. All new developments in the city will be high-rises.

Noida, too, is getting ready to grow vertically, increasing the FAR—the ratio between total built-up area and area of land on which the building is constructed—from 2.5 to 3, meaning more apartments can come up on a given plot. For green buildings, FAR is up from the current 2.75 to 3.75.

"There is a great shortage of land in our country. We have 17 percent of the world's population but only 2 percent of the

world's land," says Arun Maira, member, Planning Commission, who looks at urban affairs. We need land for agriculture, factories, regional transportation and for people to live. In cities, high-rises could accommodate the need for housing and workplaces.

To safeguard these high-rises, the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has codes in place, which prescribe the optimal standards that need to be used on buildings in different seismic zones across the country. The country is divided into four zones—from 2 to 5, with 5 being the highest risk zone. Delhi and areas around it fall in zone 4, Mumbai in zone 3, Bangalore in zone 2 and Guwahati in zone 5. The BIS code IS 1893 prescribes the design for the various forces that will be active in different zones at the time of an earthquake.

"The National Building Code 2005 incorporates all best practices," says Alinda Chandra, additional director general at BIS. In fact, most codes are under constant revision by BIS, taking into account new research findings and learning's from earthquakes in other parts of the world. The earthquake engineering sectional committee that has members from IITs, NTPC, large builders and other stakeholders, meets every year to re-look the earthquake codes.

"Our code is considered to be one of the better codes internationally. Every few years we have been studying and modifying them to come at par with the international standards," says Anand S Arya, chairman of the BIS sectional committee and national seismic advisor, home ministry.

But these codes are not enforceable themselves. They are recommendations by the BIS. The building bylaws of every city govern how construction happens and it is in these bylaws that the earthquake codes find their legal sanction.

"While most large developers will not risk their reputation by flouting these codes, smaller developers in tier-II, III towns and even in some big cities might not take them so seriously. You cannot legislate virtue. That culture is missing in India," notes Sheth.

Before constructing, a developer, big or small has to get the structural design cleared by the municipal authorities.

There are mechanisms in place in many cities that require builders to get certification from registered structural engineers as municipalities themselves might not have the resources to check if you are following the code. In many smaller cities though, there is no mechanism for code compliance. "Many municipalities have not made these guidelines mandatory," says Sandeep Donald Shah, managing director of Taylor Devices India, which sells earthquake protection devices for high-rises.

The gap areas are implementation and the techno-legal regime. "We don't have a regime that says that there would be exemplary punishment if the laws are not followed. That is the cause of concern," says Dr Ashok Kumar, a professor in the department of earthquake engineering at IIT Roorkee.

"For larger projects, the stakes are much larger so developers will follow the codes and design accordingly. Smaller developers could cut corners," says Gagan Singh, CEO, project & development service, Jones Lang LaSalle India. For them, a 10-15 percent difference in cost of building an earthquake resistant structure versus a regular structure would make a lot of difference.

At the recently announced 60-storeyed North Eye project, Supertech has got its structural design cleared by Noida Authority and has also got a clearance from Airports Authority of India. Though Noida falls in seismic zone 4, the company is planning to build according to zone 5 specifications. "But there are additional requirements. We have now sent our designs to IIT Delhi for vetting, which is now mandatory in Noida," says RK Arora, managing director of Supertech.

Now, while the concern about the safety of high-rises during an earthquake is certainly well-placed, low-rises are usually ignored while talking about earthquake safety.

"It is a myth that smaller buildings are safer. Smaller buildings are usually designed very badly even for just gravity load," says Sheth. So in the event of an earthquake, smaller buildings are usually the worst hit as was seen in Bhuji and Ahmedabad.

**There is a great shortage of land in our country. We have 17 percent of the world's population but only 2 percent of the world's land**

**ARUN MAIRA**  
MEMBER, PLANNING COMMISSION

# Why business schools were jittery

While the govt favours more regulations, management institutes say nothing should dilute their autonomy

A COURT verdict may have put into pause mode the government's efforts to do away with one-year management courses and to bring in more transparency in the running of autonomous management institutes in India, but it has brought to the fore the crying need for a mechanism, self-regulatory or otherwise, to check malpractices in such institutions.

On March 17, the Supreme Court stayed a notification issued a few months ago by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) that envisaged greater government role in autonomous business schools following appeals by such institutes. They contended that AICTE, the federal body that governs technical education in the country, took decisions on some controversial provisions of the notification when enough members were not present.

The eight provisions in the notification called for a much greater role of respective state governments in the running of B-schools besides setting some rules for admission tests and duration of the management courses. The council, which had received numerous complaints from many students and parents, was looking forward to regulating almost every aspect of running a management institute—fee structure, duration of the programme, curriculum and admissions.

SS Mantha, chairman, AICTE, says the notification was issued because "there is no regulation whatsoever" in autonomous management schools, much to the anguish of students who are forced to pay very high fee for pursuing studies there. "What we did was for the benefit of the public, the students and their parents. What is the problem if these institutes are governed by the state?" asks Mantha.

Sure, AICTE's decision incurred the wrath

## RUNNING INTO ROUGH WEATHER

Controversial Provisions in the Notification	What AICTE Tried To Address	What MBA Institutes say
All PGDM courses shall be of duration not less than 24 months	Sub-standard degree courses	Why not allow globally popular one-year courses?
Admission through CAT/MAT or exams by state governments	Multiple entrance examinations	Dissolution of autonomy
State govt to conduct admissions through competent authority	To make the admissions process transparent	Have unique offerings so different admission criteria
Fees fixation committee of state govt to approve fees to be charged	To bring down high admission fees	High costs are involved in running an institute
Model curriculum/syllabus to be issued by AICTE	To standardise management education	State shouldn't influence the curriculum

of B-schools, who charge the AICTE with trying to "dissolve their autonomy".

A person associated with one such school, who asked not to be named, says the AICTE had, over the years, "recklessly" given approval to "sub-standard" institutions.

Claims Harvansh Chaturvedi, director, Birla Institute of Management Technology (BIMTECH), : "With this notification, they tried to punish the good ones because they couldn't (or didn't) punish the bad ones."

Chaturvedi is alternative president, Education Promotion Society of India, which along with the Association of Indian Management Schools, had petitioned the apex court against the notification. He says he is in possession of the minutes of the meeting held on 20 September 2010 when the controversial provisions were put on the table. Chaturvedi claims

that the meeting was held and the crucial decision was taken "without a quorum".

Interestingly, the dearth of regulations in management education in India has been a cause for worry. According to figures provided by Career Launcher, a management test preparation company, there are approximately 3000 MBA colleges in India. "Very optimistically, only 150 of these provide quality education," says chairman and co-founder, Gautam Puri.

FICCI general secretary Dr Rajiv Kumar proposed a self-regulatory mechanism which can be adopted by management institutions at will. "It is just a beginning of an idea; an intermediate step to avoid both no regulation and over regulation," he says. However, with a wide disparity between demand and supply and countless sub-standard colleges, self-regu-

lation doesn't actually seem to be a viable option.

Consider this. According to KPMG, the total number of seats in top 40 B-schools is around 10,500. The number of seats available in the good ones is for less than 5% of the MBA applicants. An increasing awareness and the premium commanded by management students in the job market have led to spurt in demand for management education in India.

The number of students who took the common admission test (CAT) conducted by the Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) has been steadily rising till 2009, touching almost 2.5 lakh. After the test went online, the number went down in 2010 to approximately 1.86 lakh candidates. The number of Graduate Management Admission Test (for foreign MBA) applicants from India is also growing. In 2009, 30,633 Indians appeared for GMAT, a 128% increase in five years.

As is well known, the country's corporate sector wants MBA executives, even at the lower levels, to have an overall knowledge of the corporate world. But how to ensure students don't fall into swindlers' trap?

TV Mohandas Pai, board member and director-HR, education and research and administration at Infosys Technologies, offers some unique suggestions which go beyond self, over and under regulation.

"The AICTE can keep a watch on new institutions for the initial years. These and the old institutes can be regularly rated by an independent body like Crisil. To tackle the menace of high fees, AICTE can come up with scholarships." Looks like a workable suggestion indeed!

**SUNANDA PODUWAL**

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## Business Line ND 20/03/2011P-3



Mr Ramanujam Sridhar (left), CEO, brand-comm; Mr Pradipta K. Mohapatra, Chairman, Coaching Foundation India; and Dr Sandhya Shekhar, CEO, IIT Madras Research Park, at the MMA women manager's convention 2011, in Chennai on Saturday. — Bijoy Ghosh

# Reward managers offering women flexibility at work

### Our Bureau

Chennai, March 19

Managers who promote women to continue their career by offering them flexibility to work from home or flexi-timing must be rewarded, says Mr Ramanujam Sridhar, CEO, brand-comm, while speaking on the topic 'Level Playing Field or Different Paths'. Mr Sridhar was addressing the Madras Management Women Manager's Convention 2011.

Organisations usually reward only the managers who are 'go-getters' but companies must recognise and promote managers who manage such issues keeping the long-term perspective, he said.

Mr Ramanujam said that it was imperative for a woman to find a spouse who is supportive of her career. "Do not underestimate the power of the spouse in a women's career development," he said.

Talking about whether women and men were equal, Dr Sandhya Shekhar, CEO, IIT Madras Research Park, said statistics show that there is an improvement in women working at the entry level to 37 per cent in 2008 from 30 per cent in 2006. However, it dramatically fell to 2.25 per cent, implying that very few women make it to the top. "This is a serious issue," she said.

According to another statistics, women across the world

constitute two-third of its work hours and only earn one-tenth of the world income and just own one-hundredth of world property.

While the above statistics may be grim it is also seen that women control 80 per cent of the household spending, including retail purchases and groceries. If you thought men decided on what car to buy, think again, close to 85 per cent of all automobiles purchased was influenced by women.

Dr Sandhya Shekhar said that it is not whether women and men are equal but it is about equivalence, the harmonising and synergy between the two genders.



# Moon's date with earth a splendid spectacle

## Shining bright on starry night

A rare full moon was at its closest distance to earth in the last two decades



(Earth and moon's size to orbit distance, not to scale)

Sunday's supermoon occurred at around 12.40 am IST

### SUPERMOON ON SHOW

Supermoons are basically the occurrences of a full moon when it is at its lunar perigee – the closest distance in its orbit to earth



Can appear 14% wider and 30% brighter than at apogee

### CLOSEST PERIGEE FULL MOONS

1993, March 19	356,548 km
2001, February 7	356,852 km
2010, January 30	356,592 km
<b>2011, March 20</b>	<b>356,577 km</b>
2016, November 14	356,511 km
2034, November 25	356,447 km



**THE LUNAR MARVEL:** Earth's only satellite was closest to it early on Sunday.

AS YOU slept last night, the moon was closest to you than at any time in the last 18 years.

Ever since the dawn of mankind, the moon has exerted a powerful grip on our imaginations. Its proximity to our planet, its changing shape and its extraordinary beauty, have all had a profound impact on our culture.

At around 12.40 am on Sunday, our object of fascination was closer to our planet than at any time since 1993.

The moon that appeared in the sky was much bigger and more brighter and beautiful

than usual.

This phenomenon was first dubbed the 'supermoon' by American astrologer Richard Nolle in the 1980s.

Nolle also claimed that extreme occurrences of the supermoon can provoke tidal waves, earthquakes and storms.

"Supermoon is a situation when the moon is slightly closer to the earth in its orbit. This happens in the full moon phase after 18 years," Milla Mitra, scientific officer and event head at the NGO Science Popularisation Association of Communicators and Educators (SPACE), said.

"The moon was around 14 per cent bigger and 30 per cent brighter as compared

to other full moons during the year," an expert said.

The moon's orbit around the earth is extremely complex, following an elliptical, or oval, pattern as opposed to a circular one. That means that at different stages, it can be significantly closer or farther away from us.

### The moon was 14% bigger & 30% brighter

At a lunar perigee — the word used to describe the point when it is at its closest to the earth — the moon is about 220,000 miles away. Whereas during a lunar apogee — when it

is farthest away — the distance is about 254,000 miles.

Though the gap between the perigee and apogee might not seem huge, at moments such as last night's, the moon appears much larger, thanks to an optical illusion.

Since it is low on the horizon, the moon looks vast in comparison to other objects in the distance, such as trees, hills or buildings.

The last full moon so big and close to earth occurred in March, 1993.

While this year's supermoon might yank on some tides, the super perigee moon won't trigger natural disasters or werewolf uprisings, experts say.

Daily Mail and agencies

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# Tighter norms for inspection of med colleges

**Kounteya Sinha | TNN**

**New Delhi:** The days of unscrupulous assessment of medical colleges by inspectors of the Medical Council of India could soon be over.

For the first time, members of the MCI or its inspectors would not know before hand which colleges they are to assess on a particular day till the morning of the inspection.

In order to put an end to the practice of fake medical colleges being tipped off before inspection so that they can put

in place fake faculty, false patients and hired infrastructure like libraries, the six-member governing body of the MCI has tied up with the Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology to create a special software that will randomly choose which colleges will be inspected on a particular day and who the inspectors would be.

The procedure was given the go ahead by Union health minister Ghulam Nabi Azad a week ago and 8-10 medical colleges have already been inspected this way. Under the

new procedure, the inspectors are given a sealed envelope on the morning of the inspection, while on the way to the airport or station which contains information on which college they have to inspect and which state it is in.

This way, medical colleges don't have time in advance to prepare for the inspection and the MCI team gets the real picture of how the college is being run and whether it should be given registration or be allowed to increase undergraduate and post-

graduate seats on the basis of faculty, infrastructure and patients available.

MCI governing body member Dr Ranjit Roychoudhury told TOI that 130 more inspections will be done this way. "False patients and faculty members are at present brought in hordes in buses on the morning of the inspection by event managers for those who run the colleges to show the inspection team that they have the required faculty manpower and infrastructure to run a medical college."