

# Newspaper Clips

## May 26, 2012

TRIBUNE ND 26/05/2012 P-2

COMMON ENGG ENTRANCE TEST

# Sibal red-flags IIT faculty objections

**ADITI TANDON/TNS**

**NEW DELHI, MAY 25**

The persisting deadlock between IIT professors and the Government over the scheduled date and structure of the proposed common engineering entrance exam for Centrally funded technical institutes continued today with HRD Minister Kapil Sibal telling the IIT faculty that the test would be conducted in 2013 as planned.

Five out of seven IITs (except Madras and Guwahati) had earlier written to HRD Ministry saying the present system of admitting students to IITs through the Joint Entrance Exam be continued in 2013 and the new test started as a national screening test from 2014.

Members of All India IIT Faculty Federation, who met the minister today to resolve



**Kapil Sibal**

**"NON NEGOTIABLE"**

Members of All India IIT Faculty Federation, who met Kapil Sibal, said the minister wants the test in 2013 and says the issue is "non negotiable".

differences, said the minister wants the test in 2013 and says the issue is "non negotiable". The minister is also learnt to have told the faculty members that the IIT Council can overrule their objections on May 28, when a final call on the proposed test will be taken.

"The minister said he had considered the views of IIT Senates but added that the IIT Council could overrule those. A majority IITs want the test advanced to 2014. A majority also want to use the proposed test to screen 50,000 students and subject these students to an advanced

subjective test for final admissions to IITs. The Senates wanted IITs to have complete freedom to decide the structure and date of the advanced test. But the Minister wants all tests the same day. In that case, we don't know how much involvement IITs would have in the advanced test," faculty federation sources told TNS. They said the Minister was agreeable on the advanced test for final admission to IITs.

The ministry cited logistics as a problem in conducting the two tests on separate dates. Close to 11 lakh students are expected to take the

national common test which CBSE has to conduct.

"We don't know whether we will have the autonomy to conduct the advanced test or whether the CBSE will conduct it," IIT faculty members said after meeting Sibal today.

They expressed anguish over the minister's remarks that the IIT Senates may decide something but the IIT Council (the supreme decision making body for IITs, which HRD minister heads) can overrule that. The faculty federation will send to Sibal their formal reaction to today's meeting which they termed as inconclusive.

Except Guwahati, other IIT Senates (Bombay, Madras, Roorkee, Kanpur, Kharagpur and Delhi) want the proposed test to be used for screening students for IIT admissions not for admitting them.

**Asian Age ND 26/05/2012**

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# Sibal holds meet with IIT faculty

**AGE CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI, MAY 25

Union human resources development minister Kapil Sibal on Friday met the All-India IIT Faculty Federation to resolve differences arising out of the government's move to hold a single-entrance test for undergraduate technical courses.

Friday's meeting comes days ahead of the joint meet of council of IITs and NITs scheduled for Monday to take a final call on the issue. It is understood that a majority of IIT senates and the faculty federation are opposing admission to the undergraduate engineering programmes under the new format which proposes to replace IIT-JEE and AIEEE. The meeting was also attended by some IIT directors.

Sources stated that a majority of IITs have opted to retain the existing format of JEE for 2013. The IIT council had met here on May 12 during which it is believed to have insisted that the proposed single-

entrance test may be used as the screening test for admissions to the undergraduate programme.

Under the proposed new format, which the ministry proposes to implement from 2013 onwards, a ranking list will be prepared based on Class 12 results with 40 per cent weightage to be given after normalisation of marks, 30 per cent to the main test and 30 per cent to the advanced test.

The HRD ministry has made a case for the test but it has failed repeatedly to evolve a consensus as the faculty federation has continuously opposed the consideration of Class 12 marks for admission.

The federation has also noted that the proposed test was being thrust upon them without allowing enough time for discussions and critically reviewing and acceptance in the IIT senate.

Though Mr Sibal has held several meetings with IIT directors and IIT faculty members over the past few weeks, these have largely remained inconclusive.

Millennium Post ND  
26/05/12 p-5

## Preparatory list of disabled IIT-JEE candidates online

**OUR CORRESPONDENT**

**NEW DELHI:** The results of disabled candidates who appeared for IIT-JEE and were placed under a preparatory list was made available in JEE website on Friday.

Preparatory list includes those candidates who did not score enough in the JEE to make it to the reserved seats and are given further relaxation on the grades so that they could be put through training and then admitted to IITs to fill the quota.

The list consists names of 124 candidates and they have been asked to register online before June 2 for medical examination to be conducted at various IITs, an IIT statement said.

For these candidates, online counselling for registering choice of course will be held from 20 June to 2 July, it said.

This year, no SC and ST preparatory list has been prepared as the number of successful SC and ST candidates is more than the available in respective categories.

Hindu ND 26/05/2012

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## IIT warning to reserved candidates

Staff Reporter

**NEW DELHI:** Indian Institute of Technology-Delhi, convener of the IIT-JEE this year, has warned of immediate cancellation of seats awarded to candidates if they have falsely represented themselves to be from any of the reserved categories. The candidate will also be debarred from appearing in the exam in future.

IIT has further said that allotment of seats under any of the reserved categories are provisional to be confirmed only after receiving the verification reports from the concerned District Magistrates or issuing authorities.

The preparatory course results of the "IIT-JEE" for persons with disability is now available at all JEE websites. The medical exam will take place on June 2, before which all the candidates should have registered. Online counselling will take place from June 20 to July 2.

Indian Express ND 26-May-12 p14

## *Happy news*

Celebrate the record number of Muslim students at IIT, but remember that change must run deeper

**T**HIS year, the IIT-JEE ushered in a remarkable change. For the first time in the test's history, nearly 400 Muslim students have made it to the IITs. Most of them have fought disproportionate odds, and the 4.5 per cent minority subquota within the OBC quota has also contributed. Given the Ranganath Mishra Commission's recommendations, and what the Sachar Committee revealed about the deprivation levels among Muslims and their lack of opportunity, this heave up through affirmative action was clearly a good idea. These young men and women deserve to be celebrated.

After all, education is the one great leveller, and the only route through which the inequality of past decades can be undone. The relative communal peace of recent years and the options opened up by the market economy have meant that Muslims refuse to have someone else pre-determine their needs, or slot them as being solely driven by religious identity. Once, the familiarity of traditional livelihoods or

the experience of exclusion from the job market may have led many to place a lower value on education. Now, everyone wants the same ladders of opportunity. Parties with a Muslim base, as well as community foundations, recognise this need, and have invested in educational institutions.

However, the transformation needs to run much deeper, and start lower down. Primary school enrollment and attendance must be strengthened and scholarships extended. Policy should focus on the structures of disadvantage, like class and regional location, or gender. For instance, many Muslim women may be badly off not simply because of religious conservatism but because they are poor, female, and Muslim. The UP government's recent establishment of scholarships for Muslim girls is a way of clearing up a system so intimidatingly stacked against them. Any political intervention or policy move that advances educational inclusion must be applauded. Only then can the happy story at the IITs be deepened.

TRIBUNE ND 26/05/2012 P-8

# Become job generators, Kalam tells IITians

## Roots for a national water grid through river linking

**BIJAY SANKAR BORA**  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**GUWAHATI, MAY 25**

Former President of India APJ Abdul Kalam today advocated a national river-linking project around the Brahmaputra that meanders through the Assam valley.

While addressing the 14th convocation of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Guwahati, Dr Kalam said, "Every time I see this mighty Brahmaputra river flowing silently here, I dream of a

smart national water grid revolved around this river. Such a national water grid will do wonders for the country".

Dr Kalam made an appeal to the graduates and post-graduates passing out of the IIT-G to aspire to become entrepreneurs (employment generators) instead of becoming employment-seekers.

He said, "In the present context, the education system should highlight the importance of entrepreneurship and prepare students to get oriented towards the setting up

of enterprises which will provide them creativity, freedom and ability to generate wealth. The IIT curriculum should emphasise the importance of entrepreneurship so that some of the students after graduation can create their own industries which will provide large-scale employment to skilled and semi-skilled technicians".

He commented that the banking system in the country should provide venture capital to the graduates who had the aptitude and keenness to

create their own enterprises.

"The IIT curriculum should provide market research support for the selection of right products and hold the hand of the entrepreneur during the incubation period till they can stand on their own legs," Dr Kalam said.

Suggesting an integrated action for a "developed" India, Dr Kalam said the country had a core competence for integrated action in the following five areas: agriculture and food processing; reliable and quality electric power, surface transport and infrastructure for all parts of the country; education and health care.

# For IIT, B-school graduates, job outlook remains bright

Appeal of the MBA degree gets dented as job opportunities dry up in developed markets

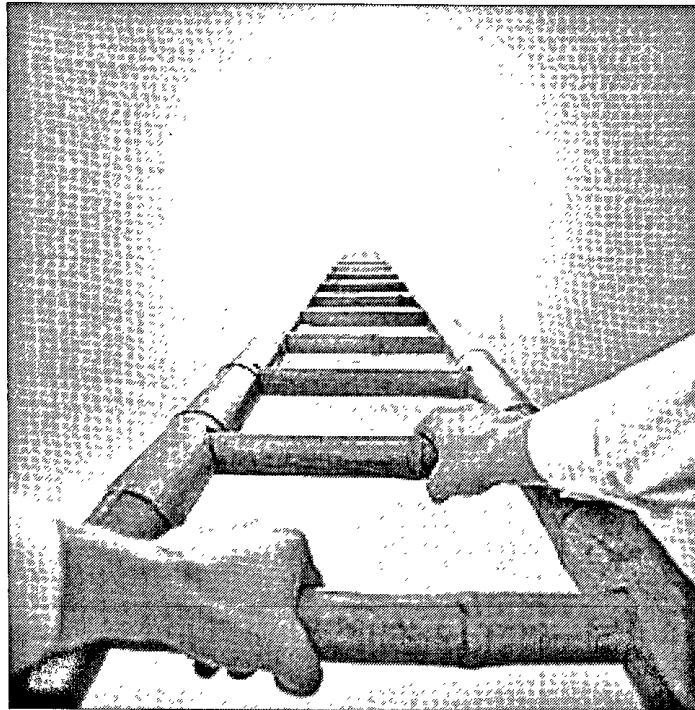
**SRIRAM SHANKAR**  
New Delhi

EACH year, come summer, the media covers, breathlessly, the astronomical figures international banks and companies shell out for attracting top talent to their companies. Often headed by alumni of these same institutions, companies offer generous pay packages even in the worst of times. The economic prospects may or may not look gloomy, but for the graduates of these premier institutes, the outlook remains sunny.

B Nagarajan, deputy registrar, training, placement and public relations at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras, said, "The slowdown has not affected the hiring process in premier institutes. We continue to see demand for our students from traditional hirers as well as new companies. In fact, we have seen an increase in the number of companies that have visited us and also in the number of students who got placed".

Slowdown notwithstanding, a number of domestic and foreign companies, have plans to set up shop in India. With e-commerce sites enjoying a lot of traction in the market, the demand for graduates from premier institutes remains "healthy", Nagarajan added. The 400 companies that arrived on IIT-Madras' campus in 2012 represented an increase of 81 per cent, up from 220 companies that had signed on for placements from last year. These companies together vied for about 1,220 students that had registered for placements. With more than 70.5 per cent of the students placed already, the signs of any slowdown, at least from the IIT-M campus, are missing.

The mix of recruiters, Nagarajan says, is a healthy one containing multinationals, India-based companies like



**CHANGING TRENDS:** With incubation, mentorship and increasing access to funding, entrepreneurship is increasingly becoming attractive as a career option

Hyundai Motors and government organisations like Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) and the Indian Navy. According to Nagarajan, core engineering aside, finance, banking, fast moving consumer goods (FMCG), analytics and consulting have also been major recruiters. "The average salary has increased to Rs 8.9 lakh this year against Rs 7.3 lakh last year", he divulged.

With jobs in most developed nations drying up due to the recession, the appeal of the MBA degree has taken a hit. While recruitment numbers from the Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Ahmedabad, have remained consistent, with most students being hired, the average

domestic salary offered by a recruiter in 2008-09 declined to Rs 20,16,000, down 32 per cent from the average salary offered in the boom year of 2007-08.

The effects of the global recession, if any, were short-lived. Salary levels rose back to their 2008-09 levels with students offered an average of Rs 26,10,000 in 2009-10. Out of the numbers, perhaps the most encouraging sign is the increase in the number of students taking up entrepreneurship as a career option. From four in 2008-09 to eight in 2009-10, seven students of IIM-Ahmedabad opted to start their own ventures in 2010-11. With incubation, mentorship and increasing access to funding,

entrepreneurship is increasingly becoming attractive as a career option.

At the Loyola Institute of Business Administration (LIBA) in Chennai, close to 100 per cent students have been placed, according to Professor Susan Thomas, chairperson of the placement cell, LIBA. The college has been attracting an increasing number of players, with a total of 33 companies visiting the campus for placements.

With average salaries rising to Rs 8.33 lakh, up 12 per cent, Thomas said, "We have not witnessed any impact on placements." Admitting that campus placements did see a slowdown in 2009 and 2010,

“  
We continue to see demand for our students from traditional hirers as well as new companies. In fact, we have seen an increase in the number of companies that have visited us

”

**B Nagarajan**  
Deputy registrar, training,  
placement and public relations,  
IIT Madras

2011 has seen an "uplift", with the quantity and quality of jobs being offered increasing.

"To a certain extent," said Shalini Sharma, head of higher education at the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), when asked if students at premier institutes are affected by economic slowdowns. "Quality of output is what matters to companies. Firms benchmark institutes on the basis of the consistency in the number of graduates who are selected," she added. For students of premier institutes at least, there are no gloomy days yet.

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■ These companies together vied for about 1,220 students that had registered for placements

■ With more than 70.5 per cent of the students placed already, the signs of any slowdown are missing

Hindustan Times ND 26-May-12 p10

# ₹100-cr grant for institute blacklisted by HRD 2 yrs back

**DISCORD** MP writes to Speaker, says facts were not placed in LS when bill was passed; youth affairs ministry denies charge

**Nagendar Sharma & Chetan Chauhan**

■ letters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** Around two years after the human resource development (HRD) ministry blacklisted a central government-run institute in Tamil Nadu, the youth affairs ministry has got the Lok Sabha's nod to provide it the status of national importance and a grant of ₹100 crore to set-up its corpus fund.

The development has led to protests with a Lok Sabha MP writing to Speaker Meira Kumar that all relevant facts were not placed before the House when it discussed and passed the bill on Monday, a charge that the youth affairs ministry refuted.

In January 2010, the HRD ministry had submitted a list of 44 derecognised deemed universities. The list included Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (RGNIYD) in Sriperumbudur, named after the former prime minister and fully funded by the central government through the youth affairs ministry.

## BONE OF CONTENTION

**2008:** Rajiv Gandhi National Institute for Youth Development gets status of a deemed university

**2009:** HRD ministry includes it in a list of 44 blacklisted deemed universities. Youth affairs ministry objects to it

**2012:** LS passes a bill to give it status of national importance and a grant of ₹100 cr

**How could an institute which was blacklisted be given the status of national importance and join the league of premier institutions such as IIT, AIIMS, NIT?**

-A Sampath, CPI(M)

A Sampath, a CPI(M) MP from Kerala, has raised objections, citing the HRD ministry's decision to blacklist an institute run by another wing of the government. "How could an institution which was blacklisted and derecognised since it did not qualify for elevation by any standard, be given a status of national importance and join the

league of premier institutions such as IIT, AIIMS, NIT etc," he has written to the Speaker.

A youth affairs ministry official, however, said the issue was explained to the satisfaction of the Parliamentary Standing Committee, where another CPI (M) member, PK Biju had raised the matter of blacklisting.

The HRD ministry had blacklisted RGNIYD following the report of a committee that said the "institute was not up to the expected level of excellence".

The youth affairs ministry, which manages the institute, had protested saying that the University Grants Commission in 2008 gave it three years to prove its academic excellence.

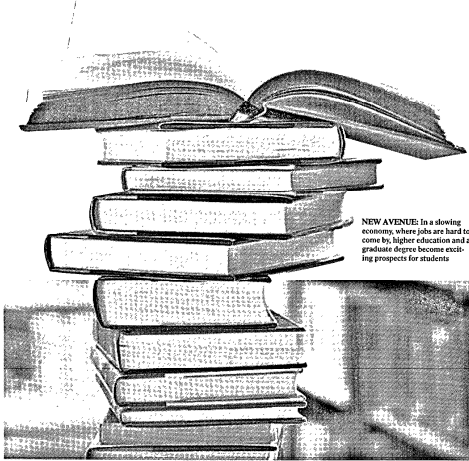
Another HRD ministry committee in 2011 upgraded the institute's category after finding that 28 research papers were published and a batch of masters was enrolled.

The institute, however, cannot be removed from the blacklist, as the matter is pending before the Supreme Court.

The court has not quashed the deemed university status of the 44 institutes.

# Slowdown makes queue longer for foreign degree

After a drop in registrations for GATE during the economy boom in 2006-08, present gloomy outlook ensures flood of applications for the engineering test



**NEW AVENUE:** In a slowing economy, where jobs are hard to come by, higher education and a graduate degree become exciting prospects for students.

■ In 2008-09, Lehmann went bust, with the US recession reaping large parts of the global economy  
 ■ 2009-10 was equally bad, if not worse, with most still picking up the pieces of a battered economy  
 ■ 2010-11 was better, it was only because the Euro crisis had not made itself evident until 2011-12

**SIRRAK SHANKAR**  
 New Delhi

COME July, tens of thousands of final year students in colleges across India from a wide variety of disciplines start getting butterflies in their stomach. Not only because of the impending final year results, but because of the eagerly anticipated quest for a cov-

eted graduate degree. For many who head to foreign shores, this would be their first sojourn abroad, for most, their first stay away from home.  
 In recent times, a slowing economy, both at home and abroad, has resulted in a greater demand for higher studies. An increasing number of students are taking to getting a graduate

degree, be it in management or education. One of the most promising trends to have come out is the increasing number of students who prefer to pursue their studies in India, given better economic growth and prospects in India.  
 Getting a graduate degree has a number of benefits, slowdown or not. In a fast-moving economy that

is increasingly driven by knowledge, a deep understanding of the ways to analyse, process and apply information becomes necessary.  
 A simple question posed on Facebook asking what people do for a living gets answers that leave one puzzled at the sheer diversity of jobs and roles that are out there today. Compared

with as little as a decade ago, "social media consultants", "principal analyst, telecom" were jobs that did not even exist! Recession and the ensuing Schumpeterian "creative destruction" may cause harm, but in the longer term, an economy rebuilds itself, creating new jobs in industries that were unthought of only a few years ago.

In this knowledge economy, thus, skills that may be "in" today may be "out" tomorrow, taking one's job with it. To be able to survive, and indeed thrive in an economy with such fast rates of churn, tooling and re-tooling, for students and professionals alike, becomes extremely important. In a slowing economy, where jobs are increasingly hard to find, higher education and a graduate degree become exciting prospects for students who may want to wait it out, or pursue ambitions they may have sidelined earlier. Studies also point to the fact that students who graduate in the midst of a recession, struggle more for jobs and earnings. (By some accounts, close to a million dollars less) than students who graduated when the economy was booming.

Over the past decade, India's economy has become intertwined with the global economy. Shocks, aftershocks and ripples felt anywhere around the world also leave their imprint here. 2007-08 was a blockbuster year, with employers across sectors hiring in large numbers and sounding a positive and upbeat note. 2008-09, on the other hand, was the year when Lehmann went bust, with the recession in the United States ravaging large parts of the global economy. 2009-10 was equally bad, if not worse, with most still picking up the pieces of a battered economy. While 2010-11 was still better, it was only because the Euro crisis had not made itself evident until 2011-12, from when we have started on a recessionary path.

For a number of students in India, the graduate aptitude test in engineering (GATE) and the Common Admission Test (CAT) exams are, perhaps, the most popular, and hardest, way of getting a graduate degree in India.

Continued in P9

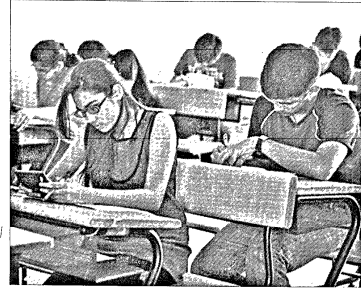
# US degrees now available at home

Continued from P8

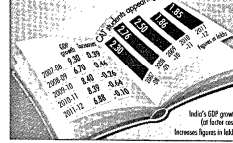
The number of students who registered for GATE exams, conducted by the Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT) has risen manifold, from 1.7 lakh in 2007-08 to almost 6.12 lakh in 2011-12. Shalini S Sharma, head, higher education at the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), feels "This is a very good trend. The numbers show that research is more attractive to students. India needs more students to conduct higher research."

Between 2006-07 and 2007-08, an economy roaring at 9.9 per cent actually saw a decline in the number of students appearing for the GATE exam, registering a decline of about 16,430 students. In 2008-09, the economy registered only a modest growth of about 6.7 per cent, registering an increase of 27 per cent in the students appearing for the GATE exam. Since then, though the economy has recovered better than that of other countries, the gloomy economic outlook has ensured a flood of applicants appearing for this exam, with an additional 2 lakh students appearing in 2010-11 over the previous year, an increase of almost 98 per cent.

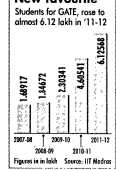
To most Indians, an MBA is a sure-shot ticket to riches untold. The popularity of this exam is matched only by the breathless coverage extended by the media when it is conducted and when placements are on at the different Indian Institutes of Management (IIM). From a record high of 2.76 lakh students appearing for the exam in 2007-08, with the economy growing at 9.3 per cent, the CAT exam has, surprisingly, seen fewer number of takers, with the number of candidates appearing for the test dropping by 26,000 and 64,000 in 2009-10 and 2010-11, respectively. The drop can be attributed to massive layoffs in multinational banks and finan-



**Losing ground**  
 CAT has seen lesser number of takers, with the numbers dropping by 64,000 in 2010-11



**New favourite**  
 Students for GATE, rose to almost 6.12 lakh in 11-12



cial powerhouses, who have traditionally recruited MBA graduates en masse. "After the recession, such high profile jobs have become scarce. The appeal for an MBA degree has declined globally," Sharma said.

A change in the format of the test, from paper-based to computer-based, with the ensuing glitches involved in the transformation, has meant that a large number of candidates have stayed away from the test. "Though things were sorted out after the initial fiasco in running the test, the IIMs have also stopped subsidising the degrees," Sharma said. That and a declining appeal for MBA

degrees means students may now be seeing lower financial return.

The increasing number of students opting for the GATE exam compared with the CAT is, according to Sharma, a heartening trend. "May be, the earlier graduates getting into management is being reversed. This will introduce a healthier mix of students in MBA programmes," she added.

Given the intense competition that surrounds the CAT and GATE exams, a number of students, aided by bank loans, make a beeline for the embassies of the US, the UK and Australia in the sweltering heat of July each year to

make their case for studying abroad. Better opportunities and greater freedom in pursuing opportunities are what propel students to these countries.

The United States has been, for a number of years, the most popular destination for Indian students headed abroad. With an estimated 103,495 students, India is the largest contributor to US campuses after China, making up more than 16 per cent of the foreign student population. The overwhelming majority of the students, a whopping 65.1 per cent as of 2009-10, are earning graduate degrees in the thousands of programmes across universities in the

**104,897**

Indian students applied for F1 visa in the United States on intent to pursue higher education

**26,890**

Total number of F1 visas granted to students, in 2008-09 a total of 26,149 visas were granted for the Indian students

**55,886**

Number of H1B visas issued to students, a decline of 33 per cent from the boom year of 2007-08

were granted in 2008-09, a number that further declined to 55,886 in 2009-10, a decline of 53 per cent from the boom year of 2007-08.

The recession has hit the UK the hardest. Long a preferred destination for students and immigrants, the country stopped giving work permits to students from this April. With little returns on their education, the UK has become a preferred destination for Indian students being granted a student visa decline precipitously from about 58,000 in 2009 to about 41,000 in 2010. "British universities are visiting India to explore interesting opportunities with companies, as a way of getting more international students to visit," Sharma said.

Australia, the third most popular destination after the US and the UK, has been preferred by students interested in vocational qualifications. Immigration policies that favoured students settling down in the country meant an increase of 37 per cent in the number of students granted visas, from 47,711 in 2007-08 to 65,516 in 2008-09. Tightening of visa rules and a series of attacks, often deadly on Indian students, has meant a decline in the visas granted to 28,854 in 2010-11, a 55 per cent drop from its peak.

Given the demographic profile of the country, which suggests that India may well be the youngest nation on the planet, the country will add 110 million people by 2025. It is clear that there will not be enough jobs to go around by then. The need to constructively occupy all of the youth and prevent social unrest is of paramount importance. Entrepreneurship perhaps the best option that can harness the creative energies of all people in a manner most constructive. The government and other stakeholders must realise this and actively encourage entrepreneurship, as a means to nurture and retain talent in this country.

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