Newspaper Clips
March 29-30, 2013

March 29

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न्यूयार्क की तर्ज पर यमुना नदी पर बनाया जाएगा पुल

■ आईआईटी दिल्ली भेजी गई रिपोर्ट, मंजूरी का इंतजार

नेशनल दुनिया संवाददाता

नोएडा। न्यूयार्क की तर्ज पर नोएडा में यमुना नदी पर पुल का निर्माण किया जाएगा। इसके लिए डिजाइन तैयार कर लिया गया है। डिजाइन में पुल पर ट्रैफिक को डायवर्ट करने के लिए पुल के आगे यू-टर्न का निर्माण किया जाएगा। इसके निर्माण हेतु सलाहकार कंपनी की नियुक्ति की गई है। कंपनी ने पुल की प्लानिंग स्टेज तैयार की है। इस प्लान को प्रेषण के लिए दिल्ली आईआईटी भेजा गया है।

यमुना नदी पर प्रस्तावित पुल ओखला बैराज पुल के समानांतर बनाया जाना है। प्रोजेक्ट की मंजूरी प्राधिकरण की 172वीं बोर्ड बैठक में मिल चुकी है। लिहाजा इसके निर्माण कार्य हेतु मशक्कत तेज कर दी गई है। इसके लिए एक कंपनी को सलाहकार के रूप में नियुक्त किया गया है। कंपनी पुल की डिटेल प्रोजेक्ट रिपोर्ट (डीपीआर) तैयार कर रही है। फिलहाल पुल का डिजाइन तैयार किया गया है। जिसकी हाईड्रोलिक रिपोर्ट का काम पुणे की कंपनी द्वारा किया जा रहा है। इसके तहत पूरे पुल के निर्माण में सिर्फ 12 पिलर का प्रयोग किया जाएगा। जिन्हें रस्सी के जरिए कसा जाएगा। पुल के दोनों किनारों पर चार-चार पिलर और बीच में चार पिलर का

बढ़ेगी कनेक्टिविटी

पुल के निर्माण के बाद जहां वाहन चालकों को स्मूद ट्रैफिक मिलेगा वहीं, कनेक्टिविटी के लिहाज से भी यह बेस्ट होगा। नोएडा से दिल्ली बाया फरीदाबाद तक नई कनेक्टिविटी मिलेगी। यही नहीं इसके निर्माण के बाद सरिता विहार, जसौला, बदरपुर, अली गांव के लोगों को नोएडा पहुंचने में भी आसानी होगी।

निर्माण होगा। यह पिलर एक साथ ज्वाइंट होंगे। इनके बीच बनाया जाने वाले आधार रस्सी के माध्यम से स्थिर रहेगा। डिजाइन में तकनीकी खामी को दूर करने के लिए इसे आईआईटी दिल्ली भेजा गया है। इसके बाद पुल की डिटेल प्रोजेक्ट रिपोर्ट (डीपीआर) तैयार की जाएगी। इससे पुल का बजट तैयार होगा। अधिकारियों का कहना है कि फाइनेंशियल बिड

खुलने के बाद दो साल के भीतर पुल का निर्माण कर दिया जाएगा।

प्रस्तावित पुल छह लेन का होगा। जिसमें तीन लेन आने और तीन जाने की होंगी। इसके निर्माण के बाद कालिंदी कुंज और ओखला बैराज पर यातायात जाम से वाहन चालकों को निजात मिल जाएगी। उधर, नोएडा प्राधिकरण के मुख्य अनुरक्षण अभियंता राजीव कुमार ने बताया कि पुल का निर्माण 12 पिलर पर होगा। सुंदरता के लिए इसे रस्सियों से कसा जाएगा। हाईड्रोलिक रिपोर्ट आने के बाद इसकी डीपीआर बनाने का काम शुरू कर दिया जाएगा।

हर पांच कि.मी. पर बनेगा पुल

बेहतर कनेक्टिविटी के लिए यमुना नदी पर प्रत्येक पांच किलोमीटर के दायरे में पुल का निर्माण किया जाएगा। यह फैसला काफी समय पहले प्राधिकरण के तत्कालीन चेयरमैन मोहिंदर सिंह के नेतृत्व में हुई बोर्ड बैठक में लिया गया था। जिस पर अमल कर यमुना नदी पर पुल का निर्माण किया जा रहा है।

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HRD Ministry to go ahead with IIM Council

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Notwithstanding IIM Ahmedabad's (IIM-A) opposition to the proposed legislation to bring all IIMs under one umbrella body, Union HRD Ministry is all set to go ahead with its plan for a Council of IIM.

HRD Secretary Ashok Thakur told *The Pioneer* that the draft has been finalised and it will be okayed formally on April 2 meeting.

"There has been consensus so far and the draft is ready to be placed before the board meeting next week," Thakur said. The meeting will be chaired by HRD Minister MM Pallam Raju. The major concern, however, remains from the IIM-A's strong opposition. The HRD Ministry is in a Catch-22 situation as it has to resist the opposition from the

> **BILL PROPOSES AN UMBRELLA BODY FOR IIMS AND IIM-A STAFF AND BOARD OF GOVERNORS HAVE OPPOSED IT, STATING THAT AUTONOMY OF IIMS WILL BE CURTAILED**

leading and prestigious management institute of the country.

"The proposed legislation seeks to confer IIMs the status of institutes of national importance empowering them to award degrees instead of diplomas. It has proposed establishment of an IIM Council similar to the Council for the IITs and pave the way for appointment of more government directors on IIMs boards," Thakur said.

The bill in Parliament proposes to have an umbrella type of body for

IIMs and the Ahmedabad institute, the staff and Board of Governors together have opposed it as a society, stating that the autonomy of IIMs will be curtailed.

The IIM-A Board of Governors, which met last week opposed the government's decision. Chairman IIM-A Board of Governor (BoG) A M Naik has communicated to the HRD Ministry in writing the representation and concerns, anticipating a rethink.

IIMs are a group of 13 public, autonomous management institutes across the country and they primarily offer postgraduate, doctoral and executive education programmes. In the present format, IIMs are registered as societies under the Indian Societies Registration Act and each IIM is autonomous and exercises independent control over its day-to-day operations.

**Business Standard
ND 29/03/2013**

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आईआईएम-ए के नए निदेशक होंगे पांडे

भारतीय प्रबंध संस्थान, अहमदाबाद (आईआईएम-ए) के नए कार्यकारी निदेशक अजय पांडे होंगे। हालांकि संस्थान के गवर्निंग बोर्ड को निदेशक पद के लिए मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय की मंजूरी का इंतजार है, लेकिन बी-स्कूल ने अपने डीन फैकल्टी अजय पांडे को 1 अप्रैल, 2013 से अंतरिम तौर पर कार्यकारी निदेशक का पदभार संभालने के लिए कहा है। आईआईएम-ए के निदेशक समीर बरुआ का मौजूदा विस्तृत कार्यकाल 31 मार्च को पूरा हो रहा है। *बीएस*

Overhaul of higher education on the cards

Prakash Kumar

NEW DELHI: The Centre is pushing hard to ensure that its ambitious proposal of bringing all higher educational institutions of the country under a uniform system sees the light of the day before the 2014 general election.

The Human Resource Development (HRD) Ministry, which last year planned to formulate a national higher education qualification framework (NHEQF) to address compatibility and seamless recognition of qualifications across all institutions, has kept the proposal at the top of the agenda of the Central Advisory Board on Education (CABE) meeting scheduled for April 2.

HRD Minister M M Pallam Raju is all prepared to con-vince the CABE members that a committee should be immediately set up to examine the ministry's proposal and make recommendations for "evolving" the NHEQF.

The minister is of the view that the CABE committee may, subsequently, constitute sub-committees comprising experts drawn from academics and representatives of the national level regulatory bodies and state governments.

It is also expected that the committee will submit its reports along with those of the sub-committees within a time-frame so that the proposal does not get stalled, sources said.

The proposal, mooted by Raju's predecessor Kapil Sibal, was listed in the agenda of the CABE's last meeting, held in November last year. It, however, could not be brought up for discussion with the members of the highest advisory body on education.

"This is one of the major plans of the ministry to bring reforms in education sector. But, it could not be discussed in the last CABE meeting. There is an urgent need to formulate a standard framework for higher education amid the changing global scenario.

We want to give it a final shape as early as possible because the government has only about a year left," a ministry official told *Deccan Herald*.

The NHEQF "essentially" seeks to provide a standardised framework in terms of minimum entry qualification, programme duration, teaching learning processes and learning outcome aimed at national, and ultimately universal, acceptability, recognition and equivalence of not only the degrees but also the qualifications.

"The essential purpose of NHEQF is to provide the broad framework within which individual universities and other degree-awarding higher educational institutions could design and develop the curricula, syllabi and modules without any external interference.

They would enjoy their academic autonomy to the fullest extent, without adversely affecting the horizontal and vertical mobility of students," the official said.

Citing the reason behind such a proposal, the ministry official said compatibility of higher educational qualifications with those of not only other countries but also within India has become important.

"The proposal is also significant to make India's higher education system at par with other countries," the official added. **DH News Service**

'India needs many more universities for its student numbers'

In a new collaborative move, the University of Chicago is setting up a centre in Delhi this year to interact with Indian students and researchers. Dipesh Chakrabarty, professor of history and South Asian studies at the University of Chicago, spoke with Monobina Gupta about why Chicago is keen on this Delhi centre, its other centre located in Beijing – and why the Indian educational sector desperately needs to grow:

■ **What are the main objectives of the proposed centre set up by Chicago University in Delhi?**

The objectives are to facilitate research and teaching collaboration between University of Chicago faculty and graduate students and their Indian counterparts across all areas of study Chicago offers, from business management, law, medicine, physical and biological sciences to the social sciences and the humanities, thus enlarging Chicago's footprint in India. In the process, we hope the traffic of researchers between this country and our campus will increase.

We recognise India is going through a phase of contemplating significant reforms in higher education – faculty development has been identified as a key aim of reform on the Indian side. We think as a world-class research university, we can be partners in that process. Besides, Chicago has a very respectable tradition of research on South Asia.

■ **This seems to be a very new model for interaction between educational institutions – could you elaborate?**

Yes, i think of this as a pioneering venture. It will be a while before first-rate research universities from overseas set up campuses in India or go for large-scale awarding of joint degrees. What we're doing is to create a physical facility that will allow us to bring together Indian and Chicago faculty and research scholars for joint workshpps, seminars, conferences, classes and so on – this means a university of our kind and status will be able to have a major presence in India without having to wait for the Foreign Education Providers Bill to be passed in the Indian Parliament. We retain our autonomy while deepening our engagement with this area of the world.

■ **Given bureaucratic red tape, how difficult was the process of setting up the centre?**

Well, we avoided much of the governmental red tape as we decided to come in an institutional form that helped us retain our intellectual and financial autonomy while enabling us to reach out to our Indian colleagues.

But there are legal processes a foreign university has to go through to set up its own bank accounts in India. Finding real estate requires due diligence. These processes take time. Perhaps, as more foreign institutions set up offices or even campuses in India, some of these will get easier.

■ **You also have a centre in Beijing – what has that experience been like?**

Very positive – we now have more proposals for collaboration than we can probably handle. Having a presence in Beijing has also helped us recruit some top-rated China scholars in the US for they recognised that being at Chicago gave them immediate access to their research site.

■ **Do you think the pending foreign universities Bill will enrich higher education in India?**

It will – India needs many more universities and colleges to cope with the sheer number of students it has. Besides, having diversity of options in higher education will not only be good for students but good for the sector itself – but much will depend on the actual shape of the Bill and how much control the government wants to retain.

Hindu ND 29/03/2013

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UGC set to make strict rules for private universities

Aarti Dhar

NEW DELHI: The University Grants Commission (UGC) is all set to review the Establishment of and Maintenance of Standards ·in Private Universities Regulations, 2003, to make rules governing private universities more stringent.

The regulations on deemed universities were made more stringent on quality by the UGC from the earlier guidelines in 2010 but a similar exercise was not undertaken for private universities. Taking advantage of the lacunae, in some States private deemed universities started converting into private State universities in order to escape the robust deemed universities regulations.

The UGC has set up an expert committee to review the existing Regulations under Prof. P. N. Tandon and co-chair M. Anandakrishnan, both of whom were associated with the drafting of the UGC (Deemed to be Universities)

Regulations, 2010. However, private universities had been left out of the purview then.

The expert committee has been asked to keep in mind the suggestions received from States and stakeholders by the earlier committee that also reviewed the 2003 Regulations. The Human Resource Development was, however, not too satisfied with the draft regulations that,' in addition to bringing universities set up under State legislatures under the purview of the UGC Regulations, had also said that reservation policy would be applicable to them also. The private universities would have to be not-for-profit organisations and shall not be engaged in commercialisation of education, it said.

The draft Regulations of 2010, prepared by a Ministry-appointed committee, had also said that a higher education institution could be approved as a university only if it had been in existence for 15 years and fulfilled the laid down cri-

teria of land, faculty and other infrastructure and had generated IP Rights and produced enough quality research. Violation of any of the provisions would attract heavy penalty, the draft Regulations said.

Private universities were brought in for the first time through the 2003 Regulations under UGC's quality control.

In fact, in the Prof. Yashpal versus Chhattisgarh State case, the private universities set up under the then Chhattisgarh, Private Universities Act had challenged that UGC had no control over private universities as they were established under State Acts. The Supreme Court had upheld UGC's competence to regulate private State universities, saying that entry 66 of the Union List in 7th Schedule of the Constitution permitted the Centre to legislate on standards of higher education even if State legislatures had jurisdiction under entry 32 of the State · List to establish universities.

Indian Express ND 29/03/2013   P7

Denied UGC nod earlier, institutes now get clearance

ANUBHUTI VISHNOI

NEW DELHI, MARCH 28

IN AN unprecedented move, the University Grants Commission has in effect granted ex post facto approval to seven unapproved institutes run by a deemed university. Two of these institutes had sought UGC approval and were denied the same earlier.

The apex higher education regulator has in a meeting on March 11 allowed the Manipal Institute of Higher Education to rename seven unapproved institutes as 'Schools' and merge them with approved units, arguing that courses running in some of these unapproved institutes happen to be UGC approved.

For two of these institutes — Manipal Institute of Regenerative Medicine, Bangalore in 2007 and Manipal College of Nursing, Mangalore in 2007 — the approval was sought earlier by the MAHE. The request was rejected by the UGC.

The UGC has now approved the renaming and merging of these institutions,

THE LUCKY SEVEN

- Manipal Institute of Management, Manipal in 1999
- Manipal Institute of Communication, Manipal in 1994
- Manipal Centre for Information Science, Manipal in 1998
- Manipal College of Allied Health Sciences, Manipal in in 1998
- KMC International Centre, Manipal in 2005
- Manipal Institute of Regenerative Medicine, Bangalore in 2007
- Manipal College of Nursing, Mangalore in 2007

indirectly granting them approval. It has, however, shut the doors on Manipal's Institute of Jewellery Management saying this particular course is not in line with UGC prescribed areas. "The commission took serious note of the lapses by MAHE and that is in a way a warning to them that it should not recur. In the larger interest of students, however, the commission approved continuation of these courses in the form of schools," an official from the UGC said. The

official defended retrospective approval saying that otherwise, a large number of students would suffer.

MAHE is a prominent private deemed to be university based in Karnataka with campuses in Bangalore, Malaysia, Dubai and Antigua in the Caribbean Island, besides Mangalore.

In 2009, the UGC's expert committee had found that MAHE had started eight institutes without approval and pointed out that they can only run 'Schools' with approved courses and not 'institutes'.

While, no action was taken then, four years later the UGC has, ironically, in a meeting that took "serious note of the lapse on the part of MAHE", sanctioned the transformation of these unapproved institutes to approved ones without any penalty or even a strong warning to MAHE.

The commission noted that during the course of the review in 2009 it was found that MAHE had started eight following constituent units without approval.

UGC has failed the test, let students down

WHEN THE APEX higher education regulator attempts to make right the wrongs its own wings and laid procedures had earlier exposed, you know things are far from well in the education sector.

Instead of making an example of the Manipal Institute of Higher Education (MAHE) for illegally running unapproved institutes and misusing its status as a deemed to be university, the University Grants Commission has in effect rewarded the varsity, offering it approval for these institutes by a simple change in nomenclature. UGC taking "serious note" of the "lapse" is all that has been done in the name of action against or admonishing of MAHE.

What is even more shameful is that the regulator has cited larger student interest in failing to act against the Manipal institute. Which leads to the critical question — where exactly does student interest lie? Is it truly in the interest of students who may have unfortunately enrolled in these unapproved institutes that the wrongdoing committed by their institutes be covered up and these be granted approval? Or does larger student interest lie in publicly exposing institutes that are misleading thousands year after year.

> **UGC taking "serious note" of the "lapse" is all that has been done in the name of action against or admonishing of MAHE**

The contention that the courses being offered by these unapproved institutes were approved by UGC and that hence it is alright to rename and merge them with approved units confounds just as much, and in fact sets a dangerous precedent which many deemed varsities running similar illegal institutes will be happy to exploit.

Incidentally, the Human Resource Development (HRD) Ministry has introduced a Bill in Parliament to check similar malpractices by institutes and proposes stiff penalties against offenders. Ironically, UGC itself has been asked to bring in regulations meanwhile to check unfair practices in the higher education sector.

This disappointing episode at UGC not only smacks of arbitrary decision making and flawed rationale but is also a sad reminder of how the regulator functioned between 2004 and 2009 doling out deemed varsity status to sundry institutes, many of whom were later found deficient on several counts.

The HRD Ministry can't escape the blame either. The HRD higher education secretary is a part of the UGC commission and was very much in attendance as MAHE was bailed out with honour.

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MINT CONCLAVE

Industry-education link is totally broken

By Kirthi.V.Rao &
Moulishree Srivastava
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NEW DELHI

Training employees to equip them with new skills is, and should be, an integral part of any company that wants to survive and management teams should not regard it as a dispensable cost. The links between education and industry needs to be reestablished, concluded panellists at a *Mint* conclave on Organizational Practices Ensuring Technical Education: A Must Have for the 21st Century Workforce. The 7 March event in Gurgaon was co-hosted by BITS Pilani.

The panellists were Ajai Chowdhry, co-founder, HCL; S.Y. Siddiqui, chief operating officer (human resources and administration) at **Maruti Suzuki India Ltd**; B. Dhal, executive director (personnel and administration) at **Steel Authority of India Ltd (SAIL)**; Gouri Gupta, head, programme development, National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC); Ambrish Rastogi, director (human resources), Aon Hewitt; and Shuddasheel Majumdar, business manager (human resources) at Microsoft India. The discussion was moderated by Leslie D'Monte, technology editor, *Mint*. Edited excerpts:

Companies are increasingly faced with the prospect of hiring unemployable engineers, and those that are not industry-ready. This results in retraining, adding to the costs in a slowing economy. How should companies go about the task of building an organizational framework that can address these issues?

Chowdhry: A lot needs to change in the way education is delivered today. If you look at the IIT (Indian Institute of Technology) system, it is one of the best in the country, yet I find there are a lot of issues (Chowdhry was chairman of IIT Hyderabad from October 2009 to October 2012 and is currently chairman of IIT Patna). We are still working with programmes and courses which are yesterday's courses. Newer IITs are adopting newer courses, but the gaps remain.

One of the key gaps was that we are really not looking at creating well-rounded people. Students are very techie, very nerdy. Even at IIT, no one attends liberal arts programmes, nobody attends humanities classes and nobody focuses on learning proper English. When we look at it from an organization's viewpoint, they end up training a lot of people from scratch.

Employers from IITs end up training recruits for three to sometimes even nine months and that's a huge challenge.

Siddiqui: I agree that unfortunately, the education system in our country has remained unchanged for years to a great extent. And the concept of finishing schools is yet to take birth in India. The difference between the current academic system in technical and professional education and a finishing school is very critical. When you look at the current programmes, the basic premise is to focus on theoretical aspects, but the applied part remains. So to reskill the guy, whether it is an ITI (Industrial Training Institute) guy as a shop-floor technician or at the supervisory level or a graduate engineer managing production, it is simpler. Unfortunately, we don't have a programme in India till date which can develop people to design and develop automotive parts.

From a framework perspective, we at Maruti take about seven years to produce a design guy with our own efforts and at a huge cost. For example, in the automotive sector, we have a skill called 'styling' where for years artistic people who have the skills have been training others and there is nothing like a curriculum. But now we have to bring stylers, 50-60-year-olds, from Detroit (US) to train our youngsters. It is very time-consuming and comes at a very high cost.

Dhal: Earlier, we used to take engineers and train them for 18 months. At lower levels, we took people from ITIs, and if they did well within the first five years, we promoted them. The rules of the game have changed today and ITIs are absolutely poor in terms of infrastructure and training institutes need to build capacity to reskill engineers. Besides, there are hardly any institutes that train the trainer. SAIL engineers run steel plants across the world so we are not being complacent.

Gupta: Some studies show that India needs 347 million additional people to be skilled by 2022. The capacity has to increase by almost 8 times to meet the demand that exists. But the issue is whether the industry is willing to pay a price for skilled manpower versus an unskilled person. We need formal certification and standardization in vocational training. For quality, it is very important that the industry comes forward through what are called 'Sector Skill Councils' (SSCs). These are industry bodies that will be responsible for defining the quality and quantity of manpower required in that particular sector. For example, in the information technology (IT) sector, (software lobby body) Nasscom has taken the lead in creating an SSC that defines, for instance, the skill sets needed in a voice business processing unit (BPO). Any training provider can be certified by an SSC. So this is an institutional mechanism for standardization.

Majumdar: Every year, we hire about 400-500 people from campuses and a significant number of them, around 120, are directly hired by the foreign management or subsidiaries. We partner with many IITs where our senior technical people have adopted colleges and developed curricula that runs parallel with the college curricula to get students ready when they come out and be completely employable. We don't impart just technical skills but also business skills.

Five months back, we extracted top 10 beliefs that are being expressed about the organization and one of the beliefs was that our leaders and managers who have been with the organization for an average 11-12 years, and been educated at the best colleges across the world, are becoming a bit unimportant or irrelevant because the new generation is practically leading the meetings and talking about new technical topics. Hence, the biggest challenge at Microsoft India today is not to up-skill people but to improve the relevance of those with the organization.

Also, while providing reskilling and retraining is important, we also need to create concepts like 'collaborative labs' for those reskilled employees to practice what they have learnt and do their research and development together. This could lead to a lot of innovation.

In a weak economy, how does a company balance training, the issue of employee poaching, and simulta-

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AJAI CHOWDHRY
Co-founder, HCL

neously look at a return on investment?

Rastogi: We are missing the point by focusing on the short term, just because somebody has got us a business need that needs to be serviced. We do everything to get the talent—buy, poach, put up half-ready talent, position someone as an expert in less than one year. Some swim and some sink. And as soon as they sink, we look for another body.

The fact is that industry has forgotten its alma mater—the academia. For the most part, the answer is in companies tying up with academic institutions. Technical collaborations in the manufacturing sector are well known elsewhere and unless we fix this, chances are we will be debating this next year and next to next year and the year after that.

Anyone looking at compensation structures would know the cost of critical talent. Seldom does this compensation person go back to the human resources head and say, I can't afford to keep buying this from other companies at higher and higher costs. So the person eventually gets poached by a competitor. It is the industry that loses in the process. But even the candidate does not gain, because we blunt our competitive advantage by poaching talent from each other.

How often do you see co-investing in training resources that the whole industry can use? How often do you see academia coming in as a part of a project to bring the learning back into academia? How often do you go into their labs to search for an R&D (research and development) person?

We take about 7 years to produce a design guy with our own efforts and at a huge cost

S.Y. SIDDIQUI
COO (HR and administration), Maruti Suzuki

These are questions we need to answer.

Chowdhry: Companies need to adopt newer ways to retrain people. There are certain institutes that provide executive courses, for instance, and employees don't need to attend the whole programme—they can also attend it after hours or on weekends and rest of it can be delivered through distance education. Today, we have the technology that can help us do so—you can get a lecture delivered on your laptop, tablet or smartphone.

At the other end, I think there is a lot that needs to be done for education. In institutes such as IITs or other such institutes, there has to be a lot more acceptance of the fact that the the link between education and industry is totally broken. This link needs to be established and taken forward by various institutions.

For example, one of the ideas that is being worked upon by all IITs is that let us start research from the first year. That's something we implemented in IIT Hyderabad. We also need our institutes to increase their marketing to create collaboration with the industry by creating an alumni connect and getting projects from the industry that also helps in placements and joint research programmes with the industry.

Siddiqui: We decided that we needed to design our own cars and not depend on Suzuki's R&D. This should materialize in 2014. But it calls for investments. We plan to develop 200 engineers from Maruti, capable of design and development, safety and security. You need to justify that with the Board. We manage 20 ITIs for the country at

Our demographic dividend can become a demographic disaster

B. DHAL
ED (personnel and administration), SAIL

present. We are planning to add another 30. As for poaching, I think it is a stupidity. In the last seven years, we at Maruti have only hired one person from outside to be our chief executive officer (CEO). All the other people, who are on the board, have grown from within the company.

Dhal: For last seven years, we have not been approaching IITs since there is a mismatch in expectations. The reason is the day IIT freshers step in the company, they think only two chambers are available—one is the chairman's chamber so that they can be assistant to him or the other is some managerial function. But being a manufacturing company, I want them to have an experience and exposure at the ground level. These people (IIT recruits) come here, we spend money on training them, expose them to machinery here and all aspects of the process, and after that they simply go. This should not be the way it works. There has to be some industry understanding.

Any quick concluding thoughts?

Gupta: It is imperative for all the stakeholders in the ecosystem to come together. Industry needs to recognize skilled people and should be willing to pay for skills rather than investing in training after hiring. Industry should participate in the sector skill councils. A change in the mindset of the youth in India is required to look at vocational skills as a career path for themselves. And the government should look at vocational training not just from a grants perspective but as a sustainable model.

Siddiqui: From a long-term perspective, there has to be a collaborative approach—government's initiatives and corporates coming together. Second is that corporates will have to take responsibility for grading scale, challenges and perspective, for themselves and for the country also. HR professionals have to come forward, challenging the status quo.

Chowdhry: We should definitely worry about the country's comparative advantage. We are seeing this very clearly in the IT (information technology) sector. Also, institutes creating courses should make them more relevant for the industry.

There is no institute in the country which teaches, for example, system design. There is no course such as manufacturing management.

In defence also, there is very large requirement for system integration. But there is no place in this country that teaches such skills. We need to become proactive.

Dhal: Our demographic dividend can become a demographic disaster unless we really work on addressing unemployability. Some people are doing this but on a small scale. This has to be upscaled and leveraged.
kirthi.r@livemint.com

A change in the mindset is required to look at vocational skills as a career path

GOURI GUPTA
Head, programme development, NSDC
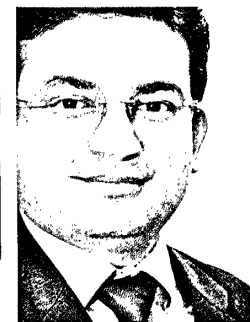
How often do you see co-investing in training resources that the whole industry can use

AMBRISH RASTOGI
Director (HR), Aon Hewitt
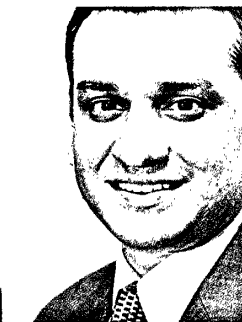
We partner with many IITs where our senior technical people have adopted colleges

SHUDDASHEEL MAJUMDAR
Business manager (HR), Microsoft India

Hindustan Times ND
29/03/2013
p-11

DELHI HC SEEKS AICTE'S VIEW ON ENGG COLLEGES

Harish V Nair

■ harish.nair@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Delhi High Court has asked the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) if there was uncontrolled mushrooming of engineering colleges across the country which was adversely affecting the quality of education being imparted.

The court was hearing a PIL which urged the court to issue a direction to AICTE not to increase the number of seats of engineering colleges and from sanctioning new engineering colleges in the states where there are over 10000 vacancies.

Till end of 2012, the country, had 37933 engineering colleges with 15.20 lakh seats. AICTE had, however, received closure notices from 138 engineering colleges facing a fund crunch.

ECO-FRIENDLY COLLEGE GROUNDS ON 400 ACRES LAND NEAR PALAJ ON SABARMATI

Glimpses of pol at IITGn's new campus

DNA Correspondent

The new campus of Indian Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar (IITGn) near Palaj village on the banks of Sabarmati river in Gandhinagar will give a feel of the old city's pols. The eco-friendly college grounds will be spread over 400 acres of land.

To bring a unique style of space management and a sense of community, different architecture firms worked to design the IITGn campus. The famous courtyard style, jaali ventilation system and pol streets, among other features, will be recreated for the campus.

The plan of the new academic block, students' hos-tel, teaching staff residence and the master plan were unveiled on Thursday. Highlights of the plan were a combination of modern features as well as the usage of pol architecture.

Experts involved in the planning said, the students' hostel area and teachers' residential quarters would have elements like a courtyard where students can meet up, have the characteristic Gujarati 'cha' and chat up, along with an additional amphitheatre-like space. This will give them space to not only mingle with each other but also learn freely.

Rajeev Kathpalia of Vastu Shilpa Consultants said that the jaali used in old pol

The plan of the campus
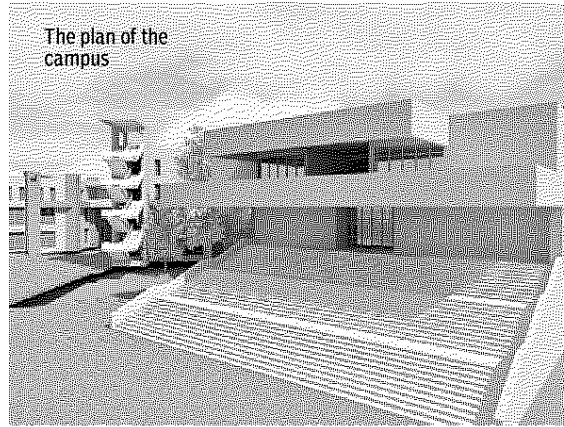
houses was for adequate ventilation and sunlight, so they decided to use it for the college building as well. The permanent campus will also give access to Sabarmati river by developing a ghat leading to a promenade on the bank.

Director of the institute, Prof SK Jain, said that the process also saw the in-volvement of students and faculties apart from noted architects. The campus will be an eco-friendly one. It will have a rainwater harvesting system and a sewer treatment plant which will use the recycled water for toilet and horticultural purposes.

Several prominent architectural firms including Green Campus Development Consortium New Delhi, Mitimitra Consultants Pvt Ltd Pune, Vastu Shilpa Consultants Ahmedabad, HCP Design Planning and Management Pvt. Ltd. Ahmedabad and Design and Planning Counsel Pvt. Ltd. Ahmedabad were involved in designing different parts of the campus.

March 30

43% of teaching slots in IITs lying unfilled

Engg Students Prefer Jobs To Pursuing PhDs

Atul Thakur
TIMES INSIGHT GROUP

UP FOR GRABS

	Vacant	%
Old IITs	2,198	41
New IITs	410	57
All IITs	2,608	43
Old NITs	2,808	48
New NITs	226	100
All NITs	3,034	50
Grand Total	8,250	45

New Delhi: At a time when 'skill shortage' is bemoaned by industry, nearly half of all teaching positions in IITs and over half in NITs are lying vacant. This was revealed recently in response to a question in the Lok Sabha.

▶**No regular teacher , P 14**

It's not only newly created IITs and NITs that face shortage. Old IITs have over 40% of their teaching positions vacant and the situation in old NITs is even worse with 57% of faculty jobs finding no takers.

In eight older IITs (including IT BHU and Roorkee University — now converted into IITs) the sanctioned strength of teaching staff is 5,356 but there are only 3,158 teachers in regular positions, resulting in 41% vacant seats. With 57% vacancy, IIT-BHU has the worst figures. It is followed by IIT-Delhi (50%), IIT-Kharagpur (48%) and IIT-Guwahati (42%). For the remaining four IITs, the vacant teaching positions range between a low of 19% of the sanctioned strength for IIT-Kanpur and 38% for IIT Roorkee.

A parliament question inquiring about the shortage of faculty was answered on March 13 where the ministry noted the reason for shortage as lack of PhD candidates in engineering. It also said that students preferred corporate jobs over teaching.

HT Lucknow

Centre may set up National Test Agency

LUCKNOW: The union ministry of human resource development (MHRD) is considering setting up National Testing Agency (NTA) to conduct various national level entrance tests. The primary objective of the body would be to ensure efficient, transparent and international standards tests in order to asseess the competence of candidates for admission and the recruitment process.

To begin with, the proposed agency plans to conduct National Eligibility Test (NET) and Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering (GATE) from next year. At present, the University Grants Commission (UGC) conducts NET. Seven Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT) and the Indian Institute of Science hold GATE. While NET is the qualifying exam for the positions of lecturer in UGC-approved colleges, GATE is an entrance exam for post-graduate courses in various IITs.

The proposal to set up the agency will be discussed in a meeting of the Central Advisory Board on Education (CABE) meeting on April 2. A final decision would be taken after discussions with the states.

"The NTA would have the mandate to conduct the testing mechanism and processes to the exclusion of institutional testing for admission. It will have administrative and financial autonomy," says the upcoming CABE meeting agenda document. It would play a pivotal role in promoting merit and quality education at the college and university level, it added.

Besides, the NTA is likely to become a prerequisite for many premier public and private sector engineering, medical and other colleges, universities and institutions for admission and recruitment. Provisions for states to establish state testing agencies could also be made to conduct the tests as well as assist the NTA in the discharge of duties.

Setting up the body through an executive order, is in fact a change from the Union government's earlier proposal to install the body through a law. Earlier, a panel on IIT JEE reforms had suggested creation of a statutory body to conduct exams for admission to the IITs, IIMs and medical colleges.

HTC

Single body for conducting JEE on cards

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: Education ministers of all states are slated to deliberate next week on the feasibility of having a centralised testing body that would be responsible for conducting JEE, AIEEE, NET, CAT, CMAT and GATE under it and providing candidates an opportunity to sit for a test more than once a year.

The 'national agency' for tests will deliver the national-level examinations through a dedicated group of professionals, thereby sparing teachers from the exercise. It will do research for preparing question papers, administer and conduct examinations.

Tests and assessment under the body is likely to become the prerequisite for public and private sector engineering, medical and other colleges, universities and institutions, for admission and recruitment if the proposal passes through.

While the CBSE has prepared a model with objective, structure and functions for the body, the government intends to start in a small way by conducting the UGC-NET exam as early as next year. The proposal would be deliberated at the Central Advisory Board of Education meet to be attended by state education ministers, academicians and others here on 2 April.

Single body for JEE, AIEEE tests planned

New Delhi, March 29: Education ministers are slated to deliberate on the feasibility of having a centralised testing body responsible for conducting JEE, AIEEE, NET, CAT, CMAT, GATE under it and providing candidates an opportunity to sit for a test more than once a year.

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Holding tests and assessment under the body is likely to become a prerequisite for public and private sector engineering, medical and other colleges, universities and institutions for admission and recruitment. The government intends to start in a small way by conducting the UGC-NET exam as early as next year.　*PTI*

Indian Express ND
30/03/2013   P-8

CABE meeting set to discuss Testing Agency, Education Commission

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, MARCH 29

THE proposed Education Commission of India, a National Testing Agency to conduct exams, introduction of NCC as an elective subject, implementation of the Right to Education Act and measures to narrow gender and social gaps in schools—these will be among the issues on the agenda of the Central Advisory Board of Education when it meets on April 2.

The meet will see the HRD Ministry sharing with states and eminent academics a fresh proposal for a National Testing Agency aimed at standardising all major tests, including the Joint Entrance Examination.

The agency has been envisaged as an "internationally benchmarked testing and assessment organisation" that would conduct "efficient, transparent and international standards tests in order to access competency of candidates for admission and recruitment purposes". It would also process results, collect them from state boards and normalise them, if necessary, to prepare a final merit list.

The Education Commission is proposed to review the education system and recommend measures to draw upon the demographic advantage through education and skill development, to attain and maintain global standards of excellence, to propose measures to foster equity and inclusion at all levels of education, assess future challenges in school education flowing from the RTE, suggest reforms to promote autonomy with accountability in higher education.

The CABE meeting will also discuss the proposed National Higher Education Qualification Framework that seeks to standardise minimum entry qualification, programme durations, teaching-learning processes and learning outcome aimed at national, and ultimately universal, acceptability, recognition and equivalence of not only degrees but also qualifications.

Amar Ujala ND 30/03/2013 P1

अब और महंगी हुई आईआईटी की पढ़ाई

◉〉 अमर उजाला ब्यूरो

कानपुर। इंडियन इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ टेक्नोलॉजी (आईआईटी) से बीटेक की पढ़ाई महंगी हो गई है। आईआईटी काउंसिल के बाद मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय ने भी ट्यूशन फीस बढ़ाने का प्रस्ताव मंजूर कर लिया है। साथ ही सभी आईआईटी को शैक्षिक सत्र 2013-14 से बढ़ी फीस वसूलने का आदेश दिया है।

अब आईआईटी अपने-अपने बोर्ड ऑफ गवर्नर (बीओजी) की मीटिंग बुलाएंगे और फीस वसूलने पर मुहर लगाकर अंतिम आदेश

◗ सालाना 40 हजार बढ़ी ट्यूशन फीस

जारी कर देंगे। आईआईटी कानपुर की बीओजी अप्रैल में प्रस्तावित है। फीस की ये बढ़ोतरी 10 साल बाद हुई है। कानपुर, वाराणसी सहित देश की 16 आईआईटी में शैक्षिक सत्र 2013-14 से एडमिशन लेने वाले बीटेक फर्स्ट ईयर के करीब 10 हजार स्टूडेंट को सालाना 40 हजार रुपये ट्यूशन फीस ज्यादा देनी होगी। हर सेमेस्टर में 20-20 हजार रुपये ट्यूशन फीस बढ़ी है।

Times of India ND 30/03/2013

p-14

No regular teacher in 10 new NITs

Atul Thakur | TIMES INSIGHT GROUP

New Delhi: Of the 5,891 sanctioned teaching posts in 20 old NITs, only 3,083 are filled by regulars. The 48% gap between required and employed teachers is much higher than vacancies in the IITs. NITs at Warangal, Patna, Srinagar, Jamshedpur, Kurukshetra, Agartala and Raipur have over 50% vacancies in teaching positions. NITs at Calicut, Silchar and Rourkela are the only institutes where vacancy is less than 40%.

Considering the shortage of academic staff in old and reputable colleges, one would assume the condition of newly created institutes would be worse. Yes and no. Data throws up some surprises. Four of the eight new IITs are on a par or even better than most of the older institutes. IIT-Hyderabad has only 1% teaching positions vacant while the corresponding figures are 26%, 46% and 57% for IIT Patna, Indore and Ropar respectively. The remaining four new colleges have more than 60% vacancy while IIT-Bhubaneshwar doesn't have a single regular teacher against a sanctioned strength of 90.

Once again, the new NITs do even worse. There isn't a single regular teacher in the 10 new NITs. According to the NIT Act and IIT Act, these institutions are declared as institutes of national importance and government spends thousands of crores of rupees to encourage technical education. For 2013-14, the budget estimates an expenditure of Rs 3,670 crore on IITs and of Rs 1,719 crore on NITs.

To make up for the shortage, the institutes are resorting to contracts, adjunct, visiting faculty and online mode of teaching. It was also recently reported that the government is planning to engage trainee teachers who will be selected from the top 15% of students from these institutes.

Tribune ND 30/03/2013   p-18

IIMs want government funds to better campuses, attract foreign students

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, MARCH 29

Keen to attract foreign students, the Indian Institutes of Management have urged the Ministry of Human Resource Development for funds to raise campus residential facilities to international standards.

The premier management institutions also plan to hold road shows in important destinations abroad to showcase what they have on offer. For financial support for the shows they are in talks with the Human Resource Development Ministry and dates of the road shows will soon be announced.

These two issues were discussed in detail at a meeting held here recently between Human Resource Development Minister MM Pallam Raju and chairmen of the Board of Governors and directors of all IIMs, including the six newly established ones.

The Human Resource Development Ministry has decided to take up the demands of the Institutes to help IIMs attract faculty from abroad — an area that's of concern to the IIMS considering they don't have as many foreign students as they want despite their high global reputation.

One of the challenges on this front is dearth of decent residential facilities.

The Indian Institutes of Management are extremely concerned over lack of finances to compete globally and improve their research output.

To resolve this issue, all IIM directors have petitioned the Human Resource Development Ministry to consider the possibility of allowing them to set up an endowment fund on the lines of the ones existing abroad.

In the meeting held with Raju, IIMs also demanded tax breaks for any industry or person making donations to public funded institutions.

The Human Resource Development Ministry will take up the issue of endowment fund and tax sops with the Ministry of Finance.

Open Up India's Universities

Kanti Bajpai

Indian universities are in a shambles. Why? The modern university system in India goes back 200 years; today it is in a nearly terminal state. The government, finally, is trying to improve university education. It is expanding the system and urging universities to compete with the best in the world. Given the growing number of young people, especially young men, an expansion of the university system is vital if we are to have social peace. The government is right also to insist on competition with the rest of the world.

There are many reasons for the shambolic state of Indian universities, but perhaps the biggest problem is their alienation from the world. Listening to a high-level educator in India recently, i was dismayed to hear him speak about India's poor performance in the annual global rankings. The rankings were problematic, he said, for all kinds of methodological reasons. India would do its own rankings. Anyway, Indian universities should not run after rankings. India would reach out to universities abroad, but India has its own genius (since Nalanda apparently…). And so on and so on.

Of course university rankings have problems. No one suggests that the only way to judge a university is by some aggregate measure or survey result. But those quantitative measures tell you something! Running after rankings at a certain stage in one's development is not a bad thing necessarily. It might at least shake the system and provide a clear goal to shoot for. I often hear Cambridge, Harvard, Oxford and Yale colleagues dismiss the ranking system. That is fine when you sit calmly at the top; you cannot afford to be so Olympian when you squirm away at the bottom!

Reaching out to foreign universities to learn from them is a good idea, but to say in the same breath that India has its own genius and

REBOOTING
INDIA

will not mimic others sounds defensive if not mundane. Mimicry is not a bad thing, at a certain point in time and in some degree. All great writers have begun by mimicking those they admired. Japan built an entire technological system that started out by mimicry. Singapore's rise as a knowledge hub has been built on rankings and imitation. We in India have such an inferiority complex that we cannot justify a bit of imitation in our own interest!

Indian universities are still stuck in the import substitution view of life. The Indian economy, for the better part of 50 years, held to import substitution. India would not import; it would make virtually everything itself. We would save money, build industry, grow a technological base, and protect ourselves from malign foreign influences. The result was not growth and development but rather stagnation and inefficiency. We can still hear the same mantra in Indian universities: we will not engage with the rest of the world, we will flourish. Except that we have not done so. Let's remember that all our great universities were built with foreign help – in Delhi, Chennai, Kolkata and Mumbai but also our IITs and IIMs. (By the way, so was Nalanda, which had hundreds of foreigners come to it and enrich it with their genius, giving as much as getting from India.)

Indian universities have to engage with the rest of the world. They have to compare themselves. They have to partner and learn wherever is appropriate. Indian academics have to collaborate. They must go out to international conferences in their disciplines. They should publish in the highest ranked journals. They must invite foreigners to their conferences. Their conferences must be organised to world standards in terms of logistics, accommodation and transport. And

standards in terms of logistics, accommodation and transport. And finally the faculty and student body must be international. It is depressing to go to an Indian university and see only Indian faces, usually overwhelmingly from the host state. The word university contains within it "universal". Let's strive for more universalism (pardon the oxymoron). This will require us to throw far more money at the universities – perhaps three or even four times our present spending. We will have to cut elsewhere such as in defence and wasteful public sector enterprises. It will be worth it in the long run.

Business Line ND 30/03/2013   P5

Top US colleges report record low admission rates

Bloomberg
March 29

Harvard, Yale, Princeton and Columbia universities reported record-low freshman admission rates for the 2013-14 academic year as applications climbed above or held near all-time highs.

Harvard offered seats to 2,029 students, or 5.8 per cent of a record 35,023 applicants, the Cambridge, Massachusetts-based school said yesterday in a statement. Yale accepted 6.7 per cent, Princeton offered admission to 7.3 per cent and Columbia accepted 6.89 per cent, the schools said in statements.

Top US colleges that offer generous financial aid are luring record numbers of applicants even as the cost to attend increases faster than the pace of inflation and the number of high school graduates declines. The Common Application, an online form that lets students apply to multiple schools, has helped drive the surge, said Robin Mamlet, former dean of admissions at Stanford University.

"More students are going for their reach or dream colleges through the use of the Common App," Mamlet said in a phone interview. In years past, completing laborious paperwork for each school limited the number that most students applied to, Mamlet said. "That barrier has been taken away."

Yale, in New Haven, Connecticut, offered admission to 1,991 students, and expects 1,350 to attend, the college said in a statement. It received 29,610 applications. It admitted 6.8 per cent last year.

· Princeton accepted 1,931 students from a pool of almost 26,500, and expects about 1,290 to attend, the Princeton, New Jersey-based school said. A year ago, it accepted 7.9 per cent, a record low at the time.

FINANCIAL AID

The four schools, which make up half of the north-eastern US-based Ivy League, are among the wealthiest universities in the US. They are "need blind" institutions, where a student's

People seen walking on the campus of Columbia University in New York.

ability to pay isn't taken into consideration for admissions.

Harvard increased its financial-aid budget for the coming year by 5.8 per cent to $182 million, the school said earlier this week. Almost 60 per cent of the new freshman class will need assistance, said financial-aid director Sarah Donahue.

Much of the application

increase over the past few years has been driven by students seeking Harvard's aid, said William Fitzsimmons, Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid, in a phone interview.

Harvard hasn't increased marketing to potential applicants because it would be "counterproductive to invite people into a pool and then turn them down," Fitzsimmons said.

Princeton said 60 per cent of its current student body receives financial aid, and the average grant in the coming year is expected to be more than $39,000. Tuition, fees, room and board will rise 3.8 per cent for the next academic year, totalling $53,250, Princeton said in January.

IVY-BOUND?

Columbia offered freshman seats to 2,311 students out of a pool of 33,500, the New York-based school said yesterday in an e-mailed statement. It accepted 7.4 per cent of applicants a year ago, and 6.92 per cent in 2011, less than half a percentage point above this year's rate.

The competition for spots at the most selective colleges is also behind the surge in application numbers as students apply to more schools and cast wider nets, said Brenda Poznanski, President of the New England Association for College Admission Counselling. ·

Students have until May 1 to accept the schools' offers.

Business Standard ND 30/03/2013   P-7

Only 6% applicants make the Harvard cut this year

VYING FOR THE TOP

Harvard, Yale; Princeton and Columbia universities reported record-low freshman admission rates for the 2013-2014 academic year as applications climbed above or held near all-time highs. The four schools, which make up half of the northeastern US-based Ivy League, are among the wealthiest universities in the US. A look at their admission rates and financial aid
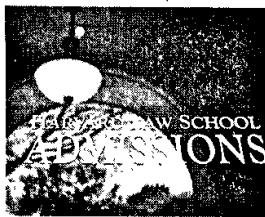
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Princeton accepted 1,931 students from a pool of almost 26,500, and expects about 1,290 to attend, the Princeton, New Jersey-based school said. A year ago, it accepted 7.9 per cent, a record low at the time.

Financial aid

The four schools, which make up half of the northeastern US-based Ivy League, are among the wealthiest universities in the US. They are "need blind" institutions, where a student's ability to pay isn't taken into consideration for admissions.

Business Line ND 30/03/2013   P4

MIT looks at boosting research ties in India

No plans to start campus here

Our Bureau
New Delhi, March 29

Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) is keen on developing collaborations with Indian institutes to further the research being undertaken in India, said Rafael Reif, President, MIT.

Reif, who was addressing the Assocham-Rai Foundation Talk, said the institute believed in developing partnerships that would be mutually beneficial and make both parties stronger.

However, he added that MIT was not looking at starting a campus in India.

"There are important global challenges that MIT wants to work on," Reif said, adding that the institute was identifying institutions in India to collaborate with. He said MIT was open to working with public establishments as well as private parties.

Science and Technology Minister S. Jaipal Reddy also proposed an exchange of scientists and research scholars between India and MIT and extend it to industrial research, especially in the area of biotechnology.

He said strengthening collaboration with MIT would help shore up research capabilities in both countries.

"It is important for us to note that original research in India is still almost completely funded by the Government. We have real talent in these Government-funded laboratories," Reddy said.

Virat Vaibav ND 30/03/2013　　　　**P-5**

MIT के साथ बढ़ानी चाहिए साझेदारी

■ एजेंसी।

नई दिल्ली। अमेरिका के मैसाचुसेट्स इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ टेक्नोलॉजी (एमआईटी) के साथ अकादमिक और अनुसंधान साझेदारी को बढ़ाने के उद्देश्य से भारत ने शुक्रवार को अमेरिकी संस्थान के साथ वैज्ञानिकों की अदला बदली का कार्यक्रम चलाने और औद्योगिक अनुसंधान को इसमें शामिल करने का प्रस्ताव रखा।

विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्री एस जयपाल रेड्डी ने कहा कि जैव-प्रौद्योगिकी के क्षेत्र में एमआईटी के साथ मौजूदा साझेदारी को बढ़ाया जा सकता है जिसमें आपसी हितों के अन्य क्षेत्रों को जोड़ा जा सकता है। एसोचैम द्वारा यहां आयोजित राय फाउंडेशन लंचियन टॉक को संबोधित करने के बाद उन्होंने यहां संवाददाताओं से कहा कि, एमआईटी के साथ खासकर जैवप्रौद्योगिकी के क्षेत्र में हमारी साझेदारी है। मेरा प्रस्ताव है कि बहुत लचीली शर्तों पर भारत से वैज्ञानिकों को एमआईटी भेजा जाए और एमआईटी से भारत बुलाया जाए।

सीएसआईआर और एमआईटी के बीच भी एक सहमति हो। रेड्डी ने कहा कि भारतीय संस्थानों के साथ एमआईटी की साझेदारी दोनों देशों के लिए अनुसंधान आधार को बढ़ाएगी।

उन्होंने कहा, ''हमारे लिए इस बात पर ध्यान देना महत्वपूर्ण है कि भारत में मौलिक अनुसंधान आज भी पूरी तरह सरकार की आर्थिक सहायता पर आधारित है।

हमारे पास इन सरकार संचालित प्रयोगशालाओं में वास्तविक प्रतिभा है। हम इसकी प्रशंसा करते हैं। मेरा मानना है कि हम एमआईटी के साथ अपनी साझेदारी को और मजबूत करेंगे।

समारोह में एमआईटी के अध्यक्ष डॉ रफेल रीफ ने भी भाग लिया जो अकादमिक और अनुसंधान साझेदारियों के अवसर तलाशने भारत आए हैं। इस मौके पर लार्ड स्वरज पॉल भी मौजूद थे। क्या भारत अनुसंधान के किसी क्षेत्र विशेष को एमआईटी के साथ मिलकर बढ़ावा देना चाहता है, इस सवाल के जवाब में रेड्डी ने कहा कि जैसा कि मैंने कहा कि फिलहाल साझेदारी जैवप्रौद्योगिकी के क्षेत्र में चल रही है। औद्योगिक अनुसंधान जैसे अन्य क्षेत्रों में भी इसे बढ़ाया जा सकता है। रीफ ने संवाददाताओं से कहा कि निजी और सरकारी दोनों क्षेत्रों में भारतीय संस्थानों के साथ साझेदारी का विकल्प खुला है।

उन्होंने कहा कि एमआईटी अनेक महत्वपूर्ण वैश्विक चुनौतियों पर काम करना चाहता है। हमारे लिए योगदान देने का सर्वश्रेष्ठ तरीका है कि काम करने के लिए साझेदारों को तलाशें और सहभागिता के लिए भारतीय संस्थानों तथा लोगों को खोजें। एमआईटी द्वारा भारत में अपनी शाखा शुरू करने की संभावना के सवाल पर उन्होंने 'नहीं' में जवाब दिया। उन्होंने कहा कि हम साझेदारी बनाना चाहेंगे। हम साझेदारों के साथ काम करने और एक दूसरे को मजबूत करने में भरोसा करते हैं।

मेरा भारत आने या यहां एमआईटी का परिसर खोलने का कोई इरादा या योजना नहीं है। आईआईटी और एम्स जैसे उच्चस्तरीय संस्थानों के साथ साझेदारी की संभावना के सवाल पर रीफ ने कहा कि मैं तैयार हूं। हमें उन क्षेत्रों को पहचानना होगा जिनमें संस्थानों के साथ हम साझेदारी करना चाहेंगे। फिलहाल यह विकल्प खुला है। पहले हम रुचि के क्षेत्र का पता लगा लें, उसके बाद इस पर काम करने का प्रयास करेंगे।■

फोटो: वैभव

Tribune ND 30/03/2013   p-1

Now, university chairs in Nobel laureates' name

ADITI TANDON/TNS

NEW DELHI, MARCH 29

For the first time in the academic history of the country, the government has decided to salute the contributions made by Indian Nobel laureates by instituting university chairs in their names.

A decision in this respect was taken at the last meeting of the full commission of the UGC which will steer this ambitious project in the form of one of its schemes. HRD Minister MM Pallam Raju has already cleared the proposal for the UGC to implement.

"In-principle approval has been granted to the scheme. It will be cleared formally in the next Full Commission meeting of the UGC. It's a unique scheme which seeks to inspire

From page 1

the youth to take up research under the guidance of the best minds in the world," Prof Ved Prakash, UGC Chairperson told The Tribune today.

The Government has decided that chairs will be set up in the name of all India-born Nobel Laureates, including those who later gave up their Indian citizenship to settle abroad. The following fall in this category — Dr Hargobind Singh Khorana, awarded the Nobel for his study of the human genetic code and the role it plays in protein synthesis; Subrahmanyan Chandrashekhar, an India-born expert in astrophysics, and stellar dynamics and Venkatraman Ramakrishnan, awarded the Nobel for chemistry.

Seven chairs will be instituted after the seven Nobel Laureates from India, namely Rabindra Nath Tagore (literature), Dr CV Raman (physics), Dr Hargobind Khorana (medicine); Mother Teresa (peace), Subrahmanyan Chandrashekhar (physics); Amartya Sen (economics) and Venkatraman Ramakrishnan (chemistry). The idea behind the project is to get the best academics from the world to head these chairs in the respective disciplines which the seven India-born Nobel Award winners represented. The UGC will make departure to ensure they can get the best to head these chairs. For instance, the chairs will be open to the academics of all nationalities. The selection of the chair head will be by invitation of the Government through the UGC and not by nomination as is the usual practice in India.

Tribune ND 30/03/2013   p-11

Two yrs after launch, Govt asks: Who owns Aakash tablet IPR?

ADITI TANDON/TNS

NEW DELHI, MARCH 29

Two years after the world's cheapest internet access device, the Aakash tablet, was launched in India, claims over its ownership have begun to haunt the government.

The Human Resource Development Ministry has initiated an inquiry to find out who really owns the Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) of the Aakash tablet project.

These inquiries, highly-placed sources said, are rooted in the repeated claims over ownership of the tablet design by Canada-based IT firm Datawind, whose chairman Suneet Singh Tuli has said on more than one occasion that his company owns the Aakash Intellectual Property Rights.

If that be the case, how is Aakash's one of the biggest achievements of the UPA government and that of India? Sources in the Human Resource Development Ministry say they are digging into Aakash files to arrive at a legally sound position on the IPR ownership of the tablet if the matter was to go to court tomorrow.

"The project was born out of the government's urge to provide a cheap internet access device for academic purposes. But so far, we

ff So far, we have nothing on record to show that we own the Aakash Intellectual Property Rights. We are in the process of finding out and will soon be in a position to settle the question of ownership which, according to us, rests with the government ** JJ**

— An HRD Ministry official

have nothing on record to show that we own the Aakash IPR. We are in the process of finding out and will soon be in a position to settle the question of ownership which, according to us, rests with the government," a Human Resource Development Ministry official said.

The Aakash project, the Human Resource Development Minister had recently said, was being given another look with respect to viability.

It is further learnt that the Ministry has, in a letter to the Ministry of External Affairs, raised objections to Datawind owner's claims over Aakash tablet's Intellectual Property Rights in global forums.

In a recent statement, Tuli had said his company owned the copyright of the tablet and alleged that contract manufacturer of the tablet — India-based Quad Electronics — was violating its right by signing a direct agreement with IIT Rajasthan for development of the device.

"Datawind's team inter-

nally developed Aakash and sub-contracted the assembly of Aakash tablet to Quad Electronics, based on its own design. Therefore, the Intellectual Property Rights of the tablet belong to Datawind," Tuli had said.

The first version of Aakash was designed in collaboration between IIT Rajasthan and Datawind and Hyderabad-based Quad was the producer. It was launched by former Human Resource Development Minister Kapil Sibal on October 5, 2011. Aakash 2 was launched on November 12, 2012. The latest version is being developed by IIT Bombay.

Tuli has been maintaining that only the programming and assembly of Aakash parts happened in India — something Human Resource Development Ministry is not buying. The Ministry has already written to IIT Bombay to take legal action against Datawind if the latter fails to supply 1 lakh Aakash orders in time. So far, only about 20,000 pieces have come.

Times of India ND 30/03/2013   p-2

DU online lécture series from April ·1

New Delhi: The 'online lecture series' Delhi University and University of Edinburgh have collaborated on, is all set to launch. Students of DU will hear professor Roger Jeffery of University of Edinburgh speak on population on April 1.

The April 1 lecture, "Population: How much of a problem?," will be followed by an "interactive session" on April 3, all at the Institute of Lifelong Learning (ILLL), DU

The pre-recorded lecture will be first played for the students on April 1. They have to return with questions on April 3. The lecture is already available for free for everyone to view on the university's channel on Youtube (EdinburghUniversity) but DU students will enjoy the benefit of having their doubts cleared and interacting with fellow students at Edinburgh. Questions will be answered by Jeffery, Professor of Sociology of South Asia at the School of Social and Political Science, University of Edinburgh – or a "panel" suggested by him.

The next lecture, on Indian literature, will be by Prof Harish Trivedi on April 22. TNN

CORNER OFFICE

India needs skills, infra to be world-class supplier

Sujit John | TNN

From the time he was in high school in New Delhi's Sardar Patel Vidyalaya, Sanjay Mehrotra was clear that he wanted to go to the US. In 1974, the system involved only 11 years of schooling, and US universities told him he needed to do 12 before he could apply. So he joined BITS, Pilani.

At the end of the first year at BITS, he applied again to US universities. They said he could come as a freshman but he could not get credits for his year at BITS. He declined, and reapplied in the second year. This time, University of California, Berkeley, gave him admission with full two years' credit in the electrical engineering and computer sciences programme. He joined, went on to do a Masters at Berkeley, and then worked for four Silicon Valley semiconductor companies, including Intel, between 1980 and 1988.

Mehrotra was working specifically in the then nascent area of what is known as flash memory — the storage technology that involves no moving parts and where the chip retains the stored information even when its power source is removed. In 1988, Eli Harari, a former Intel colleague, approached him with the idea of founding a company focused on flash memory, and that's what they did later that year, together with Jack Yuan, a colleague of Harari's in Hughes Microelectronics.

"We believed that in the future there would be applications that would need flash storage," Mehrotra told us on a visit to Bangalore recently. "And 25 years ago, when we founded the company, we had said in one of our publications that in the future there

SANJAY MEHROTRA

Co-founder & CEO |
SanDisk

Achievements | Holds more than 150 patents; helped create the storage technology used in digital cameras, cellphones, USB drives and tablets; has expanded SanDisk's focus to include the enterprise

nal hard drives, set-top boxes, tablets and increasingly in servers and PCs (traditional servers and PCs run on hard disk drives that have spinning disks and other mechanical/moving parts and are therefore more prone to disruptions and higher energy consumption).

With flash memory's success, the company they founded — SanDisk — became a household name, and last year had revenues of $5.7 billion. "Globally and in India, we have a third of the retail market in flash products," says Mehrotra.

SanDisk's early success was with camera makers. Cameras then used chemical films. "We worked with Kodak, Nikon, Polaroid and converted the industry to digital film," says Mehrotra.

Then came USB flash drives that toppled the floppy disc drives industry. And then flash in audio players and mobile devices. These have made countries like India particularly important for SanDisk. "Just look at India: Half the population is less than 25 years old and a big chunk of it is tech-savvy, digital media-savvy. They know how to use these things better than you and I, and they are much faster at it. They are capturing more data, sharing

tail markets.

The big push now is into laptops and enterprise servers, where solid state drives based on flash technology is replacing traditional spinning hard disk drives. Flash is enabling sleeker, lighter, more power-efficient and reliable laptops. Flash is also faster, giving fast boot up times and instant access. Mehrotra says solid state drives in computing is the biggest growth driver for the flash industry and for SanDisk.

Prices of solid state drives are still high, so last year only about 10% of the notebook computers had such drives in them. Estimates are that in another three years, about one-third of notebooks will have solid state drives in them. "But I won't be surprised if the penetration rate is even higher by then," says Mehrotra. All MacBook Air laptops and many of Intel's ultrabooks today come with solid state drives.

SanDisk's Bangalore R&D centre, which has 350 engineers, or more than a tenth of its global R&D strength, works on the design of memory chips and controllers that go into flash memory products, as also on software development. It is integral to SanDisk's operations.

Would the company now be willing to do some manufacturing in India? The question was repeatedly put to Mehrotra during his Bangalore visit, given the Indian government's recent push for electronics manufacturing. Mehrotra, who became SanDisk's CEO on January 1, 2011, when Harari retired, would only reply that the company's plants in Japan and China were currently sufficient.

Is manufacturing in India a challenge? Mehrotra says

tions that in the future there would be phones like cellular phones and light computing devices that would need this technology."

That proved prophetic. Flash memory is today ubiquitous — it's the memory that is used in cellphones, digital cameras, USB drives, exter-

capturing more data, sharing more data, they want to be able to access their data fast and anytime, anywhere. That's driving increased local storage in mobile devices such as smartphones and tablets," says Mehrotra. Within Asia, India and China are SanDisk's fastest growing re-

a challenge: Mehrotra says the most important things are to make sure that the skilled resource pool is available, and that the infrastructure and the ecosystem needed to become a world-class supplier is there. "I can see that India is working towards attaining that," he says.