

Newspaper Clips November 13, 2013

Sushil Vachani is IIM-B director

New Delhi, Nov 12, 2013 DHNS:, Deccan Herald



Sushil Vachani, professor of strategy and innovation at Boston University School of Management, will be the new director of Indian Institute of Management-Bangalore (IIM-B), with the government clearing his name for the post.

His name was cleared by an appointment committee of the Cabinet, headed by the Prime Minister. “We received orders on Tuesday,” a source in the Ministry of Human Resource Development said.

An alumnus of IIM Ahmedabad, Vachani has been a frontrunner for the top job since chairperson and managing director of Reliance Industries Ltd, Mukesh Ambani, who is also the chairperson of IIM-B’s board of governors, recommended his name.

Vachani, who is a BTech in mechanical engineering from Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, was a consultant at the Boston Consulting Group in the US for about a year before joining Boston University as a professor of strategy and innovation.

He was a finance manager with Tata Motors in Mumbai between 1977 and 1980, before moving to Boston. He had also been a member of Tata Administrative Service, the core management cadre of the Tata group. He worked on internal consulting assignments for the Tata companies in the automobile, electronics, hotel and tea industries.

Vachani, who earned a DBA (doctor of business administration) from Harvard Business School in international business, also worked as a consultant for American, Japanese, German and British multinationals during his 40-year career.

UGC's move to grant autonomy to colleges can only be disastrous in the long run

Wednesday, Nov 13, 2013, 7:00 IST | Agency: DNA

Arti Minocha

In a moment of, perhaps, honest self-reflection about the impact of British intervention on indigenous education systems, GW Leitner, one of the architects of liberal education in colonial Punjab, confessed, “It is not desired to take the masses out of the masses by converting them into aspirants [for jobs]. . . . The indigenous education of the country, instead of being preserved and developed, for its own sake, will then give way to a pretentious and shallow system of preparation for office-hunters” (1882). While it may be supremely ironical to refer to Leitner to discuss contemporary higher education policy-making in India, one wishes, nevertheless, that this self-reflexivity had characterised the thought processes of the arbiters of the destiny of higher education in India.

On the contrary, what is being seen is a confident assertion of neo-liberal market practices as the direction in which higher education should go. State policy-making bodies are aggressively intervening to push private capital into public universities and yet withdrawing from their role in maintenance of institutions of higher education. Therefore, public-private partnerships and autonomous educational institutions are being legitimised and normalised as an inevitable future.

The UGC XI plan document on the grant of autonomy to colleges affiliated to universities presents autonomy as a much-desired upgradation that will make ‘colleges with potential’ exclusive domains of modern, innovative education if they delink from the ‘structures’ that weigh them down. It almost represents universities as lumbering behemoths that are collapsing under their own weight, and, therefore, affiliated colleges need to be accelerated towards qualitative curricular modernisation and procedural efficiency.

Affiliation to institutionalised systems is said to impede academic freedom and liberation from mediocrity. The suggested panacea to all these ‘problems’ is autonomy to constituent colleges of universities that entails freedom to design courses, evaluate them and make them worthy and ‘relevant’. Mentioned in the margins is the game-changing fact that the scheme also grants financial autonomy to a college, that is, the responsibility to finance itself and freedom to charge fee as deemed fit by the college administrators. In short, couched in the smooth language of aspirations, efficient delivery and academic freedom is the transfer of academic and financial control to the new industry of ‘educational entrepreneurship’.

It is anybody’s guess that to sustain these colleges, pedagogic and curricular practices will be suitably tailored to meet new norms of market-worthiness, relevance and employability. Many of us, as part of the university community, have strong disagreement with the above diagnosis regarding what ails the university system and even more so with the measures suggested as resolution. Surprisingly, the industrial and corporate sectors, which employ a very low percentage of the total human resource of our country, has come to have an important say in formulating the future of education.

The evolution of higher education in India is a highly embattled and contested terrain. The issue has been debated amongst educationists, academicians and administrators and has produced much scholarship. Necessarily implicated in the question of autonomy and policy-making for the future is what we envision as a university. If the university is envisaged as a space for free, creative and critical engagement with structures of society and thought itself, it cannot be expected to cater to the demands of profit-making. The vibrancy of critical thinking, disagreement and dissent cannot be structured into skill-imparting, modular capsules that semesterisation and autonomy demand. With the kind of turbulence that we see in our societies, what is needed is an education that equips us to question given structures, challenge ideas and revel in their heterogeneity. We can ill-afford institutions that will discipline minds into the conformist logic of private capital.

Teachers in autonomous educational set-ups have increasingly become providers of pre-determined knowledge capsules and burdened with generating data that proves their efficiency. The mirage of academic freedom is belied with increased class strength, online lessons and minimal time for human interaction. We will, indeed “need to go back to the foundational debates on the ideals of a University,” as the XII plan document promisingly suggests. The move towards autonomous colleges needs to be an urgent and intense part of public discourse, and indeed, among constituencies that have been left out of dominant public discourse.

Financial autonomy to colleges threatens to make the university a hierarchical, competitive space where exclusive brand names will be accessible only to the wealthy. Equal access to higher education that is in the process of being realised after long years of social intervention will stand eroded. The diversity and plurality of classrooms will be compromised for insularity. According to the XIth Plan document, one of the criteria for the identification of colleges for grant of autonomy is the “academic reputation and previous performance” of the college. If academic reputation and performance have been built over long years with public resources, why should access to such institutions be denied through high, differential amounts of fee charged?

In fact, the very ‘affiliating structures’ that are seen as a hindrance to the academic development of colleges can become resources for their intellectual growth. A large and diverse peer group and the possibility of wholesome exchange of ideas that perpetually questions and shifts intellectual foundations may not fit into ideas of corporate ‘efficiency’ but can be very liberating for students and teachers. Curricular changes and pedagogical practices in such scenarios may emerge out of experiential needs and expertise of the academic community rather than as top-down ‘radical reforms’ that suit market needs. The extent and terms of State intervention in education, the burgeoning demand for education across class, caste and gender and future policy need to be intensely debated at this juncture rather than losing the moment to the naturalised inevitability of privatisation and autonomy.

The challenge to make higher education socially and economically productive is indeed a serious one but are we willing to let our huge resource “be subject to market risk,” as they say?

The author is an Associate Professor in the Department of English at Lady Shriram College, Delhi University

Zee News

States not doing enough for higher education: UGC chairman

New Delhi: State governments have not shown enough commitment for strengthening higher education, UGC chairman Ved Prakash said on Tuesday, stressing that the challenge before the Centre was to take them on board.

Batting for public-private partnership in higher education, he said that the UGC is going to support private initiatives in this sector in a big way and added that a suitable model of collaboration needs to be evolved in which public resources can be synergised with the private philanthropy.

"This is a huge challenge. We regulators want to say that we are not adversaries, we are companions as the goals remain the same. While they should make the most out of the regulations that we are coming out with, they should not consider them as infringement on their autonomy," Prakash said at an event today.

On state higher education system, he said it has to be provided much greater support academically, administratively and financially.

"While the central government has displayed enormous amount of commitment to strengthening the higher education system, that kind of commitment is not displayed by provincial governments," Prakash said.

He maintained that the central government has already allocated 25,000 crore under Rashtriya Uchta Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) to boost up this sector in states.

"We have allocated Rs 25,000 crore under RUSA. We never had a centrally sponsored scheme in higher education sector in the country and this is the first time in higher education. The purpose of the scheme is to strengthen the state higher

education system," Prakash added.

Prakash said according to his projections, the country's Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) will reach 30 percent by 2017 despite some people saying that it will reach that percentage by 2020.

"Although people are setting goals that we would be hitting 30 percent GER by 2020, I am of the opinion that we would this by 2017 and by the end of this current five year plan," he said.

Citing figures, Prakash said that currently there are about 20 million students enrolled in the formal sector of higher education while 4.6 million are enrolled in the open and distance learning system of higher education.

"This number is going to increase from 20 million to 29 million in the formal sector and from 4.6 million to 6.5 million in the distance learning sector in five years from now. So we are going to hit 30 percent GER," he added.

Prakash said it will also be extremely important to invest greater resources in research and innovation intensive universities.

"We have identified some but we are not happy at the national level. We would like at least 30-35 such universities by the end of 2017. We have schemes and programmes to do that," Prakash said during his inaugural address of 'Engaging Canada and India: Networking for Quality Improvement'.

The UGC chairman said that it was not only about setting up of new educational institutions, but also about directing students to the right kind of schemes.

"There are huge variations in the total enrolment. If one looks at the enrolment in medicine, it is only 3.5 per cent, in teacher education, it is less than three percent of the total enrolment. Therefore we need to increase the capacity of the existing institutions," Prakash added.

He stressed the need to set up newer institutions in areas which are low density areas and said the present day calls for creation of enabling conditions so that the existing institutions can operate at the optimum level.

He stressed on the need to make higher education more inclusive by participation of students coming from marginalised sections of the society. The challenge is to identify and nurture that talent, he said.

He said that India has made massive investments in higher education in the recent past.

"In the last five year plan, we had increased our allocation to nine and a half times. No nation on Earth has massified higher education as India has done, he added.

"When the world was shivering with global financial crisis, we did not make cuts into our budget. No nation in history would have set up as many as 151 public institutions of higher education which we have done in the last plan period," Prakash said.

Talking about collaborations with Canada on higher education, Prakash said that India is looking forward to working with its institutes of higher learning. Both the nations are welfare states and we have almost identical system of school education, he said.

"We have forged linkages with several institutions of higher learning with US under Singh-Obama knowledge initiation, UK, Israel, New Zealand, Australia and Canada," Prakash said.

HT Jaipur

Cambridge University Press, IISc tie-up

LONDON: The Cambridge University Press India and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in Bengaluru have announced a new collaboration, which will publish a series of new academic titles as part of the Cambridge IISc Series.

The university announced today that the books will be written by eminent academicians, researchers and subject experts in science, technology and engineering, in three categories: research monographs, centenary lectures and lecture notes. A total of 15 academic titles will be published over a span of three years, all focusing on advanced research in diverse areas of science and technology, it said. The books will be aimed at a wide audience including students, researchers, academicians and professionals. **HTC**

5 SCIENTISTS, 2 OTHERS WIN INFOSYS AWARD

NEW DELHI: Five eminent scientists, a noted historian and a reputed linguist from premier Indian institutes bagged the Infosys Science Foundation awards for 2013. The award was instituted in 2009 by software major Infosys Ltd.

This year, four people from Delhi bagged the award that included Rajesh Gokhale, director Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, for life sciences, Aninhalli R Vasavi, senior fellow at Nehru Memorial Museum and Library for social sciences. Nayanjot Lahiri, history professor at University of Delhi, and Ayesha Kidwai, professor in linguistics at Jawaharlal Nehru University jointly bagged the prize in humanities category. **HTC**

IIM CALCUTTA BREAKS OWN RECORD: 441 PLACED IN 3 DAYS

HT Correspondent

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KOLKATA: IIM Calcutta wrapped up its summer placements on November 8 securing internship offers for all 465 students enrolled in the first year of its flagship management programme. Altogether, 155 firms recruited and 441 students secured internship offers at the end of three days.

Despite economic slowdown, the institute saw an unprecedented 282 offers in the first two days of the process itself (Slot 0) from the top firms across sectors. Leading banks like JP Morgan Chase, Bank of America Merrill Lynch, Royal Bank of Scotland, Citi Group, HSBC, Credit Suisse, Nomura, Goldman Sachs and Standard Chartered among others recruited for Investment Banking, Equities Research, Sales and Trading and Global Markets. McKinsey and Co, Boston Consulting Group, Bain and Co, AT Kearney, and Accenture Management Consulting were the top recruiters from the consulting domain.

Top FMCG recruiters like Hindustan Unilever Ltd, Proctor & Gamble, Mondelez International, Nestle, Asian Paints, Johnson and Johnson, Coca Cola, PepsiCo, L'Oreal, Kellogg's offered roles in Marketing and Sales. TAS, Aditya Birla Group, Mahindra and Mahindra, Shell, Reliance Industries Limited, C K Birla Group, and Cairn Energy selected students for General Management roles.

Students also secured internship offers from global giants like Microsoft, Google and Amazon for multiple functions - Product Management, Operations, and Sales and Marketing.

This year's placement season at IIMC was noteworthy as several niche finance roles were offered by financial services firms such as Macquarie Group, Multiples Equity, Mizuho Securities, Monsoon Capital and Clearwater Capital. Dalberg Global Development Advisors, a boutique advisory firm, was a first-time recruiter and hired exclusively from IIM Calcutta.

CAMERON VISIT

British PM David Cameron would be visiting Indian Institute of Management, Calcutta (IIMC) on November 14. Cameron, who is in the city to meet chief minister Mamata Banerjee, would spend time with the IIMC students and exchange views with them.

MORE FOREIGN STUDENTS IN US VARSITIES

According to the 2013 Open Doors Report On International Educational Exchange, the number of international students at colleges and universities in the United States increased by seven percent to a record high of 8,19,644 students in the 2012-13 academic year, while US students

studying abroad increased by three percent to an all-time high of more than 2,83,000. There are now 40 percent more international students studying at US colleges and universities than a decade ago, and the rate of increase has risen steadily for the past three years.

2013 ACCOLADES

Govindarajan, Nohria, 5 other Indians in top global management gurus list

HT Correspondent

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THE INDIANS IN THINKERS50 RANKING 2013

VIJAY GOVINDRAJAN

RANK: **5** (3)

WORK: Professor, Tuck School of Business, Dartmouth College

PANKAJ GHEMAWAT



RANK: **11** (27)

WORK: Teaches at New York's Stern school and IESE Business School in Spain

NIRMALYA KUMAR



RANK: **20** (26)

WORK: Director of strategy at Tata Group

NITIN NOHRIA



RANK: **21** (13)

WORK: Dean of Harvard Business School

SUBIR CHOWDHURY



RANK: **40** (50)

WORK: Chairman and CEO of ASI Consulting Group

ANIL K GUPTA



RANK: **44** (NA)

WORK: Teaches at Smith School, University of Maryland

RAKESH KHURANA



RANK: **46** (41)

WORK: Professor of leadership development at Harvard Business School

WASHINGTON: Seven Indian-origin academics were named on Monday in Thinkers50, a biennial award that is also known as the Oscars of management thinking. They include Tuck School's Vijay Govindarajan and Harvard's Nitin Nohria.

Govindarajan was the highest ranked among the Indian-origin management gurus on the list. The other Indians on the list are Pankaj Ghemawat, Nirmalya Kumar, Nitin Nohria, Subir Chowdhury, Anil K Gupta and Rakesh Khurana, in that order.

Govindarajan had won the Thinkers50 CK Prahalad Breakthrough Idea Award in 2011. This year he won the Innovative Thinking Award.

"I owe my current position to my grandfather's tireless devotion to my education," he wrote in an email to *HT*.


The 2013 rankings were announced at a glitzy ceremony in London. Gupta is the new entrant in this year's list.

"I hope that this trend of domination by Indian-origin thinkers will continue as long as India maintains high quality on its educational institutions like what I got at IIT Kharagpur in late eighties," said Chowdhury.

*Figure in bracket indicate ranking in 2011

Publication: The Times Of India Delhi; Date: Nov 13, 2013; Section: Times City; Page: 3;

TUESDAY TREMORS



1st QUAKE
at 19:11:18

Gurgaon-Faridabad Road
Delhi Border

2nd, 3rd & 4th QUAKE
till 22:10:42

IN DANGER ZONE

Delhi is usually affected most by earthquakes that originate in Alpine-Himalayan seismic belt. It stretches from Java in the east, covering the Himalayas, the Alps, Carpathians, Sudetes, mountains of Anatolia and Iran and the Hindukush to the Mediterranean region and onto the Atlantic

➤ Covers countries like Yugoslavia, Turkey, Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar & Indonesia

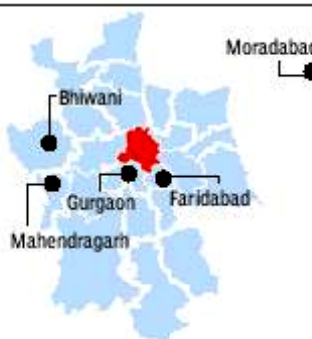
QUAKES AROUND DELHI

Aug 27, 1960
GURGAON-FARIDABAD
MAGNITUDE: 6

At least **50 people** injured in Delhi. Damage to houses in Karol Bagh, RK Puram

August 15, 1966
MORADABAD
MAGNITUDE: 5.6

March 30 1998
MAHENDRAGARH-BHIWANI DISTRICTS
MAGNITUDE: 5



FROM HISTORY

July 15, 1720

Delhi quake estimated to have killed 100 to 1,000 people in city

It is the second most seismic zone in the world and records 17% of the world's largest earthquakes

The belt was created by the process of collision between the northward-moving African, Arabian and Indian plates and the Eurasian plate

String of small quakes unusual, says IIT expert

► Continued from P1

"The 1.41m tremor was strong, but by the time I could gather my stuff and go out, it was over," said Grace, who teaches at IGNOU and lives in Maidangarhi, close to the quakes' epicentre.

R S Dattatrayam, a scientist at IMD, said, "There was no major quake that followed or was preceded by the tremors. These were a sequence of tremors which were continuous, shallow and of low magnitude. This particular activity can be classified as a swarm." Rumbling is common for quakes that are shallow, he added.

The last time Delhi was the epicentre of an earthquake was on November 25, 2007, when tremors lasting around 10 seconds were felt which spread a wave of panic through the city.

Delhi and neighbouring areas fall under seismic zone IV which makes the region highly vulnerable to earthquakes. IMD says that the Modified Mercalli Intensity, which measures the impact of the earthquakes on the sur-

face, places NCT Delhi in level VIII, which means the city can experience destructive quakes. East and northeast Delhi are at the highest risk since they are located on newer alluvial soil while the Chatrapur basin is at high risk.

R Ayothiraman, associate professor, department of civil engineering at IIT Delhi, said that a succession of so many tremors was rare. "Usually there is a big earthquake with aftershocks or foreshocks. However, this does not indi-

CITY EPICENTRE LAST IN 2007

cate that there is anything amiss or that a bigger quake lies ahead. When there are more tremors, it means that energy is being released in stages and hence the chances of a bigger activity are reduced," he said.

Ayothiraman said it wasn't possible to say when a big quake would hit a place. "Scientists have so far not managed to predict earthquakes so while it is easy to say that a place is prone to earthquakes, when and how

large an earthquake will hit it, cannot be foretold," he said.

Delhi and its neighbouring areas are located over several lineaments and faults which are responsible for earthquake in the region. The faults are active and keep pushing against each other. Once in a while, when accumulated energy cannot be contained, the rocks break and plates move, and a quake is felt.

Delhi is also located in the Alpine-Himalayan seismic belt—the second-most active seismic area in the world. "Delhi is just about 300km away from the Himalayan collision zone and frequently experiences earthquakes that take place in the region. The city itself is sitting on a fault which makes it prone to earthquakes. Several quakes occur around the city each month but we do not feel all of them since they are of a low magnitude," said Dattatrayam.

Zone IV, where Delhi is located, also includes parts of J&K, HP, Sikkim, northern parts of UP, Bihar, West Bengal, Rajasthan etc.

IITians to press reject vote button

DC | N. Arun Kumar | 13th Nov 2013



Chennai: Taking cue from the Election Commission of India, students at Indian Institute of Technology, Madras (IIT-M) are likely to install “reject the candidate button” in their institute election this year.

The Student Affairs Council at IIT-M has also constituted a committee to look into the merits and demerits involved in the implementation of new voting system for their student bodies across disciplines.

Speaking to Deccan Chronicle on Tuesday, Sree Satwik Gokina, speaker, Student Affairs Council, IIT- Madras said, “every year we conduct elections for 136 posts in 17 hostels, besides branch councillors in 13 departments. Elections take place in March and if nobody files nomination for a particular post at institute level, we go for re-election in September.”

During the October 30 SAC meeting, one of the branch councillors initiated a debate about the use of “reject the candidate button” in the institute elections. “We discussed the issue at length for about an hour’s time and students had their own opinions,” Satwik Gokina said.

Students who supported the proposal said that, if 50 per cent of the voters had pressed the reject button then the election stands cancelled and they need to go for a re-election whereas those against it pointed out that it would be difficult to conduct elections again with involvement of 8,500 students (voters) on the campus.

Satwik said that a few other suggestions were also made at the meeting including that the candidate who got rejected could be debarred from contesting again. Students threw up a new question as to what would happen in the case of a unanimous contestant to whom majority of the students don't want to vote.

Considering the technicalities involved in the new method, SAC has formed a committee to address concerns of students, Prof. L.S. Ganesh, dean (students), IIT-Madras said, adding that the council would take its final call in the issue after the committee submits its recommendations.

\$3 million Melbourne-India scholarship launched

Manash Pratim Gohain, TNN | Nov 12, 2013, 08:33 PM IST



NEW DELHI: A new million-dollar scholarship will now provide researchers, innovators and entrepreneurs in Australia and India with top-notch guidance and academic support. The \$3 million Melbourne-India postgraduate programme will link Melbourne University with Indian Institute of Science Bangalore and the Indian Institutes of Technology of Kanpur and Madras.

Sixteen PhD scholarships will be provided over the next three years under this programme launched at Australia Innovation Showcase on Monday.

The event brings the largest ever group of Australian researchers and academics from Melbourne University, University of [New South Wales](#), [University of Sydney](#), Deakin University, Monash University and University of Wollongong, among others, here to demonstrate the southern nation's research, innovation and technological credentials before leading Indian industry figures.

MU vice-chancellor professor Glyn Davis said the new programme is a valuable addition to the university's extensive scholarship offering. "By enabling students from India and Australia to undertake joint research of highest quality, we are confident the programme will address shared global challenges in areas of environmental, societal and technological need... Beyond this, we are excited that the programme will give students the opportunity to contribute to the development of education, cultural and industry links between both countries," he said.

The programme will officially commence from 2014 and will be open to PhD students enrolled at MU, to be co-supervised by faculty of IIT Kanpur, IIT Madras or IISc. Alternatively, students enrolled in any one of the three Indian institutions will have access to co-supervision by MU academics.

Director of IIT-K professor Indranil Manna said the initiative would bring the world's leading institutions together. "The faculty at IIT Kanpur has always advocated and encouraged inter-disciplinary and inter-institutional collaboration and cooperation in all areas of mutual interest in science and engineering. Such programmes not only contribute to diversity on campus but also help build bridges across geographical borders," professor Manna said.

Dramatic rise in research collaboration

Mark Walport

Since 2008, India and the U.K. have committed close to £150 million for joint research programmes. They have a great research relationship helping to answer some of the most pressing questions the world faces

India and the United Kingdom have a strong track record of collaborating in research and innovation. In fact, research is our fastest growing area of bilateral cooperation. Since 2008, the two countries have committed close to £150 million for joint research programmes. This dramatic rise has been achieved since the Research Councils UK established its team within the British High Commission, New Delhi, five years ago.

More recently, the U.K.'s Technology Strategy Board (TSB) and India's Department of Science and Technology signed a programme of cooperation of industrial R&D support. This will soon be supporting U.K. and Indian companies to carry out joint R&D projects in areas like affordable health care or energy systems technologies. Through the U.K. India Education and Research Initiative (UKIERI) we've also been working together on building the relationships and capability that underpin great research, and I'm delighted to be announcing this week 60 new partnerships in research and skills which will further strengthen direct institutional collaborations.

This rapid growth is no accident. From the Prime Minister down, the U.K. government is absolutely committed to a stronger, wider and deeper partnership with India. In research, we're working together because the best ideas don't recognise international borders and top researchers need access to cutting-edge facilities, wherever they're based. We know that a research paper published by an international team receives more citations than one written by a single national group. That means more researchers read, and rate highly, collaborative research. Put simply, research done together is better research. And the best research has the power to change lives and drive economies.

Helping the world

That's why our joint programmes support researchers to work together on some of the questions the world most needs to answer. How do we find better sources of clean energy? How do we feed a growing global population? How will the changing climate alter weather events, such as the Indian monsoon, on which millions of livelihoods depend? How can countries afford to keep their populations in good health?

I believe the U.K. makes for an excellent partner for India in research and innovation. With the most efficient research base in the G8, the U.K. produces more citations per pound of research than any other nation in that group. In other words, money spent on research goes further and achieves more in Britain. We are only one per cent of the world's population but produce 14 per cent of the most highly cited research publications. The U.K. is well known for world class universities: we have four universities in the global top 10. With 78 Nobel Prizes in science and technology to our credit, the U.K. is the largest enabler of Nobel Laureates in Europe and the second in the world.

Strengths

The U.K. also has an international research community — around half of all research papers published in the U.K. have an international co-author, and two thirds of U.K. researchers have published while working with institutions abroad. And when it comes to translating world-leading research, the U.K. has a comprehensive system of support, from one of the most competitive R&D tax credit schemes in the world; industrial R&D support through our innovation agency, the Technology Strategy Board; and a "patent box" to make it easier to protect and profit from new inventions.

Growing research budget

In return, India is an ideal partner for the U.K. From Raman to Bose, India has a proud history in scientific endeavour. India's research budget is growing fast and its share of global scientific output is expanding rapidly as it does. Contemporary scientific achievements are hugely impressive, a statement most spectacularly illustrated by the successful launch of the Mars Orbiter "Mangalyaan" mission. By any measure, India will be a scientific superpower in the 21st century. We share a culture of enquiry and we have enduring human and cultural ties — in any field you look at, scientists of Indian origin have made enormous contributions to British science.

So, we have a great research relationship helping to answer some of the most pressing questions the world faces. We're increasingly working together on innovation and translating the great research we do into applications. And we're ideal

partners, who will both benefit from working together in a changing world. I'm in India this week to make sure we maintain the momentum we've built up and to help chart the course for future India-U.K. collaboration. I'm certain the future is bright as we join hands in the next stage of research and innovation cooperation.

(Sir Mark Walport is chief scientific adviser to the British government and the British Prime Minister.)

Keywords: [India-UK ties](#), [Research Councils UK](#), [British High Commission](#)

Printable version | Nov 13, 2013 1:42:56 PM | <http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/dramatic-rise-in-research-collaboration/article5344208.ece>

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HRD ministry suggests Rs.8,400 cr education package for Seemandhra

Some of the state's most prestigious institutions will go to Telangana posing an education challenge in Seemandhra



Three Central universities—University of Hyderabad, The English and Foreign Languages University and the Maulana Azad National Urdu University—as well as the Indian Institute of Technology, National Institute of Technology and the Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences will go to Telangana when Andhra Pradesh is bifurcated. Photo: AP

New Delhi: The human resource development (HRD) ministry has recommended a `8,400-crore package for Seemandhra to manage the higher education challenge the region will face when Andhra Pradesh is divided to carve out Telangana state.

Some of Andhra Pradesh's most prestigious educational institutions will go to Telangana posing a higher education challenge in the remaining two regions—Rayasaseema and coastal Andhra, commonly known as Seemandhra.

The HRD ministry has briefed the group of ministers (GoM) looking into the bifurcation on why the GoM and the cabinet need to approve a special education package for the region, two government officials said, requesting anonymity.

M.M. Pallam Raju, who hails from Seemandhra, is the HRD minister.

"The ministry has suggested an education package of `8,405 crore to start with for Seemandhra. It's a necessity looking at the socio-political and education situation in the region," one of them said.

"The ministry is also in touch with other ministries like shipping to explore if top institutes under them can be established fresh in that

region," said the official.

The HRD ministry is exploring if a national law university and a maritime university can be established in Seemandhra, said the second official. Both of these are not under the HRD ministry. The Bar Council of India has a say in the functioning of national law universities and maritime universities function under the shipping ministry.

The initial package is required for setting up an Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) in Seemandhra at a cost of `1,850 crore, a National Institute of Technology (NIT) at a cost of `1,500 crore, an Indian Institute of Management (IIM) at `900 crore, three central universities worth `3,000 crore, an Indian Institute of Science Education and Research at `1,080 crore, and an Indian Institute of Information Technology in public-private mode at an investment of `75 crore, according to an official document of the HRD ministry that *Mint* has reviewed.

HRD minister Raju wants his ministry to be able to fund and open these institutes in the region, but it cannot do so as the 12th Five-year Plan (for 2012-17) mandates that the ministry not open any new central institute.

"Since the 12th Five-year Plan of MHRD does not have any provision for opening these new institutes, additional budgetary (support) of `8,405 crore may be considered while approving the proposals of the ministry," the document said.

The second official cited above said that while some central institutions such as an IIT, IIM or a central university do not reserve seats for candidates from a region where the institute is located, institutions like the NITs provide 50% domicile quota. Similarly, a national law university reserves 20% seats for local residents.

"Though some centrally funded technical schools have no state quota, national reservation policy for schedule caste, schedule tribes and other backward classes is operational," the first official said.

The official said that in a volatile atmosphere, that too with the general election approaching, assurance of good education and job guarantee will help. "You have to understand the sentiment," said the official.

“It’s not about quota for students in all central funded institutes, it’s also about allied economic growth around such high-profile institutions,” said Lalatendu M., a school teacher in Hyderabad. “Practically, people in a state feel great to have such top central funded institutes that ensure quality education and help create jobs.”

Andhra Pradesh education minister **K. Parthasarathy** said he is “happy” with the HRD ministry’s recommendation for Seemandhra.

Three Central universities— University of Hyderabad, The English and Foreign Languages University and the Maulana Azad National Urdu University—as well as the Indian Institute of Technology, National Institute of Technology and the Nizam’s Institute of Medical Sciences will go to Telangana when Andhra Pradesh is bifurcated.

The Congress government at the centre cannot ignore the HRD’s ministry’s recommendation as it has political ramifications, said an education consultant, who declined to be named. He said the resignations of Union ministers, including Raju, **K. Chiranjeevi** and **D. Purandeswari**, over the decision to divide Andhra Pradesh have created enough pressure on the government. Prime Minister **Manmohan Singh** is yet to accept their resignations.

At July-end, the Congress party-led central government consented to the formation of Telangana comprising Hyderabad and nine other districts, triggering street protests in Seemandhra where politicians are demanding that Andhra Pradesh remain unified.