

Newspaper Clips

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HINDU ND 13/05/2011 P-7

Revised Kakodkar panel report to be placed before IIT Joint Council

Aarti Dhar

NEW DELHI: The Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) on Thursday decided to place the "re-worked" version of the Kakodkar Committee report on autonomy for Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) before the IIT Joint Council for a final decision.

The revised report is not too different from the original report that had sought seeking a four-fold increase in fees for undergraduate courses at the prestigious IITs but was rejected by the Council saying that it would make IITs inaccessible for a large section of students. However, this time the Committee has suggested a graded subsidy system.

The Committee that presented its original report in February but was asked to re-work on it, made a presentation before the Union HRD Minister Kapil Sibal here on Thursday has stuck to its proposal to increase fee from Rs.

50,000 to Rs. 2 lakh a year, while suggesting a graded subsidy system that would mean that IITs would provide freeships and scholarships to 25 per cent of the students while levels of partial support would be provided to another set of students and then there would be those who would have access to education loans.

Mr. Sibal is said to have suggested that the proposals should be put on the website for a feedback before a final call is taken by the IIT Joint Council.

The five-member Committee, set up to suggest a road map for IIT's autonomy and growth, had recommended the hike to make IITs more self-sufficient, reduce dependence on grants, and enable the institutes to create faculty and non-faculty posts on their own without having to seek government clearance.

The Committee, which presented the report before the Council, also suggested that the 15 IITs should raise

the money to run undergraduate courses entirely through tuition fees and not depend on grants.

The Committee was set up in October 2009. Its other members are: T.V. Mohandas Pai, former Director (Human Resource), Infosys; K. Mohandas, Vice-Chancellor of the Kerala University of Health and Allied Sciences; Professor Ashok Jhunjhunwala, IIT Madras; and Hari Bhartia, Chairman of the Confederation of Indian Industry. IIT Guwahati Director Gautam Barua, IIT Mandi Director T. Gonsalves and IIT Kanpur Chairman M. Anandkrishnan were special invitees.

Series of meetings

The Committee had a series of meetings with the IIT directors, faculty and industry representatives. Its members visited five universities in China last November to familiarise themselves with the best practices in science education and research.

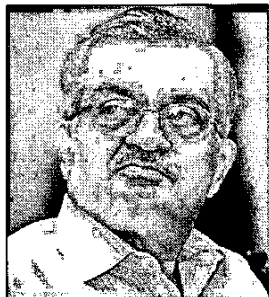
Fee hike in IITs? Sibal non-committal

Akshaya Mukul | TNN

New Delhi: Asked to rework its earlier report on road map for autonomy and future of IITs, the Anil Kakodkar panel has stood by its earlier recommendation that could result in a substantial fee hike at the undergraduate level.

The committee made a presentation of its reworked report on Thursday. HRD minister Kapil Sibal remained non-committal, and said the final decision would be taken by the IIT Council later. The report would be put in the public domain on Friday.

Laying out the roadmap for research, the panel has



The Anil Kakodkar panel's reworked report said that the IITs should 'recover the full operational cost of education' through fees and not take any aid from the government's non-plan budget

said that PhD students should be scaled up from the current 1,000 PhD students per year to 10,000 by 2020-25. It has also said that bright undergraduate students should be enrolled for PhD at the end of

their third year. Even faculty strength should be ramped up to 16,000 in the next 10 years. The present strength is 4,000.

The Kakodkar committee has said that 50 central government-funded institutions

— other than IITs — be nurtured with the help of IIT faculty. These institutions could be National Institutes of Technology, Indian Institutes of Information Technology and other institutions.

The reworked report reiterates that IITs should "recover the full operational cost of education" through fee and not take any aid from government's non-plan budget. Since this would result in a manifold rise in fee, the committee has suggested a "hassle-free" bank loan arrangement at the time of admission.

But for students belonging to reserved category and eco-

nomically weaker sections, the panel has said the ministry should pay the "full operating cost of education". It added that the ministry should also take care of the entire cost of education at PhD, MS and MTech level.

The committee has proposed that government should make an annual outlay of Rs 1.5 lakh per student in established IITs.

For the new ones, an endowment grant of Rs 50 crore per IIT should be given over the next five years. To expand infrastructure, the panel has said government should give capital fund at the rate of Rs 20 lakh per additional student.

IIT-KGP TO USE LAW COUNCIL TEST FOR COURSE

HT Correspondent

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KOLKATA: IIT Kharagpur has decided to outsource its admission test for its law school on the lines of the Common Admission Test (CAT) used by the IIMs.

IIT Kharagpur's Rajiv Gandhi School of Intellectual Property Law has decided to accept admissions through Law School Admission Council-India for admitting students in its three year LLB programme in intellectual property laws.

LSAT-India (Law School Admission Test-India) is a standardised test designed for Indian law school admissions by the Law School Admission Council (LSAC), USA, which also administers the LSAT* used by leading law schools worldwide. LSAT-India is administered by Pearson VUE, the global leader in assessment and testing.

The Rajiv Gandhi law school, set up in collaboration with the George Washington University Law School, has the unique distinction of being the only law school in any IIT in India. The law school boasts of a Microsoft centre of excellence in intellectual property research and technology policy, funded by Microsoft.

Daniel Bernstine, president, Law School Admission Council, said, "Adoption of LSAT-India by IIT-Kgp is a strong endorsement of the quality benchmarks established by LSAT."

HC reserves its order against protesting faculty

SEMESTER ROW DU teachers defied court's previous order not to strike till the disposal of case



■ Teachers of some DU colleges have been stalling implementation of the semester system.

HT FILE

HT Correspondent

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NEW DELHI: The Delhi high court on Thursday reserved its order on Delhi University's plea to initiate contempt of court proceedings against some teachers who are opposing the semester system.

By continuing with their protests, they have defied the court's previous order not to go on strike till the final disposal of the case.

A division bench of chief justice Dipak Misra and justice Sanjiv Khanna reserved the order saying "the court would pronounce the verdict next week as to whether the teachers can be hauled up for contempt of court or not".

The counsel appearing for the university submitted before the bench that the teachers from

The court would pronounce the verdict next week as to whether the teachers can be hauled up for contempt of court or not.

A HC DIVISION BENCH

some colleges, including Dayal Singh College, have been stalling implementation of the semester system and they should be held guilty of contempt of court.

According to the counsel, the college has refused to respond to the correspondence of the university on the issue of deciding the final curriculum for various courses. The college was supposed to send the eligibility criteria and additional information regarding the curricu-

lum being fixed by the university but they refused to reply stating that the matter is pending before the high court, the lawyer further submitted.

He said since the court had not stayed the implementation of semester system and has asked the teachers to cooperate with them in interest of students, the teachers' refusal amounted to contempt of court.

Appearing for the teachers, advocate Prashant Bhushan said the teachers are protesting as they are concerned for students.

The bench, which spoke to the teachers of different colleges, postponed for July the main plea of Delhi University Teachers Association (DUTA) against the validity of university's ordinance for implementation of semester system both in science and arts streams.

Times of India ND 13/05/2011

P-25

Goodbye CCTV, eye in sky to keep close watch

Flying Robot Tracks Security Threats From 300m Above Ground

© Daniel Karmann/dpa/Corbis

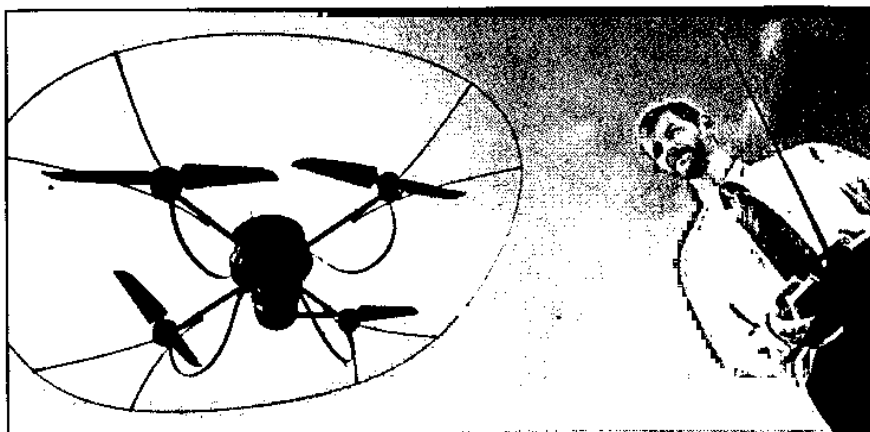
London: The CCTV camera will soon be a thing of the past, as scientists have developed a new flying robot equipped with the world's most advanced intelligence systems which could help spy on and track down criminals easily.

Users simply need to point to a place on Google Maps on its touch-screen controller and the robot flies there at 48kmph to record high quality video that can be beamed to an iPhone in real-time.

The robot, called the Scout, can go up to 500ft above the ground and can zoom in to a close-up from 300 metres away, meaning it may not even be seen while on a mission, the Daily Mail reported.

Developed by Canada-based Aeryon Labs, the miniature unmanned aerial vehicle contains four rotor blades that also ensure it is practically silent when hovering.

According to Aeryon, the Scout has the "most sophisticated and highest quality aerial intelligence available today" and it beams its pictures



VIEW FROM ABOVE: The robot beams its recordings to an iPhone in real-time

to any electronic device, be it a remote computer or even an iPhone.

The \$50,000 robot and its laptop-style control panel fits into a suitcase so it can be deployed easily over any crowd and carried away covertly, the company said.

One of the most ingenious features is that the camera is self-correcting, so even if you are flying along at speed it will stay locked on

the target.

In a video posted on the Aeryon website, the robot hovers at a great distance from a car thief who is being caught in the act. When the camera zooms in, the suspect's face can be seen clearly, enabling police to get a better idea of his identity.

The Scout also has potential uses for the military and general surveillance missions. PTI

Times of India ND
13/05/2011 P-25

AIDS vaccine cures monkeys, hope floats for treating humans

Chicago/London: An experimental vaccine helped monkeys with a form of the AIDS virus control the infection for more than a year, suggesting it may lead to a vaccine for people, US researchers said.

They said the vaccine works by priming the immune system to quickly attack the HIV virus when it first enters the body, a point at which the virus is most vulnerable.

Louis Picker of the Oregon National Primate Research Centre said he thinks it will be possible to have a vaccine ready to test in people within three years. Tests of the vaccine with a primate version of the virus called simian immunodeficiency virus showed over half were able to keep the virus from replicating so that even the most sensitive tests could not detect any traces of the virus.

So far, the vast majority of the vaccinated monkeys have maintained control over the virus for over a year, losing any signs that they had ever been infected. "The vaccine has a possibility of keeping the virus under complete control or clearing the virus," Picker said. **REUTERS**

Times of India ND 13/05/2011 P-25

Your car may soon run on fuel from food waste

London: In what could give new meaning to fast food, scientists have discovered a way to extract oil from pasties, crisps and other food waste and turn that into an eco-friendly fuel.

British fuel supplier Greenergy International announced that it has developed a new technology to extract cooking oil from food waste and blend it with diesel to produce an environmentally-friendly fuel.

According to the company, which produces 10 billion litres of biodiesel and diesel annually, it has invested £50 million in its production facility in Lincolnshire to process used cooking oils — which can make up to 30% of some processed foods.

The green fuel, the company claimed, will soon be ready to be sold at petrol stations across Britain, the Daily Mail reported.

Andrew Owens, chief executive of Greenergy, said: "The quantities of biodiesel that we are currently producing from solid food

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CHEW ON THIS

waste are small, but we're expecting to scale up so that this soon becomes a significant proportion of our biodiesel."

Generally, food solids are dried and either composted or used to produce energy through anaerobic digestion. But the firm announced that it will use the waste to make solid biomass fuel pellets or briquettes, or more fuel for cars in the form of bioethanol. **PTI**

Business Line ND 13-May-11 P-10

Why AP lags in literacy levels



K. KANAGASABAPATHY

Andhra Pradesh's literacy rate lags behind the national average, despite its impressive achievements in growth and poverty reduction. An emphasis on education could help resolve grievances arising from inter-regional disparities.

Andhra Pradesh (AP) is one of India's promising states. It has made large strides in many areas, notably in the information technology sector. However, the literacy rate in AP has been one of the lowest over six decades, and the gap seems to have worsened between 2001 and 2011 as per literacy data released in the Census 2011 report.

LITERACY STATUS

Compared with the southern and central states, AP recorded the poorest improvement in literacy levels over the decade 2001-2011.

AP's overall literacy rate at 67.7 per cent is much lower than the national average of 74.1 per cent. This trend is reflected in both male and female literacy rates. AP's male literacy rate at 75.6 per cent is lower than the 80 per cent plus in all other states, and lower than the national average of 82.1 per cent.

The female literacy rate at 59.7 per cent is also lower than 60 per cent plus in other states, and is significantly lower than the national average of 65.5 per cent.

RELATED INDICATORS

The literacy status in AP is not in keeping with certain other related indicators. The annual average growth in state domestic product between 1999-2000 and 2008-09 was 7.72 per cent compared with the all-states average of only 7.2 per cent. The growth rate was much higher than states like Maharashtra, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. The rural poverty ratio in 2004-05 as per Planning Commission data was re-

Table 1
Census Data for Selected States

State / UT	Literacy Rate						Avg. growth rate & 1999-2000 to 2008-09	Below Poverty Ratio	
	Overall		Male		Female			Rural	Urban
	2001	2011	2001	2011	2001	2011			
Andhra Pradesh	60.5	67.7	70.3	75.6	50.4	59.7	7.72	11.2	28
Gujarat	69.1	79.3	79.7	87.2	57.8	70.7	8.47	19.1	13
Madhya Pradesh	63.7	70.6	76.1	80.5	50.3	60	4.37	36.9	42.1
Chhattisgarh	64.7	71	77.4	81.5	51.9	60.6	7.87	40.8	41.2
Orissa	63.1	73.5	75.4	82.4	50.5	64.4	7.62	41.6	44.3
Maharashtra	76.9	82.9	86	89.8	67	75.5	6.65	29.6	32.2
Karnataka	66.6	75.6	76.1	82.9	56.9	68.1	6.59	20.8	32.6
Kerala	90.9	93.9	94.2	96	87.7	92	7.73	13.2	20.2
Tamil Nadu	73.5	80.3	82.4	86.8	64.4	73.9	6.09	22.8	22.2
India	64.8	74.1	75.3	82.1	53.7	65.5	7.2	28.3	25.7

&: Figures pertain to 1999-00 prices

Sources: Census of India 2011, Central Statistical Organisation, Planning Commission

Table 2
State Expenditure on Education as Ratio to Aggregate Expenditure

States	2000-01	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10 (RE)
Andhra Pradesh	13.3	9	9	10.4
Chhattisgarh	13.1	13.5	14.4	18
Gujarat	13.6	13.4	11.7	13.4
Karnataka	17.7	14.4	16.1	14.9
Kerala	20	15.9	16.7	18.2
Madhya Pradesh	16.3	11.1	12.8	13
Maharashtra	22.3	17.2	17	19.1
Orissa	15.9	14.3	16.9	18
Tamil Nadu	18	12.7	13.1	15.1
All-India	17.4	13.8	14.3	15.4

*: Incl. Expen. on Sports, Art and Culture under revenue expenditure and capital outlay
RE: Revised Estimates

Source: State Finances: A Study of State Budgets, 2011

markedly low at 11.2 per cent and significantly lower than the other states, though urban poverty was not as low. Does the proportion of scheduled castes and tribes popula-

tion at 22.8 per cent explain the low literacy status? It is observed that some of the other states with significantly higher SC/ST population — Madhya Pradesh (35.3 per cent),

Chhattisgarh (43.4 per cent), Orissa (38.6 per cent) — fared much better in literacy compared with AP.

In AP, the percentage of child population had significantly declined from 13.4 per cent in 2001 to 10.2 per cent in 2011. The trend in effective literacy rate in AP would seem worse if this is factored in.

In terms of Education Development index computed in 2009-10, AP ranked 17 in the primary level and 12 in the upper primary level, which had markedly declined from the respective rankings of 12 and 11 in 2007-08.

This implies a fast deterioration in primary education relative to other states. The National Sample Survey Organisation's education survey of 2007-08 shows that children not enrolled in schools at 498 per thousand in AP was much higher than 465 at the national level. The number attending primary school at 213 per thousand was also lower than 250 at the national level.

OTHER SOCIAL PRIORITIES

Two major factors seem to offer an explanation for the malady. The first is the legacy of initial conditions while carving out the linguistic state of AP in 1956.

Mr B. P. R. Vithal in his monograph *A State in Periodic Crises-Andhra Pradesh* indicates that the reorganisation of states in 1956 brought into the new state less developed areas of the states of Madras and Hyderabad and this that shows up in all inter-state comparisons of AP since then.

Second, despite educational development being low, the state

chose to accord greater priority to the irrigation and power sectors. While in 1982, Vithal adds that while the need for social sector expenditure was recognised, priority was given to social welfare schemes over education and health.

While these strategies helped in reducing poverty in rural areas, the literacy rate took a hit. This is amply supported by a detailed study on primary education in AP by Ratna Reddy and Nageswara Rao (*Economic and Political Weekly*, March 22-29, 2003).

The state's neglect of education is borne out by the low ratio of expenditure on education in AP compared with all other states and to the all-India level over the last decade. While at the all-India level, the ratio of state expenditure on education came down from 17.4 per cent to 15.4 per cent between 2000-01 and 2009-10, in AP the ratio, after touching a low of 9.0 per cent in 2008-09 from 13.3 per cent in 2000-01, improved only marginally to 10.4 per cent in 2009-10.

In the compared states, the expenditure on education was significantly higher.

The country has been rightly spearheading the implementation of right to education, particularly at the primary level. The Economic Survey 2010-11 has covered in depth the status of human development, equity and environment as part of analysing the inclusive growth process.

The case of AP should particularly be singled out for much deeper examination, since any neglect of education at this stage, may result in the state's retrogression.

This is also crucial in the context of resolving grievances arising out of inter-regional disparities within the State.

(The author is Director, EPW Research Foundation. These are his personal views.)

Asian Age ND 13/05/2011 P-13

HC reserves order on DU plea

AGE CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

semester row

May 12: The Delhi high court on Thursday reserved its order on the Delhi University's plea to initiate contempt of court proceedings against some of its teachers for defying the court's earlier order to not to go on strike till the final disposal of the case.

The teachers against whom the court has reserved its order are

opposing the semester system,

A division bench comprising Chief Justice of the Delhi high court Dipak Misra and Justice Sanjiv Khanna reserved its order saying, "The court would pronounce the verdict next week as to whether the teachers can be hauled up for contempt of court or not."

Appearing for the teachers, noted senior lawyer and activist Prashant Bhushan, said that the teachers are protesting as they are concerned for students.

Opposing the argument of Mr Bhushan, the counsel appearing for the DU submitted before the division bench that the teachers from some colleges, including Dayal Singh College, have been stalling implementation of the semester system. They are not complying

with the court's earlier order which warned them not to go on strike till the final disposal of the case.

Thereby, the teachers are on the wrong side of the law and they should be held guilty of contempt of court.

The college was supposed to send the eligibility criteria and information regarding the curriculum being fixed but it refused to reply stating that the matter is pending before the HC, the lawyer further submitted.

Navbharat Times ND 13/05/2011 P-22

3-4 गुना बढ़ सकती है आईआईटी की फीस

विशेष संवाददाता ॥ नई दिल्ली

आने वाले दिनों में देश में आईआईटी की पढ़ाई महंगी होने जा रही है। इस समय ग्रेजुएट कोर्स की फीस 50,000 रुपये सालाना है। उसके लगभग

**काकोडकर समिति ने
मंत्रालय को सौंपी सिफारिशें**

तीन-चार गुना बढ़ने की संभावना है। दूसरी ओर आर्थिक रूप से पिछड़े व गरीब प्रतिभाशाली छात्रों के लिए फ्रीशिप के तहत 25 फीसदी सीटें रखने की रखने की बात की जा रही है। जाने-माने वैज्ञानिक व आईआईटी मुंबई के बोर्ड ऑफ गवर्नर्स के चेयरमैन डॉ. अनिल

काकोडकर की अध्यक्षता में बनी एक समिति ने आईआईटी से जुड़ी ये सिफारिशें गुरुवार को मानव संसाधन मंत्रालय व आईआईटी काउंसिल के

सामने रखीं। समिति का मानना है कि फीस के इस ढांचे से जहां एक ओर आर्थिक रूप से सक्षम लोगों से संस्थान को आय होगी, वहीं फ्रीशिप के कोटे से गरीब प्रतिभाशाली छात्रों को भी शिक्षा मिलती रहेगी। इस समिति ने आईआईटी के बोर्ड ऑफ गवर्नर्स की प्रशासनिक व आर्थिक स्वायत्तता की पुरजोर सिफारिश की है।