

## Newspaper Clips November 15, 2014

Business Standard ND 15.11.2014 P-06

# '75% employers satisfied with engineering grads'

World Bank–Ficci survey puts up this number for Indian employers in 2014. In 2009, only 33 per cent of the Indian employers said they were satisfied

**BS REPORTER**

New Delhi, 14 November

A majority of Indian employers are satisfied with the engineering graduates that they recruit from campuses across India.

According to the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (Ficci)-World Bank Employer Satisfaction Survey released at the Ficci Higher Education Summit here on Friday, 75 per cent employers are very satisfied with the recruits.

The survey said 17 per cent respondents were somewhat satisfied, while three per cent employers said they were not very satisfied. Only a few said they were not at all satisfied. This year, 896 companies were surveyed, including sectors such as infrastructure, automobiles, power and oil and gas among others.

Ficci and World Bank support the Technical Education Quality Improvement Project (TEQIP II) of the Human Resource Development min-

istry. TEQIP I and II are aimed at improving the quality of engineering graduates, including building their technical and soft skills.

To take stock of the progress in terms of employers satisfaction with respect to the skills of fresh engineering graduates, Ficci and World Bank have conducted the survey. The survey is a follow-up of the 2009 Ficci-World Bank Employer Satisfaction Survey.

In 2009, only 33 per cent of the employers said they were satisfied with the fresh engineering graduates that they were planning to hire. Then, employers had said soft skills of these graduates had to be looked into, apart from having a problem-solving focused curriculum.

Tara Beteille, economist, World Bank, and one of the co-authors of the survey report, said it has been shown that



lack of technical skills followed by soft skills are one of the most important factors for rejecting a candidate.

She added hiring mainly happens on the basis of the ranking of the institute. With nearly 1.5 million engineering graduating every year from institutes in India, there is no dearth of talent. The survey showed that 96 per cent employers had no difficulty in hiring.

It showed that training is generally on-the-job for these graduates. Most of the training happens on the job, while classroom and cross-functional methods are also used for this purpose. Some companies have innovative training methods like shadowing wherein junior engineers go with senior engineers to meet clients and then have to use their own problem-solving techniques to deal with different issues.

The survey said companies generally train these graduates for over a month with a median cost of ₹45,000 being spent per person on this. While companies spend this over employees, some firms also get employees to sign bonds that mandate them to work with the company for at least three years.

Beteille said at present, the soft skills of these graduates have improved due to the interactions they have with alumni, apart from the support of the placement cells and student clubs. Further, some private colleges also hire behaviour coaches for this purpose.

On one side where there is an over-supply of engineers, employers have said problem-solving skills and technical abilities remain weak in some private colleges. According to the survey, institutes should keep the momentum on building soft skills. Further, reorienting curriculum and assessment towards problem-solving and teamwork is a solution to deal with the issue, it said.

## With new IITs set to take off, HRD Minister Smriti Irani asks old ones to handhold



<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/new-itts-take-off-smriti-irani-hrd-ministry/1/400797.html>

Aiming at getting the new IITs off the ground by the next academic session, the Smriti Irani led Union Human Resource Development (HRD) ministry has asked the older established IITs to step in and handhold and mentor the upcoming ones.

At a meeting with IIT Directors last week, the HRD ministry has put together an action plan to get the new IITs started. While IIT Madras will be handholding two new IITs—one at Tirupati (Seemadhra) and another at Palakkad (Kerala); IIT Delhi has been asked to mentor IIT Jammu. IIT Bombay will be shepherding IIT Goa. One of the newer IITs, IIT Hyderabad will also pitch in by mentoring the IIT at Chhattisgarh.

While there are already 16 IITs, another five were announced by the BJP government when it took charge this year.

The mentoring IIT will send some of its own faculty to the new institute to help it take forward besides recruiting some faculty members on contract for the new IIT.

The mentoring formula was followed last time as well when the new IITs were set up by the UPA government in 2008-09.

The HRD ministry will soon move a cabinet note to get the five new IITs started.

There are some issues regarding the site for the IITs at Chhattisgarh and Jammu. While the Chhattisgarh state government has been pushing for locating the new institute at Bhilai, the Centre has asked them to examine the possibility of considering sites at New Raipur which is developing as an education hub and is also better connected.

There are also concerns about the proposed IIT in Jammuâ€™s Samba district which is not as well connected, a factor that usually deters from drawing faculty to remote locations. Goa is also yet to indicate where exactly it will house its IIT.

There are also issues regarding land availability for the new IITs. While the HRD ministry usually earmarks about 500 acres for any IIT, Chhattisgarh has so far only indicated availability of 270 acres as has Goa. This it is argued can come in the way of expansion of the IIT at a later stage. Among the established IITs, IIT Delhi is spread over the smallest area- 293 acres and it finds it difficult to expand now. The HRD ministry has also set up a committee to reassess land requirements for educational institutes keeping in mind land availability concerns in urban areas.

Having learnt their lessons earlier when the spate of new IITs announced by the UPA took years to take off owing to land acquisition issues, this time the HRD ministry has added a precondition. The ministry has said that it will not start the new IIT in the next academic session unless the state government provides the required land for the campus and transfers it to the IIT with a boundary wall built around it.

In case of IIT Indore, the Centre had a difficult time in the past with the state transferring land which was then mired in controversies with others staking claim to it.

## Mixed response to Kiss of Love at IIT-M

DC CORRESPONDENT | November 15, 2014, 04.11 am IST

<http://www.deccanchronicle.com/141115/nation-current-affairs/article/mixed-response-kiss-love-iit-m>

The 'Kiss of Love' fever has finally arrived in Chennai. Over 100 students from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT-M), Madras, got together inside their campus on Friday to kiss and hug in support of a movement that took off in Kochi a month ago and has since spread across the city. Even as sceptical onlookers gazed on, a group of 50 students took to the lawn near the Himalaya mess facility and hugged and kissed one another. As the frenzy grew, more students joined the group and slogans were raised, 'Allow us to kiss in open', and 'Ban moral policing'.

"Students expressed their wish that the community encourage openness. Banning kissing in the name of moral policing will be a deterrent to an open society," Pallavi Chakravorty, the first woman speaker of the Student Affairs Council (SAC) at IIT-M, said. Shraavan, a B.Tech student who took part in the protest, questioned the rationale of banning kissing in public in the name of tradition. "When your sons/daughters go abroad, they kiss and hug, you accept that, but you make a big hue and cry when they do it here. We are not doing something forbidden by law. This is a way to express our love."

Not everyone went along with the plea to allow kissing in public. "Embracing something from a foreign culture will not help us; the crime rate too could go up if people indulge in acts like these. Love can be expressed in other better ways," Suman, another student, said. The movement began in Kochi when activists across Kerala decided to protest against a series of moral policing incidents by organising a public event at Marine Drive beach on November 2, called "Kiss of Love". It soon spread across the country like a forest fire.

Prof.L.S.Ganesh, former dean (students) and professor at IIT-M's department of management studies, said that it was a tricky issue as the law itself had interpretations of public display of affection. "Public social behaviour in Chennai has changed greatly over the last couple of years and the 'Kiss of Love' issue calls for a much deeper public discussion as it involves other people too," he said.

Business Line ND 15.11.2014 P-19

# Education is the most favoured area for CSR spend in India: study

## OUR BUREAU

New Delhi, November 14

Education emerged as the most favoured area, followed by community-based development and environment sustainability for CSR spend by companies surveyed by global consultancy major, Mercer, which is part of Marsh & McLennan Companies in India consisting of Marsh, Mercer and Oliver Wyman.

### Spend synopsis

Releasing the findings, the survey said 81 per cent of companies said their corporate social responsibility spend was on activities concerning education, 64 per cent on community development and 61 per cent on environment sustainability.

With the new Companies Act in India mandating that 2 per cent of the average profit should be spent on CSR, 81 per

cent of the surveyed companies said this had become an important part of their business strategy, Mercer said in a release.

Across industries and company sizes, budgets for CSR were varied ranging from ₹9,00,000 to ₹25 crore a year.

According to the survey, conducted across 40 organisations in different Indian cities and across sectors, 73 per cent of companies said they already had a CSR policy in place, 17 per cent said they were undertaking such activities without a policy or fixed guidelines, while 10 per cent said their company did not undertake CSR activities.

"The importance of CSR/sustainability is seeping deep into Indian companies as three out of four companies in India already have or are planning to form a core team dedicated to

CSR/sustainability within the next one to two years," said Shanthi Naresh, Mercer India Business Leader, Information Solutions.

The survey, which has also been carried out globally, showed that nearly 44 per cent of Indian companies said they had a dedicated team responsible for CSR, compared with only around one-quarter of companies globally having a dedicated team.

However, "it is interesting to note that only about one-third of Indian organisations stated that they issue an integrated annual report on their CSR activities compared to the global results where almost half the participating companies worldwide stated that they provide an integrated annual report on CSR, presenting an area for improvement for companies in India," said Mercer.

# Prez to deliver NIT Itanagar convocation address

[http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2014-11-13/news/56060573\\_1\\_convocation-president-pranab-mukherjee-nit](http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2014-11-13/news/56060573_1_convocation-president-pranab-mukherjee-nit)

ITANAGAR, Nov 13 – President Pranab Mukherjee will deliver the first convocation address of the National Institute of Technology (NIT) here on November 21 when 77 B Tech graduates will receive their degrees.

Honorary Doctorate of Education would be conferred to Royal University of Bhutan Vice Chancellor Prof Pema Thinley for his significant contribution in nurturing and promoting values and ethics in higher and technical education.

State Governor Lt Gen Nirbhay Sharma (Retd), Chief Minister Nabam Tuki and Speaker Nabam Rebia would be among the dignitaries scheduled to attend the convocation. – PTI

### Sushma to visit Shillong

Shillong, Nov 13 – Union External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj will visit Meghalaya tomorrow to inaugurate a Passport Seva Kendra here.

Official sources said the Seva Kendra, set up by the MEA, will make passport services more efficient, transparent, easily accessible and closer to the people of Meghalaya where the number of applicants were growing.

“The Government is working on setting up of Passport Seva Laghu Kendras (PSLKs) at various locations in the country including Shillong,” Minister of State for External Affairs E Ahamed said in a letter to Meghalaya MP Wansuk Syiem. – PTI

### Manipur bandh suspended

IMPHAL, Nov 13 – The bandh on Imphal-Ukhrul road over an alleged land dispute between two villages of Seijang and Silent has been suspended temporarily following an understanding with the Manipur Government.

The indefinite bandh called by Seijang Development Committee (SDC) had begun on Tuesday.

However, SDC functionaries warned that they will resume the agitation if the government failed to address their demands. The SDC took part in a meeting with Chief Minister at his office in Imphal.

Meanwhile, United Naga Council (UNC), an apex body of Naga community has strongly reacted to the SDC bandh. “The indefinite bandh on Imphal-Ukhrul Road imposed by SDC due to a land dispute with Silent village is highly unwarranted,” the UNC said in a press release today. – Correspondent

### Indian villager released

Agartala, Nov 13 – An Indian villager, who was kidnapped from near the Indo-Bangla international border at Mohanpur in West Tripura district, has been released, a senior official said today.

BSF detained a Bangladeshi national at Mohanpur yesterday for crossing over to Indian side without valid documents and handed him over to State police.

After a few hours some Indian villagers went to their field on the other side of the fencing for grazing cattle at a place about 25 km from here. A few Bangladeshis then kidnapped one of them, BSF DIG BS Rawat said.

The Indian villager was released last night after BSF took up the matter with BGB in a flag meeting, he added. The Indian villager was identified as Rajpal Sharma. – PTI

Mail Today ND 15/11/2014 P-15



Women AMU students walk past the varsity's reputed Maulana Azad Library, where undergraduate female students are barred entry.

By **Piyush Srivastava** in Lucknow

THE Allahabad High Court issued a notice to Aligarh Muslim University Vice-Chancellor Zameeruddin Shah on Friday after it allowed a petition seeking to open the Maulana Azad Library for all the female students of the varsity.

The bench of Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud and Justice PKS Baghel also sought a response from Shah for his purported statement that boys would crowd the library if undergraduate female students are allowed to access it.

In her plea, petitioner Diksha Dwivedi asked why the varsity's central library cannot be opened for all the girl students. She has contended that any such rule was against the Constitution of India.

The high court has sought a response from Shah and the varsity administration on the matter. It has posted the case for November 24.

On Tuesday, Shah had asserted that he had never made a "sexist" remark. "I have been blamed for discriminating against students on the basis of gender, especially against women. Let me make it clear that I am not a sexist. I believe in empowering women. I believe in giving equal opportunities to our female students," the AMU vice-chancellor had said.

The students of Women's College are not allowed membership of the Aligarh Muslim University's main library. The college has a library of its own for undergraduate students. Shah had drawn criticism after he reportedly rejected a demand

### Undergrad girl students can't use famed library

from female undergraduates to access the Maulana Azad Library on the grounds that they would "attract" boys.

Coming in support of Shah, a section of students had stated that there were 2,700 registered female members, including post-graduates, research scholars and students of various professional courses.

Shah and his supporters have claimed that the main library lacks space and, therefore, separate arrangements have been made on the basis of departments, faculties and residential halls through book banks and seminar libraries.

By **Heena Kausar** in Aligarh

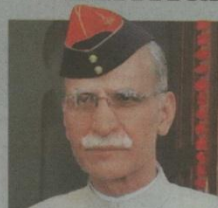
AMU vice-chancellor Zameeruddin Shah hinted on Friday that the varsity could take steps for making the Maulana Azad Library accessible to all female undergraduate students, if the Centre provided funds to boost its infrastructure.

At the same time, Shah reiterated that there is no ban on female students from entering the central library and it is only the undergraduate students of the Women's College who don't have access to the facility.

"The Women's College has a separate library and if the students need any book, they can search the online catalogue of Maulana Azad Library from their college library. The central library has a seating capacity of only 1,150 students. It is physically not possible to take

# AMU gets HC notice on 'sexist' library norm

## UNIV 'CONSIDERING' PLEA AGAINST BAN



V-C Zameeruddin Shah

more students at the library. If the HRD ministry gives us funds, we will expand the library and more students can be managed. The AMU is a modern, sec-

ular university with Muslim ethos but media is trying to paint us as hyper-regressive and conservative," Shah said.

Maintaining that it is an administrative issue, Shah said female undergraduate students who reside and study on the campus have access to the central library in addition to their department libraries. "Girl students from medicine, law and engineering have full access to the library. There is paucity of space and we need to solve that," Shah said.

The AMU has informed the MHRD that the request of girls for access to the central library is under consideration. "An oral request was made on November 10. The request is under consideration. Undergraduate boys and girls of J.N. Medical College, Z.H. Engineering College, Z.A. Dental College and A.K. Tibbiya College are allowed to use the Maulana Azad Library. These boys and girls reside and study on the campus," AMU Registrar Asfar Ali Khan said in a letter.

Meanwhile, Women's College Students' Union (WCSU) president Gulfiya Khan said her demand has been misrepresented. "There is no gender discrimination in AMU.

Our protest against media had both boys and girls standing side by side," Khan claimed.

'An oral request was made on November 10. The request is under consideration'

# Germany raises language issue with government

Hindustan Times (Gurgaon)

The row over a government diktat discontinuing German as a third language in Kendriya Vidyalayas and replace it with Sanskrit has assumed a diplomatic shade, with Germany raising the issue with New Delhi. Union HRD minister Smriti Irani (photo), however, defended the decision saying it violated the national education policy and that the decision was taken in "national interest". >>