

## Newspaper Clips May 6, 2014

Statesman ND 06/05/2014 P-12

# Engineering becoming globally mobile

AFTER A LONG STRUGGLE, INDIA IS FINALLY GOING TO BE A MEMBER OF THE WASHINGTON ACCORD, WRITES DEBAMEETA BHATTACHARYA

India has a decent chance to be a member of the Washington Accord in June thereby improving its prospective to help its engineering pass-outs to enter the US and other European countries for a better career and higher studies.

Washington Accord is an international agreement between registering bodies of member countries accrediting academic engineering programme at the university level, leading to the practice of engineering at the full professional level. It covers professional engineering undergraduate degrees. Engineering technology and postgraduate level programmes are covered by a different accord called the Paris Accord.

The Higher Education's secretary Ashok Thakur also said initiatives are being taken to set up National Accreditation Regulatory Authority, adding on to the country's efforts to improve its quality and meet international standards.

"After acquiring full status of the Washington Accord, employability of Indian engineers in other countries will go up substantially. This will help our students pursuing technical education," said Thakur.

The Accord signed in 1989 is an international agreement among bodies responsible for accrediting engineering degree programmes. So far, some 16 countries are signatories to it and India is a provisional member of Washington Accord since 2007.

A three-member international team had visited India last December to review the ongoing accreditation of two colleges. The team submitted its report that will be used for the take the final decision at the next meeting of the Washington Accord in June this year.

This motion was started by Professor Kai Sang Lock, mentor of Washington Accord to the National Board of Accreditation on 10 March this year. "Although the final decision would be known only after the meeting in June, I am hopeful that India will become a member of the Accord. We helped India to set up a system which is in tune with the requirements of Washington Accord," he said.

The new accreditation process is more outcome-based, unlike the earlier input-based



Ashok Thakur and Kai Sang Lock.

structure. "India has many different institutes offering engineering programmes. This will help the engineers become more globally mobile," said Michael KJ Milligan, executive director of Fabtech, an international accreditation agency. Iring Wasser of a German accreditation agency added, "Besides improving the quality of the engineering programme and allowing more professional mobility this will open the doors for better employment."

Thakur said two members were deputed by the Washington Accord to help India align its accreditation norms with the best international practices.

Talking about Nara, he said it would be an autonomous body comprising experts who will identify agencies for accrediting institutes. The University Grants Commission will initiate steps to set up the body soon, he said. At present, the accreditation is provided by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council and National Board of Accreditation.

Government has made accreditation mandatory for all educational institutes and the UGC has come up with a set of guidelines in this respect. He also said that the Indian Institutes of Technologies are free to decide if they wish to be accredited by these bodies as these premier institutes have so far refused to be accredited. IITs have instead decided to go for an internal accreditation process.

Thakur, however, sought increased involvement of the IITs with the NBA accrediting institutes.

# Ratan Tata receives one of UK's top civilian honours

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

**T**ata group Chairman Emeritus Ratan Tata has become the first Indian since independence to receive the Knight Grand Cross of the Order of the British Empire (GBE), one of the highest civilian honours of the UK.

Tata was presented the GBE by British High Commissioner to India Sir James Bevan on behalf of Queen Elizabeth II.

"Mr Tata has been awarded an honorary GBE, one of the highest civilian honours conferred by the UK, in recognition of his services to UK-India rela-

tions, inward investment to the UK and philanthropy," the British High Commission said in a statement.

Tata is the only Indian national to be awarded the GBE since India became a republic in 1950, it added.

Commenting on the honour, Bevan said: "Ratan Tata's leadership, vision and integrity will remain the gold standard for generations of aspirational British and Indian business people."

Tata's contribution to the deep ties that exist between the UK and India has been invaluable, he added.

Queen Elizabeth II had conferred on Tata the honorary award of Knight Commander of the Order of British Empire (KBE) in 2009.

Tata is a member of the UK-India CEO Forum and the British Prime Minister's Business Advisory Group. As Chairman of Tata Sons, he oversaw the Tata Group, one of the leading foreign investors and employers in the UK.

Under his leadership the UK benefited from significant inward investment from Tata companies. Tata are now the largest manufacturing employer in the UK.

Hindu ND 06/05/2014 P-11

# UGC gets nod for fresh inspection of deemed varsities

Legal Correspondent

**NEW DELHI:** The Supreme Court on Monday gave the University Grants Commission the go-ahead for conducting a fresh inspection of 41 deemed universities which were sought to be de-recognised on the basis of the Tandon Committee report.

A Bench of Justices K.S. Radhakrishnan and Vikramajit Sen, after hearing counsel Rakesh Diwedi, said the UGC had regulatory powers to conduct a fresh inspection and directed it to submit its report by July 31.

Opposing re-inspection, Additional Solicitor-General Indira Jaising said the UGC could use three earlier reports — of the Tandon panel, the committee of officers and the UGC report it-

## Supreme Court asks it to submit report by July 31

self — to take a decision.

Acting on a petition filed by advocate Viplav Sharma, the Centre had, during the hearing, appointed the Tandon Committee, which classified the 122 deemed universities into three categories.

Forty-four of them were sought to be de-recognised on the ground that they did not have the required infrastructure and that they had become 'teaching shops.'

(Out of the 44, one got the status of institution of excellence and two surrendered their deemed university status)

# Police give wings to IIT dreams

Raj Shekhar | TNN

**New Delhi:** Delhi Police have started a free coaching facility for IIT-JEE aspirants of Jamia Nagar area who don't have the means to avail professional coaching facilities in the city. This free coaching is being imparted at the Public Police Library in the area that was started in 2012.

About 500 Class XII students applied for this facility this year. They took an entrance test after which 200 were selected. "We screened students on merit, but also had to keep in mind our existing infrastructure," said P Karunakaran, DCP (southeast). These lucky ones will learn the ropes of engineering entrances from experienced faculty, including guest lecturers from Delhi University and Jamia Millia Islamia, and they will also

have access to the library.

The air-conditioned coaching centre remains open from 10am to 6pm and is managed by SHO Pankaj Singh and NGO Shikhar. The current batch, with a gender ratio of 60:40, started on April 25 and students have

been attending two-hour lectures daily. Police have also provided them with study materials.

"Being an educational hub, there is no dearth of talent here. We have qualified teachers with MSc and above degrees and we pay them; we

also have several PhDs and other scholars in the panel," said Nadeem Akhtar, general secretary, Shikhar.

There is a lot of enthusiasm among students and their parents as well as policemen about the initiative. "Most of the policemen have to remain away from home. Many of them have sons and daughters studying in Class XI or XII and they find little time to spend with them. They feel happy to meet these children and see them strive to fulfil their dreams," Karunakaran added.

Police had actually taken this initiative last year on a pilot basis and the response was overwhelming. Seeing it, they decided to launch it as a full-fledged project. Now, police are planning to expand the scope of this project even further by offering coaching for BEd and LLB this year.

## HELPING HAND FOR JAMIA KIDS

**THE SCHEME** | Class XII students who can't afford a coaching class sit for a test. Selected students are eligible for the benefits

- Free classes in Physics, Chemistry and Maths
- Professors from Jamia and other universities invited, qualified trainers with MSc degree and above hired

### CURRENT BATCH

500 students applied,  
200 shortlisted

2-hr classes every day

- Assistance provided to students for filling up forms for JEE and other entrance exams



The library in Jamia Nagar run by Delhi Police and NGO Shikhar

Economic Times ND 06/05/2014 P-8

### Management Tip

By Harvard Business Review

#### Externalise Your Focus

Organizations that are too inwardly focused often miss important happenings and opportunities in the market. Use these three ways to get your people to look outward for customer insights, competitor moves, and market changes:

- **Listen to customer-facing employees.** Front-line employees are your ear to the pavement. Value them, ask them what they hear from customers, and if necessary, train them to listen for the right information.
- **Get people out.** Send executives on sales calls. Ask directors to train as customer service reps. People calling the shots should meet customers face to face.
- **Share data, both good and bad.** Some executives protect their employees from troublesome market or customer data. While well intentioned, this hinders your organization's responsiveness. If there is bad news, deliver it with a well-articulated plan.

## Watch Out, MBAs! Now, PhDs are After Your Jobs

More doctoral graduates are pursuing careers outside academia

ERIN ZLOMEK

Els van der Helm tried to sign up for a corporate recruiting event through the University of California at Berkeley's business school last year, but she was turned away. "I got the response, 'Oh, actually this is just for the MBAs,' which makes sense," says Van der Helm, who graduated from Berkeley last May with a Ph.D. in psychology and now works as a junior associate for McKinsey. The MBAs "pay a lot of money to get their time with the recruiters," she says. "Everything is very nicely laid out for them. For Ph.D.s, it's not." Van der Helm and some of her classmates organized Berkeley's first career conference last year for Ph.D.s looking for jobs outside of academia. Business schools have long given students ex-

posure to a variety of employers through internships, on-campus recruiting events, and company visits, but Ph.D. programmes at Berkeley, Princeton University, and Duke University are just starting to get into the game. Ph.D.s haven't "been tapped into the way that MBAs have," says Karen Jackson Weaver, associate dean for academic affairs and diversity at Princeton's graduate school.

Selling companies on the benefits of hiring Ph.D.s will be a priority for Princeton's new executive director of career services, Pulin Sanghvi, who came on board at the end of last year, previously ran career services at the Stanford Graduate School of Business. During his tenure there, he increased the number of employers hiring from the school to more than 330, bringing in many small companies and startups that took on MBAs for the first time.

Among newly minted doctoral graduates who reported having a job at graduation, 29% were employed in business or industry in 2012, up from 24% in 2002, according to the National Science Foundation. Some of the largest and most active recruiters of Ph.D.s are Amazon.com,



JPMorgan Chase, Citigroup, Bank of America, IBM, General Electric, Intel, Johnson & Johnson, United Technologies, Boeing, and Pfizer, according to Burning Glass, an analytics firm that tracks job postings.

The Council of Graduate Schools is surveying 270 universities about how they track doctoral career paths. The goal is to eventually issue recommendations on how Ph.D. programmes can give prospective students data on job and internship placement as well as salaries after graduation. "Law schools and business schools have collected this data for a long time," says the council's president, Debra Stewart. For Ph.D. programmes, "this really is the first step."

Schools and recruiters downplayed the threat Ph.D.s represent to the ambitions of MBA grads. Amazon reports that it hires Ph.D.s for specialised knowledge in areas such as speech recognition and software development. At management consulting firm Boston Consulting Group, where Ph.D.s account for 20% of new hires, a number that is expected to increase, doctoral grads are sought for the depth and diversity they can add to teams that are already largely composed of MBAs, says senior partner Lucy Brady. "Overall," she says, the "strategy is to find the best talent whatever the background."

Bloomberg News

# FIRST TIME IN THREE DECADES

TUITION FEE HIKE BLAMED AS INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AT UK UNIVERSITIES FALL BY A QUARTER. **RICHARD GARNER** REPORTS

The first decline in the number of international students at English universities for almost three decades was revealed in a research published last month where figures show a dramatic 25 per cent slump in the number of full-time European undergraduates, which experts put down to the introduction of the new fees system with charges of up to £9,000 a year. The numbers are down from 23,440 to 17,890.

Students from EU countries are on an equal footing with the UK ones, and therefore have to pay the fees whilst not having the same entitlement to loans. University courses in other European countries are also cheaper than the UK, says the report.

In addition, the percentage of international postgraduate students in English universities has declined by a percent between 2010/2011 (1,000 students) with a dramatic fall in enrolments from India and Pakistan, which is only partially offset by a rise from China. Meanwhile, the new fees system has led to a reduction in the number of UK students to postgraduate courses, who now account for only 26 per cent of all enrolments, with the Chinese breathing down their necks at 23 per cent of all students, according to the research from the Higher Education Funding Council for England.

University sources put the decline in the UK enrollment down to the new fees system, with would-be applicants being put off further study because of the debts they have already accrued from their undergraduate courses. On overseas enrollments, both undergraduate and postgraduate courses report a decline in enrolments from India and Pakistan, where complaints about tighter restrictions on visa to the UK to study have been most vociferous.

The research show Indian enrollments at postgraduate level are down 7,000 (51 per cent) while Pakistan has fallen by 1,400 (49 per cent). Chinese enrolments are up 8,300 (44 per cent).

The report also shows that the number of international students enrolling on undergraduate courses is still rising — thus partially offsetting the decline in EU recruitment and adds that the potential for income to universities “is expected to remain strong”.

However, it warns: “There is a risk that future growth will not materialise at the level forecast and any reduction could have a major impact on institutions’ financial positions.”

University sources, though, predict the effect on other higher education institutions elsewhere in the UK is likely to be less marked as they do not operate under the same fees regime.

“These new figures are hardly surprising and confirm what we have been saying all along,” said Daniel Stevens, international students’ officer of the National Union of Students. “Many international students feel unwelcome in the UK as a result of the Government’s hostile and overzealous (immigration) policies.”

THE INDEPENDENT



# Young blood transfusion is key to eternal youth?

## 'Recharges Brain, Forms New Blood Vessels In Mice'

Kounteya Sinha | TNN

© Ralf Schultheiss/Corbis

**London:** Transfusion of young blood into an older body may hold the long-sought cure for the decline of the aging brain, according to researchers. Scientists on Sunday confirmed that new blood recharges the brain, forms new blood vessels and greatly improves memory.

Harvard Stem Cell Institute researchers have shown that a new protein can make the failing hearts in aging mice appear more like those of young and healthy mice.

It also improves brain and skeletal muscle function in aging mice. In two separate papers, Amy Wagers and Lee Ruben of Harvard's department of stem cell and regenerative biology (HSCRB) reported that injections of a protein known as GDF11 which is found in humans as well as mice improved the exercise capability of mice equivalent in age to that of about a 70-year-old human and also improved the function of the olfactory region of the brains of the older mice — they could detect smell as younger mice do.

The researchers expect to have GDF11 in initial human clinical trials within three to five years.

Both studies examined the effect of GDF11 in two ways. First, by using what is called a parabiotic system in which two mice were surgically joined and the blood of the younger mouse circulates through the older mouse. The second was by injecting the older mice with GDF11. Doug Melton, co-chair of



NO MORE AGING

HSCRB, said, "This should give us all hope for a healthier future. We all wonder why we were stronger and mentally more agile when young and these two unusually exciting papers actually point to a possible answer: the higher levels of the protein GDF11 we have when young. There seems to be little question that, at least in animals, GDF11 has an amazing capacity to restore aging muscle and brain function."

GDF11 is naturally found in much higher concentration in young mice and raising its levels in the older mice has improved the function of every organ system thus far studied. Last year scientists reported that when exposed to the blood of young mice the weak enlarged hearts of older mice returned to a more youthful size and their function improved.

They then further reported that GDF11 was the factor in the blood apparently responsible for the reju-

venating effect. That finding has raised hopes that GDF11 may prove in some form to be a possible treatment for diastolic heart failure which is a fatal condition in the elderly that is irreversible.

They said, "We think an effect of GDF 11 is the improved vascularity and blood flow associated with increased neurogenesis. This should have other more widespread effect on other areas of the brain. We do think that, at least in principal, there will be a way to reverse some of the decline of aging with a single protein. It could be that a molecule like GDF 11 or GDF 11 itself could reverse the damage of aging." They added, "It isn't out of question that GDF11 or a drug developed from it might be worthwhile in Alzheimer's Disease. You might be able to separate out the issues of treating the plaque and tangles associated with the disease, the decline in cognition and perhaps improve cognition."

## AICTE Not For Denying Permission To New Colleges

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/cities/chennai/AICTE-Not-For-Denying-Permission-To-New-Colleges/2014/05/05/article2205745.ece1>



The AICTE is not in favour of the UGC’s moratorium on refusing permission for new engineering colleges, said AICTE Chairman S S Mantha. He was speaking on the sidelines of the convocation of Sri Sai Ram Engineering College on Saturday.

“The idea seems to be that the government must come to the aid of the existing colleges that are not getting students to fill in their seats by denying permission to new colleges. If there is no quality, the colleges will not get seats. This is true not only in India, but also in the US. It is a fundamental right to practise one’s profession. If a college adheres to all the norms laid down by the government, we don’t have any right to deny permission to start a college,” he said.

“It is not the job of the regulator to find students for the colleges,” he added, pointing out that it was important to ensure quality in the colleges. He said there should be a mechanism to plot the basic performance of colleges in aspects like student, faculty, etc, of all the engineering colleges on a common page. This will help develop a mechanism to rate colleges on their quality. For this, the needs of the students, the faculty and the college must be taken into consideration and it must be noted that it cannot be ‘one size fits all’ formula.

He said that instead of denying permission for colleges, the government must take steps to ensure that there is enough infrastructure to meet the higher education requirements. He said there was a need to increase the Gross Enrollment Ratio in higher education, which was as low as 18 percent currently. He added that the quality of primary education should be increased to ensure that 50 per cent of the students, who have failed in the class 12 examinations, did better. Speaking about the stripping of the regulatory powers of AICTE last year and replacing it with the UGC, he said that the interpretation of AICTE as an advisory body was unfortunate. “In the last five years, the AICTE has tried to ensure that transparency and accountability in the system was in place. It is important to see that the status is preserved. If all the approving agencies like the MCI, DCI, ACI, etc, will have to go, then what will be the fate of higher education?” he wondered.

He said that the AICTE had asked the State governments to provide data on supply and demand for higher education. This would include a five-year sample study on the number of students, who had passed out of school in five years, the number of drop-outs, the courses they demand, migration to other States, employment and so on. "Only about four colleges have provided the data and it is very sketchy," he said.

This year, the AICTE has received applications for about 500 polytechnic colleges, including about 35 from Tamil Nadu. The AICTE has approved around 100 of them.

HT

# Eight NIT students found drunk; 2 girls suspended from hostel

**Neha Arora**

■ [letterschd@hindustantimes.com](mailto:letterschd@hindustantimes.com)

**JALANDHAR:** Eight engineering students, including five girls, of Dr BR Ambedkar National Institute of Technology were found in an inebriated condition while they were returning to hostel on Friday night.

According to sources, the institute has suspended two girl students from the hostel till further notice as part of immediate action. The authorities were trying to investigate the matter before taking a final decision.

Sources said the guards reported the incident to the dean students welfare (DSW) and the chief warden. The students were taken to the dispensary of the institute for medical examination, where medical tests confirmed the presence of alcohol in their blood, sources added.

DSW SK Sinha said, "The students had consumed alcohol

outside the campus. The case has been referred to the proctor cell and a committee has been formed to investigate it."

He said, "One of the girls was not feeling well and the doctor at the institute's dispensary has asked me to stay here. I have also called the lab assistant, chief warden and the proctor."

He said the students were not suspended yet as they were having their semester exams. "We have not suspended any student yet as the students are having exams; besides, the committee has not submitted its report," he said. Meanwhile, the students were allowed to take the exams on Monday, keeping in mind their careers, he added. The proctor cell head, when contacted, said he was not authorised to talk to the media. He even denied that the students returned to the hostel drunk.

The NIT director was not available for comment.



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**THE TIMES OF INDIA**

## **NIT teachers' federation alleges vilification bid**

TNN | May 6, 2014, 12:20 AM IST

KOZHIKODE: The All-India Federation of NIT Teachers (AFNITT) has said that the allegation, inquiry and action against P Predeep, Physics professor at NITC, on charges of sexual harassment was a consequence of vilification attempts by a section of faculty trying to settle personal scores at the cost of students and the reputation of the institute.

Federation secretary A Sujith said in a release that that Prof Predeep, who is the founding leader of AFNITT, was being deliberately targeted with the aim of tarnishing him. "It is true that there was a complaint against the teacher, but it was not a case of sexual abuse. A lady student who found it difficult to carry on her research on a particular topic wanted to change the guide. In this case, this has been deliberately manipulated by a group led by some deans and faculty members to a complaint," the release claimed.