

# Newspaper Clips

March 22, 2011

**Financial Express ND 22/03/2011 P-2**

## Reluctance of 4 states to give up control cost them IITs

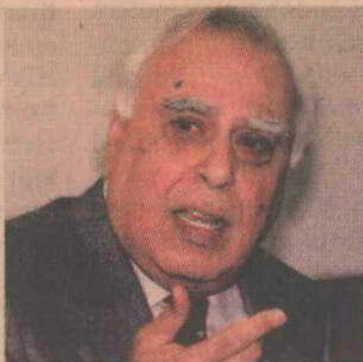
**Kirtika Suneja**

New Delhi, Mar 21: Unwillingness of states to give up control over their institutes has cost them the premier Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT). Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Kerala and Uttar Pradesh would have had one more IIT had the states shown interest in upgrading their prominent institutions to the level of the coveted technology schools.

Almost 15 institutes in 10 states were identified for upgradation or conversion to IITs even before the new IITs were setup and a committee headed by director-general of CSIR S K Joshi had short listed the seven institutes as institutions possessing the best potential among the engineering and technical colleges in the country for upgradation to the level of IITs.

"Most of the states except West Bengal didn't want to lose control over these institutes and hence, decided against the upgradation despite the fact that these would get them better repute," said an official from the ministry of human resource development.

"There were local issues in these institutes as they didn't want to lose their respective depart-



**Kapil Sibal,**  
HRD minister

### LOSING OUT

- Almost 15 institutes in 10 states were identified for upgradation or conversion to IITs even before the new IITs were set up
- A committee had shortlisted seven institutes as institutions possessing the best potential among engineering & technical colleges
- Around ₹61 crore was released to these institutions during 2006-07 to start the process of upgradation but the plan was shelved

ments. In fact, IT-BHU wanted a separate IIT in the campus. Others had problems in giving up their institutes," Joshi told *FE*.

The seven institutes shortlisted were Institute of Technology, Banaras Hindu University (IT-BHU), University College of Engineering combined with the University College of Technology, both belonging to Hyderabad's Osmania University. Bengal Engineering College in Howrah, Jadavpur University's Engineering and Technology Departments, Zakir Hussain College of Engineering and Technology, Aligarh Muslim University, Andhra University College of Engineering, Vishakhapatnam and

Cochin University of Science and Technology in Cochin.

Around ₹61 crore was released to these seven institutions during 2006-07 to start the process of upgradation but the plan was shelved. At present, there are 15 IITs in the country.

"Of these, we decided to convert IT-BHU to an IIT and upgrade the Bengal Engineering and Science University to Indian Institute of Engineering Science and Technology. No other state has shown interest in continuing with this," the official added. Interestingly, the two institutes upgraded almost six years after the committee's recommendations.

Indian Express 22/03/2011P-3

# On Cabinet agenda today: Online degrees, certificates

ANUBHUTI VISHNOI  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 21

**A** SET of three education-related legislations will be on the Union Cabinet's agenda when it meets on Tuesday. This will include an ambitious proposal that will require all academic institutes right from schools to universities to preserve and confer degrees/certificates on students in the electronic format as well.

The National Academic Depository Bill proposes to create a national-level database of all academic certification and is projected as a major reform step that will cut through layers of attestation and inspection processes and crack down on fake degree rackets. It also means that every student, employer and institute will be able to take a print of a degree and check its veracity online — like a demat account. That apart, the ministry feels the move will help in maintenance of academic records and check problems like spoilage of certificates over time. It will also ease things for those seeking duplicate copies of their degrees.

While all new degrees and certificates will switch to the 'smart' format once this legislation comes through, existing degree holders will also be able to have their certificates saved electronically with the depository, as per the ministry.

## The move has come in the face of several complaints about fake degrees

The move has come in the face of several complaints about fake degrees in circulation — many of which have come from overseas educational institutes. To be implemented in a phased manner, the ministry will ask all universities to switch to the "smart degree" version by saving all degrees as online documents with this depository system. The Bill, if approved by the Cabinet on Tuesday, could be introduced in Parliament in this session itself.

Two more pieces of legislation for amendments to the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) Act, 1953 and the National Institute of Technology Act, 1997 are also headed for Cabinet nod. They both have already been introduced in Parliament and are coming up for a final approval after incorporating suggestions from the Parliamentary Standing Committee. The NIT Act amendment is aimed at inclusion of the five Indian Institute of Science Education & Research (IISER) and the 10 new NITs within the ambit of the Act so as to empower them to award degrees.

## 6 pc hike in DA likely for Central staff

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 21

CENTRAL government employees and pensioners are set to get a mid-year bonanza with the Union Cabinet likely to approve a 6 per cent hike in dearness allowance on Tuesday to compensate for rising prices.

The move, coming just ahead of the Assembly elections in five states, will benefit over 50 lakh employees and 38 lakh pensioners. The new DA, which will be effective from January 1, will increase DA benefits from the present 45 per cent to 51 per cent of the basic pay.

The relief comes amid high retail prices with inflation ruling above 9 per cent.

The Union Cabinet has been convened tomorrow to give approval to a number of amendment Bills including the Intellectual Property Rights Amendment Bill, the National Institute of Technology Bill and the National Electronic Database for Academy Awards Bill to be introduced in the ongoing Budget session of Parliament.

# PMO shifts focus to foreign students

ANUBHUTI VISHNOI

NEW DELHI, MARCH 21

WITH India fast becoming an educational hub for students in the neighbourhood and from across the Middle East and Africa, the Centre is pushing for changes in the system to suit their needs. And in the thick of action is the Prime Minister's Office.

Buoyed with the response, it has now been suggested that a screening test of applicants should be held to ensure foreign students are able to cope with the pressures of the Indian education system.

In a recent meeting presided over by the Principal Secretary to the PM, it was observed that the academic standard of a majority of foreign students was not up to the mark and that some kind of screening test might be needed to help ascertain their competency level.

This, it was argued,

## EMERGING HUB

■ 50,000 students from 130 nations study in India.

■ Over 10,000 are from Asia.

■ Six cities attract the most foreign students: Delhi, Pune, Hyderabad, Bangalore, Mysore and Chennai.

would help to ensure students opting for courses in India are able to cope with the academic formats here.

It was also pointed out that a generally 'low proficiency in English language' in foreign students was leading to below-par performance in examinations.

While several universities already hold special English proficiency classes for foreign students, these facilities need to be strengthened, the meeting felt. The Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR) has expressed its readiness to bear the expenditure the universities may incur in the

process.

A committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, would now be constituted to look into various issues related to the welfare of foreign students, it was decided at the meeting attended by the DG ICCR, Home Secretary, officials from the HRD Ministry and a number of Vice Chancellors.

The PMO asked the HRD Ministry and Vice Chancellors of all universities to ensure a series of measures were taken towards the welfare of foreign students in India. Suggestions were made on conducting online entrance examinations for PhD courses, additional funds to build hostel infrastructure for both foreign and Indian students, consideration of a mandatory health insurance for self-financing foreign students, etc.

Mail Today ND 22/03/2011 P-9

# MIT award for 18 top Indian techies

By **Max Martin** in Bangalore

A SYNTHESISER inspired by physicist Stephen Hawking's talking gadget, a cell phone system that gives alerts on cooking gas cylinder leaks and robots that perform root canal treatment and underwater clean-up — innovations such as these have won a bunch of young Indian techies a prestigious Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) award.

TR35, a MIT Technology Review initiative, will honour this year's 18 top Indian innovators — who are aged under 35 — here on Tuesday.

Over two days, these young women and men will share the stage with top scientists. The innovators have been selected for developing technological solutions to common problems and their contributions hold great promise, the award jury said.

The innovations will change the world of many people. Rohit Jain, born in Chennai with cerebral palsy that affected his brain and immobilised him into silence, finished high school last year thanks to one of these gadgets. Jain now studies Sociology at Loyola College, Chennai.

Made by a team of IIT Madras graduates, AVAZ — a custom-made speech synthesiser — is now available for tests in institutions like Delhi's Tamanna special school.

AVAZ helps the children convert their gestures with head or fingers into speech with the aid of a micro-processor and sensors. Ajit Narayanan, the key person behind AVAZ, has won this year's TR-35 Innovator of the Year award.

Gautam Kumar, 26, of RoboticWares, Bhubaneswar, won

the Social Innovator award for a gadget that detects the smell of a LPG leakage. And it automatically sends text messages to five designated people over their cell phones.

The trigger for the device was a Bhubaneswar blast that reminded Kumar's colleague Kushal Nahata of an earlier blast at Chandni Chowk in Delhi, where his parents lived.

Deepak Ravindran, 22, of Innoz Technologies in Gurgaon, won the telecom prize for a text-based cell phone search engine.

SMSGyan is a platform that can work with different databases to give answers of up to 500 characters — from diction-

aries, cricket, stock market and gadgets price lists.

The digital slate developed by Aishwarya Lakshmi Ratan

## They'll share the stage with top scientists

of Microsoft Research Lab in Bangalore finds application in Kalahandi, Orissa, among poor people.

"Earlier self-help group members had to write out their accounts and leave a copy in a box," Sabyasachi Kar of the NGO Pradan, said. A messenger would collect them and take it to a far-away place with

computer and electricity every week. Now the local women just have to place a plain paper on the new slate and enter data with a special pen.

Sameer Jain — of MGV Dental College, Nashik — won an award for his root canal machine. Then, there are robots that go underwater and those that clean ducts.

Others have developed technologies to secure Internet service provider's routing network and make printing ink eco-friendly.

Technology Review India Editor Srinivas Rao who led the project said: "It is heartening to see an increase in technology innovation in India."



**MEGAMIND:** Ajit Narayanan has won the MIT Innovator of the Year award.

# Hindustan Times 22/03/2011 P-10

## Cabinet to take up three key education legislations today

**NEW DELHI:** The Union Cabinet is on Tuesday expected to take up three key education legislations which the government wants to soon bring to Parliament. The legislations include a Bill to set up an online depository of all academic degrees, and amendments to the National Institutes of Technology (NIT) Act and to the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) Act.

# Times of India ND 22/03/2011 P-18

## Top colleges to award own degrees?

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** Top colleges in the country like St Stephen's in Delhi and St Xavier's in Kolkata may be allowed to give their own degrees if the recommendation of a committee set up by the HRD ministry is accepted.

The ministry has in fact set up a panel to create a roadmap for implementing the recommendations of the Madhav Menon committee about autonomy in higher education — which suggested that top colleges be allowed to give degrees — and reports by committee of vice-chancellors on issues like centralized admission test.

On the issue of colleges awarding degrees, sources said: "It all depends on what the HRD committee thinks." The panel consists of the spe-



**BIG SHIFT:** The Madhav Menon committee in its report has recommended the need for autonomy in higher education

cial secretary, two additional secretaries, the joint secretary, higher education, chairpersons of the UGC and AICTE, and two members to be co-opted from the Menon and VCs' committee.

Earlier this month, the Menon panel had said there was a need for paradigm shift in the way higher education is conducted in the country.

It said the office of the visitor for central universities be done away with. The powers of visitor — in most cases it is the President — should be vested with the chancellor of the central varsity. The committee also said that universities should review their functioning at the end of each decade. Already, the proposed National Com-

mission for Higher Education and Research provides for review every 10 years.

The committee had also said that IIMs be turned into universities. It said on the lines of the IIT Council, a similar council of vice-chancellors of central universities should be constituted. It also said that the practice of appointing bureaucrats to university positions should be discouraged.

The committee of VCs of Central universities had recommended a common entrance test for admission in postgraduate courses and M Phil/PhD across the 42 such varsities. Another panel on Navratna Universities has recommended direct funding from the Centre, freedom to fix faculty salary and student fee, withholding increment to non-performers, etc.

# Hindustan Times 22/03/2011

## P-17

# Private medical institutes to have campuses abroad

Charu Sudan Kasturi

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**NEW DELHI:** Private medical schools in India may soon be able to set up campuses abroad like their engineering and management counterparts under new regulations the health ministry is planning.

The health ministry is proposing the regulations after several private medical institutions challenged the government and the Medical Council of India (MCI) legally, for rejecting proposed foreign campuses, top government sources have told HT.

The regulations are aimed at ensuring that there is no compromise in the quality of medical education offered by Indian institutions in campuses abroad, sources said.

The health ministry has written to HRD ministry to seek their feedback on allowing Indian institutions to set up campuses abroad.

Rules of the MCI currently bar the automatic recognition of any medical degree earned outside the territory of India — even if offered by an institution

**MOVE COMES AFTER COLLEGES CHALLENGED GOVT, MCI FOR REJECTING FOREIGN CAMPUSES**

headquartered in India.

This means that degrees earned at the foreign campuses of Indian institutions are at par with foreign degrees. Students have to appear for and clear an MCI screening test before they can practice in India.

Institutions offering other streams of education — such as management or engineering — are however eligible to set up campuses abroad at present, based on rules and regulations they must follow.

Deemed universities too are eligible to set up campuses abroad — if they satisfy stringent new regulations introduced by the government in 2010.

“There is a sense it is impractical today to have a blanket policy of non-recognition of medical degrees earned at campuses of Indian institutions abroad,” a health ministry source said.

# Times of India ND 22/03/2011 P-15

## 4 in 10 students fail MBBS exam in Maha

Hemali Chhopia | TNN

**Mumbai:** The class of 2010 has recorded the lowest-ever pass percentage among aspiring doctors. The failure rate has doubled with about four out of every 10 students failing to clear the exam.

An analysis of the results provided by the Maharashtra University of Health Sciences (MUHS) reveals that, in the recently concluded exam, the overall pass percentage stands at 63.76%, an embarrassing dip from the times when the university used to record a pass percentage of over 80%.

All through the early years of the decade that went by, most health science students cleared their examinations right in the first attempt. Now, not only has the number of shots at taking the test gone up but even the overall marks scored by candidates have fallen, say faculty. Teachers trace this to the poor student selection made

through the private common entrance test which was first taken by this batch. "The quality of students coming into health science colleges was questionable," said Dr Arvind Bhore, dean of Kashibai Navle Medical College.

"The results are so bad in spite of us taking great efforts to push these boys and girls to work harder. From identifying poor students to conducting extra lectures to visiting hostels and pulling them to classes, we have done every bit to ensure that students learn and clear the examinations," added Bhore.

The going, say teachers, gets tough right from the word go. Students who enter the health science course with high scores mysteriously sink after the first-year exams themselves. To back that, a medical college teacher said, "First-year MBBS results used to touch 90% success rate. In the winter 2010 exam, the pass percentage was 32.38%."

# Killing The Golden Goose

*Ending the Software Technology Parks of India scheme will adversely impact Indian IT*

Vivek Kulkarni

In the budget, IT's golden goose - Software Technology Parks of India (STPI), the most successful Indian scheme copied by a number of foreign governments - was squashed prematurely. While India started its liberalisation process in 1992 with attractive tax incentives for the IT sector, the Chinese had instituted similar incentives for manufacturing in 1978. Thirty years later, in spite of conquering the manufacturing sector, China continues with its tax incentives. India's decision to end the tax incentive signals the impending decline of Indian IT.

In 1978, when China was in dire straits, Deng Xiaoping went to the US to plead for more foreign currency. China had depleted all its foreign currency reserves and did not even have enough dollars to buy return tickets for Deng's delegation. The Chinese People's Bank, with just 80 employees at its head office, was the only financial institution in the country with no linkages to the outside world.

But thereafter, China liberalised and announced incentives for manufacturing and SEZs. It reduced tax rates from 55% to 25%. For manufacturing, the policy provided for zero tax for two years and just 12.5% tax for another three years. Thirty years later, China has reserves of almost \$3 trillion. Its manufacturing sector at over \$2,500 billion is 12 times bigger than India's. In spite of this stupendous achieve-

ment, China continues with all its tax incentives till date.

With the world recognising Chinese supremacy in the manufacturing sector, we find the "Made in China" label on almost everything we see. Indians have even found it cost-effective to worship Ganesh idols manufactured in China. Today, China is in a position to charge higher prices for their products without affecting their business, because no country will be able to respond in the short run. Building infrastructure and manufacturing plants and training industrial workers take decades. In the next decade, the Chinese can happily extract exorbitant monopoly prices for



Incentivise them to stay ahead in the race

**With the incentives taken away, a large number of India's small IT companies will be forced to fold up. Consequently, India will face job losses running into millions**

manufactured products.

Just like China, India too ran out of foreign currency reserves in 1991 and had to pledge its gold in London to borrow foreign currency for day-to-day payments. It followed a similar path in the IT sector (IT, BPO and KPO). The sector was liberalised by the then IT secretary with an innovative scheme, STPI, which provided IT companies with a single window agency for all business as well as a tax holiday for 10 years. This

incentive and STPI's support nurtured the IT industry, resulting in a tremendous surge: from 13 firms in 1991, to over 5,000 companies now in Bangalore alone.

In 1992, the government invested just Rs 2.75 crore in STPI, resulting in a Rs 3,00,000 crore industry, without taking a single extra rupee from the government budget. The STPI created a vibrant IT small and medium enterprises (SME) sector that currently employs more than a million professionals. India now has 58% of world market share in this sector. After nurturing these companies and making them world-class, this year's budget abruptly buried the innovative STPI scheme. Given the scheme's success, why did the government scrap STPI?

First, the government succumbed to the SEZ lobby. Real estate wanted tax incentives for

only SEZs. Most SMEs have no voice or lobby with the government. Ministers are happier to meet large real estate players and pay lip service to SMEs. Second, large IT companies found it convenient to have their own SEZ and save taxes. Some Indian IT companies have turned out to be real estate players. As such, large companies with access to ministers encouraged SEZs and did not credit the STPI scheme with their initial growth.

Third, NASSCOM works primarily in the interest of larger companies. So they were not too concerned about looking after the interests of smaller IT players. They did not take up the cause of SMEs as Dewang Mehta did by lobbying in the initial STPI days. Fourth, IT industry captains declared that IT should pay normal taxes and implied STPI should

be scrapped. Their companies simultaneously acquired large tracts of SEZ land to save taxes.

What does the future hold for IT? India will grow rapidly in the next few years, primarily due to the present growth momentum. However, it will soon begin to lose business to neighbouring countries. Currently India has a market share of 58% while China holds 33% share. But by next year, China is expected to increase its market share to 40%. By 2014, it will emerge as the world's IT superpower. Meanwhile, a small country like Philippines has already overtaken India and holds the maximum market share in the BPO sector. East European countries with a 6.5% market share will consolidate. With the incentives taken away, a large number of India's small IT companies will be forced to fold up. Consequently, India will face job losses running into millions.

Had the tax concessions continued, India would have grown faster and created at least a million additional jobs. Every IT job creates five indirect employment opportunities in real estate, commercial space, malls, entertainment etc. That is one of the main factors contributing to India's vibrant economy.

Japan, South Korea and China became rich via manufacturing. The IT sector was India's chance to become rich. But Budget 2011-12 has killed the golden goose.

*The writer is founder, Brickwork, and former IT secretary, government of Karnataka.*



Times of India ND 22/03/2011 P-21

# 'Drugs to the brain' method ups Alzheimer's cure hope

## Breakthrough To Also Revolutionize Parkinson's Treatment

**London:** British scientists claim to have overcome a key problem in treating dementia and motor neurone disease, by discovering a novel way to get medicines into the brain to treat the common memory disorders. A team at Oxford University says the breakthrough may pave the way for a new generation of treatments for conditions such as Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, motor neuron disease and muscular dystrophy, Nature Biotechnology journal reported.

Until now, it has been very difficult to get drugs into the brain because of an efficient filter known as blood-brain barrier. One of the only ways has been to inject drugs directly into the brain. But, now the British scientists have discovered how to hide medicines from this filter by attaching them to tiny molecules, released by cells, called exosomes. They can send drugs into brain to switch off a gene linked to Alzheimer's.

However they believe it may be a

UK scientists have discovered how to hide medicines from the blood-brain filter by attaching them to tiny molecules called exosomes. They can send drugs into brain to switch off a gene linked to Alzheimer's

few more years before the technique is safe enough to test on humans.

Dr Matthew Wood, who led the study, was quoted by the Daily Express as saying, "These are dramatic and exciting results. It's the first time new biological medicines have been delivered effectively across the blood-brain barrier to the brain."

Exosomes are small capsules that are produced by most cells in the body. They can break away from the cell and travel around the body, tak-

ing genetic material with them. They help cells to "talk" to each other.

Dr Wood added: "We've shown that a natural system could be exploited to deliver drugs. We believe we can use this same technology for Alzheimer's, motor neurone disease, Parkinson's and Huntington's. The next steps are to test the exosomes in a mouse model of Alzheimer's disease to see if it makes a difference to disease progression."

The trial showed that when the drug was attached to exosomes and injected into the blood system of mice, it crossed the blood-brain barrier and ended up in the brain. Once there, the type of drug delivered was able to switch off a gene linked to Alzheimer's. This led to a 60% drop in the brain of the problem enzyme linked to the gene, the findings revealed.

The Alzheimer's Society has hailed the discovery. "We could now see more effective drugs being made available for people with Alzheimer's," a spokesman said. PTI

Business Line ND 22/03/2011 P-4

# Major project on to study earthquake activity at Koyna

Ministry of Earth Sciences to provide main funding

Our Bureau

Hyderabad, March 21

The Koyna region of Maharashtra is one of the most active regions with tremors upto magnitude of 5 continuously occurring, more than four decades after the massive 6.3 magnitude one that struck the place in 1967.

In the wake of fresh interest on understanding large earthquakes that are causing havoc and unleashing tsunamis (the latest Japanese one being an example), the Indian scientific establishment is formulating an ambitious project to drill a deep borehole in the region and intensely study the earthquake activity. This would help in better understanding and possible forecast of earthquakes.

The proposal is to drill upto 7 km and study the physical, geological and chemical processes and properties of the earthquake zone in real time. This would be the first of its kind facility anywhere in the world when implemented. It would be an international project to be led by Indian scientists.

Discussing the details of the project were 70 earth scientists from across the country and about 25 from abroad (10 countries) at a workshop being conducted at the National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI) for five days starting today.

The Koyna region, which is close to Mahabaleshwar, is the best known example of



**Mr Sallish Nayak** (right), Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences, and **Mr Harsh Gupta**, former Secretary, Department of Ocean Development, at a workshop in Hyderabad on Monday. — G. Ramakrishna

triggered (reservoir) earthquakes. In the region earthquakes occur in a very small area of 20 km x 30 km, providing a good opportunity to investigate the physics of earthquakes in a very accessible area within shallow depths, the NGRI scientists explained.

The Koyna dam is one of the largest dams, supplying water and hydroelectric power to Maharashtra. Some scientists believe that the seismicity associated with the Koyna reservoir is also unique in the world. Similarly, there is also a fault zone in the region about 8 km beneath the surface. Therefore, a deep borehole of over 7 km would give a good understanding of the character of the fault zone as well.

The NGRI has been doing a

study of the earthquake activity of the region. Now the new initiative would require anywhere between Rs 200 to Rs 400 crore said Mr Y.J. Bhaskara Rao, acting Director.

The Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) will provide the main funding. ONGC, GSI and some international agencies also could provide financial support, he told newsmen here today on the sidelines of the workshop.

The MoES Secretary, Mr Shailesh Nayak, said the unique project would provide a better understanding of the earthquake processes in the Deccan traps region. A similar project to drill a deep borehole in the Arabian Sea was also being planned with the US.

# Lamp based on TV tubes enters bulb fight

**Mar 21:** As the nation shifts from standard incandescent light bulbs to higher-efficiency versions, one company believes it has a product for consumers dissatisfied with the alternatives: the harsh light of compact fluorescents and the high price of LED lamps.

This week, the Vu1 Corporation, based in New York, will begin shipping a lamp that uses a new technology borrowed from an old product, a picture tube TV.

The Vu1 lamp, available as a 65-watt-equivalent reflector lamp, creates light the same way a TV picture tube creates images. It fires a stream of electrons at phosphors coating the inside of

the globe. The company calls the technology electron-stimulated luminescence.

The light is akin in color to a regular light bulb's output, which is important because many consumers complain about an unpleasant glare from compact fluorescent light bulbs, or CFL's. As with CFL's, the Vu1 bulb uses less energy than a standard bulb, in this case 19.5 watts to create the equivalent of a 65-watt lamp. The company says it will last 10,000 hours at full brightness, compared with a 1,000-hour life typical for regular bulbs, and is fully dimmable.

The new lamp, which will initially be sold only on the



The Vu1 lamp, available as a 65-watt-equivalent reflector lamp, creates light the same way a TV picture tube creates images. *NYT*

company's Web site, [vu1.com](http://vu1.com), costs \$19.95. But the introductory price will drop to \$15 within 12 months, according to the company's chief executive, Philip

Styles, and then to \$12 six months after that.

That's a considerably higher upfront cost than that of a standard light bulb of around \$1.50, or a CFL, which can be found in many communities at a utility-subsidised price of around 50 cents.

LED lamps are more expensive, but they use less electricity. Based on lifespan and power consumption, an LED lamp costs less than a Vu1 lamp. Philips sells a 60-watt-equivalent LED A-lamp, the type used in standard sockets, for \$40. It uses 12 watts of power and is expected to last 25,000 hours before it loses half of its brightness.

Still, consumers choose

lamps not on their final cost, but on their purchase price.

"The mistake with CFL's was that they were sold based solely on cost," not on their light quality, said Michael Siminovitch, director of the California Lighting Technology Center at University of California.

"It's a national tragedy. We should have solved this by now." LED lamps are as efficient at creating light as its CFL equivalents, according to Jim Brodrick, the Energy Department's solid-state lighting program manager, without the downsides inherent in CFL's: mercury pollution, poor dimming and undesirable light colour. *NYT*

## Amar Ujala ND 22/03/2011 P-7

# एआईसीटीई की वेबसाइट और एसएमएस सेवा शुरू

नई दिल्ली। इंजीनियरिंग और प्रबंधन कोर्स करने वाले छात्रों के लिए मनचाहा कॉलेज ढूंढना बेहद आसान हो गया है। मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री कपिल सिब्बल ने सोमवार को अखिल भारतीय तकनीकी शिक्षा परिषद (एआईसीटीई) की वेबसाइट लांच की जिससे, घर बैठे तकनीकी संस्थानों से जुड़ी हर छोटी-बड़ी जानकारी हासिल की जा सकेगी। सिब्बल ने इसे पारदर्शिता की दिशा में उठाया गया महत्वपूर्ण कदम बताते हुए कहा कि आने वाले दिनों में यह मील का पत्थर साबित होगी।

उन्होंने बताया कि अब कॉलेज की स्थिति, गुणवत्ता, सुविधाएं, शुल्क

तकनीकी संस्थानों से  
जुड़ी जानकारी  
वेबसाइट पर मौजूद

ढांचा, आधुनिक उपकरणों की उपलब्धता, लैब, लाइब्रेरी से लेकर जमीन, छात्रावास, पेड़-पौधे और फैकल्टी से जुड़ी हर जानकारी वेबसाइट पर मिल जाएगी। इसके लिए छात्रों को न तो भटकने की जरूरत है और न ही फोन करने का झंझट। उन्हें प्रवेश से पहले ही पता लग जाएगा कि कॉलेज को परिषद की मान्यता प्राप्त है या नहीं। ब्यूरो