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IIT GRADUATES giving life to their dreams abroad

Young techies prefer 'Make in Singapore'

Venture capital and the spirit of enterprise prove strong attraction

Appaji Reddem

SINGAPORE: Prime Minister Narendra Modi may have triggered a trend by calling on global Indians to "come and make in India." But, belying his expectations, the cream of domestic talent prefers the favourable environment of countries such as Singapore to nurture their start-ups and sustain business growth.

Sudhanshu Ahuja, an IIT-Delhi graduate, was clear even a couple of years ago that he would leave the iconic institution to chase his

VIABLE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT

WHERE SINGAPORE SCORES

- Streamlined administrative processes
- More welcoming to start-ups
- More CEOs, multimillionaires among resident Indians
- Top Human Resources firms based here

Stress may be on 'Make in India', but young entrepreneurs inclined to look abroad

DAMPENERS IN INDIA

- Discouraging regulatory environment
- Fewer takers for innovative spirit

I moved to Singapore without an iota of doubt and the country did not disappoint me - **SUDHANSHU AHUJA**, entrepreneur from IIT

start-up dream in Singapore. The reason is the discouraging financial, business, industrial and regulatory environment in India. "My Nanyang Technological University (NTU) scholarship was confirmed during my initial days in the IIT. It was not the bounty of the scholarship but the environment

that could germinate my start-up in the conceptual stage. I moved to Singapore without an iota of doubt. The country did not disappoint me," Mr. Ahuja said adding that he could start and incubate his talent search firm, Ideatory Pte Ltd, along expected lines in Singapore.

Mr. Ahuja was the bene-

ficiary of a venture capital fund of the Singapore International Foundation (SIF), an annual grant given after stringent scrutiny of contestants from across the world. Innovative ideas and efforts are not reduced to trash in the corporate world in Singapore, he said.

Today, Mr. Ahuja's client list includes global corporates, including the banking giant DBS. He belongs to the crop of top talent in India which is looking at Singapore to pursue their dreams and the number of such innovative talent is growing day by day, says a top human resource firm in Singapore.

Singapore has a bunch of IITians like Aparna Mittal who left India and took to social entrepreneurship.

SIF, on Saturday, awarded seed fund to four winning

teams of social entrepreneurs, who could find innovative ways to do business.

Among them was "Jugnu," the Indian team that worked on a mobile application to enhance language skills for school students in non-urban areas. Team members — Ankita Gupta, Priya A. and Pramodh Rai — from Delhi completed their graduate education from NTU to chase the social entrepreneurship dream. While addressing the award ceremony before disseminating the seed fund grant, the Chairman of SIF, Euleen Goh, said the winners focussed on environment and mobile apps and thought of reaching the unreachable was commendable.

SINGAPORE-FUNDING FOR LANGUAGE-LEARNING APP | PAGE 12

Indian team gets Singapore funding for language-learning app

Appaji Reddem

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Among them was 'Jugnu', the Indian team that worked on a mobile application to enhance language skills for school students in non urban areas.

Team members — Anki-ta Gupta, Priya. A and Pramodh Rai — from Delhi, completed their graduate education from NTU to chase the social entrepreneurship dream.

"Such students belong

to the cream of talent in India and they believe in their dreams. Singapore is probably one the best breeding grounds for the authors of start-ups. The league of young multimillionaires and CEOs is going up and Indians are taking the lead here," said the senior manager of the HR firm.

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आईआईटी खड़गपुर के छात्रों ने गूगल में मिली नौकरी को छोड़कर देश में रहकर नई तकनीक इजाद करने का फैसला किया

आईआईटी छात्र बने 'मेक इन इंडिया' की मिसाल



नई दिल्ली | रोहित पंवार

प्रगति मैदान में चल रहे अंतरराष्ट्रीय व्यापार मेले में प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी के 'मेक इन इंडिया' कार्यक्रम की झलक देखने को मिल रही है। आईआईटी समेत दिल्ली के कॉलेजों से पढ़ाई करने वाले छात्रों ने अनेक आइडिया से देसी उत्पाद तैयार किए हैं। आईआईटी खड़गपुर के इन छात्रों को गूगल में नौकरी मिली थी। लेकिन उन्होंने देश में ही रहकर देसी उत्पाद तैयार करने को तरजीह दी।

हॉल नंबर -14 के इन्वेंशन पवेलियन (टेकमार्ट) में इन्होंने प्रदर्शनी लगाई है। बहरहाल, आईआईटी खड़गपुर के छात्रों को इन्वेंशन सेंटर में अपना आइडिया पेश किया था। इसके लिए 10 लाख रुपये की राशि दी गई। उन्होंने मेक इन इंडिया से प्रोत्साहित होते हुए अपनी कंपनी 'वित वर्क्स' का पहला उत्पाद 'कोड्स' पेश किया। इन छात्रों का नाम सोमनाथ, अंकित और चंद्रशेखर है।

खास बात यह है कि इन्होंने गूगल कंपनी में मोटो पकेज की नौकरी छोड़ करोबार शुरू किया। कंपनी के सहसंचालक सोमनाथ का कहना है कि गूगल में काम करने का मौका मिला। वहां बाजार की रणनीति समझी और कंपनी छोड़ दी। फिर हमने ऐसा उत्पाद बनाने के बारे में सोचा जो आम आदमी से जुड़ा हो। वहीं अन्य सहयोगी अंकित डीपी का कहना है कि युवा को केंद्रित करते हुए हमने ईयर फोन के लिए कोड्स बनाए। उन्होंने बताया कि चीन के कंपनियों के बारे में शोध किया उन्हें टक्कर देने के लिए सस्ता उत्पाद उतारा।

दिल्ली आईआईटी की टीम ले रही आइडिया: हॉल नंबर -8 में आईआईटी दिल्ली के छात्रों की छह टीमों भी पहुंची हैं। ये इन्वेंशन प्रोजेक्ट के लिए आम जनता से आइडिया मांग रही हैं। मैकेनिकल विभाग इस कार्यक्रम का संचालन कर रहा है। इन टीम का नेतृत्व कर रहे मैकेनिकल विभाग के प्रो. पीएम राव ने बताया कि मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय की इन्वेंशन की योजना के



आईआईटी के छात्रों ने शनिवार को व्यापार मेले में खुद से डिजाइन रोबोट प्रदर्शित किया।

तहत लोगों से आइडिए मांगे जा रहे हैं। अब तक 40 आइडिए मिल चुके हैं। इनमें से सिर्फ छह का चयन किया जाएगा। इसके बाद छात्र अपना प्रोजेक्ट बनाएंगे। प्रोजेक्ट के लिए आइडिए देने वाले को श्रेय दिया जाएगा।

चोर के चुसते ही रोबोट बताएगा उसकी जानकारी: आईआईटी से इतर दिल्ली के कॉलेजों के युवा इंजीनियर भी हैं। इन्होंने 'मॉडर्न रोबोटिक्स' स्टॉल पर अपनी इंजीनियरिंग का हुनर दिखाया है। आम जिंदगी को आसान बनाने वाले डेरों रोबोट्स बनाए हैं। इसमें सबसे दिलचस्प 'लाइट फ्लोवर' रोबोट है।

यह ब्ल्यूटूथ, जीपीएस व अल्ट्रा सोनिक सेंसर से चलता है। इसे तैयार करने वाले रोचक शर्मा ने बताया कि इसका कई काम में इस्तेमाल किया जा सकता है। रोबोट मशीन पर रोशनी पड़ने पर यह काम करता है। मान लीजिए यदि घर में अंधेरा है और उस दौरान चोर प्रवेश करता है तो जैसे ही टॉर्च या अन्य कोई रोशनी पड़ेगी रोबोट काम करने लगेगा।

उड़ीसा पवेलियन में रेत पर आकृति

नई दिल्ली (प्र.सं.)। समुद्री रेत पर विभिन्न प्रकार की मुद्राओं वाली आकर्षक आकृतियां अक्सर अखबार में छपती हैं। इसे बनाते हुए देखने की चाह रखने वालों के लिए मेले में विशेषतौर पर प्रबंध किया गया है।

उड़ीसा पवेलियन के प्रवेश द्वार पर कलाकार श्रीधर व उनके साथी मिलकर रोजाना नए-नए अंदाज में आकृतियां बना रहे हैं। इन आकृतियों को देखने के लिए किसी प्रकार का टिकट नहीं लगाया गया है। बल्कि आप रेत पर आकृति बनाते हुए देखने के साथ-साथ उस आकृति और कलाकारों के साथ सेल्फी भी ले सकते हैं। श्रीधर कहते हैं कि हालांकि एक आकृति बनाने में काफी समय लगता है। लेकिन जब यह तैयार होती है तो लोग अचरज में पड़ जाते हैं।



प्रगति मैदान में आयोजित व्यापार मेले के हरियाणा पवेलियन में शनिवार को पहुंचकर लोगों ने यहां की संस्कृति, खान-पान, पर्यटन स्थल आदि के बारे में जानकारी हासिल की। • सभी फोटो- संजु मेहता/हिन्दुस्तान



दिल्ली ट्रैफिक पुलिस के सड़क सुरक्षा पवेलियन में पुलिस आयुक्त बीएस बस्सी।



मेले में महाराष्ट्र दिवस के मौके पर कलाकारों ने सांस्कृतिक कार्यक्रम प्रस्तुत किए।

चोर भी पकड़ा गया	फोकस देश के लिए बनाए गए पवेलियन रहे स्थाली	मधुमेह में मिलेगा लाभ
विदेशी पवेलियन हॉल नंबर-18 में चोर ने स्टॉल संचालक का पर्स झपट लिया। गनीमत रही कि कोरिया के केरुदक्सम कंपनी के स्टॉल पर तैनात युरी का पर्स झपटने वाला चोर पवेलियन से बाहर निकलने में कामयाब नहीं हुआ। तब तक युरी ने पर्स झपटने पर शोर मचा दिया और चोर को पकड़ लिया गया।	इसे सुरक्षा का बंदोबस्त कहा जा या फिर व्यवस्थाओं की खामियां। ट्रेड फेयर में इस बार फोकस केंद्री-वाईलैंड के लिए बनाए गए विशेष पवेलियन (पवेलियन नंबर-21 व कई अन्य) में दूसरे दिन भी दर्जन भर से अधिक स्टॉल खाली रहे। वहीं हॉल नंबर-14 के बाहर स्टॉल लगाने वाले कई प्रदर्शकों ने सामान जांच के नाम पर प्रताड़ित करने तक का भी आरोप लगाया। प्रदर्शकों के अनुसार रात तकरीबन 11 बजे उनका बैग स्कैनर में रखने के लिए कतार में लगाया गया, लेकिन सुबह सात बजे के बाद ही उन्हें वापस मिल सका। प्रदर्शकों का आरोप है कि स्कैनिंग मशीन की कमी और सुरक्षा के नाम पर प्रदर्शकों को बेवजह परेशान किया गया है। यही कारण भी है कि दूसरे दिन भी कई राज्यों वाले अब तक स्टॉल नहीं लग सके हैं।	उत्तर प्रदेश पवेलियन के डी-हर्बल स्टॉल नंबर-8 पर मिलने वाली इंग्लिश पत्ती मधुमेह में लाभकारी हो सकती है। ललित मनवंदा के मुताबिक ब्राजील में मिलने वाली यह पत्ती (स्टीविया पत्ती) को किसी भी पेययोग्य पदार्थ में मिलाकर पी सकते हैं। स्टीविया पत्तीसिया के नाम से 200 रुपये से 240 रुपये वाले पैक उपलब्ध है।

Defence Minister who fits the boots

LAST WORD

MANOHAR PARRIKAR
BY VIBHA SHARMA

He's never worked at the Centre, but his political acumen, backing from Modi, and not-to-miss IIT tag should see him through a successful stint in the ministry that is no less coveted than critical.

ON Wednesday, when Manohar Parrikar flew home the first time as Defence Minister on a "part private, part official" visit, it was on an economy ticket in a regular flight. As the country's Raksha Mantri he could have requisitioned the IAF's VVIP Embraer executive jet.

Though worried about his security, for officials Parrikar's simple ways have come as a pleasant surprise. For those familiar with his unassuming ways, it is a matter of course. Neena Naik, vice-president of the BJP's Goa unit, says Parrikar did not use most privileges that come with the chief minister's post. "He has few demands. I am sure the shirt he was wearing at the swearing-in ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan must have been worn on several occasions in Goa," she says.

Many liken his rumpled, bush-shirted look to the 'common man' played by Anil Palekar in the Seventies and Eighties. He may have to change his ways in his new role, but Parrikar is sure he would use special IAF aircraft only when visiting areas like Siachen, Thawang or Kashmir.

The IIT graduate, who comes from the same RSS lineage as Prime Minister Narendra Modi and with whom he shares a good rapport, has a political and administrative acumen that could well make him the new 'Mr Indispensable' for his party.

BJP leader Shrikant Sharma recalls calling on him ahead of the BJP's executive at Goa in 2013: "We were surprised when we entered his office—simple with absolutely no trappings of a CMO. Later, he took us

out for lunch at an ordinary restaurant. 'The food is good here,' he told us. We sat amid other guests, without him seeking any special attention."

Hands-on CM

At the same conclave, the Goa CM, umbrella in hand, was also seen doubling as a conductor, helping the driver of a bus manoeuvre his vehicle inside a hotel's premises. Bureaucrats and services officers in the Defence Ministry who attended the intense briefing sessions in his first two days are talking of his quick grasp of complicated matters. With Parrikar known to work 16-17 hours a day, officials in Goa have warned Delhiwallas to be prepared for long hours.

Salt of the sea

Like all Goans, he loves fish curry, king prawns and Goa—a reason given for why he did not want to move out.

Parrikar belongs to a family of Goud Saraswat Brahmins (the powerful minority that decided the fate of modern Goa, politically and economically) that ran a grocery shop at Maupassa. He joined the Sangh while still in school and became the 'mukhya shikshak' by the time he finished. He went through a tough period when just a couple of months before his becoming chief minister for the first time he lost his wife Medha to cancer in 1999. "He dedicated himself completely to work and bringing up



his two sons," according to an associate.

Goa to Delhi

Parrikar's third stint in Goa saw him face allegations of U-turns on critical issues—removal of casinos, mining and real estate lobbies. He leaves behind a turbulent party in Goa, which successor Lakshmikant Parsekar may find difficult to manage. However, the shift to Delhi was not something he could have put off any longer. Apparently he was shortlisted for Delhi when Modi was putting together his Cabinet in May.

Ahead of the recent Cabinet expansion there was also speculation that Parrikar might land Home or Finance. These may have just been rumours, but it does speak about the trust Modi and the Sangh place in Parrikar. The buzz is he is expected to provide support to Modi in the power corridors of the Capital, dominated as they were by seasoned BJP politicians like Arun Jaitley, Rajnath Singh and Sushma Swaraaj.

"He is one of the few people Modi can confide in," says a leader. "In May, when he cited family and political reasons while asking to stay in Goa, he was given three months to settle all issues and shift to Delhi. He may now emerge first among equals after Modi."

Parrikar is also known to speak his mind. He pitched for Modi as PM—the first among senior BJP leaders to do so while others waited for cues—but did not shy away from speaking on the Gujarat

riots. He said in an interview that he would have handled the 2002 riots better. Parrikar also likened L.K. Advani to "rancid pickle" at a time when the veteran leader was all that the BJP had.

Challenges

Other than the challenges within the party, many believe managing a small state like Goa can hardly be of help in a ministry such as Defence, with a budget allocation of Rs 2.3 lakh crore.

He will have to deal with the dynamics and complexities of the ministry and also tackle difficult international issues—for instance demarcation of the 3,488-km-long Line of Actual Control, pushed after the Modi-Xi Jinping meeting in September.

Then there is the Indian Ocean, the power play between New Delhi and Beijing in finding a military toehold in smaller countries and the perpetual tension with Pakistan. International forces are set to pull out of Afghanistan in December, which will change the dynamics in Kashmir.

Parrikar will also need to focus on revamping the acquisition process for weapons, aircraft, warships, submarines and artillery guns and balance it with the PM's new thrust on "Make in India".

His admirers believe he is "perfect for the job". "He is sharp, in control and meticulous with details, in fact almost a dictator like Modi. Of course, it would not be possible without the confidence of the PM," they say. The bottom line is, if Parrikar could handle a politically difficult state like Goa, and has the backing of Modi and the Sangh, he can handle anything.

World's third Science Gallery to come up in Bengaluru

<http://www.sahilonline.org/english/newsDetails.php?cid=2&nid=28768>

Bengaluru: Want to know the science behind love and attraction? Or, what makes you groove to a certain kind of music?

The country's Information Technology (IT)- capital has managed to attract one of Ireland's renowned universities to venture into setting up the world's third Science Gallery—the first in Asia. Set to marvel visitors with scientific theatre-, it will join the other two in Dublin (Ireland) and London (UK).

Bengaluru managed to beat Melbourne in Australia to the third Science Gallery. The State's Department of Science and Technology sealed the deal through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Science Gallery International (SGI), Dublin, Ireland, on Thursday. It is likely to come up in the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) campus by the beginning of 2018 at a cost of Rs. 25 crore, S.R. Patil Minister for Planning and Statistics, IT, BT, Science and Technology said.

Chris Horn, Chairman, SGI said the gallery would be different from a regular science museum as nothing would be permanent, with different exhibitions being held regularly. Live experiments on visitors and interaction with scientists, engineers and researchers will be among the attractions.

Mr. Horn also said the areas of expertise of certain cities are kept in mind while organising programmes. Trinity College Dublin is known for physics, King's College London for medical sciences. Bengaluru is known for IT and aerospace, and we will be focussing on these areas,- he said.

SGI intends to have eight galleries in all eventually. The others are expected to come up in Singapore, New York, Chicago and Venice.

BHU students gherao Smriti Irani in Varanasi

IANS | Nov 15, 2014, 06.36 PM IST

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/BHU-students-gherao-Smriti-Irani-in-Varanasi/articleshow/45159446.cms>

LUCKNOW: Union human resource development (HRD) minister Smriti Irani faced the ire of students at the Banaras Hindu University (BHU) in Varanasi on Saturday. In the city, also the parliamentary constituency of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the union minister was booed and gheraoed by angry students who blamed her for the delay in inauguration of a trauma center.

Construction of the multi-crore rupee trauma center was completed almost a year ago but it is yet to be inaugurated, apparently because the HRD minister has not been able to find time for it.

While Irani had so far maintained that she did not get the invitation, when confronted with a letter by the BHU authorities to this effect, the minister said that the inauguration was getting delayed since there was no vice-chancellor in the varsity.

She assured the angry students that very soon the impasse will be sorted out and the trauma center inaugurated. Irani, a close aide of Narendra Modi was in the city to attend a function.

122 students receive degrees at IIT Ropar convocation

Hindustan Times (Chandigarh)

LILA POONAWALLA URGED THE STUDENTS TO CHALLENGE CONVENTIONAL WISDOM AND REFRAIN FROM COMPROMISING ON FUNDAMENTAL VALUES

RUPNAGAR: The third convocation of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Rupnagar, was held on the institute campus on Saturday.

As many as 122 students of 2010-14 batch, including 121 B.Tech students and one PhD student, were conferred degrees.

Outstanding students were also honoured with gold and silver medals on the occasion.

National research professor at University of Hyderabad and former director of Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, Goverdhan Mehta, was the chief guest on the occasion.

The board of governors of Indian Institute of Technology, Rupnagar, and chairperson of the institute Lila Poonawalla presided over the function.

In his convocation address, Goverdhan Mehta exhorted the students to excel by putting their full potential to good use.

He urged the graduates to set new scholastic benchmarks and shoulder social responsibilities.

He also emphasised on the need for giving an impetus to research in educational institutions.

In her address, Lila Poonawalla urged the students to challenge conventional wisdom and refrain from compromising on fundamental values.

She also exhorted students to be committed to have a vision for the nation. Director of the institute professor MK Surappa presented the annual report and highlighted the achievements of the institute.



He said work on the construction of the new Indian Institute of Technology campus would begin soon and the first phase of the project would be completed within two years.

November 17

Irani vetoes experts; ISM closer to becoming IIT

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/hteducation/educationnews/irani-vetoes-experts-ism-closer-to-becoming-iit/article1-1286907.aspx>

In keeping with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's electoral promise to turn Indian School of Mines (ISM) Dhanbad into an Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Smriti Irani-led HRD ministry overruled an expert panel's recommendations that had trashed the idea.

A letter from the ministry, sources said, was sent to the panel on September 26 saying it was "desired" by Irani that the panel should further examine the issue and see what could be done to enable the institute to become a good IIT.

Prior to general elections, Modi, as BJP's prime ministerial candidate, at an election rally in Dhanbad had slammed the UPA government for not turning ISM into an IIT. "ISM has a name in all of Asia, it should be upgraded to an IIT," Modi had said.

A panel formed to look into this demand said in its report that ISM didn't merit an entry into brand IIT on the basis of its educational and research inadequacy. Comparing it with IIT Madras, the panel had said that while at ISM, 40 out of 250 of its faculty members were without PhDs, IIT madras had only one faculty member without a PhD.

Recommending a status quo, the panel headed by Professor Ashok Mishra, former director of IIT Bombay said ISM is a "niche" institute and should be allowed to continue as such. The report was to be discussed at the IIT council (the highest decision making body of the IITs) meeting on September 22 but it was not presented.

While panel chairperson Mishra refused to comment on the development, ISM registrar MK Singh welcomed the move saying it had been a long pending demand.

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IITians call the shots

IITians now call the shots in the Defence Ministry. For, both the newly appointed Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar and Defence Secretary RK Mathur are alumni of IIT. While Parrikar majored in metallurgy from IIT-Mumbai, Mathur passed out as a mechanical engineer from Kanpur branch of the institute before both of them found their true calling in politics and civil services respectively. (910)

नव उद्यमियों के लिए आइआइटी जोधपुर की पहल नहीं दिख रही कामयाब

जोधपुर, 16 नवंबर (भाषा)। उद्यमों के अभिनव विचारों को साकार करने में छात्रों की मदद करने के मकसद से आइआइटी जोधपुर में 'इनोवेशन एंड इन्व्यूबेशन सेंटर' (आइआइसी) की शुरुआत धूमधाम से की गई थी लेकिन एक साल से अधिक समय गुजर जाने के बाद भी उचित दिशानिर्देशों के अभाव में युवा प्रतिभाओं के लिए यह केंद्र कुछ खास नहीं कर पा रहा।

आइआइटी जोधपुर ने 'स्वच्छता, स्वास्थ्य और सफाई व कचरा प्रबंधन' थीम पर एक राष्ट्रीय प्रतियोगिता के माध्यम से कारोबार की 11 योजनाओं का चुनाव किया था। इन्हें 10 लाख रुपए, दो लाख रुपए और 40-40 हजार रुपए की आरंभिक राशि के साथ तीन श्रेणियों में बांटा गया था। छात्रों का कहना है कि आइआइटी जोधपुर को जुलाई 2013 से जुलाई 2014 तक एक साल के लिए ऐसे नए उभरते उद्यमियों की मदद करनी थी और परियोजना के लिए बुनियादी ढांचा मुहैया कराने के साथ-साथ इसमें काम कर रहे लोगों को पगार देने आदि का बंदोबस्त भी संस्थान को करना था।

इस केंद्र को शुरू हुए एक साल से अधिक समय हो गया लेकिन कई छात्रों का दावा है कि उन्हें जिस धनराशि का वादा किया गया था, वह मिली नहीं। इनमें से कुछ ने किसी तरह अपनी जेब से परियोजनाओं को जारी रखा। आइआइटी जोधपुर के पूर्व छात्र अंकित सारस्वत ने अपनी कारोबारी योजना 'फ्रीडू' (फ्रीडम ऑफ एजुकेशन) के लिए सहयोगी छात्र विनोद कुमार

मीणा के साथ 10 लाख रुपए की आरंभिक राशि का इनाम जीता था। सारस्वत के मुताबिक हमें शुरुआती राशि में से मुश्किल से ही कुछ मिला होगा। जब हमने पूछा तो कोई वजह नहीं बताई गई। अच्छेखासे वेतन वाली बैंक की नौकरी के बजाय उद्यम को चुनने वाले अंकित सारस्वत ने कहा कि राज्य सरकार ने इसके लिए 1.5 करोड़ रुपए मंजूर किए, उस सबके बावजूद ऐसा हो रहा है। मैंने अपनी ओर से करीब 3-4 लाख रुपए और अपने संसाधन खर्च करने के बाद इसे छोड़ दिया। अब वह जयपुर चले गए हैं और खुद से इस परियोजना पर काम शुरू कर रहे हैं। उन्होंने दावा किया कि थोड़ा-बहुत भुगतान किया गया लेकिन अब वे भी बंद हो गए।

इसी तरह 'आत्म सक्षम' योजना के लिए दो लाख रुपए की राशि जीतने वाले निखिल भारद्वाज ने कहा कि उन्होंने आइआइटी जैसे संस्थान से इस तरह की अपेक्षा नहीं की थी। उन्होंने दावा किया कि हमें जिन सुविधाओं और सहायता का वादा किया गया था, उनके संबंध में हमने शुरुआत से इनोवेशन और इन्व्यूबेशन सेंटर में नियमों की गैरमौजूदगी के नाम पर अनिर्णय और उदासीनता देखी।

इस बारे में आइआइटी जोधपुर के बोर्ड ऑफ गवर्नर्स के अध्यक्ष गोवर्धन मेहता ने कहा कि आइआइसी के लिए उचित दिशानिर्देश या नियम नहीं तय होने की वजह से यह सब हुआ। उन्होंने कहा कि यह हमारे लिए नई अवधारणा थी। हमने एक समीक्षा बैठक में आगे आइआइसी को जारी रखने में कुछ कठिनाइयों की ओर इशारा किया है।

Don't rewrite the rules for education

The classroom must be left to professionals and, most certainly, facts cannot be doctored

The lifeline of the India growth story is education and by that we mean quality education. So, it is disheartening to learn that among the many who wish to leave their imprint on education, not all are necessarily qualified professionals. In recent times, we have seen the disquieting phenomenon of those with strong links to the RSS and other right-wing cultural organisations taking an unhealthy interest in school curricula, the latest being Dinanath Batra, who has been roped in as an adviser on education reforms by the Haryana government. Mr Batra is the man who famously got Wendy Doniger's seminal work on Hinduism pulped on the grounds that it went against the grain of our culture. The first and foremost quality of an educationist is an openness to ideas and thoughts.

There is an excessive emphasis on moral values, ancient scriptures and philosophy most of which cannot be substantiated historically. Of course, all curricula is subject to review. But those doing so must be mindful of the fact that our children will have to emerge armed with the knowledge that will enable them to fit into a competitive higher education system and then a competitive marketplace. Mr Batra's books have been dismissed by most historians and prima facie he does not seem qualified to preside over curriculum changes. This is something that the HRD minister needs to look at very seriously. Young minds are shaped in the classrooms and under no circumstance should they be imparted any knowledge which is ideologically weighted or just plain and simple wrong. Mr Batra's advocacy of redrawing boundaries to reflect territories of a bygone time does not inspire much confidence in his ability to create child-friendly and relevant curricula. This is the first rung of academia, but the problem seems to have reached even the upper echelons.

In a recent lecture organised by the Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR), a professor went so far as to say that one did not require history at all, much to the chagrin of the other luminaries present. His argument that texts like the Mahabharata were enough to understand the past met with stiff resistance from other scholars. That the head of the ICHR concurred with these views is alarming, to say the least. Earlier we saw Subramanian Swamy of the BJP saying that books by great historians like Romila Thapar and Bipan Chandra should be burned. This is not the inclusive society that Prime Minister Narendra Modi wants to foster. Education must be left to professionals and most certainly, facts cannot be doctored. Our children deserve the best that schools and colleges can offer and that can only happen if this is built on a firm and objective foundation.

ourtake

UGC writes to varsities for uniform grading system

RUHI TEWARI

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 16

THE UGC has shot off letters to all universities, directing them to implement a choice-based credit scheme to allow 'seamless mobility' of students across higher education institutions and bring in a uniform grading system. The recent move came after Union HRD Minister Smriti Irani said implementation of the scheme would begin from the next academic session.

In a letter to the Vice-Chancellors, the UGC has said the scheme should be adopted by the varsities from the 2015-16 session.

The letter said that owing to diversity in the evaluation system followed by different varsities, students face problems in pursuing higher studies or applying for jobs.

It added that the credit scheme would ensure "seamless mobility of students across the higher education institutions in the country as well as abroad". "The credit earned by the student can be transferred and would be of great value to the students in the event of their seeking migration from one institution to the other," it said.

Claiming it is "desirable to introduce (a) uniform grading system", the UGC has formulated guidelines for the adoption of the scheme. These norms would be applicable to all undergraduate and post-graduate level degree courses, diploma and certificate programmes awarded by Central, state and deemed universities.

The commission has recommended a 10-point grading system.

Graduating from elite colleges likely to impact salary

Asian News International

A new study has revealed that no matter where you earn your graduate degree, the prestige of your undergraduate institution continues to affect earnings—both high and low. Good institutions add more than just repute.

The researchers said that college graduates who earn their undergraduate degree from a less prestigious university and a graduate degree from an elite university earn much less than those who attend both an elite undergraduate and graduate school. And it is unlikely their salary will ever catch up. However exceptions are

always there.

Joni Hersch, professor of law and economics at Vanderbilt Law School, said that status of the graduate degree-granting institution should have a more important relation to earnings than status of the undergraduate institution.

Hersch said that even high ability students who attend nonselective institutions for their bachelor's degrees are, on average, unable to overcome their initial placement by moving up to an elite graduate or professional school for an advanced degree.

The researchers divided the colleges into three categories, Tier 1 schools are top private research institutions. Tier 2 schools are selective private liberal arts

EXPERTS SAY THAT THE STATUS OF THE GRADUATE DEGREE GRANTING INSTITUTIONS SHOULD HAVE MORE IMPORTANT RELATIONS TO EARNINGS THAN THE STATUS OF THE UNDERGRADUATE INSTITUTIONS

colleges. Tier 3 are top public research universities and Tier 4 are remaining four-year universities and colleges. Because ability influences whether a student is accepted to a selective institution, Hersch accounted for

ability in her study by examining graduates of similarly selective graduate programs.

It was found that graduates of Tier 1 schools earn a lot more than everyone else, but even when looking at those with graduate degrees from elite schools, the students who went to a lower tier undergraduate school earn considerably less.

Among those who earned a graduate degree from Tier 1, 3 institutions, men from Tier 1 undergraduate schools earn 39 percent more than men with undergraduate degrees from Tier 4 schools. Among women with top graduate degrees, those from Tier 1 undergraduate schools earn 44 percent more than women with undergraduate degrees from Tier 4 schools.

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Don't Junk German

Smriti Irani's fiat asking Kendriya Vidyalayas to replace it with Sanskrit harms students

At the Brisbane G20 summit, a prime objective for Prime Minister Narendra Modi was to drum up investor interest in India. Yet this objective was undermined at home thanks to an ill-advised fiat from the HRD ministry, replacing the teaching of German with Sanskrit in government-run Kendriya Vidyalaya schools. The issue clouded Modi's bilateral meeting with German Chancellor Angela Merkel on the sidelines of G20.

HRD minister Smriti Irani has clarified that Sanskrit isn't the only third language option, students can choose a modern Indian language as well. But the point is why foreign languages shouldn't be taught as well in Indian schools when they provide a window of opportunity in a globalising world and there is enormous demand for them from students and their parents. Teaching foreign languages has gained momentum in Indian schools, with 80,000 students opting for German alone and the German government spending a million euros on the programme. It's absurd to seek to shut all this down.

What adds to disquiet about the HRD ministry's competence is the peremptory manner in which this was done, with schools ordered to change course in the middle of the academic year. Such lack of due process and an orderly transition plan is hugely disruptive for both teachers and students. The minister is only supposed to lay down broad parameters of educational policy, leaving it to educationists to determine details of implementation and how policy can be translated into specific courses or syllabi. If education is to empower India's youth, it needs to focus relentlessly on jobs and skills. But the education system has been crippled by politics, ideology and the whimsicality of successive HRD ministers, and Irani appears intent on dishing out more of the same.

