

## Newspaper Clips

### May 31-June 1, 2015

May 31

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# 16 groups join agitation against IIT-Madras ban on student forum

## 'Institute Must Withdraw Ban Immediately'

**Chennai:** As many as 16 student groups came together on Saturday to condemn the ban on the student group Ambedkar-Periyar Study Circle by IIT-Madras. Following a press conference in the morning, at which they demanded immediate withdrawal of the ban, some of the activists proceeded to protest in front of the IIT-M campus at Adyar.

"IIT-M must withdraw the ban immediately. The Indian Constitution provides certain rights and the institution must not interfere in the activities of student groups as it is a matter of freedom of expression," said U Thilagavathy, a student activist.

She said they were waiting for more student outfits to join the movement.

Security has been beefed up around the IIT-M campus in apprehension of more protests. Police arrested several protesters, including 60 members of Democratic Youth Federation of India (DYFI) and Revolutionary Students Youth Front (RSYF) near the campus.

The police also arrested 77 members of the SC/ST wing of the Congress party who had attempted to lay siege to Shastri Bhavan at Nungambakkam. They were detained at a wedding

### NEWSICLE

## 5 FUN FACTS ABOUT IIT-MADRAS

**1 SHAASTRA** – the annual technical festival of IIT-Madras – was the first certified ISO 9001:2000 students' festival in the world

**2 FOOD FOR THOUGHT** IIT-M sees over 6,380 out of 8,000 students as regular attendees for its mess food in the morning, by far the largest percentage of any college population in India to queue up for breakfast. An IIT-M alumni co-ordinator says that less than 10% of the students are from Chennai, due to which a large number of students stay on the campus leading to the high number of breakfast attendees



**5 INTO THE WILD** IIT-Madras occupies a 620-acre campus that was formerly part of the adjoining Guindy National Park. Much of the campus is a protected forest and is home to spotted deer, endangered species of Blackbuck and other wildlife



**3 WEST GERMAN LINK** IIT-M was founded in 1959 with technical and financial support from West Germany. Due to this, many German personalities visit the campus and there is a mutual understanding with German universities as well and several exchange programmes take place

## 4 SUPER YOUTHS, SUPER COMP

Top500, a global project that details the most powerful supercomputers in the world, said IIT-Madras has the fastest super computing facility among educational institutions in India

## NDA ally PMK, author Arundhati slam institute

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Chennai:** NDA ally PMK's chief, R Ramadoss, and noted author Arundhati Roy on Saturday joined the protest against the derecognition of student group Ambedkar-Periyar Study Circle by IIT Madras even as 16 student groups came together to condemn the ban.

PMK chief S Ramadoss in a statement said, "There is no objectionable matter in the notice circulated by the Ambedkar-Periyar Study Circle. Only issues discussed in the social media and in public were printed in the notice". If the government was unable to accept even this criticism, then it was moving towards autocracy, said Ramadoss.

Echoing similar views, noted author Arundhati Roy said in a statement, "What is it about the APSC that frightened the dean of students of the IIT Madras enough for him to unilaterally 'derecognize' it"? She said the reason given was the usual "idiotic red herring" that they were spreading hatred among communities. Another reason they were given was that the name of their organisation was considered to be too 'political' said Roy. TNN

hall until the evening. Several members of the political party Periyar Dravidar Kazhagam were stopped when they attempted to organize a procession protesting the ban near Madhya Kailash in the evening.

IIT-M had de-recognised

Ambedkar-Periyar Study Circle (APSC) following a letter from the HRD ministry seeking the institute's answer to an anonymous complaint alleging that group had distributed pamphlets criticizing Prime Minister Narendra Modi

and his policies in the campus. On Friday, IIT Madras had justified its decision to de-recognize the student group stating that the APSC had violated the guidelines of the institute. TNN

For the full report, log on to [www.timesofindia.com](http://www.timesofindia.com)



चेन्नई में शनिवार को आइआइटी परिसर के बाहर प्रदर्शन कर रहे वामपंथी छात्र संगठन डेमोक्रेटिक यूथ फेडरेशन ऑफ इंडिया के सदस्यों को हिरासत में लेती पुलिस।

## हिरासत में लिए गए आइआइटी मद्रास के बाहर प्रदर्शन कर रहे युवा

चेन्नई, 30 मई (भाषा)। प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी की कथित आलोचना पर छात्रों के एक संगठन की मान्यता रद्द कर दिए जाने के विरोध में यहां आइआइटी मद्रास के बाहर एक सड़क को बंद करने का प्रयास करने के लिए वामपंथी छात्र संगठन डेमोक्रेटिक यूथ फेडरेशन ऑफ इंडिया (डीवाईएफआइ) के कई कार्यकर्ताओं को शनिवार को हिरासत में ले लिया गया।

इस मामले को लेकर कुछ राजनीतिक पार्टियों ने अभिव्यक्ति की आजादी को उत्पन्न 'खतरे' को लेकर चिंता व्यक्त की है। पुलिसकर्मियों के दूर हटाए जाने के बावजूद, डीवाईएफआइ के सदस्यों ने मोदी के नेतृत्व वाली केंद्र सरकार और मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री स्मृति ईरानी के खिलाफ नारेबाजी की।

संगठन के सदस्यों की पुलिस के

साथ जोरदार तकरार हुई और उन्होंने भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान मद्रास (आइआइटी-एम) के प्रबंधन के खिलाफ भी नारेबाजी की। उन्होंने हाल ही में आंबेडकर पेरियार स्टडी सर्किल की मान्यता खत्म करने पर इसके खिलाफ कार्रवाई की मांग भी की। डीवाईएफआइ के एक कार्यकर्ता ने कहा कि तमिलनाडु में संघ के एजेंडे को अनुमति नहीं दी जाएगी।

पुलिस ने बताया कि और अधिक प्रदर्शन होने की संभावना को देखते हुए आइआइटी परिसर की सुरक्षा व्यवस्था कड़ी कर दी गई है। इस बीच, द्रमुक और एडीएमके ने आइआइटी के अधिकारियों के असहिष्णुता दिखाये जाने पर क्षोभ व्यक्त किया है और अभिव्यक्ति की आजादी पर खतरों को लेकर चिंता व्यक्त की है।

# स्मृति ईरानी के खिलाफ किया विरोध प्रदर्शन

आईआईटी मद्रास के मुद्दे पर आम आदमी पार्टी की यूथ विंग ने जंतर-मंतर पर की घेराबंदी

अमर उजाला ब्यूरो

नई दिल्ली। मोदी सरकार की अलोचना करने के मामले में छात्र संगठन की मान्यता खत्म करने के आईआईटी मद्रास के फैसले के राजनैतिक विरोध में आम आदमी पार्टी भी कूद गई है। इसी मुद्दे पर 'आप' से जुड़े यूथ एंड स्टूडेंट विंग ने जंतर-मंतर पर विरोध दर्ज करवाया।

प्रदर्शनकारियों ने मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय (एमएचआरडी) के खिलाफ जमकर नारेबाजी भी की। प्रदर्शनकारियों ने छात्र संगठन की मान्यता दोबारा बहाल करने की मांग की है। बताया गया कि इस घटना से दलित समुदाय के छात्रों की भावनाएं आहत हुई हैं। यूथ कांग्रेस के बाद

अब आम आदमी पार्टी की यूथ विंग भी एमएचआरडी और आईआईटी मद्रास प्रबंधन के खिलाफ अब सड़क पर उतर आई है। शनिवार सुबह ही कार्यकर्ता जंतर-मंतर में जुटने शुरू हो गए थे।

प्रदर्शनकारी जंतर-मंतर के बाद मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री स्मृति ईरानी के घर के बाहर भी विरोध जताना चाहते थे, लेकिन पुलिस ने चारों ओर से घेराबंदी कर रखी थी। प्रदर्शनकारियों ने हाथों में तख्तियां व बैनर लेकर मोदी सरकार के विरोध में नारे लगाए, जिसमें मेक इन इंडिया और बैन इन इंडिया सीवाईएसएस (संगठन का नाम), बोल की कब आजाद हैं तरे, मर्डर इन डेमोक्रेसी व एमएचआरडी होश में आओ आदि मुख्य थे।



जंतर-मंतर पर शनिवार को विरोध जताते 'आप' यूथ विंग के कार्यकर्ता।

## Controversies occur because I challenge status quo: Irani

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, MAY 30

HRD MINISTER Smriti Irani, who has been dogged by controversies, Saturday said this was happening as she was a "straight-talker" who challenged the status-quo in the education sector which was being used as a source of "profit" by some people.

Participating in a 'talkathon' with two other Union ministers, Piyush Goyal and Nirmala Sitharaman, Irani rejected the charge of saffronisation of education and listed a number of initiatives by her to "empower" students and parents in decision-making, wondering if that was "saffronisation".

"I think if you challenge the status quo,

then some people who are held accountable make some noises as they feel they are being challenged. They realise that jobs cannot be gotten merely on the basis of recommendation and cannot use a government institution to further their interest but will have to work in the interest of the nation.

Rejecting the charge of saffronisation, she said she had already made a detailed statement in Parliament with full facts and wondered if steps like making books free online and involving students and parents as stake-holders in education amounted to saffronising it.

Goyal also congratulated Irani for "changing the discourse" on education by challenging "entrenched interest" in the sector.

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# 'Edu saffronization charge baseless'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** Human resource development minister Smriti Irani has said she has challenged the status quo in education since taking charge of the ministry and rejected allegations of any attempts at saffronisation of the sector.

Participating in a talkathon Saturday, Irani said she was a "straight-talker" and wanted to change the system which was being used by some people as a source of making "profit" and playing "personal politics".

The minister listed a number of initiatives launched by her to empower students and parents in decision-making. Highlighting that NCERT textbooks will be available on digital platform and mobile apps in one month, she wondered "is this saffronization?"

She noted that education was not confined to educational institutions but was linked with the country's future, tradition and culture. She said in a departure from the earlier practice, a few peo-

**The minister listed a number of initiatives launched by her to empower students in decision-making**



ple in Delhi are not deciding the education policy but students and parents are being consulted.

"We are very soon going to fix learning outcomes of all classes. We have told schools to provide these to parents," she said, adding that the ministry will also put it on its website so that parents can understand what is required.

She said the government is determined to ensure that resources reach every citizen and now "we hope that citizens step up and take charge".

## A Bird in Hand...

From their IIT Delhi hostel rooms to Bharatpur was a natural progression for the founders of comparison site Smartprix

**:: Rahul Sachitanand**

Spread across nearly 30 square km, the Keoladeo National Park in Bharatpur in Rajasthan is home to around 400 different varieties of birds, besides an assortment of other plant and animal life. The city that is home to this green oasis is an unlikely destination as any to house a startup. You'd be more likely to bump into a keen ornithologist than an enthusiastic entrepreneur.

That didn't stop Abhinav Choudhary and Hitesh Khandelwal, IIT Delhi computer science graduates, from calling the nearby town of barely 200,000 people their home. Their entrepreneurial journey didn't, however, start in this small town. In the third year of their computer science course at IIT Delhi, Choudhary and Khandelwal tried to go online to buy a mobile phone, and were duly greeted with a deluge of brands, models and offers.

They discovered that comparisons were almost impossible to come by, and they had to take the long way around, visiting individual sites and drawing their

**"We have over 1,000 brands on our site, listing some 10 million products. With the addition of fashion to our basket, we can become a heavyweight in the price comparison space"**

Abhinav Choudhary



ASHWANI NAGPAL

**SMARTPRIX.COM**  
Bharatpur, Rajasthan & Noida, Uttar Pradesh

**WHAT IS IT:** Price comparison site

**FOUNDERS:** Abhinav Choudhary, 27 and Hitesh Khandelwal, 27

**FOUNDED IN:** December 2011

**FUNDING:** Snapdeal bought under 10% for an undisclosed amount

**VIABILITY:** Not yet profitable

own conclusions on prices, offers and other variables while buying online.

To try and give internet commerce consumers a one-stop place to make these comparisons, they founded smartprix.com in late 2011 out of their hostel rooms. For a couple of semesters, the duo ran their fledgling startup from there, coding in their spare time, even as they raced to prepare for exams and submit projects.

After graduating, the cofounders stuck with their startup, giving up lucrative job opportunities, instead moving back home to Rajasthan to focus on their fledgling startup. Although the going was slow in the first few months, soon the big e-commerce retailers (think Amazon, Snapdeal and Flipkart) were collaborating with Smartprix.

"We have added around \$40 million in



GMV [gross merchandise value] to our partners' business and this year we expect the number to increase to \$100 million,"

says Choudhary.

Based on the growth of Smartprix, the duo is already looking beyond its staple of consumer electronics and plans to add fashion to its kitty.

Leveraging the IIT Delhi network, the founders reached out to Rohit Bansal, a cofounder of e-commerce site Snapdeal (he was a resident of the same hostel) to boost their growth. Today, Snapdeal owns just under a tenth of Smartprix and the founders lean on Bansal to guide them.

"We have over 1,000 brands on our site, listing some 10 million products," says Choudhary. "With the addition of fashion to our basket, we can become a heavyweight in the price comparison space."

The duo is already looking to raise a fresh round of funding to boost its growth, even as it has grown from two engineering students working from a hostel with too many phones to pick from to a small office in semi-urban Rajasthan – and to a 25-person startup now based in Noida.

The founders will need to carefully consider a critical shift in the industry – from a browser-centric business, e-commerce is shifting to a mobile app-driven one. As large players such as Flipkart and part-owner Snapdeal invest heavily in their mobile apps, is there a future for Smartprix?

Choudhary seems to think so. "There's a lot of headroom for growth," he argues. "Indian e-commerce is very price-sensitive and not everyone is going to be driven by what they see on an app. We have over a 100 e-commerce businesses on our site and more are being added as we expand our business."

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# DU confers 650 PhDs at 92nd convocation

## Math, Chem Students Do Hindu College Proud

Yogesh Kumar



**SUCCESS IS SWEET:** Students click photos of each other at the convocation of DU

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** After much delay, Delhi University held its 92<sup>nd</sup> convocation on Saturday. 650 PhDs were awarded at the convocation, which was held at the indoor stadium in the University Sports Complex for the first time.

Hindu College claimed the maximum number of prizes and memorial medals—13. Most of them were won by MSc chemistry students Deepika Arora and Yukti Arora and by MSc mathematics student Deepshikha. Deepshikha has won six and shared every one of them with Sri Venkateswara College student Sandeep Bhatt.

A large number of re-

searchers from the Sanskrit department have been awarded PhDs—35; 34 were from the physics and astrophysics department, 50 from Hindi, 49 from chemistry, 23 from management, 14 from history and 12 from physical education.

At least a couple of prize-winners left the stage without either degree or medal—they couldn't be located in time—and Hindu College teacher Ratan Lal did not show up at all, having boycotted the convocation. Instead, he and other teachers protested at Hindu College against the "victimization" of teachers who have spoken out against the college administration. Lal is one of the seven teachers against whom the college administration act-

ed for writing to the lieutenant governor about alleged corruption in the construction process of a girls' hostel.

VC Dinesh Singh reminded students that, despite DU's standing, they must remember that the medal or degree doesn't matter: "What medal or degree did Bhagat Singh have? What medal or degree did Rana Pratap have?" he asks and goes on in a similar vein before stating, erroneously, that "Mahatma Gandhi had no university degree".

AIIMS director M C Mishra was the guest of honour and spoke of accidents, cancer, food habits, the potential impact of an earthquake on Delhi, mental health and cardiovascular diseases.

June 1

**Tribune ND 01/06/2015 p-8**

## Politics at IIT

Praise Modi to avoid trouble?

**T**HE Ambedkar Periyar Student Circle at the IIT, Madras, has been derecognised for spreading “hatred” against the Prime Minister. It published a pamphlet reproducing the speech of a Dravidian university academic, R Vivekananda Gopal, on Dr Ambedkar in which the Modi government was accused of following a “Hindutva agenda”, “assisting multinational corporates to loot Mother India” and “communally polarising the people by the ban on cow slaughter, ‘ghar wapsi’ and promoting Vedas”. Someone sent a complaint to the HRD Ministry, which forwarded it to the IIT. The action taken against the student group has sparked protests and debates. The Congress and the Left parties have seized the issue for making political capital out of it.

It was a controversy the Modi government could very well do without. Why should an institute as prestigious as an IIT act on an anonymous complaint? Why should the HRD Ministry forward it to the IIT? Had the ministry thrown the complaint into the dustbin, the matter would have ended there. But then the HRD Minister has a talent for creating opportunities for keeping herself in the lime-light. Her frequent interference in the affairs of autonomous IITs, IIMs and universities has created more problems than she can handle. Her attempts at “saffronisation” of education and encouragement of Hindutva elements in institutes of higher education have attracted attention.

Since the rise in the academic world now depends on how well you carry forward the Parivar agenda, the IIT Dean was perhaps just trying to endear himself to the minister in Delhi. He did not care to uphold the autonomy of his own institute, stand for free speech and expression, or respect the students' right to dissent. Students these days don't restrict themselves to the given syllabus. They react to larger issues around them, mostly through social media. It is a happy sign that they value their freedom.

# असहमति व असहिष्णुता

आईआईटी मद्रास में एक वैचारिक स्टडी सर्कल को लेकर उठा विवाद केंद्र सरकार की तंगनजरी की एक मिसाल है। केंद्रीय मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय का दावा है कि कुछ समय पहले उसे एक बेनाम शिकायत मिली थी, जिसमें कहा गया था कि अंबेडकर पेरियार-स्टूडेंट सर्कल नामक छात्र समूह जाति के नाम पर छात्रों के बीच वैमनस्य फैला रहा है और इस



आईआईटी मद्रास का मामला

ग्रुप ने आईआईटी कैम्पस में उकसाने वाले प्लैफलेट और पोस्टर बांटकर प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी के खिलाफ घृणा फैलाने की कोशिश की है। एक कैम्पस से जुड़े इस मामले का तो केंद्रीय स्तर पर नोटिस भी नहीं लिया जाना चाहिए था, लेकिन एचआरडी मिनिस्ट्री ने बाकायदा लिखित रूप में आईआईटी प्रशासन से इस पर जवाब तलब कर लिया। नतीजा यह हुआ कि आईआईटी (एम) प्रशासन ने उस छात्र समूह पर बैन लगाते हुए उसे कैम्पस में किसी भी तरह की गतिविधि करने से मना कर दिया। स्टूडेंट सर्कल का कहना है कि उसने कैम्पस में कोई भी आपत्तिजनक काम नहीं किया, फिर भी संस्थान ने उसे सफाई का मौका दिए बगैर एकतरफा तौर पर इतना बड़ा फैसला ले लिया। हमारे देश में सभी विश्वविद्यालयों और आईआईटी जैसे उच्च शिक्षा संस्थानों की एक गरिमा रही है। उन्हें अपने कैम्पस से जुड़े सारे फैसले लेने की स्वायत्तता प्राप्त है, ताकि वे किसी बाहरी दबाव में आए बगैर ज्ञान-विज्ञान और विचार-विमर्श के केंद्र बन सकें। वैचारिक खुलापन और लोकतांत्रिकता ही भारत के प्रतिष्ठित उच्च शिक्षा संस्थानों की पहचान रही है और अब तक सभी सरकारों ने इन विशिष्टताओं का सम्मान किया है। देश के कई केंद्रीय विश्वविद्यालयों में छात्र संगठनों की राजनीति केंद्र के राजनीतिक रुझान से बिल्कुल अलग दिशा में चलती रही है लेकिन सरकारों ने हस्तक्षेप नहीं किया। लेकिन लगता है, एनडीए सरकार के लिए शैक्षिक, अकादमिक स्वतंत्रता का कोई अर्थ ही नहीं है। वह जरा भी असहमति बर्दाश्त करने के लिए तैयार नहीं है। शैक्षणिक संस्थानों को भी वह सरकारी विभागों की तरह चलाना चाहती है। सच कहें तो एक साल में एचआरडी मिनिस्ट्री ने विवाद पैदा करने के अलावा गौर करने लायक कोई काम नहीं किया है। वह प्रधानमंत्री की छवि के लिए डंडा लेकर खड़ा है, पर उसे कोई परवाह नहीं है कि एनसीईआरटी, सीबीएसई और एआईसीटीई जैसे संस्थानों के चेयरमैन के अलावा लगभग दर्जन भर विश्वविद्यालयों के कुलपति के पद खाली पड़े हैं। दूसरी तरफ कई संस्थानों के निर्णायक पदों पर दागी और अयोग्य लोगों को बिठा दिया गया है। इन करतूतों से मंत्रालय की छवि तो नष्ट हो ही रही है, स्वयं प्रधानमंत्री के चेहरे में भी इससे कोई चार चांद नहीं लग रहे हैं। बीजेपी की तरफ से प्रचारित किया जा रहा है कि मद्रास आईआईटी प्रकरण को कांग्रेस उपाध्यक्ष राहुल गांधी राजनीतिक विद्वेष के कारण तूल दे रहे हैं जबकि सचाई यह है कि उनकी भूमिका इस मामले में एक दिवटर प्रतिक्रिया देने से ज्यादा कुछ नहीं है। उच्च शैक्षिक संस्थानों की स्वायत्तता एक बड़ा मसला है। इसे व्यक्तित्वों के टकराव तक समेट कर देखना-दिखाना सिर्फ यह बताता है कि कोई है, जिसे अपने काम की समझ ही नहीं है।



# SC body sends notice to IIT-M, Karunanidhi seeks PM's help

**New Delhi/Chennai, May 31:** The National Commission for Scheduled Castes has sent a notice to IIT Madras over the controversial ban of a students group whose members are mainly Dalits even as DMK Chief M Karunanidhi on Sunday sought Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "direct intervention" for revocation of the order.

IIT-M is in the eye of a storm over derecognition of Ambedkar Periyar Study Circle (APSC) on Friday following a complaint that it was critical of Modi. The action had led to protests by political parties including Congress and AAP.

BJP, meanwhile, said the Union Government was not behind the decision as it was taken by the administration of the institute on grounds of misuse of privileges and violation of guidelines.

NCSC chairman PL Punia said on Sunday that a notice



**A protest against HRD minister Smriti Irani near IIT-Madras in Chennai**

has been issued to IIT-M and a reply has been sought.

"I have issued a notice to the institute and sought its reply after taking note of the incident myself. We will take action in this regard," Punia said, adding, "Youngsters must get freedom of speech on campuses. Imposing bans thus is like suppressing their voices. This is completely wrong."

He further accused the Centre of being "insensitive" towards the marginalised sections and claimed that the number of anti-Dalit incidents had increased ever since the Modi government came to power.

"Such incidents have increased. These are not minor incidents, but serious ones," said Punia.

While seeking Modi's intervention for revoking the order immediately to ensure that peace and a healthy atmosphere prevailed at the institute, Karunanidhi castigated Union HRD minister Smriti Irani for "authoritarian" interference that allegedly led to the derecognition of the students group.

"Because of this incident, the otherwise peacefully functioning institute has turned into a war zone," he said.

PTI

**Jansatta ND 01/06/2015 P-5**

# आइआइटी मद्रास में अशांति के लिए ईरानी जिम्मेदार: करुणानिधि

## अनुसूचित जाति आयोग ने संस्थान प्रबंधन को दिया नोटिस

चेन्नई/नई दिल्ली, 31 मई (भाषा)। आइआइटी मद्रास में एक छात्र संगठन की मान्यता रद्द करने में मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री स्मृति ईरानी के निरंकुश हस्तक्षेप को जिम्मेदार ठहराते हुए और उनकी आलोचना करते हुए द्रमुक प्रमुख एम करुणानिधि ने इस आदेश को पलटने और इस प्रतिष्ठित तकनीकी संस्थान में शांति बहाली के लिए रविवार को प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी के सीधे हस्तक्षेप की मांग की। लेकिन उन्होंने इस मामले में प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी को निजी तौर पर आरोपित नहीं किया। दूसरी तरफ राष्ट्रीय अनुसूचित जाति आयोग के अध्यक्ष पीएल पूनिया ने आइआइटी-मद्रास को उस छात्र समूह पर प्रतिबंध को लेकर नोटिस जारी किया है जिसमें अधिकांश दलित छात्र हैं।

ईरानी का नाम लिए बिना करुणानिधि ने कहा कि ऐसे मुद्दों पर मोदी के मंत्रियों की तरफ से एकपक्षीय और निरंकुश हस्तक्षेप से देश के युवाओं और राष्ट्र की शांति पर असर पड़ेगा। लगता है कि प्रधानमंत्री एक लोकतांत्रिक समूह को प्रतिबंधित करने जैसे गैरजरूरी मुद्दों को महत्त्व नहीं देते। लेकिन उनके मंत्रियों का

एकपक्षीय और निरंकुश हस्तक्षेप युवाओं की वैचारिक प्रक्रिया को बाधित करेगा और राष्ट्र की शांति को प्रभावित करेगा। करुणानिधि ने यहां जारी बयान में यह सुनिश्चित करने के लिए प्रधानमंत्री के प्रत्यक्ष हस्तक्षेप का आह्वान किया कि आइआइटी मद्रास प्रशासन की तरफ से आंबेडकर पेरियार स्टडी सर्कल (एपीएससी) की मान्यता रद्द किए जाने का फैसला तत्काल वापस लिया जाए जिससे संस्थान में शांति और स्वस्थ माहौल कायम हो। इस घटना के कारण आमतौर पर शांतिपूर्ण रहने वाला संस्थान युद्ध क्षेत्र में बदल गया है। उन्होंने सवाल लिए लहजे में कहा कि क्या अन्नाद्रमुक सरकार इस पाबंदी के खिलाफ स्पष्ट बयान नहीं देकर और शांत रहकर इस मुद्दे पर केंद्र का समर्थन कर रही है। आइआइटी मद्रास शुक्रवार को एपीएससी की मान्यता रद्द करने को लेकर विवादों के घेरे में आ गया है। शिकायत थी कि यह छात्र संगठन प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी का आलोचक है। इस संगठन के सदस्य दलित हैं। इस संगठन की मान्यता रद्द करने से कांग्रेस और आप समेत कई राजनीतिक दलों ने प्रदर्शन किए हैं।

Pioneer ND 01/06/2015 P-6

# IIT-M row: Karuna seeks Modi's intervention

**KUMAR CHELLAPPAN** ■  
CHENNAI

The temporary de-recognition by the IIT Madras management of the Ambedkar Periyar Study Circle, a Left initiative at IIT Madras campus has succeeded in uniting the Opposition parties in Tamil Nadu barring the BJP which were otherwise struggling to find a common ground to work together. Sunday saw M Karunanidhi, the grand old man of Indian politics, asking for the immediate intervention of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to resolve the crisis generated by the de-recognition of the APSC.

According to Karunanidhi (93), the IIT Madras has turned into a war zone because of the IIT-M management's decision to de-recognise the APSC. "The de-recognition of APSC should be revoked immediately to ensure that peace is returned to the IIT campus. Because of this action, the otherwise peaceful campus has



**The de-recognition of APSC should be revoked immediately to ensure peace at the IIT campus. Because of this action, the otherwise peaceful campus has turned into a war zone**

turned into a war zone," said Karunanidhi. He blamed the ruling AIADMK for its silence over the issue which has given an impression that it too was following the policy of fomenting communal polarisation.

Except for the BJP, all major parties and caste groups have come out in the open chal-

lenging the de-recognition of the APSC based on an anonymous letter. The BJP leadership in Tamil Nadu questioned the propriety of the APSC making use of the facilities in a politically neutral educational campus to criticise centre.

Meanwhile, leaders of the APSC said they would strive hard to set up branches in all educational institutions, including all IITs in the country. Sources in IIT Madras said the APSC was a brainchild of the CPI(M). "The appointment of Sitaram Yechury as CPI(M) general secretary has given us a major psychological boost. Our objective is to highlight the high discrimination prevailing in IIT staff appointment," said one of the student activists.

Akhil, a APSC activist, furnished details of an RTI data from the IIT-M management which mentions that out of the 536 teaching staff in IIT Madras, only 13 were from the SC and ST categories. "Even the OBC sections have not received the mandatory quota," said Akhil.

Deccan Herald ND 01/06/2015 p-7

# Political leaders seek Modi's intervention in IIT-M issue

CHENNAI, DHNS: Various political leaders in Tamil Nadu including DMK president M Karunanidhi on Sunday sought Prime Minister Narendra Modi's help to lift the IIT-M ban on Ambedkar-Periyar Study Centre (APSC).

Karunanidhi termed the de-recognition of APSC by IIT-Madras as curtailing the freedom of expression of the students and said that the ban has led a series of agitations. "The agitation also turned the IIT into a battle field", he said. He further added that, DMK Student's wing will also stage a protest demonstration in front of IIT on Monday de-



Narendra Modi

manding a lift on the ban.

The other political leaders, who have condemned the ban include PMK chief Ramadoss

and Tamil Nadu Congress Committee President E V K S Elangovan, who have also questioned Tamil Nadu Government's silence on the issue.

Echoing similar views, political leaders said though it appeared that the Prime Minister does not give importance to such unwanted issues like imposing a ban on democratic forums, such unilateral and autocratic decisions by his Ministers would only endanger peace.

They urged the Centre to intervene on the issue and restore peace and healthy atmosphere in the campus.

Asian Age ND 01/06/2015 P-14

# Many angry over DU nod to CBCS

AGE CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, MAY 31

The Delhi University is all set to introduce the choice-based credit system (CBCS) as mandated by the University Grants Commission (UGC), but a section of teachers claimed that statutory bodies are being reduced to rubber stamps in order to enforce the directive.

According to a senior DU official, the university's executive council and academic council have approved the new system and the university has implemented it as mandated by the UGC. "The DU is

fully prepared to introduce it and will abide by the UGC guidelines in toto," he said.

Some council members, however, claimed the university was arm-twisting them and reducing statutory bodies into rubber stamps instead of taking the demands of teachers and students into account and conveying the same to the HRD ministry. "No discussion was allowed by the vice-chancellor at the executive council meeting. We were told by him that since the UGC has asked us, we have to do it and the proposal was passed despite dissent from five mem-

● **Some council members claimed the university was arm-twisting them and reducing statutory bodies into rubber stamps instead of taking the demands of teachers and students into account and conveying the same to the HRD ministry**

bers," said an executive council member. "When dissent is not

taken into account, what is the point of having a statutory body just for a rubber stamp to add legality to the proposal?" asked another executive council member, who alleged that members were arm-twisted into agreeing to the items on the meeting's agenda without any discussion.

Other members said that the varsity has the right to express disagreement to the UGC proposal, but despite over 50 colleges rejecting it and four departments refusing to draft the CBCS syllabus, the DU has not raised the issue even once with either the ministry or the

UGC. "The CBCS is being implemented now, in the same manner in which the four-year undergraduate programme (FYUP) was rolled in. And time will show that it meets the same fate as FYUP," another member of the executive council said.

Accusing the DU of implementing the programme "arbitrarily," the critics of the CBCS claimed the scheme was being brought in after bypassing the executive council. The DU had earlier asserted that if the academic and executive councils did not give their nod, the CBCS would not be

implemented.

The UGC had in September last year asked all central universities to implement the choice-based credit system from the ensuing academic session. The new system allows students "seamless mobility" across higher education institutions along with transfer of course credits.

The debate regarding the choice-based credit system is intensifying as a section among the academic fraternity has rejected the proposed reforms in the education system as a crackdown on varsities' autonomy.

# IIT Roorkee scientists design quake-resistant house from used tyres

Vanita Srivastava

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**NEW DELHI:** Scientists at IIT Roorkee have come up with a new construction technique for earthquake resistant housing using recycled pieces of rubber tyres and the scheme is based on the principle of dissipating energy.

Pankaj Agarwal of the department of earthquake engineering, IIT Roorkee told HT: "This is based on interlocking of pre-cast slotted concrete blocks with the help of energy dissipation links. These links are prepared by recycling pieces of rubber tyres laminated by very thin steel plates. These links not only restrict the movement of each concrete block in all possible directions but also dissipate the energy through yielding under extreme earthquake loading conditions."

Describing the methodology Agarwal said: "The load capacity of these links is kept lower than that of the concrete blocks so that under strong earthquake shaking, the energy is dissipated through friction between concrete blocks and the deformation of links without damaging the concrete blocks."

The seismic performance of this interlocked block masonry system with energy dissipater links has been verified under simulated strong earthquake conditions on the shake table testing facility.



■ A model of the earthquake resistant house at IIT Roorkee

The simulated motion corresponds to the strongest earthquake motion expected in the seismic zone V (the most severe zone) of Indian Seismic Code.

"The tested system withstood this severe shaking without any distress and was found to be in a state fit for immediate occupation even after the test. The design of link system is still under development and other materials are being evaluated for potential application and improving the seismic withstand capacity of the system."

Agarwal said that the model was for single storey and plans were on for testing a similar model for a double storey. "There would not be any increase in construction cost. The damage due to quake will be minimal," he said. The residential building system constructed with this technology has higher energy dissipation capacity as compared to conventional masonry buildings.

# Cheetah robot can jump over hurdles now

**Washington:** MIT researchers have trained their cheetah robot to jump over hurdles as it runs — making it the first four-legged robot that can run and jump over obstacles autonomously.

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology researchers had demonstrated last year that the robotic cheetah was able to run untethered.

The feat was performed by the robot without the use of cameras or other vision systems.

Now, the robot can 'see', with the use of onboard LIDAR — a visual system that uses reflections from a laser to map terrain.

The researchers developed a three-part algorithm to plan out the robot's path, based on LIDAR data. Both the vision and path-planning system are onboard the robot, giving it complete autonomous control.

To get a running jump, the robot plans out its path, much like a human runner: As it detects an approaching obstacle, it estimates that object's height and distance. PTI

Times Of India ND 01/06/2015 P-13

# In a first, China unveils facial-recognition ATM

## New Machine Can Also Identify Counterfeit Notes

**Beijing:** Chinese researchers have successfully developed the first automated teller machine (ATM) with facial recognition technology to reduce the risk of theft, reports said.

The developers include Tsinghua University and Tzekwan Technology, a Hangzhou firm in eastern China's Zhejiang province that provides security protection for financial transactions. Tzekwan chairman Gu Zikun, an anti-counterfeit technology expert, believes the technology will curb ATM-related crimes. The product has already passed certification and would soon be available for sale.

China currently relies mostly on imported ATM technology, the report said, but the new machine, which combines high-speed bank-note handling, improved counterfeit-bill recognition and facial recognition, was wholly Chinese.

However, it is unclear who will

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**FACE VALUE**

manufacture the ATMs and how it will collect facial data.

The news come a week after the state launched its "Made in China" campaign, which aims to

transition the mainland from a manufacturing hub for low-end goods to high-quality products within the next 10 years.

Cash machines using fingerprint authentication have sprung up in countries like Chile and Colombia, though these biometric ATMs have not found favour with some countries like the United States because of privacy concerns and its high cost.

The new ATMs are expected to connect with the country's banks and public security networks, which allows only cardholders to withdraw money, even if someone else knows the password.

But opponents to the technology have voiced their concerns about privacy and accuracy online. "What happens if someone had plastic surgery to look like someone else," one user asked. "How much will it take to turn my face into Jack Ma's (founder of Ali Baba)?" questioned another. ❧

## **E-Library, Swayam portal to help achieve zero illiteracy: Smriti Irani**

**Union HRD Minister Smriti Irani on Saturday said the setting up of a national e-library and project `Swayam` were among the many steps being taken by the government to achieve the target of zero illiteracy in the country.**

[http://zeenews.india.com/news/india/e-library-swayam-portal-to-help-achieve-zero-illiteracy-smriti-irani\\_1604662.html](http://zeenews.india.com/news/india/e-library-swayam-portal-to-help-achieve-zero-illiteracy-smriti-irani_1604662.html)

"India is making significant changes in the next six months. The first mega project is the national e-library wherein the IITs (Indian Institute of Technology), IIMs (Indian Institute of Management), NCERT (National Council for Educational Research and Training) and also the National Archives will be pooled in," the human resource development minister said in the 90-minute programme `Talkathon`, organised by the information and broadcasting ministry.

"On one platform, maximum education resources will be provided. Even the Saarc (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) nations have asked us to extend these resources to them and we are doing it," she said.

Irani said that providing quality higher education was a challenge and therefore the government was on the verge of starting the "Study Webs of Active-Learning for Young Aspiring Minds" (Swayam) online portal that will bring together IIT, IIM, CBSE, NIOS, and other institutes to provide free, quality education to classes 9 to 12.

"Education will be provided free and exams can be given at any of the 500 earmarked centres that will come up all over the country. Degrees and diplomas will be given if you pass the exam," Irani said.

Under its initiative to highlight the achievements of the government in the past one year, union ministers Irani, Piyush Goyal and Nirmala Sitharaman interacted with netizens through Twitter using "#AskYourGovt @MIB\_India" and the answers were streamed live on the information and broadcasting ministry's YouTube channel.

## **Seventy new supercomputers to boost research and hi-tech projects in India**

Hindustan Times (Jaipur)

**THE SUPERCOMPUTERS WILL USED FOR CLIMATE MODELLING, WEATHER PREDICTION, SCIENTIFIC AND ENGINEERING AMONG OTHERS**

**NEW DELHI:** The recently launched National Supercomputing Mission will set up 70 supercomputers on a high-speed grid and cloud platform in the next three years in various research and academic institutes and universities.

These supercomputers will be put to use for various purposes, including climate modelling, weather prediction, scientific and engineering R&D.

"We are in the process of bidding for selecting the places where the supercomputers are to be installed and this should be finalised in the next three to six months. The machines will be installed in phases for the next four

years to and in parallel, research and development, industry connect and human capacity bases will be developed,” Department of Science and Technology, Secretary, Dr Ashutosh Sharma told HT.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs had approved the launch of the National Supercomputing Mission in March.

The mission would be implemented and steered jointly by the Department of Science and Technology and Department of Electronics and Information Technology at an estimated cost of ` 4,500 crore over a period of seven years.

Climate modelling unlike weather prediction, Dr Sharma said, is a global phenomenon that requires computational effect. “The supercomputers can help us in assessing the temperature, rainfall pattern and even the fate of the glaciers,” he said.

The mission intends to set up the supercomputing facilities on a buy-and-build approach at academic and research institutions across the country and network them into a grid.

Three of them — the first ones to be set up over the first three years — would be India’s first supercomputers capable of peta-scale computing.

They would join a global league of just 37 such machines. At present, India has two supercomputing machines in the world’s top 100, and nine in the top 500. Its fastest supercomputer at the Pune-based Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology is ranked 52.

## 'Construction Works at IISER Nearing Completion'

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/cities/thiruvananthapuram/Construction-Works-at-IISER-Nearing-Completion/2015/05/31/article2842029.ece>

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: The 240-acre IISER campus would be full-fledged within two to three years, said Viswa Mohan Katoch, chairman, Board of Governors, IISER, Trivandrum. The state-of-the-art residential campus would be an eco-friendly zone provided with all facilities, including recreation. Of the 240 acres, 190 would be a green zone and the remaining 50 acres would be the built-up area of the campus, he said.

“Some controversies had marred IISER regarding the withdrawal of a contractor in the construction works of the main building. But the works resumed a little while ago by awarding the contract to a new company and is progressing fast. We hope to complete the buildings and other basic infrastructure facilities within a year. We are also increasing the strength of faculties so that our ultimate aim is to transform the centre into a research and development centre. So there is no room for any controversy,” said M Radhakrishnan, Registrar, IISER. The new fully residential campus would be able to accommodate 1,200 students.

### Centre to Introduce Supercomputing

Meanwhile, in a major boost to the future of science and technology in the country, the Union Government will introduce supercomputing as the technology next level opportunity for all citizens. “The concept of supercomputing was envisaged by the Department of Science and Technology to build the nation along with the Make in India campaign “, said Ashutosh Sharma, secretary to the Union Ministry of Science and Technology. He was speaking to mediapersons after delivering the keynote address at the third convocation ceremony of the Indian Institute of Science Education and (IISER) on the Vithura campus here on Saturday. “In fact, the country is making a giant leap forward in terms of integrating technology in every sector. The Centre had provided all the assistance in buying seven supercomputers at an estimated cost of `4500 crore. That will be



totally indigenous. However, with the proper implementation of these, India will be a major partner in the advanced technology spectrum. Above all these, we will also launch a most advanced 3.5 m wide telescope and that would be the best among the countries in Asia,” he said.

He further pointed out that the Centre was also planning to launch technology incubators for enhancing the innovations and entrepreneurial skills of the young generation.

## **EX-FOREIGN MIN OF SINGAPORE TO HEAD NALANDA UNIVERSITY**

Hindustan Times (Gurgaon)

The southwest monsoon has failed to keep its date with Kerala, its first stopover, throwing meteorologists’ predictions to the winds again. Interestingly dark clouds hovered over the southern tip on Saturday but it was short-lived. After a mild drizzle, the blistering sun reappeared.

The southwest monsoon, which accounts for four-fifths of the nation’s rainfall, is crucial for millions of the country’s farmers.

“We have pinned much hope on it. Good rain means better returns,” said K Prabhakaran, a paddy farmer in Kerala’s rice bowl Kuttanad (central Kerala). But its delay hasn’t disappointed him either. “That’s not a big issue. What we need is steady rainfall in coming days,” he said.

Interestingly, the state received relatively good premonsoon showers this time.

The southwest monsoon, after hitting Kerala, will move towards central India and provide relief from the heat wave in the region. It is expected to strike the national capital by June-end.

A good monsoon is a key factor in keeping the Indian economy robust. A rain-fed state, last year Kerala received 10% excess fall but the country recorded a 12% deficit. Kerala’s 60% power comes from hydel projects and 44 rivers that crisscross the state.

This year, the weather department has predicted a ‘below normal’ rain, a factor that is already playing on the minds of millions dependent on it. **MONSOON CAN HIT KERALA BY JUNE 4: IMD**

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Saturday said that monsoon can hit Kerala by June 4 or 5. It also said that the heat wave in north India will abate from June 1 because of the formation of a fresh western disturbance.

“The amount of rainfall and the strength of wind that are needed for declaring a monsoon are yet to develop. There is a gradual strengthening of wind and it would take three to four more days before monsoon can strike Kerala,” IMD director BP Yadav told HT. **HTC**

Singapore’s former foreign minister George Yeo will succeed Amartya Sen as the new chancellor of the Nalanda University.

Yeo, who is on the governing board of the university, will take over from Sen who withdrew his candidature for a second term as Chancellor of the university in February 2015.

“A n e w C h a n c e l l o r in Nalanda. George Yeo, former FM of Singapore is to be the new Chancellor of Nalanda University,” MEA spokesperson Vikas Swarup said on Twitter.

Yeo was awarded the Padma Bhushan in 2012 in recognition of his contribution in the field of public affairs.

Sen, whose term would have ended in July, wrote a letter to his colleagues on the board withdrawing from seeking a second term. He said the delay in the approval to his re-appointment was an indication that the government was not keen on his second term. “It is hard for me not to conclude that the government wants me to cease being the chancellor after July,” Sen had said.



Yeo takes over at a time when the university has several plans on its agenda, including development of its sprawling campus and shaping academic plans for the future. Nalanda University vicechancellor Gopa Sabharwal said, “With Yeo, the university will strive for further growth. He is a man of vision and one who has been part of the Nalanda journey from its very outset.”