

Newspaper Clips

March 22, 2012

Business Standard ND 22/03/2012

P-13

Champions from the campus



BOOK REVIEW

S PRASAD

When I agreed to do this review, I was unsure whether the book would hold my interest for a complete reading. I was pleasantly surprised to find that my fear was misplaced. More than that, the book offered a wealth of information and strengthened my positive feelings for the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) system and its graduates. It could, of course, be said that for someone who has been part of the system for nearly half a century, this required little reinforcement from outside.

The writers are three very young alumni of IIT Kharagpur. In fact, two of them are still students at the Institute at the time of writing this review. This fact itself tells a story: the enormous admiration students and alumni of this oldest IIT have for their alma mater. In any case, they seem to have been sufficiently inspired by the success of their seniors as innovators and entrepreneurs to choose to research and write about this success. The result is this book, which would be a useful addition to the bookshelves of all young people who would like to do something off the beaten path.

The 20 stories chosen for this book are mostly simple, but they have several common links. Besides a shared alma mater, all attribute their success primarily to the confidence they gained as individuals and as team-workers during their stay on campus.

An outsider may find this remarkable, but it would appear almost axiomatic to students of IIT campuses anywhere.

The learning at these campuses extends well beyond the classrooms, with brilliant minds learning from each other and shaping each other's thinking constantly.

In a way, therefore, the stories compiled here would find resonance with similar stories that could be told for the graduates of other IITs. It is just as well that the first such compilation should coincide with the platinum jubilee of the oldest IIT, where it all started.

Though the stories have a common underlying theme, they also highlight the original and different approaches these alumni took down the path of innovation and entrepreneurship. Each has a different motivation and a different outcome, with a strong self-

belief and a shared grit and determination to succeed.

Thus, there is Suhas Patil, who uses his technical prowess to bring about a paradigm shift in technology trends. He goes on to become a legend in Silicon Valley, having pioneered the VLSI design company called Cirrus Logic, and then inspiring dozens of such initiatives. But there is also Harish Hande, whose business model was created by a desire for social good when he conceived the solar-lantern company SELCO.

And if proof were needed of the range and versatility of the alumni of this institute, there are social engineering entrepreneurs like Kiran Seth (of Spic Macay fame) and Arvind Kejriwal, who helped create deep awareness about India's unsolved issues of public accountability and took a few, not insignificant, steps in this direction. Indeed, the collection of individuals in this volume is astounding, to put it mildly. I would recommend the book to all young people

who are looking for good role models. They may not all be famous but are, nevertheless, inspiring.

As might be expected, the majority of the entrepreneurship stories are in information technology (IT) or sectors allied with IT. But there is a fair sprinkling of business development stories from infrastructure, manufacturing and other sectors. What is intriguing is the range of successes in fields as diverse as retailing of farm-produce as part of social entrepreneurship to providing high-tech IT services like diagnosis of the security environment of a company's networking and computing infrastructure.

The only fault one can find with the book is that the stories are largely laudatory — a fact natural in a book written primarily to showcase the institute in a positive light in its platinum jubilee year. There is no pretence of deep research in the actual stories that must have played out at back of each of these case studies — and the bitter experiences or the ecstasies that must have accompanied them.

Finally, while the lone case of a woman alumna entrepreneur (Anuradha Acharya) makes for interesting reading, it is reflective of the general refrain that even after 60 years, IITs' female student population remains low at 15 to 20 per cent.

The book is worth reading for anyone who wants to know what makes techno-entrepreneurs tick, or get a feel for the kind of experiences they go through when chasing the entrepreneurial dream at a young age. It certainly makes a good addition to the repertoire of books written either by or about IIT alumni. May the breed have a long and healthy life!

The reviewer is former director and current professor of Electrical Engineering, IIT Delhi

THE GAME CHANGERS

Yuvnesh Modi, Rahul Kumar, Alok Khatri
Random House India
262 pages; ₹150

Economic Times, ND 22/03/2012 P-21

Aakash Gets ₹765 Crore in Budget

HARSIMRAN JULKA
NEW DELHI

The world's cheapest tablet project has been allocated about ₹765 crore in Budget 2012-13, which is likely to trigger the second phase of the project expected to begin in April, even as the first phase is stuck in a deadlock.

The allocation for Aakash has been made under the National Mission for Education through ICT of Ministry of Human Resource and Development. The mission had launched the low-cost tablet project, last year. According to official sources, the money allocated is 'sufficient' for the second

phase of the project. Aakash-II is likely to cost the government about ₹569 crore for about 50 lakh tablets. "Most of the money is likely to be utilised for the Aakash project. Some of it will be utilised for developing e-content," said a senior government official involved in the project.

The government plans to procure about 50 lakh tablets, in a phased manner, at ₹2,276 each. Half of the cost (about ₹1,138 per tablet) will be subsidised by the central government. The rest will be borne by the state governments, who want to distribute Aakash tablets in state colleges and institutions. The billion-dollar, five-year fund allocated to NME-ICT mission

expired on March 31, which led to a fresh allocation by Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee in the Union Budget 2012-13. The new allocation comes even as IIT Rajasthan was unable to utilise about ₹25 crore allocated for phase I of the Aakash project, due to a disagreement with its vendor.

According to a government official heading the Aakash project, only about 500 Aakash-I tablets have been procured so far. However, according to Datawind officials, they have supplied about 10,000 tablets to IIT Rajasthan, for which they are yet to receive money. Disagreement over specifications of the tablet has added to the deadlock. "Allocation of more money to a project

which is not stable is not an established practice in government," said Satish Jha, President of One Laptop Per Child foundation, which has a competing product in the market.

Meanwhile, the government has washed its hands off the deadlock, citing it as a commercial dispute between two parties. Nonetheless, Minister for Human Resource and Development Kapil Sibal said in Lok Sabha earlier this month, that Datawind will supply about 100,000 improved tablets. Sibal also plans to launch a tender in April for Aakash-II, which are expected to come with a better processor and capacitive touchscreen, but at the same price.

Booster Dose

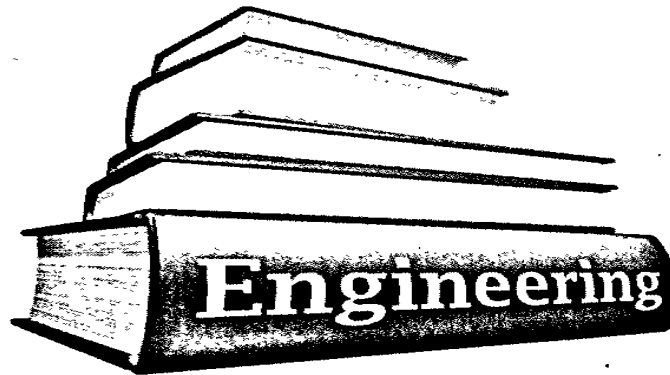
Aakash-II is likely to cost the government about ₹569 crore for about 50 lakh tablets.

The government plans to procure about 50 lakh tablets in a phased manner, at ₹2,276 each.

While half of the cost will be subsidised by Centre, the rest will be borne by states who want to distribute the tablets in colleges.

Deccan Herald, ND P-6
22/03/2012

What does it take to be a true engineer?



Every year, lakhs of students appear for the engineering entrance exams, be it AIEEE or IIT-JEE. Class 12 students, around this time of the year, are busy revising their syllabus for the Boards that began in March, and are eager to achieve their life-long dreams and aims to enter the best college and university to groom and write their future.

Engineering as a career has attracted the student fraternity of the country in a big way and a large number of aspirants taking the engineering exams is a proof of this rise in demand. Engineering is a multi-disciplined field with new disciplines and branches being added with the advancement of science and technology.

The rat race of "being the best" has made students cross their own bar. They are well aware that clearing these entrances is not a cake walk. Every student who wants to be an engineer dreams of pursuing the degree from IIT. But it is very important to understand that preparation for IIT Entrance Examination (IIT-JEE) requires rigorous hard work as competition for the limited seats at the prestigious IITs is increasing year on year. Students start preparing as early as Class 9 itself.

The All India Engineering /Architecture Entrance Examinations (AIEEE) is the largest entrance examination in the world. It is the exam for admission to engineering or architecture undergraduate courses in India.

Engineering is amongst the few professions where creativity and ingenuity knows no bounds. Moreover, if you are the one among those looking for challenging opportunities than engineering is the ideal profession to opt for.

As a profession, it offers a wide range of career possibilities. From the design of fighter planes to that of pacemakers

for hearts from boring holes deep in the earth for the petrochemicals to stepping on Mars, engineers play a pivotal role.

It is important to know that candidates who are giving their final examinations of Class 12 in 2012 are eligible to appear twice for the Joint Entrance Exam in consecutive years. Candidates who have passed Class 12 from a recognised Board are also eligible to sit for the exam. Here are some tips on how to crack the exam:

It is advisable to stay focused and maintain a positive attitude. Fretting over the exam will not be helpful; You will only be wasting your time.

It is very important to develop speed.

Do not overstress yourself, it is important to sleep five to six hours every night, especially three-four days before the exam to keep you physically and mentally fit. Short naps also help to regain freshness. Students should avoid oversleeping during the day.

It is important to focus on weak areas and improve your strength with concepts. Your mantra should be quality of time and not the quantity.

This year, the IIT-JEE exam and AIEEE is slated for April 8 and April 29, 2012 respectively. If you aspire to land a top rank in an esteemed university, then this is the right time to brush up your fundamentals skills and re-energise yourself for D-day!

The advent of globalisation and liberalisation in the early 90s has brought in a revolutionary change. Engineers have the ability to bring about an impactful change. They can bring blueprints alive. They use a barren land as a canvas and spill colours to make a new painting in the name of invention and technology.

(The writer is Head of FIIT-JEE,

Noida.)
Ramesh Batlish

Business Standard ND 22/03/2012

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'Decline in high-quality applicants from India into US business PhD courses'

Less than two months after India's Soumitra Dutta took over as the dean at US's Cornell University's Johnson Business School, **SRILATA A ZAHEER** became the first Indian woman to head the Carlson School of Management at the University of Minnesota. In an emailed interview to M Saraswathy, she shares her goals and India plans. Edited excerpts:

How does it feel to be the first Indian woman dean of a US school?

Our school has no gender issue. We had a woman dean just before me. In fact, the US' higher education is at the forefront, with many women deans and presidents at top universities. It will hopefully act as a beacon to help shatter the glass ceiling in other sectors. Also, while I may be the first Indian woman dean of a top-tier US business school, I know several Indian women who are deans, provosts and chaired professors at several respectable universities here.

What are your plans upon becoming the dean?

Reaching out in person and through extensive crowdsourcing to listen to all of our stakeholders — students, faculty, staff, the business community and the alumni — and articulating a pathway to our future.

How would you deal with financial resources-related issues, given a gradual decrease in state funding for the school?

In the last five-plus years, state funding has been reduced from approximately 20 per cent of our budget to less

than five per cent. As a result, we have found ways to grow revenue from other sources. We will continue to look at all possible sources.

Does your school have India on its mind?

We have a strong relationship with the ISB (Indian School of Business) at Hyderabad. My husband, Aks, and I were both on its founding international academic council; Aks has taught there every year since its inception. We negotiated an agreement with ISB, where one of our professors, Ravi

Bapna, chairs ISB's SRITNE information technology centre, and several other of our faculty teach at ISB. Additionally, our executive MBA students from our Vienna programme (one of the three international executive MBA programmes we have), others are in Warsaw and in Guangzhou, visit ISB every year. Our students have done live cases and field trips in India. The India seminar you mention was one of those cases. We are in talks with a major Indian business schools about starting an international executive MBA in India.

Indians are increasingly holding top positions at international institutes. Would it be right to say that the US has now started to realise the potential of Indians as future leaders?

The US system is deeply meritocratic, so national origin is usually neither an asset nor a liability. A lot of students from the very best Indian schools came to the US to do their PhDs in the 1970s and the '80s. What you are seeing now is their coming-of-age. In the past 15 years, however, we have seen a decline in the numbers of high-quality applicants from India into US business PhD programmes. This does not bode well either for more Indian-origin deans in the future or, of greater concern, to meet a growing need for research-trained faculty both in India and worldwide.



SRILATA A ZAHEER
Dean, Carlson School
of Management



130 B-schools face closure

Kirtika Suneja
New Delhi, Mar 21

THE business of running business schools isn't easy. Around 130 management institutes or 4% of all B-schools in India are expected to close shop this year, twice as many as last year, thanks to faculty shortage, lack of students, substandard curriculum and poor infrastructure.

Topping the list of states whose business schools have applied to wind up is Andhra Pradesh with 36 such institutes, followed by Rajasthan with 25 and Uttar Pradesh with 18. Total seat capacity of all these institutes is almost 10,000. Recently, the Mumbai Business School wound up after three years of operation due to lack of students. It pro-

vided a one-year full-time programme in management, similar to the one offered by the Hyderabad-based Indian School of Business.

"Closure of management institutes is more common than engineering insti-

tutes because of relatively lower investments and the present soft market for management education. All these institutes will continue to operate for their existing batches but fresh admissions have been stopped,"

said a senior official from the human resource development ministry.

Last year, 40 B-schools requested closure according to the All-India India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), which prescribes norms for faculty and approval for establishment of new institutes.

Experts said many B-schools were unable to fill all seats while some were unable to meet the criteria of AICTE and therefore had to shut shop. "Most of these institutes are in rural areas, without any relation with the industry and have poor admissions. There are no jobs in such remote areas and hence, they lose out on students," said AICTE chairman SS Mantha.

■ Continued on Page 2

HARSH LESSONS



Andhra Pradesh	36
Rajasthan	25
Uttar Pradesh	18
Maharashtra	14
Madhya Pradesh	8
Gujarat	7
Haryana	7
Karnataka	6
Chhattisgarh	5
Punjab	4
Tamil Nadu	2
Himachal Pradesh	1
Uttarakhand	1

130 B-schools...

India has nearly 4,000 B-schools with a capacity of 3.5 lakh seats. Every year, around 60-70 institutes get added to the list. The council is still processing the applications of institutes and closure can happen once the respective state government and affiliating university gives its no-objection certificate.

Business Line ND 22-Mar-12

p5

E-commerce sites make a beeline for B-school grads

**Shobha Roy
Abhishek Law**

Kolkata, March 21

E-commerce sites have flocked to the premier B-schools particularly IIMs for campus recruitment this year.

The trend-setting move was a win-win for both the private equity backed e-tailers and B-schools who were anticipating lower opportunities in sectors such as finance and investment banking this placement season.

With a view to spreading their wings through professional managers, these sites have been making offers for mid-level management posts with specialisation in warehouse, logistics and support chain management, analytics and online marketing of products.

IIM-Kozhikode confirmed that sites such as Amazon,

ebay, Flipkart and Yebhi.com have been some of the first time recruiters. Recruiters across other IIMs include SnapDeal, Naaptol and Lenskart. According to Mr Kashyap Vadapalli, Director, Category and Business Development, eBay India, without a brand value, start-ups might find it difficult to recruit people from the markets. "This makes them go to IIMs, e-bay has built a brand over the years," he added.

Flipkart, however, has a different take. "We have been hiring from the IIMs for the past couple of years. The response has been extremely positive. Talent from these colleges have an extra edge," Mr Sujeet Kumar, President-Operations, Flipkart, said.

OFFERS

While Flipkart has made 23 offers across IIMs (it has 40

IIM grads so far); start-ups like Lenskart or relatively older players like Snapdeal have also made their presence felt at campus recruitments.

Snapdeal, making its debut at IIMs this year, has made 10 offers across IIMs - Lucknow (4), Calcutta (4) and Bangalore (2). A little over a year-old Lenskart - an online eyewear store - has come up with eight offers. Six of them are at IIM (Indore) while two at IIM (Lucknow).

"Overall we made 12 offers of which eight have been confirmed," Mr. Peyush Bansal, Founder, Lenskart said.

According to Mr Amith JM, student's placement committee co-ordinator at IIM-Ahmedabad, the institute has witnessed significant participation from e-commerce companies this year. The huge private equity investments have necessitat-

ed the need for professional managers.

OTHER B-SCHOOLS

Some of the e-tailers are also looking at other premier B-schools. Flipkart confirmed its willingness to recruit from SP Jain, FMS and Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT).

"We missed out on recruitments at IIMs as most of the slots were taken. We might go to Narsee Monjee with around 10-odd offers," Mr Sachin Singhal, head (e-commerce), Naaptol, said. Naaptol has made three offers at IIM (Calcutta) this year.

XLRI confirmed the receipt of a couple of offers from e-tailers this year. The institute is also planning to tweak its curriculum for catering to specific industries.

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Budget gives research at agri varsities a shot in the arm

VINAY UMARJI & M SARASWATHY
Ahmedabad/Mumbai, 21 March

The announcement of monetary grants for agricultural universities across the country has come as a much-needed respite. With the help of these monetary grants, research work at agri campuses are set to expedite, say institutes.

Among the grants announced include ₹100 crore each to Kerala Agricultural University (KAU) and Acharya N G Ranga Agricultural University (ANGRAU), Hyderabad; ₹50 crore each to University of Agricultural Sciences in Dharwad, Chaudhary Charan

Singh Haryana Agricultural University in Hissar, and Orissa University of Agriculture and Technology; and ₹25 crore for agri B-school, Institute of Rural Management, Anand (IRMA).

For ANGRAU, the grant of ₹100 crore will mean enhanced research in nano technology, bio technology and bio control agents. "We had been intending to expedite research on nano technology and bio technology since long but lack of funds was an impediment. Now, we will be able to train our manpower in these areas," said Giddra Reddy, director, extension at ANGRAU, which has 12 colleges and 46 research stations across

Andhra Pradesh under it.

Currently, of its total ₹350 crore annual requirement of funds, about 80 per cent comes from the state government while 20 per cent comes from Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and other Central schemes.

The University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad, looks to utilise the funds for setting up an incubation centre in food science and technology. "We had been looking at promoting budding entrepreneurs in food sciences sector, and the funds will be utilised for the same," said RR Hanchinal, vice-chancellor of UAS.

At KAU, officials say the ₹100 crore grant has been sanctioned in view of the academic and research accomplishments of KAU. KR Viswambharan, vice-chancellor of the institute said the institution that contributes ₹840 crore at an average per annum in Kerala's agricultural income has been confronting financial crisis for more than 10 years.

KAU plans to utilise this grant for establishing essential facilities, launching more new generation courses and revising syllabi, coordinating different activities, reforming administration, and inculcat-

ing a new management system based on e-governance.

Not just agriculture universities, even B-schools like IRMA have also received a grant of ₹25 crore for research. "We had asked for ₹25 crore as part of our expansion exercise. IRMA has had a year-long exercise of drawing up a plan for the next phase of growth. This plan includes ramping up the campus facilities to enable greater intake of students, offer diverse programmes and contribute to the professionalisation of management of programmes oriented towards growth of rural areas and rural enterprises and creation of centers of excellence

in research," said Jeemol Unni, director of IRMA.

On its part, Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University will use the grants for the ongoing research projects at the institute. Joginder Singh Malik, Public Relations Officer of the Institute, said though they are pleased to get ₹50 crore, they would require more. "We had expected ₹100 crore from the centre for our research activities," said Malik. The money will be used for replacing equipment that have become obsolete, procure new agricultural technology for R&D facilities and build infrastructure.

Deccan Herald, ND 22/03/2012 P-6

Five habits of successful students

A habit is an unconscious pattern of behaviour to act in a particular way acquired through frequent repetition. It slowly gains strength and before we realise it can be as binding as a chain of steel. Rising early instinctively, lacing up your shoes for a jog or going for a swim after reaching home from college, are examples of some habits. Charles Dickens, the famous author once said, "I never could have done what I have done without the habits of punctuality, order, and diligence, without the determination to concentrate myself on one subject at a time". Developing a new habit or breaking one, can take two to four weeks, with constant practice.

What are winning habits?

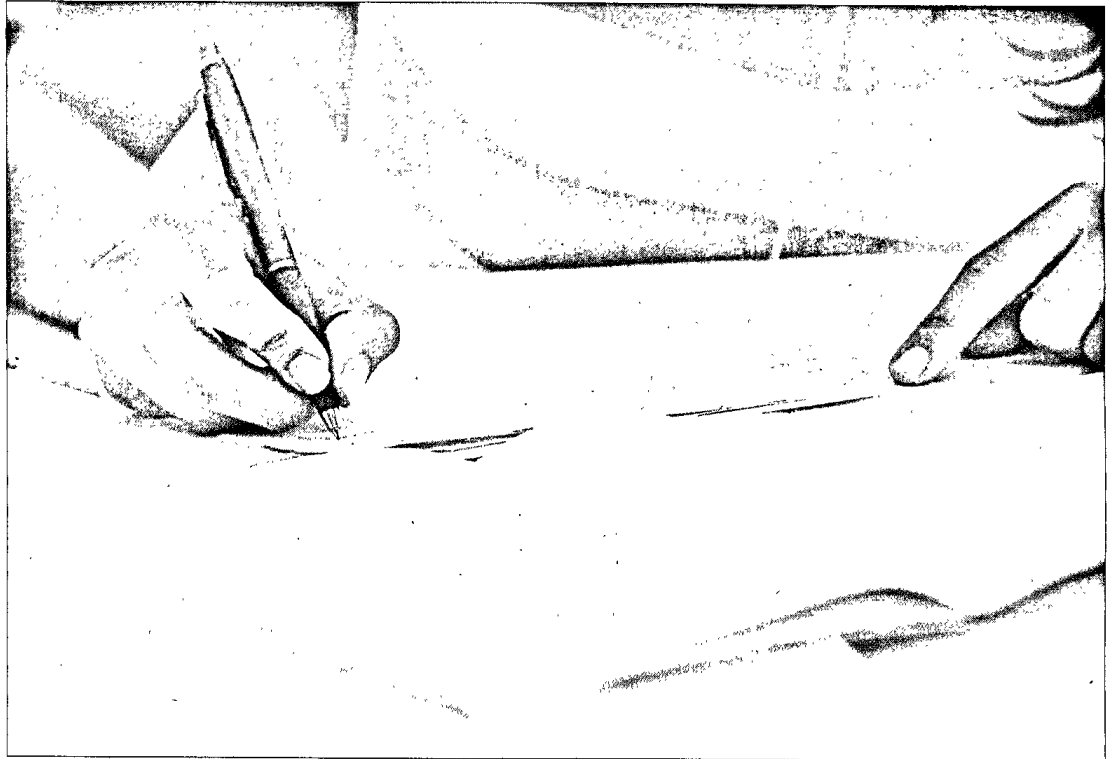
There are early birds getting up in the wee hours of the morning to study and some are night hawks, studying late into the night. Which set of students do you think are more successful?

Research has indicated that this is indeed difficult to conclude. Importantly, both habits point to the winning habit of maintaining a regular pattern in daily activities, or discipline.

■ **Discipline:** Discipline is of paramount importance in academics, as well as your professional and personal life.

Your internal body clock finds it easy to adjust to a regular pattern of sleeping, improving the quality of sleep and productivity during the day. Further, nutritionists think that regular and consistent eating habits positively influence health. Learn to manage your time, handling important and urgent tasks on priority.

Regularity in attending lectures is mandatory, unless there is a family or personal emergency. By missing lectures, you lag behind, creating additional academic pressure. Break the habit of missing lectures casually. Consult your professors for clarifications after missing lec-



Seeking excellence In order to succeed in academics or your chosen profession, developing winning habits is key. V Pradeep Kumar tells you how to cultivate the right habits and nip the wrong ones

tures for genuine reasons, or for additional study materials. Professors like to guide serious students and can be your mentors too.

As a teenager, movies, late night parties, weekend tours etc., are common. Try not to yield to such temptations; instead, plan unwinding activities occasionally.

Become a thorough professional making discipline a way of life.

■ **Persistent goal focus:** Discover your strengths and interests by taking an aptitude test. Use this assessment and consider appropriate career options. Consult a mentor and choose your career.

Pursue career goals with focus. Career challenges and difficulties can be demotivating, distracting you away from your goals.

When faced with hurdles, persist by asking key questions: why is this strategy not working? Have I erred by not considering an aspect? What are the alternate strategies available? Successful students learn from every difficult situation, and persist until their goals are achieved. By the power of your

imagination, visualise the benefits of a dream career, to keep you energised and highly motivated.

■ **Health, fitness & emotions:** With an array of tasks like classes, assignments, case studies, projects etc., academic life becomes demanding and stressful. Balance your academic and personal life, by managing time for sports, yoga or a relaxing hobby. A balanced life with regularity in sleep, diet, exercise, makes you physically fit and healthy.

With self-discipline, condition your mind to focus, irrespective of routine or challenging tasks. Overcome addictions and dependencies with emotional control, developing a positive self-image.

■ **Concentration & study techniques:** You must combat any lack of concentration. For example, you may be forced to wake up late after a late night party, and rush to college, missing breakfast. Lack of sleep and gnawing hunger make it difficult for you to concentrate on lectures. Therefore, you may find the classes boring, and indulge in conversations, texting, or even bunking.

However, successful students, manage to concentrate on the lecture, with strong listening habits. Become a part of a learning environment by understanding the syllabus and expecting the content of each class. Stay away from friends who wean you from scheduled activities. Engage in self-dialogue, developing the ability to say 'no'.

Consider these learning techniques:

■ **Be open to continuous learning:** Recognise learning opportunities from different methods (lectures, assignments, case studies, debates etc.), mediums (classroom, print/electronic/internet media, experience sharing etc.), and people (teachers, seniors, elders etc.)

■ **Develop flexibility in thinking:** See the bigger picture, but have an eye for detail. Develop lateral thinking (alternate points of view) and change your mindset, with new facts.

■ **Develop accuracy focus:** Accuracy is required in many professions like Medicine, Engineering, Marketing, Music, Dance, Crafts. Recognise tasks where accuracy is critical.

■ **Active listening and empa-**

thetic understanding: Maintain eye contact with the professor; develop the right body language to indicate the extent of understanding.

■ **Questioning is the key to wisdom:** Questioning helps in understanding the gaps between the known and the unknown. Understand concepts by posing 'cause and effect' questions, getting additional information and data.

■ **Seeking excellence:** Stephen Covey, author of the outstanding book, 'The Seven Habits of Highly Successful People' says, "Our character is basically a composite of our habits. Because they are consistent, often unconscious patterns, they constantly, daily, express our character."

Successful students have winning habits. They understand that life is a long process of learning and constantly work at educating themselves. Therefore, in pursuit of excellence, consider every achievement as a stepping-stone to set higher standards.

For academic success, it's crucial to develop career goals and an action plan. Implement the plan with discipline and persist until the goals are reached.

Greek Philosopher Aristotle said, "We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit".

Breaking a habit

Old habits die hard; but the point is they do. Therefore, breaking a bad habit isn't impossible. An effective way is to ask questions to yourself: What are the compelling reasons for the habit? What are the consequences of the bad habit? What are the benefits of breaking the habit? The answers to these, will provide the remedy too.

Every time you turn to the habit, remind yourself that you are choosing the bad consequences vis-à-vis the benefits. With self-awareness of consequences and determination, challenge yourself that you can break the bad habit. Reward yourself for breaking the habit, successfully.

For success in academics or a profession, identify key strategies and persist with them, until they become habits. Winning habits act as powerful motivators insulating you from failures and difficulties; they energise you to progress towards your goals and enable achieving personal excellence.



Hindustan Times, ND 22/03/2012 P-11

India's water warriors

Abhijit Patnaik

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Urban India's water challenges are many. Resources are being spread thin, or not at all. Neighbours are fighting with each other over a few buckets of water. Faced with these challenges, some people are taking matters into their own hands for the benefit of the community.

Meet India's water warriors. Ruchi Singhal, a 43-year-old interior designer, lives in Saket, one of South Delhi's more affluent areas. She installed a rain water harvesting (RWH) facility in her home in 2004. The economics of installing this were simple. "We save about 20-25% on our water bill every cycle," she said.

Singhal's children go to the area's prestigious Mother's International School. "The school had set up a RWH system, which is what inspired us," said the mother of two. Their house channels all rain water into pipes connected to a harvesting tank with a capacity of 3800 litres. This water is used for mopping, washing cars and gardening.

MINDSET MATTERS

Singhal is one of an increasing number of people across the nation who realise the importance of taking action now to prevent future water wars.

Vinod Tare, a professor at IIT Kanpur, specialises in water and waste-water treatment. He is a key person involved in the development of 'zero discharge toilets'. Aligarh, his hometown, does not have a sewerage system, making his home there a perfect testing ground for this technology. The ingenious system recycles toilet excrements in a safe manner, converting faecal matter into manure and passing the liquid through micro filters and reusing it for flushing.

Apart from individual efforts like Singhal's and Tare's, communities in rural areas are also waking up to better water management. Slum dwellers in the settlement of Kachpura, near Agra, are



■ Ruchi Singhal's rainwater harvesting tanks help take care of mopping, gardening and other outdoor water needs for up to eight months a year. RAJ K RAJ / HT PHOTOS

AMARNATH LEADS THE WAY

■ Thousands visit Amarnath every year, traversing a fragile ecosystem of glaciers, lakes and rivers. The Amarnath Shrine Board manages waste generated by pilgrims in a novel way. Bio-remediation technologies such as microbes to break down waste, are used in toilets. Waste collected in underground tanks is taken to reed beds and oxidation ponds for further treatment. Only clean water is discharged into the surroundings and the valley's beauty remains untouched.

some of India's early adopters of water conservation technology. With the participation of the community, a Delhi-based NGO, CURE, has set up a waste-water treatment system there, which treats the waste from five clusters of slums in the area. The community was involved in the design, construction, operation and maintenance of the system.

Singhal wishes more people would

change their lifestyles and mindsets and conserve earth's resources.

"I have a separate bucket to keep used water (after washing vegetables or half drunk glasses) with which we water the garden," she said. From composting biodegradable waste to using air-conditioning only at night, Singhal and her family reduce their water and carbon footprint as much as possible.

So, why does she think that more people don't adopt similar measures?

"Implementation of the law is poor. Even though it is mandatory for newly constructed buildings to have RWH facilities, people pay bribes and don't get it done," she said. "The price of water has to go up. When electricity bills went up, people started conserving it. The same goes for water."

Such people are but a drop in the ocean of individual initiatives that can help solve India's water crisis. Mindsets need to change now, since conservation is the need of the day.

Hindustan Times

Title : SUBWAYS FOR SAFE PASSAGE

Author :

Location :

Article Date : 03/22/2012

SUBWAYS FOR SAFE PASSAGE

A survey conducted by the Delhi Traffic Police states that most of the accidents take place on the Ring Road and the Outer Ring Road due to the absence of foot overbridges or subways. Meanwhile, the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) has decided to make pedestrians safe by constructing subways on the proposed Janakpuri West-Kalindi Kunj corridor. As of now, all the subways will be in south Delhi.

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pedestrians were run over by vehicles while they were crossing the road in 2011

42

number of accidents on the Outer Ring Road, according to traffic police

■ The seven stations to get subways include: Munirka, RK Puram, IIT, Panchsheel Park, Chirag Delhi, Greater Kailash Enclave and Nehru Place

THE ISEET STORY, SO FAR

THE INDIAN SCIENCE ENGINEERING ELIGIBILITY TEST (ISEET)

is the successor to the Joint Entrance Exam (IIT-JEE) and All-India Engineering Entrance Test (AIEEE)—and will become the gateway to India's top engineering colleges including the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and National Institutes of Technology (NITs).

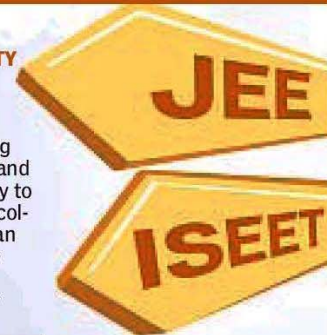
THE ISEET IS SCHEDULED to begin from 2013, but so far there is no official confirmation on this. The ISEET is a result of the government's effort to reduce the burden on multiple entrance tests to students and an attempt to cut out the coaching class culture.

REPORTS CLAIM THAT ISEET

will have two parts: Main and Advance, each of three hours duration. Both tests will be conducted on the same day—between 10am and 5pm. ISEET Main will be an objective type exam, and will test comprehension, critical thinking and logical reasoning. ISEET Advance will test problem-solving ability in basic science subjects.

THE TWO TESTS together will indicate a candidate's scholastic level and aptitude for science and engineering.

ABOUT 40 PER CENT weightage will be given to Class 12 exams, and scores across all boards will be normalised. The combined weightage for the main and the advance paper under ISEET shall not, in any case, exceed 60 per cent.



It is for the individual educational institutions or state governments to decide on the ratio of weightage to be accorded to the Class 12 scores, main and advance examinations.

THE CONCEPT OF ISEET was prepared by the T Ramasami Committee in April last year. Since 2008, the Ramasami Committee is the fourth attempt to reform the JEE. The first was an internal committee under VG Idichandy of IIT-Madras. He suggested scrapping of JEE, and considering Class 12 marks for IIT admission. Recommendations were neither made public nor discussed.

IN OCTOBER 2009, IIT Council suggested increasing eligibility cut-off from the existing 60 per cent to 80 per cent in Class 12. This was followed by the Acharya Committee of four IIT directors to suggest JEE reforms. It submitted an interim report for admission, based on weighted sum of normalised Class 12 marks along with proposed SAT-like examination.