

Newspaper Clips

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Hindustan Times ND 07/05/2014 (hteducation) P-3

IITs to share expertise with Finland

HOT HUB Finland is actively involved in setting up a joint IT hub in Otaniemi with the support of Indian Institutes of Technology and National Institutes of Technology



Vandana Ramnani

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In an attempt to take the Indo-Finnish education cooperation a step further, Finland is planning to set up an IT hub in its Aalto University campus with the help of the IITs in Bombay, Gandhinagar and Roorkee and the NITs in Jaipur and Rourkela to facilitate further cooperation and staff mobility. Plans are also afoot to pattern a similar Finnish ventures in India. These efforts are being supported by the Finnish ministry of education and culture and the Indian ministry of human resources development.

An IIT delegation visited Finland and took part in the Finnish-Indian higher education cooperation seminar in September 2013 at Aalto University. Last month, a delegation from Aalto University and other Finnish universities visited IIT Bombay and made further commitments for deepened cooperation in the fields of research, higher education, design, innovation and entrepre-



Members of the Indian delegation that visited Finland from September 22-28, 2013

neurship, reveals Krista Kiuru, minister of education and communication of Finland.

Elaborating on the plans, Mari-Anna Suurmunne, head of international relations, Aalto University, says the Indian MHRD delegation that visited Aalto University in September included three directors from the IITs and two from NITs. The institute hosted IITs in Bombay, Gandhinagar, Roorkee and NITs from Jaipur and Rourkela. Amita Sharma, additional secretary from MHRD led the delegation.

"The overall goal of the visit was to explore possibilities for enhanced cooperation both between IITs and Finnish universities at large and from our

perspective, between Aalto and the IITs – a possibility to establish an IIT hub for Otaniemi was discussed, but it was agreed that we will first seek to intensify collaboration between our institutions and revisit the issue later if the established collaboration would support such a development," she explains.

In early April, a delegation of 14 from Aalto University visited IIT Bombay for a two-day seminar. Workshops were organised on themes such as health, design, management, energy, mathematics and construction and potential for further academic collaboration was estimated to be very good by both sides. Towards that end, IITs have suggested a

consortium agreement between IITs and Finnish universities, especially to support research cooperation and academic and student mobility, she says.

The Finnish ministry of education and culture will organise the so-called Second India Round Table where work on a consortium agreement, will begin, she says. "We hope to have an agreement ready next fall, so we can revisit the issue as things proceed. We have discussed student and staff mobility as well as forms of research collaboration as topics to aim for. We will only start the drafting after the second round table. The number of institutes involved is still open at least for the Finnish side," she adds.

JOINT EFFORTS

Linkages set to grow

Vandana Ramnani

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The government of Finland has been taking steps to strengthen education-related collaborations with the Indian government. Last spring, Tekes and FinNode innovation network, conducted a survey on Finland-India educational, research and development and innovation cooperation. The aim was to examine the scope of cooperation between Finnish and Indian institutions in education, R&D and innovation.

The total number of Finnish-India collaborative projects identified and active in 2008 - 2012 was 157. In Finland, 73 different organisations participated in these projects, while the total number of Indian organisations was 75, says Krista Kiuru, minister of education and communication of Finland.

The 21 Finnish universities and research institutes involved in the projects covered every major organisation in the field

and a number of Finnish commercial actors were engaged in collaboration projects with Indian organisations.

The Centres of Excellence (CoE) are the flagship of Finnish research. "They attract the best researchers at all levels – students, post docs from all over the world. We are also very pleased to see Indian students and researchers in the Finnish science and higher education community," she says.

There is talk in Finland about education export. Until now, Finnish education export companies haven't been very active in India.

"Finland and India share many things that could bring our education specialists together - ICT in education being one of them. The Finnish education system is not transferable as such to India nor to any other country, but by creating partnerships with their Indian counterparts Finns can surely be creating better education for Indian children," she adds.

HT Mumbai

faceto face

GAUTAMBISWAS, director, IIT-Guwahati

'Research and citations helped us become a top global institute'

Antara Sengupta

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Last week, the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT-Guwahati) made it to the '100 under-50' list of new global institutes compiled by UK based Times Higher Education World University Rankings. The institute was ranked 87th based on their credible research work and citations by its faculty. Speaking to HT Education, Gautam Biswas, director of IIT-Guwahati, discusses the journey from a 'young' institute to being one of the top global colleges.

What were the parameters of the rankings?

Successful research output and citations helped us make it to the top 100. Some faculty colleagues demonstrated substantial intrinsic merit of their research. We took industrial problems and produced viable solutions to them. Overall, high quality teaching, an international outlook, industry income and citations helped us perform well.

What was the procedure? Did they conduct a campus visit?

They asked for data and details, supported by documentary evidence.

Why do you think most Indian institutes fare poorly in global rankings?

The problem is that we do not collect and collate our data carefully, let alone reporting it professionally. It is essential to provide accurate data to the judging agencies to understand where we stand with respect to other institutes. Moreover, we lag behind in certain param-

eters, such as the number of international students in undergraduate programmes, number of foreign faculty members on the payroll and so on. If these limitations are overcome, I believe we are on par in terms of our teaching-learning methods and our research at the premier institutes of the country.

How do you plan to overcome these limitations? Will you invite more international students on campus?

We plan to admit more international students at the PhD level.

Now that IIT-Guwahati has been ranked as one of the world's best universities, what are the college's future plans?

The paradigm of engineering research is on the verge of a third industrial revolution. It is becoming increasingly clear that in the future, machines and devices will be guided substantially by the principles of life sciences. These days, many new bio-inspired interdisciplinary subjects are emerging, such as biomimetics, microfluidics, bottom-up fabrication, bioenergetics, etc. The emerging research paradigm has to be handled by forming multiple interdisciplinary research groups.

Research-based exchange programmes within the IIT system and well-known universities abroad have to be introduced at the undergraduate as well as postgraduate levels.

Creativity is the most important component in education. This is because it alleviates fatigue. We try to enhance creativity in our campus. Some of our faculty members are creative designers. One of them, in fact, designed the Rupee symbol. We will strive hard to make our department of humanities and social sciences take part in enhancing creative activities through creation of more verticals, such as creative writing, liberal arts etc.

Another issue that requires immediate attention is tackling academic fatigue. A section of undergraduate students is losing interest in academics, caused by the years of gruelling coaching they face before entering the institute, followed by four more

years of gruelling studies. They are then unable to manage time between extra-curricular activities and mainstream education. Another major hindrance is computer addiction, where teachers have to intervene to make them understand the harmful effects of this.

We have to focus on development of an effective student care system, which is unique in terms of activating the dormant capacity of poor performers.

We are working on designing a mechanism of 'hand-holding' studies by the well-performing students. The faculty members are also putting in sincere efforts to attract students who seek the best science and engineering education.

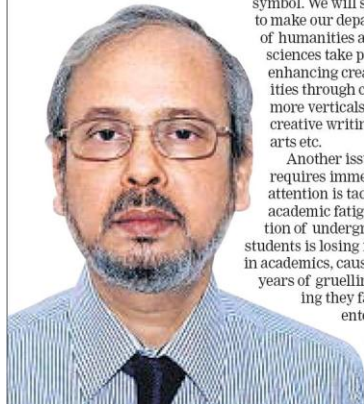
What do you think are the major challenges with the other newer IITs, such as the ones at Mandi, Bhubaneswar, Indore, Jodhpur and so on?

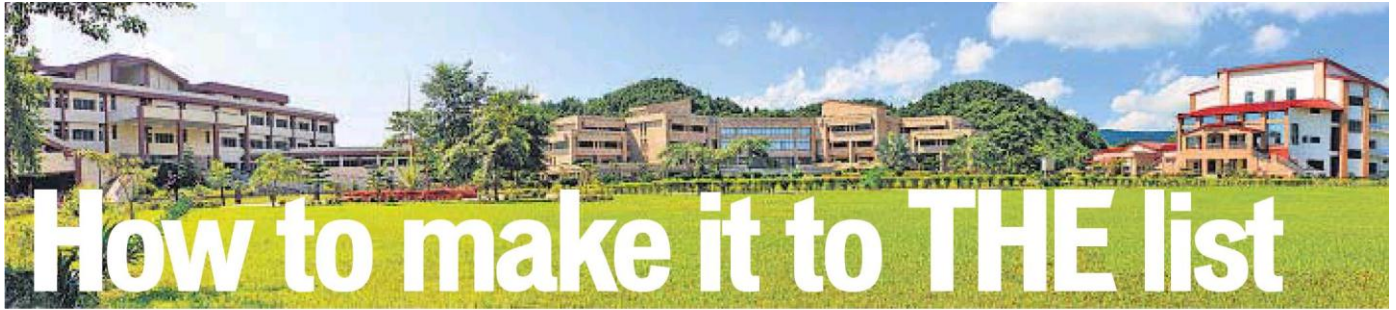
As per my knowledge, all the IITs are getting excellent students. I admit that there is an old and prevailing phenomenon of students opting for better streams in other well known institutes such as the National Institute of Technology (NITs) and other prominent technical institutes. This can be one of the reasons for vacancies at the newer IITs.

Infrastructure is a major challenge for any new campus at the evolution stage. Similar was the case with IIT-Guwahati when we began operations in 1994. Many of these newer IITs, for instance IIT-Indore, are operating out of make-shift establishments and this has discouraged several students from joining them. The entire flavour of IIT is residential education. We give major importance to student-teacher interaction.

Another important aspect is the quality of faculty in these institutions. Although they are hiring qualified faculty members, these are fewer in number, for reasons not known to me. But the management has taken a note of it and these newer IITs are now hiring retired professors from older IITs and NITs.

At IIT-Guwahati, we have also been through these challenges in the past and have now overcome them to feature in one of the most reputable world rankings. I am sure these institutions will keep up the academic fervour of brand IIT too.





HERE'S TO THE FUTURE What has IIT-Guwahati been doing right to secure 87th rank in the Times Higher Education list of promising young institutes under the age of 50?

Ayesha Banerjee

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It's young, "dynamic", and in the news. The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Guwahati, which has made it to the Times Higher Education (THE) 2014 list of 100 of the world's top universities under 50 years of age recently, is just 20 years old. Set up in 1994, it is ranked 87 with the New University of Lisbon, Portugal, and the University of Western Sydney, Australia.

On why IIT-G fared better than other "young" IITs in Mandi, Patna, Jodhpur or Indore, Phil Baty, editor, THE, says the institute "stands out" because of its very high research impact. The papers it has published are highly influential and cited by other scholars around the world. "The fact that it made to the top 100 is because its research output is starting to influence global research, pushing boundaries of knowledge and being disseminated around the world community." It has also done relatively well on the teaching indicator and

has good indicators for faculty student ratio," Baty adds.

Contacted before the release of the THE list and unaware of the ranking, Professor Gautam Biswas, director, IIT-G, which gave India its ₹ symbol (it was designed by D Udaya Kumar of the design department), said he had been for long focusing on breaking the "jinx of rankings." Faculty members and students, he said, were being motivated by being repeatedly reminded that the country had produced great scientists like CV Raman, Sir JC Bose, Satyendra Nath Bose and Dr Homi Bhabha. "IIT-G faculty members are very keen to perform and publish their work in typical top-tier journals," Biswas adds.

Baty says THE refers to the under-50 list as 'bespoke rankings' as the methodology for the traditional world rankings is "recalibrated". The weight given to "reputation" is reduced as younger institutes have not had the time, say like Oxford or Harvard, to build global reputations and more of the hard objective indicators are used.

COMING UP TOPS IN DESH KI SEVA

- As Assam makes significant contribution to the petroleum industry and has a number of oil refineries, IIT-G faculty is working with refineries for energy-based research, conversion of biomass into fuel, helping new developing new combustion technology.
- The civil engineering department is working on collabora-

tive projects with the Indian Railways to lay tracks and build stations, aiming to connect remote northeast areas

- Water resources engineering and geology-geophysics departments to set up a Centre for Disaster Mitigation in association with the Government of Assam

IIT-G has key focus on path-breaking collaborations. The faculty of the department of electronics and electrical engineering has made significant advances in the area of smart grids and is participating in a project with the Assam Electricity Grid Corporation Limited. Another group has been interacting with the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) to try and develop high power microwave tubes. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is in the process of setting up

a space engineering centre on campus. Faculty members in mechanical engineering have been able to create efficient biomass reactors for fuel conversion process. A significant contribution has been made in the field of computational fluid dynamics (science of fluids in motion — the subdisciplines of which include aerodynamics and hydrodynamics). A programme is also being created for the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre. Work is also continuing on the development of new generation cancer gene therapy vectors.

For an international reach, IIT-G has tied up with Gifu University, Japan, in advanced manufacturing processes and plant biology. Other student and knowledge exchange programmes are being worked out with universities in Australia, Professor Biswas adds.

Since Assam has a number of refineries, the chemical engineering department is working with the petroleum industry on a number of interesting projects, including energy-based research, conversion of biomass into fuel, and helping develop new combustion technology.

The surprise element in the rankings, says Baty, is the very rich diverse range of countries. US, UK, and western European dominance has reduced to give way to institutes from the Middle East, East Asia and now India. "This list of the young prospects shows that the future is more bright and there is cause for optimism that the young institutions can make an impact. Hopefully, the other young universities will make an appearance in the not too distant future," he concludes.

SOME RANKING INDICATORS

- Research from industry/academic staff
- Reputation survey – teaching
- Staff-to-student ratio
- PhDs awarded/undergraduate degrees awarded
- PhDs awarded/academic staff
- Institutional income/academic staff
- Citation impact (normalised average citations per paper)
- Research – volume, income and reputation
- Reputation survey – research
- Research income/academic staff
- Scholarly papers/(academic and research staff)

 Involved in any interesting projects in your college? Share details and photographs on facebook.com/edu

Times of India ND 07/05/2014 P-20

Ratan Tata gets top UK award

Kounteya Sinha | TNN

London: Ratan Tata on Monday became the first Indian to be awarded the Knight Grand Cross of the Order of the British Empire (GBE) since India became a republic in 1950. British high commissioner to India James Bevan conducted the ceremony. He presented **Ratan Tata** with the GBE on behalf of Queen Elizabeth II.

Speaking at the ceremony, Bevan said, "Ratan Tata's leadership, vision and integrity will remain the gold standard for generations of as-

pirational British and Indian business people. His contribution to the deep ties that exist between the UK and India has been invaluable."

Tata said, "I am deeply touched and feel honoured to



receive the recognition so graciously bestowed on me by Her Majesty. It has been a privilege to have our enterprises contribute to the growth of the UK. I am deeply

appreciative of the support we have received personally from David Cameron and his government through good and bad times. This support and faith have been of immeasurable value."

Times of India ND 07/05/2014 P-20

Indian docs at higher lay-off risk in UK

In Past 5 Years, 1 Out Of Every 250 Desi Medics Have Lost Job, Says Report

Kounteya Sinha | TNN

London: The maximum number of doctors sacked in the United Kingdom over the last five years is from India, Britain's General Medical Council (GMC) has revealed.

In the past five years, one out of every 250 doctors of Indian origin has lost their job. According to latest figures, Indian doctors are at least four times more likely to be struck off from practising in the UK than medics who are trained locally.

Since the year 2009, 117 doctors trained in India and Pakistan have been barred from working in Britain. India is followed by Pakistan, Egypt and



Indian doctors are at least four times more likely to be sacked than medics who are trained locally in the UK. Since 2009, 117 doctors trained in India and Pakistan have been struck off

Nigeria. The figures add up to around 1 in 1,000 doctors who are trained in UK being struck off during that period as against 1 in 250 of those trained in India, and 1 in 350 of those from Pakistan.

In 2013 alone, 75% of doctors who were struck off came to the UK from foreign shores. In total, 458 doctors have been barred from working in the UK

in the past five years.

The findings come days after British researchers called for making tests taken by foreign doctors who want to work in the NHS to be made harder to pass as half of all foreign doctors in Britain do not have the necessary skills to work here.

The University College London said that they have

found a performance gap between international and UK medical graduates and has suggested raising the pass mark from 63 to 76%.

More than 95,000 foreign-trained doctors work in the UK, making up a quarter of the total number, majority of them being Indians.

The revelations are being seen as further proof of discrimination within the system by the British Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (Bapio). The association had recently dragged both, the Royal College of General Practitioners which conducts the exam and the General Medical Council which is accountable for ensuring a fair process, to

court alleging that the UK based trainee GPs from Indian background were four times more likely to fail this assessment. They also alleged that international medical graduates were 16 times more likely to fail the examination than their white counterparts despite having successfully completed the same stringent training process up to this point. Bapio lost the case.

Most recently, health education England revealed a programme to recruit at least 50 trainee doctors via video-link interviews from India to tackle shortages in the country's accident and emergency department.

(With input from agencies)

HT Indore

London University's Delhi centre invites applications for undergraduate programmes

HT Education Correspondent
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An affiliate centre of the University of London (UoL) with academic direction from London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) is inviting students to apply for its three-year full-time undergraduate honours degree programmes in BSc economics, BSc economics and manage-

ment and BSc business and management.

Applicants, who have passed the Class 12 examination conducted by CBSE/ISC/state board/International Baccalaureate/GSCE A-levels (by May 2014), are eligible to apply. All applicants for this degree should have demonstrable proficiency in English and mathematics.

Candidates applying for BSc

economics need to have proof of competency in mathematics (equivalent to Grade 12). For other programmes, candidates should be able to demonstrate ability in mathematics (equivalent to Grade 10).

For students from the CBSE/ISC/state boards, selections are made on the basis of an

entrance exam (iMET- ISBF Mathematics English Test) and personal interview.

IB and A-level students are exempted from the entrance exam (per application basis). Selections are made on the basis of a personal interview.

Visit www.applytoisbf.com for application details. The

application fee is ₹2,500. The deadline is May 20, 2014. The entrance exam is scheduled for May 21, 2014.

Limited scholarships worth ₹1.4 lakh are available for meritorious students. For more queries, send an email to uol@isbf.edu.in. The centre's campus is in New Delhi.



SANTOSH

Novodai ND 07/05/2014 P-7

जे.ई.ई. एडवांस्ड में छात्राओं को फीस नहीं

- प्रोत्साहन देने के लिए फीस नहीं ली जा रही
- रजिस्ट्रेशन प्रक्रिया ऑनलाइन है

नई दिल्ली, 6 मई (ब्यूरो): आई.आई.टी. में एडमिशन के लिए होने वाली एंट्रेंस एग्जाम जे.ई.ई. एडवांस्ड में छात्राओं को प्रोत्साहन देने के लिए फीस नहीं ली जा रही है। सामान्य वर्ग और ओ.बी.सी. के छात्रों को जहां 2000 रुपए बतौर फीस देने हैं। वहीं एस.सी. और एस.टी. के साथ विकलांग कैंडिडेट के लिए फीस एक हजार रखी गई है।

लेकिन आई.आई.टी. बोर्ड ने कहा है कि छात्राओं ने कोई फीस नहीं जमा करनी होगी। ऐसे में जे.ई.ई. मेन के रिजल्ट में एलिजिबल घोषित छात्राएं बिना किसी फीस जमा किए रजिस्ट्रेशन कर सकती हैं। एडवांस्ड के लिए रजिस्ट्रेशन प्रक्रिया ऑनलाइन



है और किसी भी प्रकार का डॉक्यूमेंट पोस्ट से नहीं भेजना है।

छात्रों को सर्टीफिकेट की स्कैन ईमेज अटैच करनी होगी, जिसके लिए खास निर्देश दिए गए हैं। ईमेज साइज 50 से 300 के.बी. के बीच होनी चाहिए। छात्रों से 10वीं, 12वीं के सर्टीफिकेट की कॉपी मांगी गई है।

छात्रों को पेमेंट के लिए डैबिट क्रेडिट कार्ड का विकल्प भी दिया गया है। जे.ई.ई. ने सुरक्षा के लिए कड़े निर्देश देते हुए स्ट्रांग पासवर्ड बनाने को कहा है।

4 मई से शुरू रजिस्ट्रेशन प्रक्रिया 9 मई तक चलेगी। 25 मई को एडवांस्ड की परीक्षा होनी है।

Hindu ND 07/05/2014 P-9

Privatising professional education

Professional education can now be left to the private sector to provide education to those who can pay for it. Else, government scholarships can be provided

Sanjay Hegde

Both Satya Nadella, who succeeded Steve Ballmer at Microsoft in February, and Rajeev Suri, who was appointed as Nokia's new Chief Executive Officer this month, are alumni of the Manipal Institute of Technology, now being called "the other MIT."

While Indian engineers from institutes other than the Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT) are now going to places where no IITian has gone before, IITians like Arvind Kejriwal and Ashok Khemka, whose education was funded by Indian taxpayers, are redefining Indian politics and administration. Even IIT's poster boy, Nandan Nilekani, is attempting to make a foray into politics, therefore proving that many from the institute, educated at the public's expense, have abandoned their core training as engineers and doctors. On the other hand, engineers like Mr. Nadella and Mr. Suri, whose education did not burden the taxpayer, are attempting to redesign software and cloud computing on a global scale. Others whose education has been privately funded continue to remain true to the disciplines that they were trained for. They are the backbone of India's technical prowess.

Privately funded institutions

India may have come to a stage where it needs to invest in upgrading its school education. Professional education could, on the other hand, be largely privatised, and public-funded higher education could be made available to the talented poor in the form of scholarships and monetary assistance. There may be no need to create new taxpayer-funded institutions.

Privately funded professional educational institutions started as an unintended consequence of two social evils: dowry and caste/community-based reservations. The home of capitation fee, Manipal, was earlier part of the Madras presidency. Madras' caste/community-based reservations date back to the British period. Faced with a strong self-respect movement, British administrators decided that all communities should be represented in educational institutions.

At that time, the Brahmins and Bunts of South Canara were allocated only one medical seat per year. However, doctors in the Bunt community were highly valued in the dowry market and this demand



EVOLUTION: Privately funded institutions started as an unintended consequence of two social evils: caste/community-based reservations and the practice of dowry. Picture shows the Kasturba Medical College in Manipal. — PHOTO: THE HINDU ARCHIVES

It is time for the government to consider withdrawing from funding higher education and leave it to the private sector instead

and supply mismatch needed to be rectified. The solution to this problem was provided by Dr. T.M.A. Pai of the Academy of General Education. Rather than waiting for the government to create and fund more medical colleges in which seats could be increased for such communities, Dr. Pai said a college could be successfully founded and run if professional education could be paid for by parents of aspiring professionals.

In 1953, Dr. Pai placed an advertisement in leading newspapers inviting applications for admission to a medical college. He said these were to be accompanied by a bank draft for the then huge sum of Rs. 3,000. On June 30, 1953, Kasturba Medical College came into being with 100 students. There is anecdotal evidence that many of the bank drafts ac-

companying the applications were sent by prospective fathers-in-law. The medical college was a resounding success and is the foundation of a world class university today. The Manipal Institute of Technology followed in 1957 to replicate the same formula of creating privately funded students.

This brings me to the question of whether it is time for the government to seriously consider withdrawing from funding higher education at the professional level and leave it entirely to the private sector, except for a certain percentage of seats. In 2002, an 11-judge Bench of the Supreme Court, in the aptly titled TMA Pai Foundation case, opened the door to privatisation. Chief Justice Kirpal, who was speaking for the majority, wrote: "It is well established all over the world that those who seek professional education must pay for it. The number of seats available in government and government-aided colleges is very small compared to the number of persons seeking admission to the medical and engineering colleges. All those eligible and deserving candidates who could not be accommodated in government colleges would stand deprived of professional education. This void in the field of med-

ical and technical education has been filled by institutions that are established in different places with the aid of donations and the active part taken by public-minded individuals."

Subsequent benches of the Court have struggled to reconcile with this logic, with governments continuing to regulate the professional education sector. The broad consensus now is to give managements a free rein in admissions in the management quota, but insist on adherence to marks and transparent evaluations of merit at the exit stage. This consensus has, from time to time, been sought to be legislated upon by governments who use the "marks is merit" argument to control admissions into institutions where their financial contribution is zero. The concept of management quota and governmental control of admissions has now crept into primary education with the Right to Education Act. The problem with legislation is that courts then inevitably get dragged into questions of interpretation and constitutionality. Every academic year sees a frantic quest for workable interim orders during admission season. These end in relief for some, but are at the expense of others who cannot be represented in court.

Legislation at the central level

A new government may need to look at the issue afresh with a focus on maximum governance and minimal governmental control. A good beginning would be to reduce legislation on education at the central level and encourage States to follow suit. A uniform policy at the central level should focus on access to higher education and not on any "right" to education. The rights-based narrative should be confined to universal primary education alone, a fundamental right. Higher and professional education can now be left to the private sector to provide education to those who can pay for it. Else, government scholarships can be provided on a merit-cum-need criteria. Student loans at subsidised rates of interest will take care of those who do not have family resources or government funding. India's path to economic development will be best achieved by creating policy incentives in education so that the middle class which can afford education need not rely on the government in this area.

(Sanjay Hegde is a Supreme Court lawyer.)

Hindustan Times ND 07/05/2014 P-11

Highest number of doctors barred from practice in UK qualified in India

Prasun Sonwalkar

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LONDON: Indian doctors in the National Health Service (NHS) on Tuesday reacted with dismay and irony as new figures showed that the highest number of foreign doctors barred from practising or suspended from work following complaints were those who qualified in India.

According to regulator General Medical Council (GMC), 93 Indian doctors were struck off the medical register following 'fitness to practice' hearings, while 88 more Indians were suspended following complaints and similar hearings during the last five years.

The figures were released

THERE HAS BEEN A MAJOR DECLINE IN THE NUMBER OF INDIAN DOCTORS COMING TO THE UK SINCE 2004

amidst steps by Britain's medical authorities to recruit 50 doctors from India this week to meet acute shortages in accident and emergency departments in hospitals across the country.

"The NHS and the policymakers need to make up their minds since it is ironic that on the one hand Indian doctors are being criticised and on the other hand they are being courted," said Ramesh Mehta, president of the

British Association of Physicians of Indian origin (Bapio).

Mehta told HT: "There is institutional racism in NHS. We have often raised the issue that Indian and other foreign doctors here are given far harsher punishment than the locals for the same mistakes. Fewer local doctors are referred to the GMC, who also get off lightly".

GMC figures have previously indicated that there has been a major decline in the number of Indian doctors coming to the UK since 2004.

Niall Dickson, GMC chief executive, said: "International medical graduates make a huge contribution to healthcare in the UK and the vast majority of them provide excellent care for their patients.

Is American MBA losing its allure?

Big B-Schools Boom Even As Modest Institutes Struggle, Says Report

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

Washington: Ratan Tata and Rahul Bajaj have it, and so have the Brothers Ambani. Bankers (Naina Lal Kidwai, Meera Sanyal), business tycoons (Anand Mahindra, Aditya Mittal), and even those who have streamed in to politics (from P Chidambaram to Sachin Pilot) have been through the mill.

But questions are now emerging about whether the American MBA is all that it is drummed up to be.

A recent survey in the Economist reveals that America, dubbed the "spiritual home of the MBA", still leads in the business of business schools. Eight of the Economist's Top Ten business schools are in the United States, and it is not until the 15th place that an out-of-country entity (Canada's York University) makes an entry.

The Top Five are University of Chicago's Booth School of Business (alumni includes Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella, and RBI governor Raghuram Rajan taught there); Dartmouth College's Tuck School of Business (PIO pols Neal Katyal and Dinesh D'Souza); UC Berkeley's Haas School of Business; University of Virginia's Darden School of Business; and Harvard Business School (HBS), alma mater to many distinguished Indian alumni including Ratan Tata, Rahul

EXPENSIVE EDUCATION

> A report by The Economist certifies that the top MBA schools in US still lead in the industry, even in fees

> For instance, Wharton charges \$130,000 for 2 years which is 15% more than \$112,000 at Harvard

> However, middle and lower rung US B-schools are hit by oversupply of institutes and online courses

> Falling returns are a problem too with starting salaries failing to keep up with rising MBA fees

> Quandary for Indian students is whether to spend \$100K-plus for a top US B-school or settle for lower rung one, or even look at Indian institutes

> Still, about 5,000 Indians shift to US annually for an MBA degree

> Overall, of about 1 lakh Indian students in US, nearly 14% are enrolled in B-schools — third highest after 36% in engg and 23% in math & computer science

Feng Yu/Stock/Getty Images

Bajaj, and Anand Mahindra.

While Harvard just about makes the Top-Five cut, there are others in the Top Ten who rank higher in terms of prestige and price. For instance, every one of the 245 professors who teach Wharton's 1,600 MBA students is said to hold a PhD. Wharton, which is ranked 10th in the Economist listing and whose Indian alumni include Anil Ambani, Aditya Mittal, and Sachin Pilot, is also the priciest. The two-year tuition fee at Wharton comes to an eye-popping \$130,000 — some 15% higher than Harvard's \$112,000.

The highest-paid MBAs in America graduate from Stan-

ford, which is ranked 7th in the Economist list and whose Indian alumni include Mukesh Ambani and Vinod Khosla. These can expect an average basic starting salary of around \$130,000. Stanford also sets a high benchmark for qualification with an average GMAT score of 729/800. In fact, of the 16 schools at which the average GMAT score is over 700, 14 are American.

But while big B-schools are booming, the Economist suggests that storm clouds may be gathering for the modest, middling ones. Life is getting tougher for American schools lower down the pecking order, the publication reports, citing reasons

ranging from an oversupply of schools to a falling return on investment (as growth in the salaries students can expect fails to keep up with tuition fees) and competition from online learning.

"In a globalised world of business education, residing in the spiritual home of the MBA will not be enough," warns the journal.

In fact, the trope about an MBA (not just an American one) being a passport to success in life is something that has been challenged lately. In a book titled "Beyond The MBA Hype: A Guide to Understanding and Surviving B-Schools", author Sameer Kamat outlines as a "Cliché" the belief that "The MBA changed my life". What it really means is: "A fantastic career, a great social life and a healthy bank balance...three of the things I had before I started the programme."

B-schools have also had their share of black sheep — Raj Rajaratnam is a Wharton graduate (as is bad-ass hotelier scion Vikram Chatwal), while his co-conspirator Rajat Gupta graduated from HBS. Warren Buffett, on the other hand, is a Wharton dropout.

Still, Indians continue to make a bee-line to American B-schools. By some estimates, more than 5,000 students from India come to the US each year for an MBA degree from among tens of thousands who take the

GMAT, the Graduate Management Admission Test that provides the qualifying score. According to a survey by Open Doors, of the nearly 1,00,000 students from India in the US, 13.7% were enrolled in business schools — third after engineering (35.6%) and math and computer science (23.1%).

The overall trend internationally seems to be tilting towards the MBA degree minted in the US. In 2013, 22% of international students came for business and management studies followed by 19% for engineering and 10% for math and computer science. Overall, 64% used personal and family funds. International students contributed \$24 billion to the US economy, and Indian students, who constitute about 12% of the international student group, are estimated to have forked out about \$3 billion to the US education industry.

The Economist report raises important questions for thousands of Indian students who make a bee-line to the US each year for the coveted American MBA: Whether to fork out \$100K-plus to get into a prestigious, top-ranked business school, or settle for a middling one with dimmer prospects of a good placement in an increasingly competitive environment? Or perhaps even get an MBA from the growing b-school industry in India?

Times of India ND 07/05/2014 P-7

Tihar inmates get 100% placement

Raj Shekhar | TNN

New Delhi: For some time, Raju, an inmate at Tihar Jail, was a worried twenty something. He was going to be released from jail in a few months and didn't know how he would earn a livelihood. On Tuesday, though, he had reason to cheer: he got placed in a well known company as assistant manager, with a monthly package of Rs 35,000. He had graduated in social work from Ignou during his prison term.

Raju wasn't the only one: there were 65 others who received job offers during a placement drive in the jail. Altogether 31 companies turned up at the drive, inaugurated by Tihar DG Vimla Mehra. "This initiative boosts the reformation process and helps us strive towards the betterment of inmates," Mehra said, adding that Tihar recorded 100% placements this year.

The placement interviews were carried out at cen-



Tihar DG Mehra with the aspirants

tral jail number 3. Tihar's chief public relations officer, Sunil Gupta told TOI that 66 prisoners had been short-listed for application for jobs on the basis of their conduct in the jail.

"The salary ranged from Rs 8,000 to Rs 35,000 per month. The posts offered to the inmates ranged from drivers to business development managers. A majority of inmates got

very good packages—above Rs 2 lakh per annum," Gupta said. The candidates were groomed for the interviews by an expert. "Things like facing an interview, answering a question and the way to dress were some of the things the inmates learnt. They were also taught to write impressive resumes," Gupta added.

With this year's placement, 400 inmates have landed jobs since 2010. While the placements have doubled from last year's 30, the highest placements were recorded in 2012 with 142 jobs.

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How brain injury turned man into a maths genius

Subodh Varma

TIMES INSIGHT GROUP

New Delhi: Scientists have made some progress in figuring out how a man who received severe brain injuries suddenly became a mathematical genius. They say that an area behind the crown of the head, known as the parietal cortex, appears to have become more active, according to a report in Live Science. This region is known to combine information from different senses.

Jason Padgett was an ordinary furniture salesman in Tacoma, Washington, US. In 2002, he was assaulted by two men outside a karaoke bar resulting in severe concussion and an injured kidney. As Padgett recovered, he suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder. As he progressed, Padgett realized that he was seeing the world differently — everything looked like it was made up of geometrical shapes. He saw a circle as made up of overlapping triangles. He could draw complex geometric shapes. He saw shapes when shown mathematical equations.

One day a physicist saw him making these shapes in a mall and was struck by Padgett's

abilities. He persuaded Padgett to join college, where he is studying number theory.

As his abilities and how he acquired them got known, brain scientists got interested in finding out what had happened in his brain.

Berit Brogaard, a philosophy professor now at the University of Miami and her colleagues used functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) to study Padgett's brain. The scans showed that the left parietal cortex lit up the most, while areas involved with visual memory, sensory processing and planning also showed activity.

Using transcranial magnetic stimulation the scientists zapped specific areas with a magnetic pulse which either activates or inhibits the area. When the parietal cortex was thus zapped, the synesthesia faded. According to Live Science, Brogaard has earlier shown that when brain cells die, they release chemicals to increase activity in surrounding areas. This may have happened in Padgett's case. It appears that abilities like Padgett's may be dormant in every brain and they got released after the injury.