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R Shevgaonkar continues to head IIT Delhi: Smriti Irani

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<http://www.dnaindia.com/india/report-r-shevgaonkar-continues-to-head-iit-delhi-smriti-irani-2085946>

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"An IIT director just four days ago returns from Moscow with the President of India after having all expense paid trip to Moscow to do something on behalf of IITs as the IIT director. Does that look like a man who wants to resign?" Irani said.

Her remarks to Headlines Today in an interview assumes significance in light of the fact that Shevgaonkar has in a communication to the Ministry yesterday as once again requested to be relieved from his position. The Director had resigned last December amid reports that he was under pressure from the Ministry to release salary dues of Subramanian Swamy, former IIT-Delhi faculty who is now a BJP functionary. He has already served a three-month notice period and is understood to be keen on returning back to IIM Bombay as a teacher.

R Shevgaonkar continues to head IIT Delhi: Smriti Irani

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/services/education/r-shevgaonkar-continues-to-head-iit-delhi-smriti-irani/articleshow/47287997.cms>

NEW DELHI: Notwithstanding his resignation as IIT Delhi director last December, HRD Minister Smriti Irani today said R Shevgaonkar still continues as the head of the institute and had visited Russia recently as part of the President's delegation.

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Navodaya Times ND

15/05/2015 P-1



IIT दिल्ली के प्रमुख बने रहेंगे आर शेवगांवकर: स्मृति ईरानी

<http://abpnews.abplive.in/ind/2015/05/15/article587620.ece/Smriti-Irani>

नई दिल्ली: आर शेवगांवकर पिछले साल दिसंबर में भले ही आईआईटी दिल्ली के निदेशक के पद से इस्तीफा दे चुके हैं, मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री स्मृति ईरानी का कहना है कि वह अभी भी संस्थान के प्रमुख हैं और उन्होंने हाल ही में राष्ट्रपति के प्रतिनिधिमंडल के तौर पर रूस की यात्रा की थी.

ईरानी ने कहा, “आईआईटी निदेशक के तौर पर आईआईटी के एक निदेशक सिर्फ चार दिन पहले भारत के राष्ट्रपति के साथ रूस की यात्रा से वापस लौटे हैं. क्या इससे ऐसा लगता है कि एक व्यक्ति इस्तीफा देना चाहता है?”

हैडलाइंस टुडे के साथ एक भेंट के दौरान की गई उनकी यह टिप्पणी इसलिए महत्वपूर्ण है क्योंकि शेवगांवकर ने मंत्रालय को कल ही भेजे एक संदेश में उन्हें उनके पद से मुक्त करने का दोबारा अनुरोध किया था.

निदेशक ने गत दिसंबर में इस्तीफा दे दिया था. ऐसी खबरें थीं कि उनपर आईआईटी दिल्ली के पूर्व फैकल्टी सुब्रमणियम स्वामी का बकाया वेतन जारी करने का दबाव था. स्वामी अब भाजपा के पदाधिकारी हैं.

वह तीन महीने के नोटिस की अवधि पूरी कर चुके हैं और एक शिक्षक के तौर पर आईआईटी मुंबई वापस जाना चाहते हैं.

HT.COM ND 15.05.15 P-8

Statesman ND
15/05/2015 P-5

IIT-D director RK Shevgaonkar asks for reprieve again

Brajesh Kumar

IIT Delhi director RK Shevgaonkar has asked the central government to relieve him of his duties so he can join IIT Bombay as a teacher, while the HRD ministry has been sitting on a resignation letter he sent nearly five months ago, sources said.

Shevgaonkar stepped down in December—two years before the end of his term—amid reports that he was pressurised to quit, while the Opposition blamed the Smriti Irani-headed human resource development (HRD) ministry for interfering in the functioning of the technical institutes.

Before writing to the ministry this month, he asked the department earlier this year to treat his December letter as three months' notice.

The HRD ministry has been shifting its position on Shevgaonkar's resignation which, according to some media reports, came after a tiff with the department over payment of 70 lakh to BJP leader and former IIT-Delhi faculty Subramanian Swamy as salary arrears.

The IIT governing body has

SHEVGAONKAR HAD A TIFF WITH THE HRD MINISTRY OVER PAYING ₹70 LAKH TO FORMER IIT FACULTY MEMBER SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY IN SALARY ARREARS



■ Shevgaonkar offered his resignation in December. FILE

forwarded Shevgaonkar's letter to the HRD ministry and asked it to relieve him of his responsibilities, assign a temporary director and launch the process for a fresh appointment, which could take a few months.

Sources said the letter and the governing body's recommendations sent to higher education secretary S Mohanty will be handed over to Irani, who will make the final decision.

Denying the accusation that there was pressure on him to pay Swamy his dues, the ministry had at first hinted at irregularities on part of Shevgaonkar in setting up an offshore IIT campus in Mauritius, officials said.

After no charges were found against the IIT director, the ministry softened its stance and indicated the stalemate could be resolved by allowing Shevgaonkar to join IIT Bombay as a faculty member.

However, it kept sitting on the matter, forcing Shevgaonkar to write again, sources said.

IIT-D DIRECTOR YET TO BE RELIEVED

New Delhi, 14 May: IIT Delhi director RK Shevgaonkar has received no word from the Union HRD ministry on when he will be relieved even though he submitted his resignation in December last year. In a mail, Shevgaonkar has again asked the Union government to relieve him of his duties so that he can join IIT Bombay as a faculty member.

HRD minister Smriti Irani will take the final call on relieving him. Amid controversies against him, there were reports that he was being pressured to quit, while the Opposition blamed the HRD ministry for interfering in the functioning of the technical institutes.

The HRD ministry has changed its stance on his resignation several times. The resignation came after a controversy over payment of Rs 70 lakh to BJP leader and former IIT-Delhi faculty Subramanian Swamy as salary arrears.

SNS

No official word from Shevgaonkar yet: IIT-B

Shevgaonkar resigned as the director of IIT-Delhi on December 22, 2014.

<http://indianexpress.com/article/cities/mumbai/no-official-word-from-shevgaonkar-yet-iit-b/>

The Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay (IIT-B), has so far not received an official communication from IIT-Delhi Director Prof R K Shevgaonkar stating that he wants to come back, even as he is learnt to have once again asked the Union HRD Ministry to relieve him of his current duties.

“There has been no official communication from him to IIT-Bombay. As far as IIT-Bombay is concerned, he has not yet resigned. However, once his resignation is accepted, he can come back as a faculty member,” said an IIT-B official who did not wish to be named.

Shevgaonkar resigned as the director of IIT-Delhi on December 22, 2014.

Shevgaonkar, who was a faculty member at IIT-B, is at present “on lien”, says his profile on the institute’s website.

He has held several key positions at IIT-B, including the head of its electrical engineering department, dean of resource mobilisation and deputy director (finance and external affairs).

“According to standard procedures, a director has to serve a three-month notice period and he is relieved of his duties after that. Prof Shevgaonkar resigned in December 2014 and over three months have passed but he is still waiting to hear from the ministry. The uncertainty also needs to end for the institute,” said Dr Ashok Misra, former IIT-Bombay director who is now a member of the Board of Governors at IIT-Delhi.

Sources at IIT-Delhi said its Board of Governors had “desired” earlier this year that Shevgaonkar should continue in the interest and future of the institute since he had made “significant and noteworthy contributions” as a director but he did not yield to the request.

Indian origin scientist developed new tool for cancer diagnosis

<http://www.andhrawishesh.com/health/611-healthy-living/50047-indian-origin-scientist-developed-new-tool-for-cancer-diagnosis.html>

Rohit Bhargava, an IIT Delhi graduate in assistance with University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, has developed stainless staining that provides a new tool for clinicians and researchers for better diagnosis of cancer.

Till today, prepared biopsy samples are stained and examined under a light microscope but Bhargava used infrared spectroscopic imaging for microscopy. He has reported the development of label-free chemical imaging to provide the same information as molecular stains.

Instead of using stains, the new method measures the chemical constitution of cells and tissues directly. The outcome is that molecular stains can be reproduced without staining the tissue but by using the intrinsic molecular contrast of the tissue and computation. The study relies on computation instead of staining to provide biopsy images.

“Infrared and optical imaging seemed to be distinct modes for getting important data in pathology. This study

shows a close link between the two, allowing the user to choose the best method to address their needs,” Bhargava commented in a university statement.

“The development of this approach promises to have immediate and long-term impact in changing pathology to a multiplexed molecular science -- in both research and clinical practice,” the authors noted.

IIT-Delhi graduate in US venture capital fraud

YOSHITA SINGH

NEW YORK: An Indian-origin entrepreneur already facing insider trading charges, has been charged by federal regulator Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) with fraud at a venture capital firm where he was employed.

Ahmed, 43, a graduate of the Indian Institute of Technology in New Delhi and Harvard Business School, was last month charged with insider trading in relation to the 2013 proposed acquisition of American company Cooper Tire and Rubber by India's Apollo Tyres.

In a separate complaint unsealed yesterday in US District Court in Connecticut, the SEC alleges that Ahmed illegally profited by having funds managed by the firm Oak Investment Partners pay inflated prices for e-commerce investments. The complaint alleges that Ahmed transferred approximately \$27.5 million in illegal profits to accounts under his control at the expense of investors in the Oak funds, including public pension investors.

The Harvard Business School graduate had Oak funds pay \$20 million for a

\$2 million stake in an Asian e-commerce joint venture in December 2014, pocketing the \$18 million difference for himself. In another investment in August 2014, an Oak fund overpaid for shares in a China-based e-commerce company, allowing Ahmed to pocket \$2 million. The SEC's complaint charges Ahmed with violating federal anti-fraud laws and related SEC antifraud rules.

The SEC is seeking a preliminary injunction to continue the freeze of Ahmed's assets and seeks to have Ahmed return his allegedly ill-gotten gains with interest and pay civil monetary penalties. The emergency court order obtained by the SEC freezes up to \$55 million of Ahmed's assets, prohibits him from destroying evidence and orders expedited discovery.

In charges filed against him last month in the Cooper Tire case, the SEC alleged that Ahmed's friend Amit Kanodia had tipped him and another friend prior to the acquisition announcement after learning of the deal from his wife, then the general counsel at Apollo who was intimately involved in Apollo's efforts to acquire Cooper Tire. PII

Deccan Herald ND 15/05/2015 p-8

Tata, Forbes in race for IIT-Bombay chief post

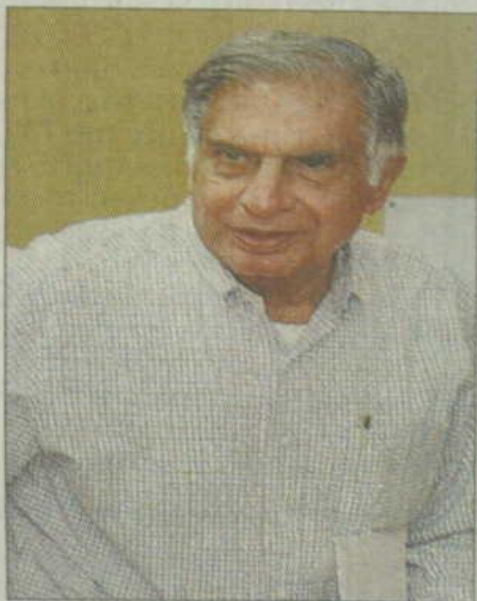
Prakash Kumar

NEW DELHI: Country's top industrialists Ratan Tata and Naushad Forbes are in the race for the post of the IIT-Bombay's chairperson after it fell vacant with the expiry of Anil Kakodkar's term on May 11.

The board of governors of the premier technical institute has recommended the names of the two along with others which are under consideration of the Human Resource Development (HRD) Ministry. "The ministry has begun procedure for selection," sources said.

As per procedures, HRD Minister Smriti Irani will select one of the candidates from the panel of names sent by the IIT-Bombay and recommend the same for approval of President Pranab Mukherjee. The chairperson of the IIT's board of governors is nominated by the President of India, who happens to be the visitor of the institute.

Tata, who retired from all executive responsibility in the



Tata group in 2012, is the Chairman Emeritus of Tata Sons and heads the Tata Trust. A recipient of many honours and awards, including Padma Vibhushan in 2008, Tata was recently in news for his latest investment in a Chinese smart-phone maker Xiaomi.

Forbes, Director of the Forbes Marshall and vice-president, Confederation of Indian Industry, is PhD in Industrial Engineering. He also holds BAS in Industrial Engineering and History from the Stanford University. He was a consulting professor in the Management Science and Engineering programme at Stanford University and is also associated with the IIT-Bombay as a member of the institute's advisory council.

Kakodkar, a nuclear scientist, had earlier resigned from the post of the IIT-Bombay chairman recently following his differences with Irani over selection of directors of IIT-Patna, Bhubaneswar and Ropar. He, however, agreed to complete his term after the HRD minister spoke to him and persuaded him to withdraw his resignation.

Kakodkar has agreed to participate in the process of selection of directors for two more Indian Institutes of technology (IITs), days after he quit a similar committee following differences with HRD Minister Smriti Irani over selection of directors of three other IITs.

He was recently made one of the members in the two search-cum-selection committees, set up for selection of directors of IIT Mandi and Indore

HRD ministry approves IIT for Nagpur

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/City/Nagpur/HRD-ministry-approves-IIT-for-Nagpur/articleshow/47289929.cms>

Nagpur: After a long wait, the human resources and development ministry (HRD) has finally approved an Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) for Nagpur. Chief minister Devendra Fadnavis tweeted on Wednesday afternoon that the state had received an approval letter from HRD ministry. This paves the way for starting the IIIT campus in city as early as the 2015-16 academic session.

Gulabrao Thakre, joint director of technical education (Nagpur), said, "We have to wait for HRD ministry to officially inform us about the first academic session, and we will move ahead accordingly." Thakre, who has played a key role in coordinating for IIIT, added that the permanent campus may take minimum two years to be ready. "A temporary arrangement will have to be made and we are looking at possibilities. I am waiting for instructions from the government," said Thakre.

IIIT Nagpur is being started on a public-private partnership (PPP) model and will come up on 39.96 hectare land behind Sutgirni, off Wardha Road, about 20km from city. Thakre said, "For the PPP model, the government has already chosen two private partners and soon a MoU will be signed. Tata Consultancy Services and Nagpur's ADCC Infocad will hold 7.5% stake each, state government will hold 35% and remaining 50% will be with the centre."

He added that the first batch of IIIT will have an intake capacity of 60 students. ADCC Infocad is part of the Meghe Group and its managing director Amit Somani says he looks forward to the task ahead. "We consider ourselves lucky to be part of such a prestigious institute. We were selected as one of the private partners because of our multidisciplinary expertise. We will provide students with an industry interface which will be beneficial to them when they move on to jobs."

Vilas Muttemwar, former Nagpur MP, was one of the first persons to propose an IIIT for Nagpur. Muttemwar said, "In 2005-06, I aggressively pursued the IIIT issue as I felt our city deserved a national level institute. Since I was an union minister then, I was following it up regularly with the authorities concerned. However, I am thankful to the present government for finally approving it and ultimately benefiting the city."

With IIIT, Nagpur can now boast of multiple national level institutes and further bolster its claim as an education hub. The prestigious Indian Institute of Management (IIM), National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER) and National Law School (NLS) will also be coming up in city soon. The IIM is in fact at a more advanced stage of implementation and will operate for the time being from the sprawling VNIT campus.

What happens next for IIIT?

HRD ministry has to intimate the state government about the starting academic year

First batch will have intake capacity of 60 students

If it is to be started from 2015-16 session, temporary campus will have to be selected

VNIT seems to be the best option for temporary campus, considering its existing infrastructure and expertise

Permanent campus will take about two years to be ready

NATIONAL LEVEL INSTITUTES IN CITY

- * National Fire Service College
- * National Civil Defence College
- * National Power Training Institute
- * Visvesvaraya National Institute of Technology
- * National Savings Institute

- * National Academy for Direct Taxes
- * National Institute of Intellectual Property Management

* National Academy of Defence Production

INSTITUTES COMING UP & STATUS

IIIT: Approved by HRD. Might start operations from this academic session

IIM : Approved by HRD and will operate from VNIT campus for time being

NIPER:: CM confirmed location as Nagpur. Land to be identified

NLS: In-principle approval by govt in 2013. No headway since then

Choice-based credit system: Standard of education will suffer, says teachers

The UGC plans to introduce CBCS in varsities across India starting this year.

In its notice, the commission had sought feedback from stakeholders within 15 days.

Written by [Shikha Sharma](#) | New Delhi | Published on: May 15, 2015 2:33 am

<http://indianexpress.com/article/cities/delhi/choice-based-credit-system-standard-of-education-will-suffer-says-teachers/>

Calling the manner in which the state was intervening in higher education ‘worrying and alarming’, a group of academicians from Delhi’s Central universities on Thursday expressed their opposition against the ‘thoughtlessness’ behind the choice-based credit system (CBCS), and the ‘opacity and reckless speed’ with which it is being pursued.

The opposition to the Centre’s attempt at academic reforms comes weeks after the University Grants Commission (UGC), in a public notice issued on April 10, said it is ready with the draft model syllabi for undergraduate courses.

The UGC plans to introduce CBCS in varsities across India starting this year. In its notice, the commission had sought feedback from stakeholders within 15 days. The new system proposes a common syllabus for all central universities, a common entrance test, faculty and credit transfers.

“Centralised control of standardised curriculum is suggestive of a lack of academic rigour. A common syllabus for 51 universities is not only a mammoth task, but also largely unnecessary. Good universities will have to lower standards in order to conform to a common standard of teaching the same syllabus,” Romila Thapar, renowned historian and Emerita professor at JNU, said.

Thapar also cautioned against the system of inter-university mobility being wrongly used to “take punitive action to get rid of students and teachers who do not toe the line”.

“In this entire system, there will be two casualties. First, the standard of education in good universities will suffer. The second and bigger casualty is that universities will no longer be autonomous. It is essential for universities to be autonomous to devise reasonable teaching ways. What one fears, then, is that universities will be reduced to teaching shops and coaching centres,” Thapar said.

While suggesting ways to bring in academic reforms, the group said the Human Resource Development Ministry is rushing through with this ‘ill-conceived’ system.

“We accept that much needs to be reformed in the country’s education system, especially in the higher education system. But what we want is a creative reform, not a top-down, poorly thought out process like this,” Satish Deshpande, Sociology Professor at Delhi University, said.

The group claimed that homogenisation of curricula across universities is not a means to enhance quality.

Farida Khan, Professor at Jamia Millia Islamia's School of Education, said, "The justifications offered are enhanced employability, skill development and seamless nationwide mobility for students. However, the reforms fail to differentiate between curricula and syllabi," | she said.

Instead of giving a green signal to the UGC's ambitious plan of implementing CBCS from the coming academic session, the group proposed an alternate way of achieving seamless national-wide mobility of students.

Delhi University Teachers' Association president Nandita Narain said they plan to start a student-teacher movement to block the implementation of CBCS.

HRD Ministry 'Recklessly' Pushing Reforms Agenda: Academicians

Noted academicians like Romila Thapar, Farida Khan and Janaki Nair today accused the HRD ministry of "recklessly" pushing the reforms agenda on central universities, claiming that it will have a serious impact on the institutes which would reduce them into "teaching shops".

Highlighting anomalies in some of the proposed reform measures like Choice Based Credit System (CBCS), common entrance test and syllabus and a central ranking system, they also claimed that the decisions were being imposed arbitrarily, undermining the autonomous status enjoyed by the central varsities.

"The spate of circulars sent by University Grants Commission (UGC) quoting a period of month for working on the 'major reforms' is certainly not a sensible approach to be adopted for higher education by any country. The way these reforms are being pushed entire higher education sector is at risk," Romila Thapar, eminent historian and Emerita professor Jawaharlal Nehru University, told reporters here.

The academicians came together to oppose the ministry initiated reforms and released a 'position paper' which they said was their response to the many policy statements and directives issued by the HRD Ministry and the UGC recently.

"The standardisation and centralisation of education system would be a major casualty which will reduce universities and colleges into teaching shops and coaching centres. How sensible it is to talk of major reforms in the education sector and exclude the professionals, the teachers from the dialogue?" Thapar said.

Professor at Jamia Millia Islamia University's School of Education, Farida Khan said, "Proposed reforms stress standardisation including a common syllabus for all central universities, a common entrance test, faculty and student mobility and credit transfers".

"The jurisdictions offered for these sweeping changes are enhanced employability, skill development and seamless nationwide mobility for students. The reforms fail to differentiate between curricula and syllabi.

"In India, student mobility is blocked not by varied syllabi but by scarcity of quality institutions, which is the key issue to be resolved. Instead of standardised syllabi and credit systems, we propose intensive collaborations among universities that can enable wider access to institutions via Inter University centres, short term exchange programmes for research students and related schemes," she added.

The academicians claimed that the position paper was the collective product of around six months of discussion among teachers of several central universities in Delhi.

It was an attempt to participate in the process of critical self evaluation of the university system as it was today.

Satish Deshpande, a Delhi University professor said, "We are dismayed at the direction, audacity, recklessness and the

current speed with which these reforms are being pushed. The manner in which the state is intervening in higher education is causing concern and even alarm in the academic community."

Both the unlamented UPA-II regime and the current NDA government have been remarkably similar in their authoritarian impatience to introduce wholesale changes without adequate or careful preparation, he added.

Janaki Nair, a JNU professor, said "we fail to understand the panic and anxiety which has prompted the MHRD to ponder over a need for central ranking system. Numbers alone do not adequately reflect the quality of processes of teaching and learning, or even research, and the pressure to generate numerical evidence can be counter productive.

"Not only the governments have been very eager to control universities but academics themselves have actively participated in their own subordination to politicians and bureaucrats. It is important, therefore, to reiterate the rationale for autonomy," she said, adding that the autonomy of the varsities must not be subverted to mean the autonomy of its administrators alone.

The academicians also raised concerns about the proposed move of "homogenisation" of syllabi and said critical issues of language remain unaddressed.

IIT-K experts working on 'digital active fault map'

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kanpur/IIT-K-experts-working-on-digital-active-fault-map/articleshow/47291155.cms>

KANPUR: The geologists at IIT-Kanpur are trying to develop a 'digital active fault map' which would provide detailed information about active faults in the Earth's crust which can trigger earthquakes. The tremors of April 25 and May 12 in Nepal have given impetus to this work.

The digital active fault map will tell a person or an expert who wishes to inquire if there was any occurrence of earthquake in the past or what are the chances of recurrence in future. Presently, there is no such digital map, said Javed N Maik, a geologist and an earthquake expert at Civil engineering department in IIT-Kanpur.

"We wish to start the work of preparing a map from Uttarakhand. We will first put the active faults of this state in the digital map. If the work starts now, it will take at least five years to conclude. This map will have all details of active faults beginning from North East in India to Kashmir in the North," said Malik.

Malik said active fault lines trigger earthquakes. He said that the 2,800-km-long Himalayan range has several active fault lines created over several years but there is no count of them. "It is where the digital active fault map will help," he said.

Talking about Nepal earthquakes, Malik said once the aftershock activity settles down, the energy underneath the Earth's crust in Gorkha and Kodari will start amassing again.

Team of experts to visit Karnataka to identify place for IIT

Indication to this effect was given by Union Minister for Human Resources Development Smriti Irani

http://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/team-of-experts-to-visit-karnataka-to-identify-place-for-iit-115051401416_1.html

A committee of experts is likely to visit Dharwad, Raichur and Mysuru soon to assess the facilities available for setting up an Indian Institute of Technology (IIT).

The indication to this effect was given by Union Minister for Human Resources Development Smriti Irani to a delegation of elected representatives from political parties in north Karnataka which met her in New Delhi on Wednesday.

Led by state BJP president and Dharwad MP Prahlad Joshi, the delegation comprising of Union Minister Ananthkumar, leader of the Opposition in the Assembly Jagadish Shettar, Dharwad district in-charge minister Dinesh Gundurao, legislators Veeranna Mattikatti, S V Sankanur, Prasad Abbayya, Nagaraj Chabbi, Arvind Bellad, Vinay Kulkarni, Basavaraj Bommai, C S Shivalli, N H Konaraddi, Somanna Bevinamarad, Laxman Savadi, Sanjay Patil, MPs Prabhakar Kore, Shivakumar Udasi, Suresh Angadi, P C Gaddgoudar, Ananthkumar Hegde and former minister C M Udasi among others met Irani and submitted a memorandum urging her to set up an IIT at Dharwad.

Responding to the plea, Smruti Irani said she would soon send a committee of experts to study the situation and asked the delegation to provide all the necessary information to the committee.

The delegation also met Union Minister for Urban Development Venkaiah Naidu and urged him to include Hubballi-Dharwad in the list of cities chosen to be developed as a 'smart city'. Responding to this, Naidu told the delegation that the guidelines for selection of cities for the Smart City project were ready and the same would be sent to the states in a couple of days.

He clarified that the selection of cities depends on the recommendations made by the respective state governments and asked the delegation to convince the state government on the need to include Hubballi-Dharwad in the list recommended to the Centre.

The delegation met Union Minister for Surface Transport Nitin Gadkari and explained to the need to convert the Hubballi-Dharwad bypass and Hubballi-Haveri National Highway into a six-lane stretch.

It also asked for upgrading the roads between Tadas and Kalghatagi, Dharwad, and Kalghatagi, Dharwad and Hebsur and Navalgund and Annigeri.

Hubballi-Dharwad West MLA Arvind Bellad told Business Standard on Thursday that the response of the ministers to the delegation was encouraging and positive. He said, the rumour that Hubballi-Dharwad had not figured in the list of cities selected for the Smart City project was baseless. "Minister Venkaiah Naidu has clarified that the list is yet to be prepared," Bellad said.

IIT Madras, Australia's Curtin University ink joint doctoral program pact

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/services/education/iit-madras-australias-curtin-university-ink-joint-doctoral-program-pact/articleshow/47285484.cms>

MUMBAI: Indian Institute of Technology Madras on Thursday signed an agreement with the Curtin University in Perth for a joint doctoral programme.

Brett Kirk, associate deputy vice chancellor research in presence of pro-vice chancellor of faculty of science and engineering and a number of senior faculty members of Curtin University, and Prof Bhaskar Ramamurthi, director, IIT Madras, signed the agreement on the IIT Madras campus.

"IIT Madras has embarked on a systematic program of research collaboration with leading Universities around the world. We envision a four-stage process, starting with faculty interactions, leading to research scholar exchanges and joint supervision of PhDs, culminating over time in joint doctorate programs," R. Nagarajan, professor and dean of international and alumni relations at IIT Madras, said, in a press release.

Several faculty members at both institutions, in different disciplines in particular chemical and petroleum engineering

and civil, have expressed interest in participating in the program, he added.

"Curtin University accepts with great enthusiasm the joint doctoral degree program development with IIT Madras," said Syed Islam, professor and dean international for the faculty of science and engineering.

Curtin University already has a MoU and a student exchange agreement with IIT Madras in ocean engineering. In 2015, Curtin University will be sending a group of engineering students for a semester funded by the New Colombo Plan.

"The JDP agreement is aligned with Curtin's vision for growth in international higher degree research students, joint publication with international authors, and mechanisms for strong interaction between IIT Madras and Curtin academic scholars and professors," he said.

Hindu ND 15.05.15 P-13

Academics oppose changes in higher education

Jayant Sriram

NEW DELHI: Senior academics from some of India's leading universities, including Jawaharlal Nehru University, Jamia Millia Islamia and Delhi University, came together on Thursday to strongly oppose the government's proposed reforms in higher education including standardisation of syllabi, arguing that these changes would turn colleges into coaching centres.

The government plans to reform higher education

through the Choice Based Credit System and the proposed Central Universities Act that will require the 51 central universities to follow a common admission procedure and common syllabus. The changes also envision transferable faculty and student mobility through credit transfers.

Academics for Creative Reform, an informal collective, presented a position paper on higher education at a press conference held here and was addressed by histo-

rian and JNU professor Romila Thapar, Delhi University Teachers Association head Nandita Narain and Jamia professor Farida Khan among others.

Dr. Thapar said we have become used to a situation in the country where various authorities held forth on professions like education without actually consulting the professionals involved. She strongly opposed the government's idea of standardising and centrally controlling the quality of

education, pointing out that this would be a mammoth and unnecessary task.

Shortage of teachers

"How will this high standard be maintained with the continuing shortage of teachers and what will it mean for the quality of education if universities are not allowed to come up with their own syllabi?" she asked.

She argued that standardised syllabi would lead to lack of academic rigour and originality.

Economic Times ND 15/05/2015 P-10

Top US B-Schools Roll Out the Red Carpet for Indian Students



Spoilt for Choice

Intake of Indian Students Rises from Last Year

Harvard Business School
47 vs 40

Wharton School (University of Pennsylvania)
35-36 vs 26-27

Kellogg School of Management
40+ vs 30

More US B-schools are Seeking to Offer Assistance

Duke's Fuqua School of Business: Merit-based scholarships to Indian students up by nearly 25%

Yale School of Management: Reported an increase in Indian applicants; enhanced scholarship support

Admission consultants: Overall 20% increase in Indian admissions at most top US B-schools



Note: Data gathered through B-school alumni, new admits, consultants and B-schools is for applicants from India till the second round of admissions. The admission process is currently in its third round, but overseas admissions are almost complete by the second round

More Indians make it to top business schools this year; increase in financial aid and scholarships too

Anumecha.Chaturvedi@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Ishvarya Raman had applied to Kellogg and Sloan School of Management two years ago, but got rejected by both. Not losing heart, the engineer from Bosch in Bangalore applied to seven business schools this time, including Ivy League institutions such as Tuck at Dartmouth, besides Kellogg, Sloan at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and Chicago's Booth School of Business. Raman has gained admission to five out of the seven B-schools she applied to. She's chosen Kellogg, declining \$40,000 and \$60,000 in scholarships offered by the Tepper School of Business at Carnegie Mellon and UCLA's Anderson School of Management, respectively.

Bain consultant Aman Mittal found himself taking hard decisions too when he had to choose among The University of Chicago's Booth School of Business, New York University's Stern School of Business, Kellogg and Cornell's Samuel Curtis Johnson Graduate School of Management. He is headed to Stern after being offered \$135,000 in scholarship.

"It was a tough choice, but I've finally opted for Stern as it would enhance my opportunities for a career in finance. Personally, my wife, who's a doctor, would be relocating to New York too, so it makes it easier for both of us," he said.

If data gathered by ET through closed alumni groups, new admits, and admission consultants is any indicator, 2015 could turn out to be a watershed for Indian MBA applicants to top US B-schools. Not only have the world's top business schools accepted more Indian applicants this year for their class of 2017, but they may have also received more financial aid and scholarships for such institutions than last year.

While the Indian intake at Harvard Business School would have gone up to around 47 from around 40 last year, according to some alumni groups, more Indian students have made it to schools such as Wharton and Kellogg as well. The academic session for most US business schools commences in July and the admission process is currently in its third round. Overseas admissions are almost over by the second round.

Officially, most US schools do not comment on appli-

cant information by geography, but data gathered through alumni networks reveals that while Kellogg admitted around 30 Indians last year in the first two rounds, this year's intake is hovering at 40+. Wharton too has noticed an uptick in new admissions from India — around 35-36 from 26-27 last year.

The numbers are for applicants from India and exclude Indian passport holders based overseas. While Wharton and Harvard did not respond to emails seeking validation of this data, Kate Smith, assistant dean of admissions and financial at Kellogg School of Management, stated that India is a focal point for the school. "We have seen many strong applicants from this region," she added.

This year, 80 applicants that are clients of Admissions Gateway, a consultant, have received more than 150-plus admissions, out of which around 80 are from

CLEAR EDGE

Applicants seen more aware about the demands of the admissions process, and have better access to information

a top 10 US B-school. "Overall, we saw a 20% increase in Indian admissions at most top B-schools. Our candidates received 107 offers to the top 15 schools, 80-plus to the top 10 and 20-plus to the top five," said Rajdeep Chinni, founder of the admissions consulting firm.

"The scholarships received by our applicants this year total ₹18.7 crore. This is more than the combined scholarship amount for the last two years, which was ₹11.75 crore," Chinni said. The scholarships are for study at Stanford, Wharton, Kellogg, Stern and the Darden School of Business.

"Applicants are more aware about the demands of the admissions process, have better access to information and approach applications in a smarter manner. When I attended Kellogg in 2006, there were only three admissions from India. This year, 10 of our candidates gained admission," he said.

The average merit-based scholarships given to Indian students have increased by nearly 25% this year over last year at Duke's Fuqua School of Business,

said Allison Jamison, director of recruitment and marketing for the full-time, two-year MBA programme at the school.

Yale School of Management (Yale SoM) has also witnessed an uptick in the overall scholarship amount. "Round three of the admissions cycle is still in progress and we don't release enrollment figures until the new class arrives... but overall, applications to Yale SoM have increased by about 25% year on year, and applications from India have increased too. All applicants are automatically considered for merit scholarships and the school has increased its scholarship support overall," said Bruce Del Monico, assistant dean and director of admissions.

Stanford Graduate School of Business alumna Arun Dubey from the class of 2012, who heads business development and marketing for Greywater, said Indian admissions at the school have gradually gone up from six-seven a few years ago to around 10-12. "There's a substantial difference in the quality of applications, which are more evolved and capture global elements, and the applicants are better prepared," said Dubey, who mentored some of the Indian applicants who made it to the school through the Stanford Reliance Dhirubhai Fellowship this year. Stanford is considered one of the toughest American business schools to get into and has less than half the batch size as Harvard Business School.

Harvard Business School alumna and founder of Reach Ivy Advisory Vibha Kagzi said 80% of her students got admission at more than one top US school this year.

"2015 saw our students being spoilt for choice," Kagzi said. "Many have been lured by top-ranked institutions with generous scholarships ranging from \$30,000 to \$60,000 from institutions such as Wharton, UCLA, and Tepper. Many have even received full funding from institutions such as Columbia, putting them in a serious dilemma as to which business school to choose," Kagzi said.

Alpita Maheshwari was amazed at the quality of candidate she was competing with. "The pool was quite competitive," said Maheshwari, who made it to Kellogg and Darden but eventually opted for London Business School, considering the work visa requirements for her husband.

25 जून से शुरू होगी 88 संस्थानों के लिए ज्वाइंट सीट एलोकेशन की प्रक्रिया

<http://www.bhaskar.com/news/EDUC-EDNE-joint-seat-allocation-for-88-institutes-from-june-25-4992677-NOR.html>

एजुकेशन डेस्क. जेईई के आधार पर देशभर के इंजीनियरिंग कॉलेजों में एडमिशन के लिए जॉइंट सीट एलोकेशन अथॉरिटी की पहली बैठक पिछले सप्ताह आईआईटी, बॉम्बे में हुई। इसमें जॉइंट एडमिशन बोर्ड, जेईई एडवांस्ड और सेंट्रल सीट एलोकेशन बोर्ड के प्रतिनिधि शामिल हुए।

बैठक में 2015-16 सेशन के लिए 88 संस्थानों के लिए जॉइंट सीट एलोकेशन की प्रक्रिया अपनाने पर सहमति बनी। इसके लिए कॉमन वेब पोर्टल बनाया जाएगा जिसकी शुरुआत 25 जून से होगी।

AICTE directs colleges to provide students, infra details

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/indore/AICTE-directs-colleges-to-provide-students-infra-details/articleshow/47282626.cms>

INDORE: With a move to compile data of technical and MBA colleges, All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has directed all institutions to provide their details regarding students, faculty members and facilities to All Indian Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) by May 20.

AICTE chairman Avinash S Pant has written a letter to principals/directors of technical and management colleges directing them to upload the required data on AISHE portal, set up by minister of human resource development (HRD), to get information related to institutions for planning and decision making at national level.

"As a part of the national venture, all AICTE approved institutions are required to upload their institution data through data capture format," read the letter of AICTE chairman. At present, survey for 2012-13 and 2013-14 is underway.

Following the AICTE move, DAVV's college development council director Prof Sumant Katiyal had written to colleges to provide details regarding number of students, faculty members, facilities and infrastructure.

He said university has already linked the affiliation of the institution to information on AISHE. "DAVV will grant affiliation to only those institutions, which are providing information on AISHE," he added.

[Higher Education](#)

Two charts that show how IITs need to desperately hire more teachers

There are over 2,500 teaching positions lying vacant, says a parliamentary panel.

<http://scroll.in/article/726978/when-better-education-doesnt-lead-to-a-better-job>

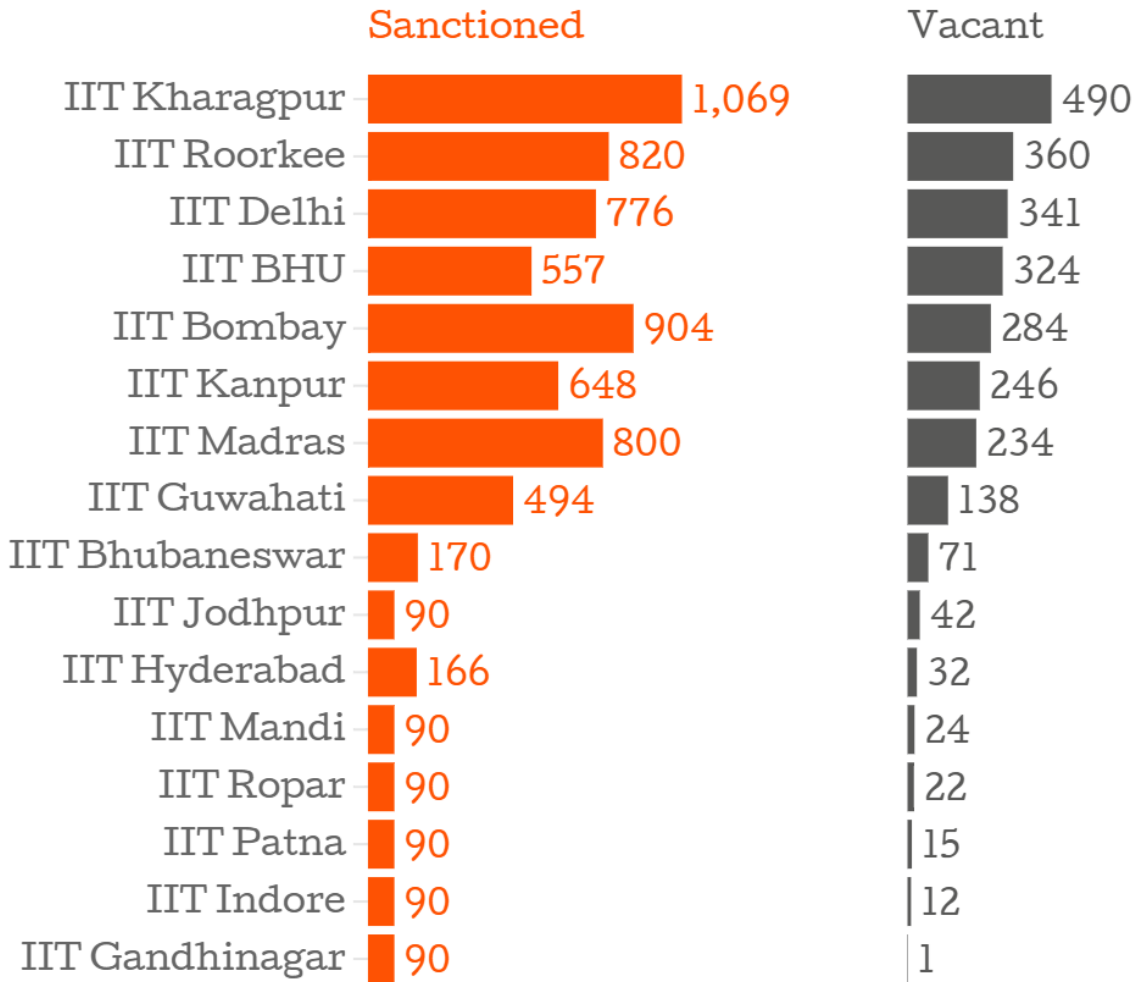
Comparisons with foreign universities rarely spell great news for Indian varsities, and so it was this year too. In the QS World Universities Rankings released last month, no Indian university made it into the top 100, although some individual departments did meet the mark when it came to subject-specific lists. Among these winners predictably were the Indian Institutes of Technology, receiving approval for subjects ranging from materials science to arts and design.

In popular imagination, the IITs have occupied a space of uncritical admiration. But as it turns out, they are struggling with the same problems, of infrastructure deficiencies and faculty shortage, [as other Indian universities](#).

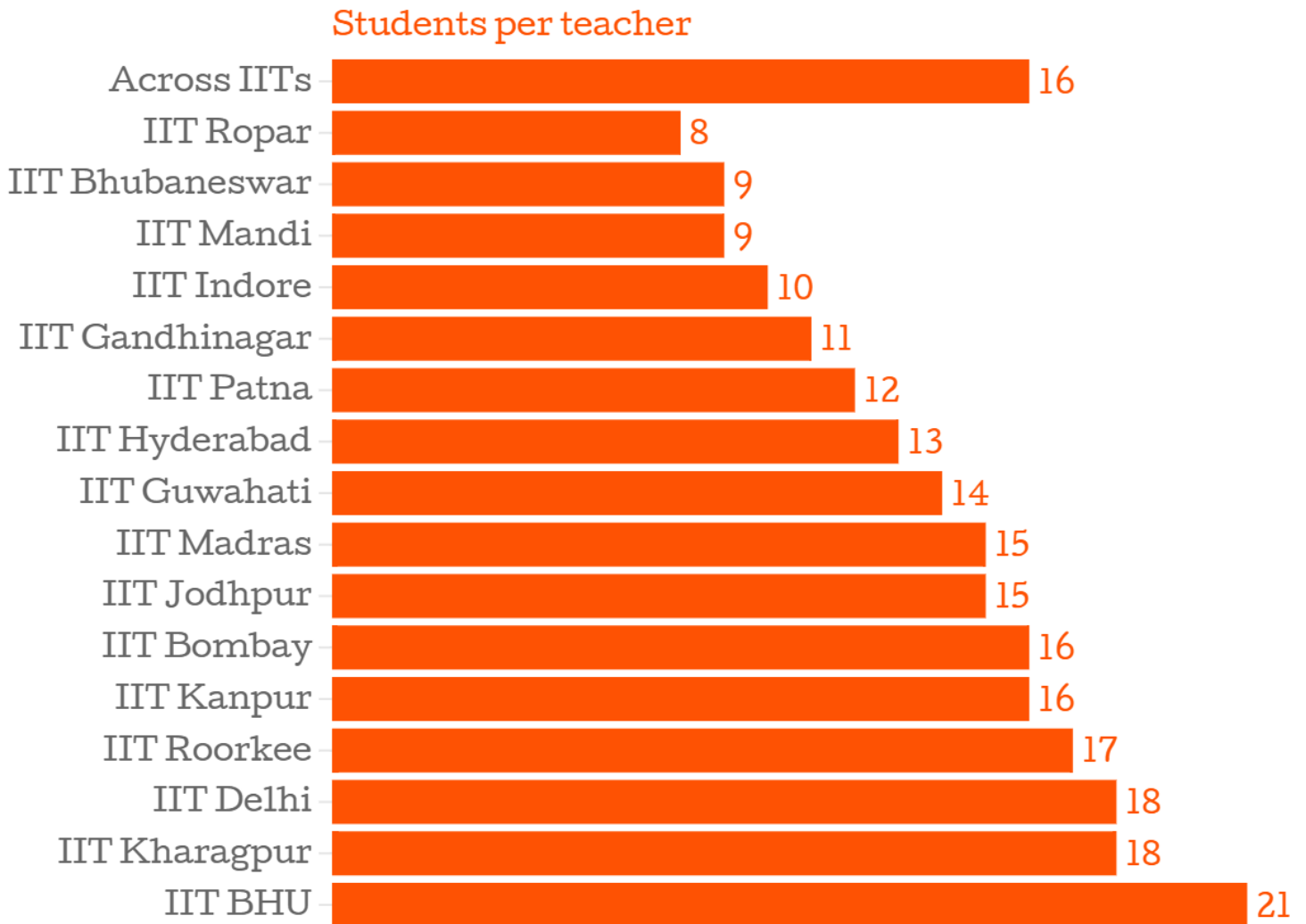
A parliamentary panel on human resource development recently underlined the persistent faculty shortage across IITs. Its report, tabled in Parliament last month, observed that more than 2,500 positions are lying vacant across the institutions. They have, at present, over 68,000 students but only 4,308 teachers, leaving the teacher-student ratio at a whopping 16:1.

It is worth noting that the recommended student-faculty ratio for the IITs, according to the Human Resource Development Ministry, is only 10 students per teacher.

Vacant faculty positions at the IITs



Student-faculty ratio at currently functioning IITs



Scroll.in

Data: Standing Committee report on human resource development

What's worrying is that the IITs have a [history](#) of not being able to hire enough teachers to match the increasing inflow of students. As per the latest numbers, even the respected IIT-Delhi, IIT-Roorkee and IIT-Bombay are falling behind on this count.

Many attribute these shortages to lack of incentives, inadequate salary and a lengthy recruitment process, and unless these are fixed, the deficit is only going to get worse.

The situation is grim, notes the parliamentary committee, despite initiatives such as "Operation Faculty Recharge", aimed at improving research opportunities for teachers and allowing them to pursue further education.

"Right from well-established Central Universities to those set up recently, State universities as well as private universities, premier institutions like IITs, NITs and IIMs, this problem has emerged as the biggest handicap for the development and growth of Higher Education vis-a-vis maintaining the quality of education," said the parliamentary committee's report. "Situation continues to be grim with no improvement foreseen in the near future.

[App Fridays] IIT-Delhi duo's Splash8 aims to be '9GAG for webcomics'

<http://yourstory.com/2015/05/app-fridays-splash8/>

With shorter attention spans and the world accessible at our fingertips through our smartphones, there is now a big need for products that make it easier for us to discover and access content or services faster and in a more hassle-free manner. We've seen taxi and [truck aggregators](#), an [aggregator for all taxi aggregators](#), [social data aggregators](#), restaurant aggregators etc. Splash8 aims to bring all webcomics under one roof:

What is it?

Splash8 is a mobile app only free webcomic reader. It serves as an aggregator and is a platform to discover and read different webcomics. They aim to create a social network around webcomics to allow users to discover and share interesting content and give content creators a platform to get discovered.

Some of the famous webcomics artists they have include [The Oatmeal](#), Cyanide and Happiness (Explosm), Channelate, Calvin and Hobbes, Abstruse Goose, Buttersafe, Zen Pencils, Toonhole, Nedroid, The Trenches Comic, Extra fabulous comics, xkcd reader, etc. They are in the process of adding more content creators on their platform.

Features

- Users can select their desired webcomics from the list available and follow them on their personal feed.
- Share their favourite comics through social channels or save them for later.
- Get notifications when new comics are uploaded and keep track of unread posts of each comic.
- Swipe through all the unread comics in one go.



Kush and Ankit Goyal

Team behind it

The founding team consists of brothers Ankit and Kush Goyal, who are graduates of IIT Delhi. Before starting StarApps, the parent company, Ankit completed his higher studies in management from Europe and worked at startups in New York and Paris. Kush is a full stack developer who loves well-designed products and hates to see bugs in his apps. Both of them are technology enthusiasts and love to try new and innovative products and apps.

Being avid fans of webcomics themselves, they found that there was no dedicated app or website where they could find all their favorite web comics at one place. So they took the task of developing such a product themselves. They tasted success two years ago when they launched Oodles, a platform to discover free ebooks.

Related read: [Download Oodles of ebooks from this app](#)

Since the launch two years, it is now among the most popular apps in the e-books category in multiple countries around the world including US, UK, Philippines and India. They have had over three million downloads so far. Now they are aiming for encore with Splash8, an aggregator for webcomics. **They confirmed that all the webcomics on their platform copyright free or they have taken explicit permission from the content creators to include them on their platform.**

Since they had been talking to independent authors and content writers for a long time, they realised there were many platforms for ebook authors to publish and promote their work like Amazon, Apple, Kobo, etc. But, there was another huge community of creators — the webcomic artists — who did not have a platform where they could publish their work and reach a larger audience. These content creators have to build and manage their own websites and promote them individually in order to reach out to their fans. This creates problems for webcomic readers as they have to follow dozens of websites and keep visiting them as different content creators have their own schedules for publishing new content.

Business model and future plans

The app is free to download and use and the founders are not focussing on monetizing their app at this stage. They informed us that they were recently accepted into Google's startup launch program and were extended the google cloud platform offer of \$100k. So they are planning to seed the product for a year or so and then monetize it. The startup is currently hiring Android, iOS and Python developers and is working on finishing their iOS app.

On being asked about the lack of Indian origin webcomics on their platform, Ankit replied that as most of the popular Indian webcomics distribute their content only through their Facebook pages or Twitter accounts and don't have a website it's not technically feasible for them to include them on Splash8 at this stage. But they are trying to get content creators such as [Garbage Bin](#), Adarsh Balak, and Zehreeli Chummi on their platform soon through a workaround or other means

What we liked?



The app has a slick user interface and the different features help readers keep a tab on unread comics. Push notifications also help users keep up to date on their reading without any hassles. The ability to favourite, share through different social media channels such as Twitter and Whatsapp add to the appeal of the app.

What could be improved?

I found a few minor bugs in the app such as thumbnails of web comics not appearing for certain content providers. For other content providers on swiping left and right, some comic strips appeared twice. Ankit confirmed that they were aware of the issues and were going to rectify them soon. Regarding the thumbnails, he said that some content providers have not given them complete access to their backend and content yet, till Splash8 reaches a certain userbase and hence the issue.

YS verdict

As an aggregator of web comics, Splash8 is doing a good job of making interesting content accessible on a single platform and taking the pain out of 'discoverability'. It will be interesting to see how they scale and reach out to more users and content creators and eventually gain revenue from their app.

Cycling push on new IITBBS campus

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/bhubaneswar/Cycling-push-on-new-IITBBS-campus/articleshow/47290746.cms>

BHUBANESWAR: The Indian Institute of Technology, Bhubaneswar (IITBBS), has decided to promote cycling and outdoor activities among its students through a sensitization drive. By the time the institute shifts to its permanent campus at Argul village on the outskirts of the city in another two to three months, students will be encouraged to buy bicycles and use them regularly, director Ratnam Varada Rajakumar told TOI on Thursday.

Rajakumar said students in general across various institutes nowadays were spending disproportionately long hours on the internet and were addicted to electronic gadgets. "My personal view is that they must use the internet but not by compromising on outdoor physical activities. We have decided to encourage an active physical lifestyle for our students for their holistic growth," he said.

The IITBBS chief said various blocks of the new campus were located around one km away from each other. Besides, the nearest township of Jatni from the campus was two km away. Cycling will be a convenient mode of transport within the campus and nearby habitations for the students. "Our faculty members will ask students to use this green and affordable mode of transport," he said.

After completion of their studies, students can sell their bicycles to the next batch so that the legacy is passed on. Sincere efforts will be made in this regard, he said.

To encourage sports, the IITBBS Board of Directors in its meeting on May 4 decided to build a students' activities centre on the new campus during the ongoing phase of constructions. It was originally planned for the second phase. "The activities centre with facilities for indoor and outdoor games and a gymnasium would come up by a year. The architectural design is being worked on," the director said.

As a stop-gap arrangement, the institute is also creating make-shift playgrounds for the students, which would come up within the next one month so that they have a sports facility from the day they move to the permanent campus, the director said. "Because our campus is currently functioning from eight disjointed locations, students' activities have taken a backseat. We would like to overcome the shortcomings at the earliest," he said.

The IIT is also planning to tweak its campus master plan to add a 'wellness centre'. "It would come up in the second phase of work. The centre will promote yoga as a lifestyle and an extra-academic activity among the students. We will work out the exact modalities soon," he said.

Students are excited with the idea. "I think it is a good idea to promote cycling and physical activities. Because of a space crunch, sports is not possible at our present locations," said a second-year mechanical engineering student.

APJ Kalam asks engineering youth to be part of knowledge society in India

<http://www.dayandnightnews.com/2015/05/apj-kalam-asks-engineering-youth-to-be-part-of-knowledge-society-in-india/>

Thursday, May 14, 2015, Hyderabad: Former President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam today said that India is a knowledge society and we should strive to be a member of this society.

Addressing the young engineering students and faculty of Mahindra Ecole Centrale (MEC), an Indo-Fresh Technology Institution here, Dr Kalam expressed his views on Development through Empowerment; Management style should be more of delegation.

MEC Faculty should have a six month of Interdisciplinary project focusing on Innovation, suggested Dr. Shri APJ Abdul Kalam.

Dr. Kalam can be introduced in three letters QID wherein Q stands for Quality, I stands for innovation and D stands for dedication.™™ Said Prof. Sanjay G Dhande, Director, Mahindra École Centrale on the occasion.

Earlier, the former President also interacted with student and faculty.

MEC's Annual magazine was launched by Dr Kalam on the occasion.

Highlighting on the topic Careers in Engineering today, MEC founder director and Former IIT Kanpur Director, Prof Sanjay G Dhande said India produces millions of engineering graduates every year but still, we see a large number of them unemployed due to lack of holistic approach in the education provided to these graduates.

Engineering education is the single most powerful intervention that the industry requires right now to bridge the gap between demand and supply. The country needs institutes which work on the industry-Academia relationship model, he said.

MEC was established to provide a solution for bridging this gap, he claimed and adding that the MEC will provide synthesis oriented education to students in order to produce a multidimensional engineer – leader, innovator and entrepreneur.

MEC is also introducing new modules into the curriculum — Project Management, IPR, Media, Philosophy and Social Sciences, Cinema and Philosophy to bring in multiple perspectives into education and understanding of industry and society, he added. – UNI

Times Of India ND 15/05/2015 P-25

Doctors can now inject drugs directly into brain

Andrew Griffin

Doctors can now inject drugs straight into people's brains, after making a major discovery in breaking through the barrier that keeps the nervous and circulatory systems apart. The blood-brain barrier (BBB) keeps us safe by ensuring that chemicals and microbes can't get through to

our clean brain and cause it problems. But it filters out good and intentional molecules too, and has proven a stumbling block for doctors' aim to get drugs straight to where they are needed. But new study claims to have found a way, developing special molecules that can trick the BBB by exploiting the mechanism that let nutrients into the brain. THE INDEPENDENT