

Newspaper Clips

March 26, 2011

Times of India Hyderabad 25.03.11 P-9

IIT-Kgp dragging feet over security cover for whistleblower

Akshaya Mukul | TNN

New Delhi: B Muthuraman, chairperson of IIT-Kharagpur, has written to senior lawyer Prashant Bhushan that the institute has asked West Bengal police to provide security to whistleblower Rajeev Kumar of department of computer science & engineering.

Strangely, the institute challenged the February 5 order of Central Information Commission (CIC) that asked the West Midnapore superintendent of police to provide security to Kumar. Calcutta High Court has even stayed the CIC order.

T K Ghosal, officiating registrar of IIT-Kharagpur, told TOI that the decision to provide security for Kumar has been due to a letter from Bhushan and not because of CIC's directive.

Despite his claims, Ghosal himself wrote to the SP on March 10, citing the CIC order while seeking security for Kumar. Ghosal, however, gave a different spin to TOI, "We have a reasonable apprehension that Kumar may engineer and attempt a self-inflicting injury to implicate IIT-Kharagpur's

faculty and administration."

Kumar, meanwhile, is yet to get security. Sources said, though CIC has got the stay order of Calcutta High Court, it is yet to receive IIT-Kharagpur's petition against CIC's order. Amit Basak, dean of faculty of the institute, has also written to Bhushan, stating that Kumar's contention of being a whistleblower is a "self-projection." "In the recent past Kumar imagined some issue of capturing public concern very wrongly and attempted to defame his own institution and his own student body and faculty members with completely fabricated and misconceived notions," he wrote.

In its order, CIC had severely criticized Ghosal for giving "false information knowingly" when he was the public information officer of the institute. CIC had said it is "surprised, pained and horrified at this complete falsehood to which the PIO of one of India's leading education institutes has resorted to". CIC had asked the chairman of the board of governors of IIT-Kharagpur to inquire into the allegations made by Kumar.

LS passes Bill to give IIT status to 9 institutes, BHU

The Lok Sabha on Thursday cleared an amendment to Institutes of Technology Act, including nine new technical institutes in the elite IIT category, though amid reservations from Uttar Pradesh outfits which said the move would sever the link of Benares Hindu University (BHU) with IT-BHU.

The amendment would give elite IITs to Ropar, Bhubaneswar, Gandhinagar, Hyderabad, Patna, Jodhpur, Mandi, Indore and Varanasi.

The Bill received support from across the political divide but not without protests from members of Bahujan Samaj Party and Samajwadi Party who protested about the Institute of Technology run by BHU. HRD minister Kapil Sibal allayed fears, saying he had no intention to tinker with the cultural heritage of BHU. TNN

Times of India Kolkata p- 7 ,25.03.11

Lok Sabha passes bill for nine new IITs

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But Union HRD minister Kapil Sibal allayed their fears. TNN

Hindustan Times, ND p-10 26-Mar-11

PM to preside over IIM-Ahmedabad convocation

AHMEDABAD: Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh will preside over the convocation ceremony of the country's leading business school Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad (IIM-A) on Saturday. Gujarat Governor Dr Kamla and Chief Minister Narendra Modi will also grace the occasion. "Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh will deliver the convocation address in the Golden Jubilee year of the institute," a release stated. The PM will also visit ISRO campus.

We Don't Need No Education?

India's politicians have a lot of homework to do on delivering educational services

Chetan Bhagat



Recent HRD ministry statistics show a significant decline in national primary school enrolments. Given Indian demographics, where the number of children is increasing every year, the results are even more shocking. This is despite all the noise about right to education for every Indian. While we may choose to forget this statistic for the next sensational news item, this is an extremely disturbing development.

If India's population is not trained to face the globalised world – and primary education is the first step in that training – we will become a nation of servants and clerks. Given our highly educated, ex-educationist prime minister is of late more interested in covering up scams than education, it doesn't seem likely that our top leadership cares. Still, if enough citizens care, maybe politicians will take notice. It is with this hope that I try to analyse the possible reasons for this decline, what will happen if we don't address it and what we can do to actually fix it.

There are five main reasons why enrolment could have dropped. One, the most obvious reason is that the schools are terrible. If you ever visit a village school, you will realise how everything is low quality, from the classrooms to the desks to the quality of teachers. Why? Don't villagers deserve

good schools for their children? One may say the schools are subsidised so quality cannot be there. Well, maybe we need to spend more money then. Maybe we need more private partners. Maybe we need to redesign the traditional model of a school, perhaps using technology to impart learning. The education may be at the primary level, but it still needs to be high quality. Low quality education is not really education at all.

Two, the curriculum in our schools is obsolete. How much has the professional world changed in the last 30 years? How much has our curriculum changed? Who sets our curriculum? Do they revise it from time to time keeping in mind the needs of industry and

If today millions aren't being educated well, how will they get proper jobs tomorrow? Won't the education crisis translate into a far scarier job crisis in a few years?

the services sector? One big reason poor people send their kids to school is that they will learn skills to make more money. If schools don't give them those skills, why will they bother? Advanced concepts like education to satisfy curiosity, or learning for learning's sake, do not apply to people with no money. A hungry person does not watch Discovery channel. Surveys show a person with decent English



Victims of our political schools for scandal

language skills can increase earning power by 400%. Why don't we teach our poor people English? Why do government schools start teaching it so late?

Three, the massive inflation rate has made life extremely difficult for people with low incomes. Every pair of hands on the fields is now more valuable than sending a child to a substandard school for several years, the benefits of which are unclear.

Four, there isn't enough money being put into education, to make more schools or improve existing ones. Tax collections have seen high double-digit growth rates for several years now. However, much of taxpayers' money is used to fund scams and mass bribery type subsidies or to pay interest (often on borrowings made to

fund past budget extravagances). If 2G auctions were done properly, or the Commonwealth Games didn't waste so much money, we could have had a lot more schools. If instead of NREGA we provided villagers the right skills to modernise, enhance farm income and increase job eligibility, maybe we would generate wealth rather than burn it.

Five, a controversial, sinister reason: the hidden benefits of illiteracy to politicians. Illiterate people are useful when it comes to maintaining vote banks and keeping scam parties going. If everyone were well-educated, would the government get away with so many scams? Even today, our PM's biggest defence is: 'People vote for us, hence our actions are justified'. The DMK still has a

solid support base in Tamil Nadu. If every Indian really understood what happened, could the loot continue? So while there may not be a deliberate strategy to keep people illiterate, there is no burning passion or political incentive to make India educated either. And politicians only work on incentives, not on the goodness of their hearts.

This problem won't go away. It will get worse. If today millions aren't being educated well, how will they get proper jobs tomorrow? Won't the education crisis translate into a far scarier job crisis in a few years? Or are we happy for our kids to be poor forever?

This can be fixed. Primary education has to be so vast in scale and scope as to be seen as a utility – such as power or telecom. The most modern techniques, thinking, strategy and execution are needed on a massive scale to educate our people. Ideally, just as with a few power utilities, the effort should be privatised, maybe on a semi-subsidised basis. In any case, if the education is worth it, people pay for it.

Course materials have to be brutally revamped to make them in sync with the modern world. Rural schools need net connectivity, even more than big city ones. These are things we should demand from the leaders of our country. They don't seem to care much. But we, the citizens, have to be the strict teachers who tell our leaders that they have a lot of homework to do.

The writer is a best-selling novelist.

Hindustan Times, ND 26-Mar-11 p-10

IIT-JEE reforms: Students can check marks online

Charu Sudan Kasturi

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NEW DELHI: Students appearing for the highly competitive entrance examination of the Indian Institutes of Technology this year can for the first time see their answer scripts after evaluation and compare their scores with their answers.

The IITs will place on the net scanned copies of answer scripts of each of the estimated 4.85 lakh students appearing for the IIT Joint Entrance Examination on April 11, IIT Kanpur director Sanjay Dhande told HT on Friday. IIT Kanpur is in charge of organising the IIT-JEE this year.

The move is among three dramatic admission process reforms the IITs will formally announce, possibly on Saturday, to regain any loss of faith in the IIT-JEE, ravaged by repeated controversies since 2006. "The answer scripts can be accessed by a student-specific password," Dhande said.

THE MOVE IS AMONG THREE DRAMATIC REFORMS THE IITs HAVE COME UP WITH TO REGAIN ANY LOSS OF FAITH IN THE IIT-JEE

Apart from making answer scripts available, the IITs will announce the correct answers to all questions in the IIT-JEE within 48 hours of the test, Dhande said. Students at present have to rely on coaching centres in the immediate aftermath of the IIT-JEE for answers to questions.

Each student will also receive marks at the time of result declaration — irrespective of whether the student has qualified, he said. Only students who qualify receive marks at present, and that too much after the exam results are declared.

Together, these measures will for the first time allow reach

student to evaluate his or her own performance and point out any problem in their marking by the IITs before the admission process is over and it is too late for corrective action. The reforms will also enable students who do not qualify to identify areas of weakness, and whether they are close enough to qualifying to appear for a second time next year.

The IITs failed to explain the cut-offs they used for the JEE in 2006 till last year. They offered three explanations for the cut-offs — including on oath to the Calcutta high court — that they subsequently changed, once it was exposed that the explanations cited did not yield the cut-offs used. Close to 1,000 students suffered.

Errors worth several potentially decisive marks in question papers over subsequent years, and errors in last year's Hindi question paper triggered criticism from Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar and in Parliament.

Telegraph Kolkata p-9, 25.03.11

House clears new IIT bill

OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

New Delhi, March 24: A bill to give statutory status to eight new IITs and Banaras Hindu University's Institute of Technology was passed by the Lok Sabha today amid opposition from members of the BJD, BSP and the Samajwadi Party.

The Institute of Technology (Amendment) Bill seeks to include the eight new IITs and IT-BHU under the ambit of the law that governs the IITs. The new IITs, currently registered as societies, are functioning at Bhubaneswar, Gandhinagar, Hyderabad, Indore, Jodhpur, Mandi, Patna and Ropar.

The government has also decided to upgrade IT-BHU to an IIT. The new IITs have been functioning for three years at temporary campuses.

Members from the SP, BSP, BJD and RJD protested against the bill, saying IIT status to IT-BHU would change the character of the universi-

ty established by freedom fighter Madan Mohan Malviya. They demanded that the government set up a separate IIT in Varanasi.

RSP member P.K. Majumdar raised the issue of faculty shortage and poor quality of higher education institutions. Inclusion of the new IITs and IT-BHU under the act will help these institutions award degrees, human resource development minister Kapil Sibal said. The government has no intention to bifurcate BHU by giving IIT status to IT-BHU, he added.

The vice-chancellor of BHU would continue to be the chairperson of the board of governors of the proposed IIT for three years, Sibal said.

The parliamentary standing committee on HRD had earlier expressed concern over faculty shortage at the new IITs. Sibal said the government was taking all steps, including giving better packages to faculty members, to attract the best talent.

Sentinel Guwahati 24.03.2011
p-9

IIT-Madras, Lafarge to launch cement research project

CHENNAI, March 23: The first joint project by French cement major Lafarge Group's research arm and the Indian Institute of Technology-Madras (IIT-M) is expected to kick start soon, an official said here on Wednesday. Speaking to reporters, Revindra Gettu, professor at IIT-M's Department of Civil Engineering, said the research project will test the durability of concrete as a building material in different climatic conditions.



The cement major's research arm, Lafarge Research Centre, and IIT-M last year signed a Memorandum of Understanding, under which the IIT's civil engineering department set up a laboratory to carry out joint research programmes. Lafarge Research Centre has funded the laboratory to the tune of Rs 1.5 crore over a period of three years. (IANS)

Gates Told Me to Look at IIT: Buffett

US billionaire wants to pursue business opportunities in 'the country on the move'

OUR POLITICAL BUREAU
NEW DELHI

American billionaire Warren Buffett reiterated that he wanted to pursue business opportunities in "the country on the move," when he met Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and a group of parliamentarians, separately, on Friday.

The 80-year-old CEO of US conglomerate Berkshire Hathaway, on his maiden visit to India, is bullish about the Indian economy and had said that the country provides "all kinds of opportunities."

After expressing interest to snap up Indian companies, he had termed Berkshire Hathaway's entry into India as "better late than never."

Buffett told the Prime Minister that the stakeholders of his company have more faith in his India-born colleague and favourite Ajit Jain, widely expected to replace him as chief executive when he retires. "I am just a name," the famed investor told the Prime Minister. He recalled a conversation he had

with Bill Gates in 1991, over attracting talent from India. "Gates told me that IIT is the place to look for talent," Buffett told the PM.

At a lunch meeting he had with a group of MPs, Buffett admitted that the US was preoccupied with internal problems of housing and employment. "President Obama is not inward looking. He has vision for a US role in the world," he said, in response to a comment by Environment Minister Jairam

Ramesh that at a time when India and China are looking outward, the US appeared to be looking inward. "In international negotiations after negotiations, the US is the elephant not in the room," Ramesh had said.

To a query from JD(U) MP NK Singh and Ramesh, on whether the economic slowdown was the result of indiscriminate financial liberalisation, Buffett contended that it was tough to pinpoint a villain. "But Americans were victims of mass delusion for house ownership. And it will happen again. I was also a participant in the bubble economy," he said.

When BJP MP Chandan Mitra brought up the issue of corporate cor-

ruption in the US, Buffett said, the US was "built on corporate corruption" in the late 19th century, but cleaned up its act in the early 20th century.

"But you can't forget that America went through a phase of corporate corruption."

BJD MP Jay Panda wanted to know about the advantages and disadvantage of China in comparison with democracies.

"In China decision-making is quicker, awesomely quicker. But whether it is better or not is for people to realise," Buffett summed up with a smile.

Not everyone at the lunch meeting seemed equally impressed with his philanthropic efforts. Congress MP Jyoti Mirdha, talked about the flip side of philanthropy and said India was not sure about the impact of GM crops. "The foundations invest heavily in companies like Monsanto," she said and drew the attention of the guest to a report that appeared in ET.

"If GM crops turn out counter-productive, who will take the responsibility?" "The investor is like an investigative reporter. You investigate the company, but then don't interfere in its working," Buffett answered. Mirdha was concerned as the world is divided into pro and anti-GM. But all Buffett would say was "the risk is there, we can always fail."



I AM JUST A NAME: Warren Buffett

Financial Express ND p-8
26/03/2011

Management ver 2.0

Preparing IIM-A for the next 50 years

The good news first. IIM-Ahmedabad (IIM-A), which will celebrate its 50th year with the Prime Minister presiding over its convocation today, has finally made it to the prestigious *Financial Times* list of Top 100 B-schools—a very sore point, given how its fledgling rival Indian School of Business (ISB) has been there for several years. The 2011 rankings, just out, put IIM-A at number 11, two points ahead of ISB. Probe a bit deeper, to the components that make up the ranking, and things don't look as rosy. IIM-A is ranked No. 3 on 'salaries today' (average alumni salary levels 3 years after graduating)—at \$174,440, this is behind Stanford's \$183,260 and Wharton's \$175,153 and miles ahead of ISB's \$132,352. While the IIM-A salaries do appear too good to be true, it confirms what we've known for a long time, that never mind its rank on the *FT* or any other list, IIM-A is the first stop of choice for any Indian recruiter of repute. When it comes to research, IIM-A is hardly there at No. 92 (ISB is No. 81), again something we've known for a while—when's the last time you heard of a management theory by a professor at an Indian B-school, why single out only IIM-A, or of any really exceptional case study that is then cited across the world?

Are we then to conclude that IIM-A is a flop show, making it to the *FT* list only because of the astronomical salaries its students get, more a result of India's rapid economic growth and internationalisation than anything else? Not really. IIM-A, indeed all the IIMs, were set up to produce managers to run successful businesses, and judging by India Inc's success, this has been achieved. There are few high-growth Indian firms, or high-value ones, that don't have IIM-A alumni on their rolls.

To conclude from this, however, that a business-as-usual scenario works is incorrect. As India develops, and looks for a bigger global role, its managers and management theory have to keep pace. Management theories have to now look at developing management for social entrepreneurship (MFIs are just one narrow part of this brand of business), to learn how to deal with the needs of a green planet, of low-cost models for the bottom of the pyramid, learning how to construct and work with open-source or collaborative business models, the list is a large one. Being No. 55 on PhD ranks (number of doctoral graduates in the previous three years) is not good enough for IIM-A ver 2.0 and being No. 92 on research (faculty publications in top 40 academic/practitioner journals) is unacceptable.

Business Line ND
26/03/2011 P-10

AICTE lowers processing fee for private institutions

Our Bureau

New Delhi, March 25

The All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE) has reduced the amount of processing fee and money to be deposited by new and existing institutions for the year 2011-12.

According to the new fee structure, all technical institutions will have to pay a processing fee of Rs 5 lakh compared with Rs 7.5 lakh earlier.

The fee for minority institutions, institutions set up exclusively for women and those set up in the hilly areas of the North-east has also been reduced. These institutions will now have to pay Rs 3.5 lakh compared with Rs 5 lakh last year.

The decision was taken at a recent AICTE meeting "in light of representation received from the various associations and for the benefit of technical institutions at large".

Most private technical institutions are relieved with the lowering of fee. "We are very happy with AICTE's decision, and will now go ahead with our plans. To begin with, this year we plan to set up an institute in Hyderabad," Dr A. M. Sherry, Chairman, IMT Group of Institutions, told *Business Line*.

Dr H.C. Chaturvedi, Chairman, BIMTECH, welcomed the lowering of fee but wanted AICTE to change the norms regarding fixed deposits. "It is not right for a statutory body to ask us for FDs in its name and even keep the interest earned on it. We will be taking up the matter with the Human Resource Development Minister shortly", he said.

According to the revised fee structure, posted on AICTE's website, engineering & technology institutions offering the post-graduate diploma and degrees will now have to pay Rs 35 lakh compared with Rs 90 lakh earlier. The fee for exclusive minority, women and NE hilly area institutions has also been reduced to Rs 28 lakh from Rs 75 lakh earlier.

Business Line ND
26/03/2011 P-19

XLRI to fete Nitish Kumar

Our Bureau

Kolkata, March 25

XLRI Jamshedpur has decided to honour the Bihar Chief Minister, Mr Nitish Kumar, by conferring on him the prestigious Sir Jehangir Ghandy Medal for Industrial & Social Peace 2011. The medal will be presented to Mr Kumar at th 55th annual convocation of the institute on Saturday, according to a press release.

The decision to honour Mr Kumar was taken by the Board of Governors of XLRI in recognition of his contributions towards the turnaround of Bihar's economy within a short time. Mr Kumar will be the 43rd recipient of the medal.

The earlier recipients, among others, are Mr JRD Tata, Missionaries of Charity, Mr Jyoti Basu, Mr V. Kurien, Mr Rajmohan Gandhi, Justice P.N. Bhagwati, Mr N.A. Palkhivala and Mr Aziz Premji.

The convocation will also felicitate an alumnus of the institute, Mr Jaspal Bindra, Group Executive Director & CEO, Standard Chartered Bank, by presenting him with the 'Distinguished Alumnus Award (Industry) 2010'.

The convocation speech to the graduating batch will be delivered by the CEO of HCL Technologies, Mr Vineet Nayar, also an alumnus of the institute.

Political & Business Dialy
ND 26/03/2011 P-18

आईआईटी में पेंसिल की बजाय बॉलपेन यूज होगा

मंजरी चतुर्वेदी ॥ नई दिल्ली : आईआईटी के लिए एंट्रेस में बैठने वाले परीक्षार्थी अब अपनी उत्तर पुस्तिका में ऑब्जेक्टिव सवालों का जवाब पेंसिल की बजाय बॉल पेन से दे सकेंगे। सूत्रों के अनुसार, मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय ने आईआईटी के एंट्रेस टेस्ट के आयोजनकर्ताओं को इस बदले हुए पैटर्न को अपनाने के लिए हरी झंडी दे दी है।

गौरतलब है कि अपने यहां काफी असें से संघ लोक सेवा आयोग (यूपीएससी) सहित तमाम प्रतियोगी परीक्षाओं में ऑब्जेक्टिव सवालों के जवाब के लिए खास तरह के पेंसिलों के प्रयोग का प्रावधान है। पिछले काफी समय से परीक्षा की उत्तर पुस्तिकाओं में पेंसिल के प्रयोग को लेकर तमाम तरह की शंकाएं जाहिर की जाती रही हैं। उत्तर पुस्तिकाओं में हेराफेरी की आशंका भी व्यक्त की जाती रही है।

Hindustan ND 26/03/2011 P-16

आईआईटी एंट्रेंस में पेंसिल से छुटकारा

मदन जड़ा

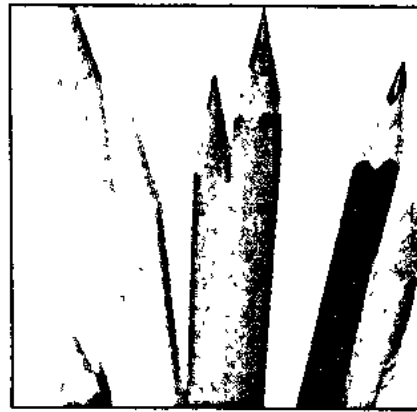
नई दिल्ली

आईआईटी-जेईई प्रवेश परीक्षा में छात्रों के लिए पेंसिल से ही उत्तर पुस्तिका भरने की बाध्यता जल्द खत्म होगी। मानव संसाधन मंत्रालय और आईआईटी काउंसिल में इस मुद्दे पर सैद्धान्तिक सहमति बन गई है। संभावना है कि आगामी प्रवेश परीक्षाओं में पेंसिल की अनिवार्यता खत्म कर उसकी जगह काले बॉल पेन के इस्तेमाल को मंजूरी दी जाएगी।

मंत्रालय सूत्रों के अनुसार, आईआईटी प्रवेश परीक्षा के दौरान छात्रों को नाम से लेकर प्रश्नों के उत्तर भरने में एचबी पेंसिल का इस्तेमाल करना होता है। इसके पीछे तर्क दिया जाता है कि इससे छात्रों के समक्ष उत्तर बदलने का विकल्प रहता है। यानी वे कॉपी जमा कराने से पहले किसी उत्तर को बदलना चाहें तो बदल सकते हैं। दूसरी तरफ, इस व्यवस्था को चुनौती इस आधार पर दी गई है कि इसमें हेराफेरी हो रही है।

दरसअल, कॉपी जमा होने के बाद कम से कम दो दिनों तक परीक्षकों की देखरेख में रहती है। फिर इसे कंप्यूटर में डाला जाता है। इस दौरान पेंसिल से बने गोले को मिटाकर दूसरे गोला बनाया जा सकता है, जबकि बॉल पेन से बने गोले को नहीं मिटाया जा सकता।

नई व्यवस्था में छात्रों का एक वर्ग इसका यह कहकर विरोध कर सकता है उन्हें उत्तर बदलने का विकल्प नहीं रहेगा।



नई व्यवस्था

- बॉल पेन पर मंत्रालय और आईआईटी में सहमति
- आगामी प्रवेश परीक्षा में मंजूरी मिलने की उम्मीद

ऐसे में यह सुझाव दिया जा सकता है कि छात्र बॉल पेन से गोला बनाने से पूर्व पेंसिल से टिक कर लें और आश्वस्त हो जाएं तो बॉल पेन का इस्तेमाल करें।

बता दें कि पहले प्रवेश परीक्षा का फार्म भी पेंसिल से भी भरा जाता था, लेकिन अब बॉल पेन से भरने की मंजूरी दी जा चुकी है। मंत्रालय सूत्रों के अनुसार आईआईटी कानपुर जो इस बार आईआईटी-जेईई परीक्षा की आयोजक है, को मंत्रालय ने हरी झंडी दिखा दी है कि वे इस बाबत कोर्ट में हलफनामा दाखिल कर दें कि पेंसिल की अनिवार्यता खत्म होगी। कोर्ट में इस प्रावधान को चुनौती दी गई है।