

## Newspaper Clips

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# 'India failed to produce world-class institutes'

**DHANBAD, PTI:** Improving quality of higher education should be the top priority of the country, President Pranab Mukherjee said on Saturday, while emphasising that institutes of higher learning must nurture innovation for the benefit of common man.

Talking about the quality of higher education, the President said, "I am sad that as per a report only 52 per cent of engineering graduates and 34 per cent of our overall skill pool are employable."

He also regretted that India has failed to produce world-class higher educational institutes despite its rich history, and said the country has to give top priority in improving quality of higher educational, science and technical institutes.

"We have to improve the quality of education and attract the best of teachers if we want to occupy our rightful place in the comity of nations," Mukherjee said at the convocation function of Indian School of Mines. The President, however, noted that a small beginning has been made recently with the couple of IITs finding their place in the top 200 in the subject categories.



IIT-Madras and IIT-Bombay are among the top 50 institutions in civil engineering while IIT-Delhi and IIT-Bombay are in the top 50 in the electrical engineering. In the Times higher education 2014 survey of top 100 universities established less than 50 years ago, IIT-Guwahati has been ranked 87th, he said.

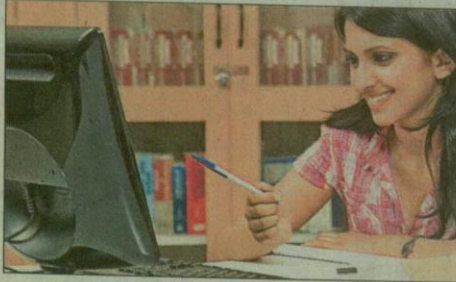
"I want our institutions to build up on this initial successes and achieve a much higher overall ranking. Institutes of higher learning must nurture innovation for the benefit of the common man," he said. Referring to the rich legacy of ISM and its academic reputation, Mukherjee said that this institute should concentrate on developing technologies that increase the efficiency of resource extraction.

# संयुक्त ऑनलाइन काउंसलिंग से तीन संस्थान देंगे बीटेक की सीटें

नई दिल्ली | रोहित पंतार

दिल्ली के विश्वविद्यालयों से इंजीनियरिंग की चाह रखने वालों के लिए अच्छी खबर है। राजधानी के दो विश्वविद्यालय और एक संस्थान बीटेक की सीटें संयुक्त ऑनलाइन काउंसलिंग के जरिये छात्रों को देंगे। इसके लिए बाकायदा एक पोर्टल तैयार किया जा रहा है। सीटें जेईई-मेन के परिणाम के आधार पर जारी की जाएंगी।

इंदिरा गांधी दिल्ली टेक्निकल यूनिवर्सिटी फॉर वुमेन (आईजीडीटीयू), दिल्ली प्रौद्योगिकी विश्वविद्यालय (डीटीयू) और इंद्रप्रस्थ इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ इंफॉर्मेशन एंड टेक्नोलॉजी दिल्ली (आईआईआईटीडी) संयुक्त काउंसलिंग कराएंगे। इनकी करीब 2000 सीटें हैं। आईजीडीटीयू की एक वरिष्ठ अधिकारी ने बताया की तीनों की



## नहीं देना होगा अधिक शुल्क

एक ही जगह तीन शैक्षणिक संस्थानों में एक साथ आवेदन करने से छात्रों को पैसा और समय बचेगा। उन्हें बीते साल की तरह अधिक शुल्क नहीं देना होगा। दरअसल, हर विश्वविद्यालय में पंजीकरण कराने से हजार से दो हजार रुपये लगते हैं। अब एक जगह पंजीकरण होने से अधिकतम दो हजार रुपये खर्च होंगे। पहले यह राशि छह हजार रुपये तक पहुंच जाती थी।

प्रक्रिया के प्रीयकृत कर दी गई है। नेशनल इंफॉर्मेटिक्स सेंटर (एनआईसी) काउंसलिंग का संचालन करेगा। इसकी देखरेख में सीटें जारी की जाएंगी।

उन्होंने बताया कि एनआईसी इसके लिए पोर्टल तैयार कर रहा है। 15 जून तक यह सार्वजनिक हो जाएगा जहां छात्र जेईई-मेन के अंकों के आधार पर पंजीकरण कर सीटें पा सकेंगे। जेईई-मेन

के अंकों की महत्ता 60 फीसदी और 12वीं के अंकों की महत्ता 40 फीसदी होगी। उसके आधार पर दाखिला तय होगा। जुलाई के पहले सप्ताह से पंजीकरण की प्रक्रिया शुरू हो जाएगी। उसके साथ ही काउंसलिंग शुरू हो जाएगी। प्रक्रिया के तहत छात्रों को सभी विश्वविद्यालय के लिए एक ही पंजीकरण कराना होगा। उसके बाद वे

तीनों में से कहीं भी सीटें पाने के हकदार हो जाएंगे। बशर्ते उनके अंक मानकों को पूरा करते हों। बता दें कि आईजीडीटीयू और डीटीयू में 85 फीसदी सीटें दिल्ली के छात्रों के लिए आरक्षित हैं।

**सीटें ब्लॉक नहीं होगी:** अब तक हर विश्वविद्यालय अपनी अलग प्रक्रिया के तहत काउंसलिंग कराते रहे हैं। कोई कॉमन एंट्रेंस टेस्ट के जरिये तो कोई जेईई-

मेन के अंकों के आधार पर। इस दफा आईजीडीटीयू जेईई-मेन के आधार पर सीटें देने जा रहा है। बीते साल तक वे आईपी के तहत प्रवेश परीक्षा लेता था। अलग प्रक्रिया होने से छात्र सभी में आवेदन तो करते थे लेकिन जहां उनका नंबर आता था वहां वे दाखिला ले सीटें ब्लॉक कर लेते थे। उसके बाद दूसरे विश्वविद्यालय की काउंसलिंग का इंतजार करते थे।

प्रतिक्षा सूची वालों को सीटें खाली होने का इंतजार करना पड़ता था लेकिन अब सीटें ब्लॉक नहीं होंगी क्योंकि संयुक्त काउंसलिंग में छात्र सीटें ब्लॉक नहीं कर सकेंगे। उन्हें तीनों जगह में से किसी एक की सीट तुरंत लेनी होगी। यदि वे दूसरी जगह सीट चाहता है तो उसे पहली वाली सीट रद्द करानी होगी उसके बाद दूसरी जगह सीट जारी की जाएगी।

# PIO scientist develops leadless pacemaker

New York, May 10: The world's first wireless pacemaker, developed by an Indian-origin scientist, has shown promising results after one year of human trials. The device, resembling a tiny, metal silver tube and smaller than a triple-A battery, is only a few centimetres in length, making it less than ten per cent the size of a traditional pacemaker.

"This is the first time we've seen one-year fol-



Dr Vivek Reddy

low-up data for this innovative, wireless cardiac pacing technology and our

results show the leadless pacemaker is comparable to traditional pacemakers," said Dr Vivek Reddy, director of Arrhythmia Services at The Mount Sinai Hospital here, who is the study's co-investigator. In comparison to a conventional pacemaker, the new-age leadless pacemaker eliminates the need for a surgical pocket and no visible pacemaker device under a patient's chest skin, no incision

scar on the chest, no connector wires or leads, and no restrictions on a patient's daily activities. The device's benefits may also allow for less patient discomfort, infections, and device complications and dysfunction.

"Our latest findings further support the promising performance and safety of this minimally-invasive, non-surgical pacing device. More long-term follow-up of these LEAD-

LESS study patients will further our understanding of the potential advantages, benefits, and complication risks of leadless pacemaker technology, along with additional ongoing, larger trials," Dr Reddy said.

The study's long-term follow-up has evaluated 32 patients with a slowed heartbeat, bradycardia at two hospitals in Prague and one in Amsterdam.

— PTI

# Kalu Sarai: lanes which are home to IIT-JEE hopefuls

This south Delhi locality is crammed with coaching institutes, hostels and eateries

By Ritwika Mitra

**K**artikey Classes — Last chance to revive hopes for IIT-JEE aspirants”, reads a signboard in a narrow lane of Kalu Sarai. The centre, which assured students “success” with a crash course shut down a year back. But there are many more “promising” institutes in this neighbourhood.

At Sri Chaitanya, an academic counsellor tries to convince a student how their coaching centre scores over FIITJEE. “Here you will be tutored in a batch of 30, whereas at FIITJEE it is a batch of 40. Don’t you think it makes a difference? And, do not trust the cheaper institutes. Those usually shut down mid-term.”

The student mumbles he will come back with his father for enrolment.

For years now, IIT-JEE aspirants have flocked to the narrow bylanes of Kalu Sarai to nurture their dreams of cracking engineering-based entrance exams. In 1992, FIITJEE opened its first centre here. Following this, the “educational hub” of south Delhi saw the mushrooming of several IIT-JEE coaching institutes. While some institutes have been here for almost 20 years now, a few have come up recently and are often looked down upon as “fly-by-night” centres by the bigger brands. Alongside have come up several hostels, paying guest accommodation and eateries to cater to students.

“We receive almost 70 per cent outstation students. They hail from Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana. In the last two-three years, the market scenario has changed. With expenses running high and several coaching institutes coming up in these states, the number of outstation pupils has gone down,” says Rahman, an academic coordinator at Sri Chaitanya.

At Mishra Book Depot, salesperson Vijay Kumar says there is at least 20 per cent dip in the number of outstation students.

While some institutes enrol students for both engineering and medical courses, Kalu Sarai is more famous as the hub of

engineering coaching centres.

“In our institute, the focus is on grooming students for engineering entrance exams,” says Sadhana Bansal. The 23-year-old centre has three programmes running throughout the year.

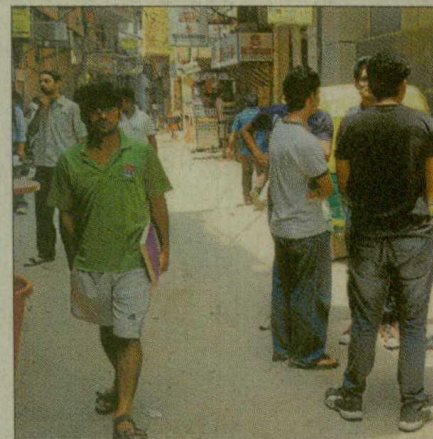
“One is for plus two students and the other for the current batch of Class 12 students. The third slot is for passouts who take a year off to prepare for entrances. Over 50 per cent of the 200 students in the last slot are from outside the city,” adds Bansal.

Piyush Rathore, 22, thinks he learnt more in a year than he did in his four-year-long bachelor’s programme in UP. “I have secured a decent rank in GATE which I owe to the tutorial here. We hardly had classes in the government engineering college in UP.”

The Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering (GATE) is an all-India examination for entry into various post-graduate programmes in higher educational institutes across the country.

While Rathore shelled out Rs 52,000 for a one-year-long course at Made Easy, other institutes are charging between Rs 80,000 to Rs 90,000 for the same course. Some centres also offer students “attractive scholarships” if they score well in the coaching’s admission test. A 90 per cent or above may even secure a student a 100 per cent scholarship on the tuition fee in some institutes.

An institute like Vision IIT-JEE sells the IIT dream early to students. “We suggest students enrol for the four-year-long programme. If they take the course from Class



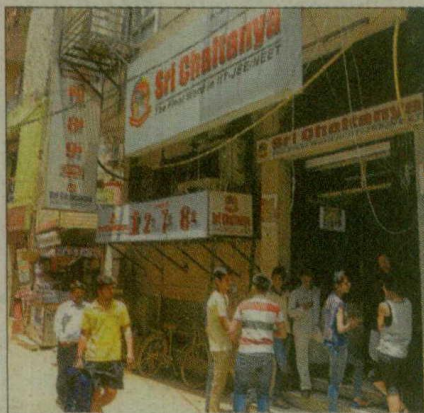
9, they are likely to benefit more,” says Ruchi Daud, a counsellor. It is difficult to attract students from the south, she adds. Most students come from Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. “With the south and West Bengal having several such centres, we do not get students from these parts at all.”

Manisha Gupta, who hails from Lakhisarai in Bihar, believes it is mainly the lack of opportunities in their hometowns that draws students to the capital. “It is expensive to stay outside and study for a year. But the exposure is worth it,” she says. Gupta will finish her one-year course at FIITJEE in June.

Rita Kumari and Neel Kamal, who came to enrol their 17-year-old son at FIITJEE, says it was necessary to bring him outside Bihar for development in his career. “There is a FIITJEE centre in Patna. But he would not have got the same exposure there.” It would cost the couple over Rs 2.27 lakh apart from the institute’s hostel charges at Mehrauli. The teenager is awaiting his board results. “The school fees would be an additional cost,” says Kamal.

To cater to students’ varying tastes, Kalu Sarai now has roll counters, bakeries and Chinese outlets besides the regular dabbawallahs. “Students love the fried chilli potato and momos here,” says a cook at HS China Town.

“Every day I supply 110 dabbas to students living in PGs within three km from this place. It shows that this is still a popular destination for students outside Delhi,” says Lukesh who runs an eatery from a basement.



HT Mumbai

# AICTE lifts affiliation ban, invites fresh applications

**Charumathi Sankaran**

■ Charumathi.sankaran@hindustantimes.com

**MUMBAI:** The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) on Saturday lifted the ban imposed by the University Grants Commission (UGC) last month on the opening of new technical institutions in 2014-15.

The AICTE made the move after the Supreme Court recently restored the powers of approval of technical institutions for the academic year 2014-15 back to the AICTE. In April last year,

the apex court had stripped the AICTE of this power, making UGC in-charge of the technical institutions.

The AICTE had now invited applications for approvals from new technical institutions as well as existing ones for extension of courses.

"The Supreme Court has said that prior and mandatory approval from AICTE is compulsory and we have started the process of accepting applications for new engineering colleges from today," said SS

Mantha, chairman, AICTE. He added that the application process would conclude on June 10.

Asked whether the UGC's decision last month to put a one-year halt to affiliation of new engineering college can contain the burgeoning of private institutions of poor quality, Mantha said that it came into conflict with the constitutional right to practising a profession of one's choice.

Engineering colleges in the city have welcomed the news. They said that the AICTE scores

over other universities as it has the wherewithal to regulate technical institutions. "It is better to interact with the AICTE because it has the manpower and experts related to the field that act as guides, unlike the university," said Vivek Yakkundi, principal, Lokmanya Tilak College of Engineering in Navi Mumbai.

"The AICTE has a well-outlined system for monitoring, unlike the university," said a senior engineering professor from Thadomal Shahani College of Engineering, Bandra.

Residual state plans decentralised model

# Novel models for Seemandhra capital



Leading political parties have projected economic model along the lines of Singapore



(Clockwise) Artistic impression of Assembly models; Vaada Foundation founder Suresh Raju.

**T**he sense of deprivation following the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh and the burden of building a new capital for Seemandhra has turned into a determination to convert the need into an opportunity to build a world class city. While Chandigarh was designed by Le Corbusier, with a sprinkle of individual projects presented by different eminent architects such as Pierre Jeanneret, Jane Drew and Maxwell Fry, a few individuals and political parties have submitted their vision documents to the five-member committee headed by Union Urban Development Secretary K Sivaramakrishnan, formed to recommend a site for the new capital. Other members in the committee include Aromar Revi, Director, Indian Institute for Human Settlements, Bangalore; Jagan Shah, Director National Institute of Urban Affairs, New Delhi; K T Ravindran, former Dean, School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi; and Rathin Roy, Director, National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, New Delhi.

The committee has sought suggestions from the general public and individuals about the site and the model. The committee has time till August 31 to suggest a new capital to the residual state of Andhra Pradesh. The new government will have 10 years to complete the construction work and shift to the new capital.

Even before the Committee was formed, the Hyderabad-based Vaada Foundation that works in the area of urban transport planning has come up with a model for an Assembly building for the new capital, and forwarded it to the Group of Ministers overseeing the process of bifurcation. The Assembly model has helped parties such as the TDP and the YSR Congress to come up with their own vision for the new capital for residual Andhra Pradesh. Both the parties have projected a marine and port-based economic model for Seemandhra along the lines of

Singapore. The BJP has suggested a petro-chemical and hardware-based model for the residual state.

The Vaada Foundation has submitted a 50-page document specifically on the urban transport planning for Seemandhra with the help of IIT, New Delhi, and i-TRAN of Delhi. This Delhi-based consultancy has sent its experts to Seemandhra for a five-week trip before making their suggestions. Armed with the report, the founder of Vaada, a young entrepreneur Suresh Raju met Nara Chandrababu Naidu of the TDP and Y S Jaganmohan Reddy of the YSRC to impress upon them that building a new capital would cost around Rs 2.5 lakh crore.

"It is wrong to say that Naidu has centralised development in Hyderabad, as there is no other city in Telangana region that could have sustained the expansion. But in Seemandhra are many cities such as Vijayawada, Visakhapatnam, Nellore and Tirupati to facilitate the decentralised development model," said Suresh Raju.

Unlike the politicians who are promising Metro rail facility linking Seemandhra cities, Raju says that a Metro requires a minimum population of 50 lakhs to make such mega projects viable.

Raju, who has an MBA from the UK, said that the five crore people of Seemandhra are hurt by the way their hopes were dashed by bifurcating the state. "If the government gave us our state during the 1972 agitation, we would have been better off," Raju said. He has sought the help of the Mumbai-based Khatter and Associates to design the Assembly building for the capital city to give some hope to the people of Seemandhra that the funds to be granted by the union government could be put to good use.

The first model includes the Assembly and the Legislative Council and several conference halls with a carpet area of more than two lakh square feet. The proposal says Assembly building should be built with red and cream coloured slate stones from Rajasthan

and should have entrance from all the four sides. The eco-friendly and energy-efficient model has attracted the attention of senior Congress leaders such as Jairam Ramesh and Digvijay Singh who appreciated the efforts saying that it would give a hope to the people of Seemandhra and prepare them for the humongous task of building a new capital. As the models submitted by the NGOs, political parties and individuals reach the Sivaramakrishnan's committee and a final decision will take time, the demand to make Seemandhra capital the second capital of the country is gaining momentum. "If the Union Government is willing to invest more than Rs two lakh crore on a new state capital, it could as well develop it as its winter capital or a gateway to South India," Raju says.

However, the demand for developing the new place as winter capital has been put on the back burner as the TRS and the like-minded groups see that demand as an effort to snatch Hyderabad from Telangana.

Dr Baba Saheb Ambedkar had also envisaged Hyderabad-Secunderabad as a second capital for the country. "Now Seemandhra should get that chance," demands Dr Yalamanchili Sivaji, prominent Seemandhra leader from Guntur. He is also pitching for capital status to the Vijayawada-Guntur-Tenali tricity area.

Many argue that the premier institutions promised for Seemandhra such as IIT, IIIT, IIM, Petro University, Tribal University, an AIIMS-level medical institution should be established in different cities so that the development will be even. "There could be two capitals, one in Rayalaseema and the other in Coastal Andhra, so that the Rayalaseema region enjoys the fruits of division," says T G Venkatesh, former minor irrigation minister and prominent Rayalaseema leader.

**JBS Umanadh in Hyderabad**

Publication: The Times Of India Delhi;Date: May 11, 2014;Section: Times Global;Page: 22;

# Anti-virus technology is dead: Symantec

James Vincent

Symantec, maker of the widely used Norton Anti-virus software suite, has declared that antivirus technology "is dead".

The company's senior vice-president of information security Brian Dye told the Wall Street Journal that hackers were not only finding new ways to break into computers but that anti-virus wasn't "a money-maker in any way."

Dye said that the company's anti-virus software catches just 45% of cyberattacks — an admission that sounds surprising but that reflects a broader shift in the cy-

bersecurity industry as experts are forced to adapt to new methods employed by hackers.

When Symantec's anti-virus software was first introduced in the late 1980s it worked as an immune system for computers, with experts maintaining a database of malicious code and blocking any attacks on a given system.

Categories of cyberattacks have since multiplied. Symantec said it was looking to move from a "protect" model to one of "detect and respond," offering businesses bespoke packages that track hacks and leaks to prevent any damages beyond the initial infiltration. THE INDEPENDENT

## More takers for IISc water purification model

Bangalore, May 10, 2014, DHNS

<http://www.deccanherald.com/content/405895/more-takers-iisc-water-purification.html#>

**The sustainable mode to mitigate the water crisis in Bangalore created by the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) - by purifying lake water for domestic use - has now caught the attention of the local residents.**

They are now inviting IISc experts to replicate the method in their area as civic agencies have failed to keep the water bodies clean.

Under this method, lake water - which is already being treated in primary and secondary treatment plants - can be further purified environmentally and made fit for human consumption. Prof T V Ramachandra of the Centre for Ecological Sciences of the IISc and his students developed and introduced the model successfully eight months ago in Jakkur Lake.

Ramachandra told Deccan Herald that people from KR Puram have invited them to visit Amballipura Lake and implement the model. The team will visit the site on May 22. BBMP officials have also shown interest in learning from this model.

Explaining the working of the model, Ramachandra said that Jakkur lake has a sewage treatment plant which treats water partially. This water is allowed to pass through wetlands which consist of macrophytes and algae. Here the nutrients (nitrates and phosphates) are removed.

The water then passes through algae based lagoons which completely clean the water.

The water is then allowed to settle for 4-5 days and bacteria gets cleaned through solar energy. Water analysis showed that physico-chemical and biological chemicals of the water have been cleared and the water suitable for domestic and irrigation purposes.

**May 12**

HT.Com ND 12.05.2014 P-6



■ IIT Delhi campus. After clearing JEE (mains) 26,000 students didn't register for JEE (advanced), the entrance exam for admission to 16 IITs.

FILE PHOTO

# Students snub IITs after qualifying for key exam

**Vanita Srivastava**

**D**espite the hype over IITs, more than 26,000 students have not registered for the Joint Entrance Exam (JEE advanced), the entrance exam for admission to 16 IITs.

According to official sources of the top 153981 students who had been filtered from the Joint Entrance Exam (JEE mains), 126990 have registered for the JEE (advanced) exam to be held on May 25.

Last year also roughly around the same number of students had not registered for JEE (advanced) exam.

"There are many students who do not want to be away from their home and parents. There are some states which are no more conducting their own engineering exam. In such a case, the child prefers to take admission in a state engineering college on the basis of his rank in JEE(Mains)," said HC Gupta, JEE-Advanced 2013 chairperson.

According to preliminary data of those who have qualified for the JEE (advanced) exam, eight students from Nepal and Bhutan had also qualified for the IIT entrance exam this year. It is not sure whether they have registered or not. Interestingly students from Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan states accounted for nearly 38% of those who have qualified for JEE (advanced).

JEE (mains) is the filtering exam for JEE (advanced), the exam held for admission to 16 IITs. More than 12 lakh students had appeared for JEE (mains).

After the results of JEE (mains) were announced last week, the top 1.53 lakh students were declared eligible for appearing for the JEE (advanced) exam.

Those who could not make it to JEE (advanced) will seek admission to NITs and other centrally funded institutes according to their final score, which will be known on July 7 after all the board results are out.



# IIT Bombay launches its first MOOCs

Ruchi Chopda/TNN

Further to its collaboration with EdX, a massive open online course (MOOC) platform, last year, IIT Bombay (IIT-B) recently launched its first three MOOCs. While sessions for two of the courses — Introduction to Computer Programming (part one) and Thermodynamics — will commence this July, the third course — Introduction to Computer Programming (part two) — will begin in September.

Informs Deepak Phatak, professor, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, IIT Bombay, "The quality and content offered online will be same as that offered on our campus. The only difference being the MOOCs will allow students to learn anytime, from anywhere and at a convenient speed. Students can revisit study material as and when required and skip familiar topics."

The courses can be pursued by anyone and will be delivered through sessions grouped into several themes or topics. Each

**O** The quality and content offered online will be the same as that offered on campus

— Deepak Phatak, IIT Bombay

session will be made up of two to four 15-20 minute 'episodes.' Each episode will consist of a video recorded lecture of about 8-10 minutes, followed by some practice problems/quizzes.

There will be additional reading material/references, which the participants can use for greater clarity, if required. Regular interactive sessions through discussion forums, video conferencing and other such technologies are also being planned.

Students can register for an honour code certificate or for audit free of cost for the initial offerings. For students who wish to get a verified certificate of achievement at the end of the course, a charge of about Rs 1,500 will be levied.

Rajasthan Patrika ND 12/05/2014 P-9

कार्यशाला

आईआईटी मद्रास में आयोजित कार्यशाला में शामिल होंगी फिल्मी हस्तियां

# इंजीनियर लिखेंगे पटकथा

■ आईआईटी मद्रास का भारतीय फिल्म और टेलीविजन संस्थान और पुणे विवि से अनुबंध

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आईआईटी का नाम जेहन में आते ही एक ऐसे संस्थान की छवि उभरती है, जहां से देश को उम्दा इंजीनियर मिले हैं। इस छवि को अब आईआईटी मद्रास तोड़ने की कोशिश में जुटा है।

यही कारण कि भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान मद्रास अब एक अदद इंजीनियर की तरह ही एक अदद पटकथा लेखक भी तैयार करेगा। पटकथा लेखक को पारंगत करने के लिए आईआईटी मद्रास ने भारतीय फिल्म एवं टेलीविजन संस्थान पुणे और पुणे विवि के संचार

विभाग के साथ एक अनुबंध किया है।

**कई पटकथा लेखक**

प्रोफेसर आयशा ने बताया कि कार्यशाला में गेस्ट लेक्चर के रूप में खोसला का घोंसला, कंपनी, चके दे, राकेट सिंह आदि फिल्मों में बतौर लेखक के रूप में काम कर चुके पटकथा लेखक जयदीप साहनी भी है। इसके अलावा खाकी, चांदनी चौक टू चाइना आदि फिल्मों के लेखक सिद्धार्थ राघवन, उड़ान, लुटेरा आदि फिल्मों के लेखक विक्रमादित्य मोटवानी समेत कई फिल्मी हस्तियां इस वर्कशॉप में भाग लेंगी।

**विशेष योग्यता नहीं**

प्रोफेसर आयशा ने कहा कि कार्यशाला में भाग लेने के लिए विशेष योग्यता को पैमाना नहीं माना गया है। किसी भी पृष्ठभूमि का छात्र

कार्यशाला में शामिल बॉलीवुड की जानी मानी हस्तियां

इस अनुबंध के तहत आईआईटी मद्रास में आगामी सात से चौदह जून के बीच एक वर्कशॉप का आयोजन किया जाएगा। कई जानेमाने पटकथा लेखकों के अलावा कई जानी-मानी फिल्म हस्तियां इस वर्कशॉप का हिस्सा होंगी। यह जानकारी आईआईटी मद्रास के मानवता और

इस कार्यशाला का हिस्सा बन सकते हैं।

उन्होंने कहा कि हमें दक्षिण भारत से बड़ी संख्या में छात्रों के आवेदन की उम्मीद थी, लेकिन इस कार्यशाला के लिए देश के अन्य हिस्सों जैसे दिल्ली, मुंबई, लखनऊ और कोलकता आदि से भी छात्रों ने आवेदन किए हैं।

यहां तक कि कुछ आवेदन ब्रिटेन और अमेरिका स्थित विश्व

सामाजिक विज्ञान विभाग की एसोसिएट प्रोफेसर आयशा इकबाल ने दी। उन्होंने बताया कि हम चाहते हैं कि जो छात्र इस कार्यशाला के लिए आवेदन करें वे केवल नामचीन फिल्मी लोगों को ध्यान में रखकर ही कार्यशाला में भाग न लें बल्कि वे शैक्षणिक मूल्यों को ध्यान में रखकर

विद्यालयों में पढ़ने वाले भारतीय छात्रों के भी प्राप्त हुए हैं।

आवेदन करने वालों में छात्रों के अलावा डॉक्टर, वकील और साफ्टवेयर प्रोफेशनल तक शामिल हैं।

इसके अलावा कई स्कूलों के शिक्षक और कॉलेजों के प्रोफेसरों, कई थिएटर कलाकार और ग्राफिक्स डिजाइनरों ने भी आवेदन किया है।

कार्यशाला का हिस्सा बनें। वे यह सोचकर कार्यशाला में भाग न लें कि इसके माध्यम से बड़े फिल्मी कलाकारों या पटकथा लेखकों से मुलाकात संभव हो जाएगी। यदि वे यह सोचकर कार्यशाला में भाग लेंगे तो उनका असली उद्देश्य पूरा नहीं हो पाएगा।

**सीटें सीमित**

कार्यशाला के में सीटें बहुत सीमित हैं। इसलिए मेरिट के आधार पर आवेदनों की छटनी करनी पड़ रहे हैं। आवेदन करने वाले उम्मीदवार को इस कार्यशाला की कितनी जरूरत है इसी आधार पर चयन किया जाएगा। वर्कशॉप के बाद प्रतिभागियों को आईआईटी मद्रास से एक प्रमाण पत्र दिया जाएगा।

# Oxford speech highlight of PM's UK visits

**Prasun Sonwalkar**

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**LONDON:** Besides the mundane business of state between India and Britain during the last decade, Manmohan Singh's visits here as Prime Minister are most remembered for his "emotional" journey in July 2005 to Oxford, where he studied in the early 1960s.

As Singh prepares to step down next week as the prime minister, there is some surprise in diplomatic circles in London that he made only three substantive visits to Britain since 2004, and none during the prime ministership of David Cameron, who has visited India thrice since 2010.

Singh's tenure saw increased cooperation between India and Britain in the area of security, particularly after the 2008 Mumbai attacks. The decade also witnessed increased focus on trade as Singh participated in G-8 and G-20 summits and dealt with three British prime



■ Manmohan Singh, accompanied by Oxford University's Chancellor, Lord Patten of Barnes, in Oxford on July 8, 2005.

AP PHOTO

ministers: Tony Blair, Gordon Brown and Cameron.

On 8 July 2005, Singh received an honorary degree at Oxford. He was also conferred a doctorate in March 2009 at Cambridge, where he studied in the late 1950s.

His acceptance speech at

Oxford was widely applauded at the time, but it also came in for some criticism for his largely positive verdict on the long Indo-British encounter.

Noting that grievances against the British empire had "sound basis", Singh went on to say: "Today, with the balance

and perspective offered by the passage of time and the benefit of hindsight, it is possible for an Indian Prime Minister to assert that India's experience with Britain had its beneficial consequences too".

Describing the day as "emotional", he said: "Oxford brings back many fond memories that I cherish. To be so honoured by a university where one has burnt the proverbial midnight oil to earn a regular degree, is a truly most fulfilling experience. I thank you for it. This is a day I will truly cherish".

Of the three British prime ministers he worked with, diplomats say Singh was particularly comfortable with Brown – there were reasons for this – as they developed a rapport when Brown visited India in January 2007.

Both Brown and Singh are dour economists with doctorates, and Brown has been among the first British politicians to recognise the opportunities and challenges that India presents to Britain's already struggling economy.

## Asian countries excel in global education ranking

South Korea and Japan claim top spots in overall education ranking by Pearson

**Abhishek Chakraborty**

**S**outh Korea and Japan have claimed top spots in overall education ranking, according to the Learning Curve 2014 report published by Pearson. Finland, which held the first position last year, dropped to fifth “because of decreases in its reported reading, maths and science literacy”.

International comparisons in education have become increasingly significant and this latest league table is based upon a series of global test results combined with measures of education systems, such as how many people go on to study in a university and so on.

John Fallon, chief executive of Pearson, says one of the most pervasive and endemic problems in education in almost every country is the lack of attention paid to skills provision. “In rich countries and emerging economies, the demand for better skills is urgent as governments strive to create rewarding jobs for their citizens,” he adds.

The UK holds a steady sixth position due to improvement in its Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) and Progress in International Reading Literacy Study test scores and a rise in its tertiary graduation rate. Countries such as Canada and the Netherlands are also in the top 10.

### Global competition

The two education superpowers—South Korea and Japan—are followed by two other high-performing Asian education systems, Singapore and Hong Kong.

Many emerging economies are now putting increased funding into education; however, the report says, this is not yet improving outcomes.

For example, three of the world’s biggest emerging economies—Brazil, Mexico and Indonesia—are ranked at the bottom of the index.

South Korea outperforms all other countries in PISA; however, after the age of 20, their skills test on par or below average according to the Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies results.

While Scandinavian countries fall behind Asia in the education rankings, they score highly in adult skill retention through encouraging adults to continuously develop their skills and providing the infrastructure for this.

While giving importance to skills gained in early education, the report also says, “Basic skills gained in early education are essential to continued skill development and that continued use of skills in adulthood is crucial in slowing the inevitable decline over time.”

The report also emphasises the importance of high-quality teachers and the need to find ways to recruit the best staff. It asks both teachers and students to acquire a broader range of skills.

“New technologies require both teachers and students to acquire a broader range of skills, opening up the possibility for new teaching techniques. Countries and their governments must place importance on the role of teachers and treat the profession with respect,” says the report.

It also says success of a student depends on factors like holding the accountable to do well, flexible teaching, highlighting the importance of self-sufficiency. Moreover, the report adds, “it’s evident that parental expectations impact on the students’ performance and motivation too.”

## Now, experts make jet fuel from water, sunlight

**London:** European scientists claim have to used sunlight, water and carbon dioxide to produce ‘green’ jet fuel.

A European consortium has produced jet fuel using a thermochemical process that utilizes concentrated solar energy. A high-temperature solar reactor developed by a group led by Aldo Steinfeld, professor of renewable energy carriers at ETH Zurich, forms a key equipment in the process of producing the sustainable “solar kerosene”.

The reactor contains a porous ceramic solar absorber made of the metal oxide ceria, which enables the molecular splitting of water and carbon dioxide in a cyclic two-step reduction-oxidation process.

The final product is synthesis gas — or syngas — a mixture of hydrogen and carbon monoxide that serves as the precursor to the synthesis of hydrocarbon fuels.

The experiment yielded 750 litres of syngas, which was shipped to Amsterdam. At a Shell research centre, the solar syngas was converted into kerosene using an established method. AGENCIES

# 18 Indian students will compete at Intel ISEF this year

Press Trust of India

Eighteen of the brightest and sharpest minds from India will compete with global peers at Intel's International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) in Los Angeles, US this week.

The Intel ISEF is a global science competition for students from grades 8-12 and this year's edition will be held between May 11 to May 16, 2014.

"The young innovators referred to as Team India will represent the country at

the fair and compete against 1,600 finalists from over 70 countries across the globe," Intel said in a statement. This year, the highest number of entries are being sent from India in the history of the competition with 12 projects competing at the event.

Participants from India have submitted projects across categories like animal science, chemistry, computer science, electrical and mechanical engineering, mathematical sciences and environmental management.

Both IRIS and Intel ISEF are influential in highlighting the unique pool of creativ-

**THE INTEL ISEF, A GLOBAL SCIENCE COMPETITION FOR STUDENTS FROM GRADES 8-12, WILL BE HELD FROM MAY 11 TO 16**

ity and innovation that exists in India, Intel Director (Corporate Affairs Group) South Asia Ashutosh Chadha said.

"This year, with 12 projects being selected for ISEF, we have a greater opportunity to showcase the talent existing within the

youngsters, encouraging them to create realistic solutions, through research practices, to scientific challenges that are vital for tomorrow's progress," he added.

Intel ISEF is a program run by the Society for Science and the Public (SSP) in partnership with Intel Corporation.

Participants will compete for more than \$ 4 mn in awards and scholarships. The winners will be selected on the basis of their creative ability and scientific thought, as well as the articulacy and skill shown in their projects.

Times of India ND 12/05/2014 P-13

# Coding finds its way into US school curriculums

## With An Eye On Tech Jobs, Students From Kindergarten Onwards Now Taught Programming

Matt Richtel

Seven-year-old Jordan Lisle, a second grader, joined his family at a packed after-hours school event last month aimed at inspiring a new interest: computer programming. "I'm a little afraid he's falling behind," his mother, Wendy Lisle, said, explaining why they had signed up for the class at Strawberry Point Elementary School.

The event was part of a national educational movement in computer coding instruction that is growing at internet

speeds. Since December, 20,000 teachers from kindergarten through 12th grade have introduced coding lessons, according to Code.org, a group backed by the tech industry that offers free curriculums. In addition, some 30 school districts, including New York City and Chicago, have agreed to add coding classes in the fall, mainly in high schools but in lower grades, too. And policy makers in nine states have begun awarding the same credits for computer science classes that they do for basic math and science courses, rather than treat-

ing them as electives.

There are after-school events, too, like the one in Mill Valley, California, where 70 parents and 90 children, from kindergartners to fifth graders, huddled over computers solving animated puzzles to learn the basics of computer logic.

It is a stark change for computer science, which for decades was treated like a stepchild, equated with trade classes like wood shop. But smartphones and apps are ubiquitous now, and engineering careers are hot. To many parents — particularly



**CATCH 'EM YOUNG:** Imran Khaliq (C), a 12-year-old who knows Java and HTML, at the event in Mill Valley

ones here in the heart of the tech corridor — coding looks less like an extracurricular activity and more like a basic life skill, one that might someday lead to a great job or even instant riches.

The spread of coding instruction, while still nascent, is "unprecedented — there's never been a move this fast in education", said Elliot Soloway, a professor of education and computer science at the University of Michigan. He sees it as very positive, potentially inspiring students to develop a new passion, perhaps the way that teaching

frog dissection may inspire future surgeons and biologists.

But the momentum for early coding comes with caveats, too. It is not clear that teaching basic computer science in grade school will beget future jobs or foster broader creativity and logical thinking, as some champions of the movement are projecting. And particularly for younger children, Soloway said, the activity is more like playing a video game — better than simulated gunplay, but not likely to impart actual programming skills. NYTNEWSERVICE

## Times of India ND 12/05/2014 (education times) P-6



### **TEACHER SKILLS**

The Maharashtra government's department of education has introduced new courses dedicated to enhance skills among school teachers. The four newly-launched courses will enhance skills of faculty in English Language, maths, science and learning areas. The four courses are collaborated with external agencies such as British Council for two courses, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay for one course, and lastly Accenture Private Limited, according to officials of the department.

# New quadrilateral for new govt

Management students would do well to comprehend how can the new government put India on a decent developmental path

SHUBHADA SABADE

The new government will have no time to waste on coming to power. It is inheriting an economy facing inflationary recession, riddled with corruption, poverty and mass deprivation, besides anger and frustration. The reforms and economic solutions required are far from populist and hence difficult to carry out close to next elections. The only time to get cracking is right after elections without any thanks-giving gimmicks. In late 1990s, India had got into a recession after RBI's tight credit policy and the Vajpayee government got us out by launching the Golden Quadrilateral highways project. Today, RBI's monetary tightening, among other things, has got Indian economy into recession and the way out could be another 'quadrilateral' with its four interconnected ends represented by: subsidy and revenue deficit reduction; agro-rural focus; second generation reforms; and governance issues. 'Continuity' is the last thing India wants and management students would do well to comprehend this for better decision-making in anticipation of major changes.

Subsidies, much like reservations, are never a permanent or even long-term solution to the problem of poverty and deprivation. Both are only interim solutions to buy the government some time to lift the beneficiaries to levels where they won't need subsidies and reservations any longer! As an economy develops, the changing socio-cultural milieu compels people to ask for work rather than doles. Both subsidies and reservations are harmful to the beneficiary because they render him complacent with no need to enhance performance. They distort the market mechanism to the disadvantage of the honest and meritorious. Subsidies put an enormous burden on the exchequer and reservations, on the overall efficiency. A major chunk of the revenue expenditure in the Union Budget is on subsidies, thus leading to an ever-widening revenue deficit, debt and interest burden ultimately driving the economy into a debt trap. Subsidies also have an inflationary impact. Rather, if the same money is used to create ample education and skill development opportunities, this

will get people jobs and generate more tax revenue in the future.

Given the vast divide between the amenities available in rural and urban areas, it is of paramount importance to generate economic and social infrastructure in rural areas so that the rural youth won't need to migrate to cities for self-development and good jobs. Agriculture must be made profitable by providing not only irrigation canals, roads, market and storage but also timely finances, high-quality inputs and technology diffusion. As per Abdul Kalam's PURA model, if agriculture becomes profitable and stay in villages comfortable and pleasant, the rural exodus can turn into reverse migration restoring some tranquillity back to the bursting cities. On the contrary, providing ever



ASIT BAGCHI

more sophisticated costly infrastructure in cities will further pull in more people from villages. Same funds can be used to develop rural areas instead.

Frustrated with the long period of policy paralysis, Indian voters are really looking forward to drastic changes in certain policies and procedures. After the successful 1991 reforms, second generation reforms are overdue in the fields of education, agriculture, infrastructure, finance, labour laws and indeed many other sectors. To get employment generation happening, it is necessary to revive the nose-diving investment cycle which is impossible without radical reforms in procedures. Single-window clearances and fast-tracking approval of projects with job-creating capacity are urgently required not only for FDI, but also for domestic producers whose ani-

mal spirits are dampened by the several rate hikes and governance problems.

The extent to which people are disgusted with corruption was evident in the AAP victory in Delhi. Corruption has got embedded into Indian system at almost every level and if officials fear anti-corruption action, they don't move files and force people to prefer bribing rather than getting their files stuck. If the new government makes a determined effort to remove corruption while also making files move within decent time limits, they will automatically take the air out of anti-corruption parties' balloons. RTI, Lokpal would help. If the governance issues get sorted out quickly, some industrial and agricultural supplies will get augmented and inflation will be curtailed automatically. The compulsory CSR is an excellent idea whereby industries would prefer to spend the amount on creating assets like schools and hospitals for the poor rather than giving away doles. Thus the new quadrilateral promises to undo many ills, some chronic, some temporary, that the Indian economy is faced with. If only the new ruling politicians can get over their feeling of insecurity and greed, they would end up doing something for themselves and the nation that will go down in history.

History says that when people get frustrated with the Congress, they elect other parties, only to get disillusioned, and re-elect the Congress in the next elections. If the present non-Congress would-be's don't want to face such a situation in 2019, they will have to plan a roadmap right now. First three years after election, get cracking on the politically tough measures and reforms that will hurt many, but never mind, voters won't remember. At the end of first three years if the new government can reduce subsidies and eliminate revenue deficit, they will be free to use the finances for voter appeasement in the last two years, just before 2019 election. By that time, they would have already put India on a decent developmental path with good economics. And who says good economics is always bad politics?

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