

Newspaper Clips

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18/11/2012 P-9

Set aside ₹50 lakh a year to prevent suicides, IITs told

Govt Order To Cover IIMs, NITs As Well

M Ramya | TNN

Chennai: All central government funded technical institutions (CFTIs) in the country, including the IITs, IIMs and NITs, have been advised to set aside Rs 50 lakh a year to provide counselling services and conduct activities to ensure the mental health of their students.

A task force, constituted by the ministry of human resource development to study the increasing occurrences of suicides among students enrolled at the IITs and other such campuses in the country, made the recommendation to Union human resources development minister Pallam Raju and minister of state Shashi Tharoor earlier this week.

The task force, headed by professor M Anandkrishnan, designed a questionnaire for the CFTIs to assess the existing mental health needs, understand the magnitude of the problem and ascertain the resources. Of the 86 CFTIs asked to fill the questionnaire, only 26 responded. Of this, more than half do not have a full time counsellor



and only 10 have scope for students to self-declare mental health problems.

Pallam Raju suggested that the counselling services could be made a component in the accreditation process and that special weightage be given to the provision.

The task force has suggested that the government set up an empowered committee on the lines of the Raghavan committee on ragging "as it cannot be assumed that they will be followed by all CFTIs with the same degree of rigour and seriousness".

The survey revealed that over the last two years 12 students committed suicide and 18 others attempted it. As many as 872 students have been referred for counselling in these institutions. Relationship issues, personal problems, mental stress and family problems were reported as reasons for the suicides.

HT Amritsar

Not US or UK, future of Indian education lies in digital world

HT Correspondent

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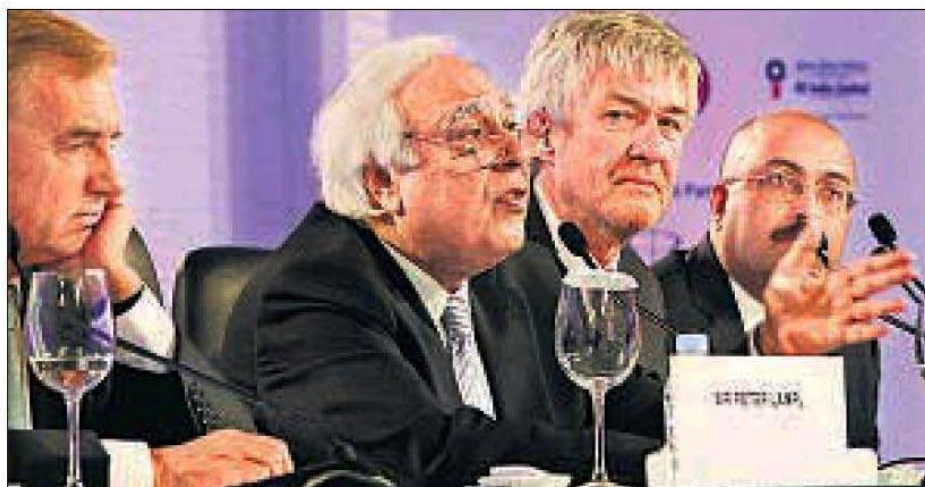
NEW DELHI: As India cannot build enough brick-and-mortar universities to meet the exploding demand for higher education from millions of its youth, it must rely on digital technology instead, telecom minister Kapil Sibal said at the HT Leadership Summit on Saturday.

Sibal, who was also the human resource development (HRD) minister in charge of the nation's education till recently, cautioned against trying to emulate the US or the UK university system as a model for India. "We have to look at an entirely different model," Sibal said. "There's no way in which we can build physical infrastructure to cater to the fast-growing push for higher education coming from students and their parents."

India has 540 million citizens under 25 – a demographic dividend that international agencies like the International Monetary Fund have said could help the country gain an additional 2% GDP growth.

But the country has only 604 universities and about 4,000 colleges, less than 50% of what it needs to achieve its target of a 30% gross enrolment rate in higher education by 2020. Over the past decade, as this gap between demand and supply increasingly became evident, India encouraged the private sector to invest in the sector; expanded government institutions of excellence, supported states in setting up more colleges and tried to enact a legislation that would allow foreign universities to set up campuses in India – besides collaborate with Indian varsities in offering joint degrees.

But Sibal's argument suggests a growing realisation in the government that trying to build India's equivalent of the



■ (From left) Sir Peter Lampl, chairman, The Sutton Trust, telecom minister Kapil Sibal, moderator Jeremy O'Grady, editor-in-chief of The Week, and professor Sunil Kumar during their session on Indian education.

MAHENDRA PARIKH/HT PHOTO

Staying away from rankings of top universities, like they do in Europe, is probably good for India.

PETER LAMPL, chairman, The Sutton Trust

Ivy League – the subject of a HT Leadership Summit session discussion – may not be the most effective strategy. "One can really conceive of a situation where ICT [Information and Communications Technology] based infrastructure could be used to reach thousands of colleges," Sunil Kumar, dean of the University Of Chicago Booth School Of Business, said.

India is already building a National Knowledge Network that aims to connect all universities on a dedicated high-speed digital highway. This would allow faculty members to teach students across var-

sities. "In 3-4 years, everything will go digital. Fibre optics will reach every village by 2013, and then we'll ensure last-mile connectivity. That's got to be the way forward," Sibal said.

However, proper funding was key to meeting India's higher education challenges, Sibal said, adding: "This nation will never be a wealthy nation if we don't invest enough in higher education."

British education philanthropist Peter Lampl, who heads the Sutton Trust, also argued against using the US or UK as models for higher education in India. Unlike the US or UK – which focus on a few research institutions such as the Ivy League universities, Oxford and Cambridge – Europe may represent a better model for India, he said.

"Staying away from rankings of top universities, like they do in Europe, is probably good for India," he added.

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Indian-origin prof indicted for \$700,000 fraud in US

Washington: An Indian American engineering professor, Manoj Kumar Jha, has been indicted by a federal grand jury for trying to defraud the National Science Foundation (NSF) of \$700,000.

A full time professor at the Morgan State University, Jha, according to the seven count indictment, fraudulently obtained \$200,000 in grant funds from the NSF's Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programme to fund a highway project, and attempted to obtain another \$500,000 through the same programme.

The indictment alleges that Jha converted the funds to his personal use, including: to make payments on his mortgage and personal credit card; authorizing approximately \$11,000 in salary payments to his wife, who did not perform NSF-related work; and writing a \$6,000 check to himself.

According to the indictment by US attorney for the district of Maryland Rod Rosenstein and Allison Lerner, NSF inspector general, Jha established a company Amar Transportation Research and Consulting and was its president and only director.

Jha faces a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison for each of five counts of wire fraud, and for one count each of mail fraud and falsification of records. ¶1

अगले साल से लाइव पढ़ाई

सीबीएसई ऑनलाइन लर्निंग मैनेजमेंट सिस्टम बनाने में जुटा

● रश्मि शर्मा

नई दिल्ली। देश भर में सीबीएसई स्कूलों में अगले साल से बच्चे लाइव लेक्चर और वर्चुअल लैब से पढ़ाई की सुविधा हासिल कर सकेंगे। सीबीएसई सीसीई के लिए ऑफ लाइन व ऑनलाइन माध्य के लिए लर्निंग मैनेजमेंट सिस्टम तैयार करने की तैयारी कर रहा है।

इस व्यापक सिस्टम के लिए सीबीएसई सक्षम कंपनियों की तलाश में है, जो इस तरह के कार्यों को अंजाम दे सकें। इस सिस्टम के जरिए न केवल डिजिटल कंटेंट तैयार होगा और थ्री डी एनिमेशन के जरिए पढ़ाई हो सकेगी, बल्कि सीसीई ग्रेड बुक में ऑटोमैटिक और मैनुअल तरीके से डाटा एंट्री भी हो जाएगी। सीबीएसई इस सिस्टम को



तैयार करने में सक्षम कंपनियों का सहयोग लेगा।

कंपनी को ऐसा सिस्टम (सॉफ्टवेयर) तैयार करना होगा जो कि डिजिटल कंटेंट डिजाइन करें, नौवीं व दसवीं के लिए एक से दस मिनट के 3000 एनिमेशन तैयार करें। इस सिस्टम के जरिए नौवीं व दसवीं के लिए 80 घंटे के लाइव

● लर्निंग मैनेजमेंट सिस्टम के लिए सक्षम कंपनियों की तलाश

● नौवीं व दसवीं के लिए सिस्टम 30 मार्च 2013 तक होगा तैयार

लेक्चर भी तैयार करने होंगे तो छठी से आठवीं तक के लिए 40 घंटों के लाइव लेक्चर तैयार किए जाएंगे। वहीं वर्चुअल लैब गतिविधियों के रूप में 3 से 6 घंटों की गतिविधियां तैयार होंगी। सीबीएसई का मानना है कि इस तरह के सिस्टम आने से शिक्षकों का लोड भी काफी कम होगा और सीसीई के फ्रेमवर्क को

मजबूती मिलेगी। बोर्ड का मानना है कि इस तरह के सिस्टम के जरिए पढ़ाई होने से शिक्षकों का शिक्षण प्रभावित नहीं होगा, बल्कि यह तकनीक उनको उच्च व बेहतर शिक्षक बनाने में मदद करेगी।

यह सॉफ्टवेयर स्कूलों को कंप्यूटर आधारित शिक्षण उपकरणों से पढ़ाई कराने में सक्षम होगा। शुरुआत में नौवीं व दसवीं की कक्षाओं से इसकी शुरुआत होगी और बाद में पहली से आठवीं तक की कक्षाओं को कवर किया जाएगा। सीबीएसई के मुताबिक 30 मार्च 2013 तक नौवीं-दसवीं के लिए यह ऑपरेशनल हो जाना चाहिए तो छठी से आठवीं तक की कक्षाओं के लिए 30 सितंबर 2013 तक और पहली से पाचवीं तक 30 मार्च 2014 तक ऑपरेशन होना चाहिए।

November 19

Tribune ND 19/11/2012 p-11

IIT alumni meet new HRD Minister

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 18

Members of the IIT Alumni Association on Saturday raked up the issue of institutional autonomy in their meeting with new HRD Minister MM Pallam Raju and demanded the restoration of the same.

The IITs had an ugly engagement with former HRD Minister Kapil Sibal, who had proposed their inclusion in the pan India entrance test for admission to Central technical institutions. The IITs had vehemently opposed any move to join a test that would take away from them the right to administer their own entrance tests. The matter had been resolved after the IITs were allowed to screen students from the pan

India test and hold an add-on test to finally prepare the merit list for admissions. The IIT alumni, however, are not satisfied with the current proposal as well and today flagged the changes made to the former Joint Entrance Exam system under Sibal.

In a press statement issued following the meeting with Raju today, president of IIT Delhi Alumni Association Somnath Bharti said,

“The minister after hearing out the delegation promised to give a fresh visit to the issues concerning IITs, including controversial changes inducted in the JEE by his predecessor. He showed inclination to take actions which are in the interest of all the stakeholders of the IIT system. Without comment-

ing either way on rolling back of the misdirected changes brought in the JEE, Raju promised to give a patient hearing on the issues concerning the autonomy of IIT.”

The IIT alumni association members also said Raju accepted an invitation to speak in the upcoming PanIIT conference in Kolkata from December 7 to 9.

The meeting was attended by Bharti, who is also coordinator, IITians for IITs' Autonomy; Yogesh Andlay, former president, IIT Delhi Alumni Association and MD, Nucleus Software Engineers; HR Vaish, chairman, PanIIT and MD, Instapower; YPS Suri, president, IIT Kharagpur Alumni Association, Delhi Chapter.

Amar Ujala ND 19/11/2012

P13

कॉमन प्रवेश परीक्षा का फिर शुरू हुआ विरोध

● बृजेश सिंह

नई दिल्ली। केंद्रीय मानव संसाधन मंत्रालय से हटते ही कपिल सिब्बल के फैसलों पर उंगली उठने लगी है। खासतौर पर इंजीनियरिंग व आईआईटी में प्रवेश के लिए कॉमन प्रवेश परीक्षा के फैसले का एक बार फिर विरोध शुरू हो गया है। नये एचआरडी मंत्री पल्लम राजू को अब तक 200 से ज्यादा ईमेल प्राप्त हुए हैं, जिनमें आईआईटी की प्रवेश परीक्षा में बदलाव के फैसले पर विरोध जताया गया है। मानव संसाधन मंत्री के निकट सूत्रों के अनुसार ज्यादातर ई-मेल में आईआईटी के लिए अलग प्रवेश परीक्षा की पुरानी व्यवस्था को ही बनाये रखने की बात कही गई है।

याद रहे कि वर्ष 2013 में इंजीनियरिंग के लिए कॉमन प्रवेश परीक्षा की प्रक्रिया शुरू हो चुकी है। हालांकि यह फैसला अभी सिर्फ एक



- कपिल सिब्बल के मंत्रालय से हटते ही मुखर हुए विरोधी
- पल्लम राजू को अब तक मिल चुके हैं 200 से ज्यादा मेल

साल के लिए ही लागू किया गया है। वर्ष 2014 में इसे जारी रखने पर आईआईटी काउंसिल बाद में फैसला लेगी। कपिल सिब्बल की पहल पर हुए इस फैसले का देश में कई संगठनों ने काफी विरोध किया था। सिब्बल के मंत्रालय से विदाई के बाद विभिन्न लॉबी नये मंत्री पल्लम राजू को इस फैसले को बदलने के लिए प्रभावित करने का प्रयास कर रही हैं। आईआईटी दिल्ली एल्मुनाई एसोसिएशन के अध्यक्ष सोमनाथ

भारती के साथ शुक्रवार को एक प्रतिनिधि मंडल मानव संसाधन मंत्री पल्लम राजू से मिलकर कॉमन प्रवेश परीक्षा पर अपना विरोध जता चुका है। सोमनाथ भारती ने बताया कि हम अगले महीने कोलकाता में पैन आईआईटी का सम्मेलन होने जा रहा है, जिसमें दुनिया भर से प्रतिनिधि भाग लेंगे। सात से दस दिसंबर तक होने वाले इस सम्मेलन में मानव संसाधन मंत्री पल्लम राजू को भी आमंत्रित किया गया है।

Bad IIT grade? Not the end of the world, say alumni

SUICIDE SOLUTION In an effort to curb suicides at the premier institutes, alumni members upload inspiring testimonials on networking sites

Vanita Srivastava

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NEW DELHI: Atul Jain, an IIT alumnus, gets nostalgic while recalling the day he was told by professors that he had 'zero possibility' of getting admitted into a PhD programme in a top 100 university — all due to the lack of a good IIT grade.

A PhD student at one such university today, Jain is only too happy to point out how he proved his professors wrong.

Another IIT alumnus said on the condition of anonymity that by the time he completed his B Tech, he had 11 backlog papers. Still, he managed to become a successful software engineer with a multinational company.

Vishnu Sreekumar, a graduate student at the department of psychology in the Ohio State University, US, has a similar story to say. But no matter how bad things got, he always found something to lift his spirits with. "At one stage, I was three-point some-

thing," he says, "That, however, did not deter me from indulging in extra-curricular activities."

All the three are part of a social media group that works towards a social cause — putting a halt to the suicides at IITs.

Such cases have only grown in number over the last few years. Internal inquiry committees set up by various IITs identified depression, academic load and family pressure as the main reasons for such occurrences. "It all started a few

months ago, when we invited stories from alumni members who had not done well academically in IITs, but were doing okay in their lives," says Ashok Gupta, president, IIT-Kanpur alumni association.

The response, Gupta said, was encouraging. "The last story posted on the page in September was visited by 2,369 people, and had 24 comments. A story posted in August was visited by 18,718 people, and got 70 comments."

FACEBOOKING A WORTHY CAUSE

■ IIT-Kanpur alumni association president Ashok Gupta says the idea was to reach the maximum number of potential suicide victims

■ In their efforts to achieve this goal, the association has opened a LinkedIn account too

■ Today, many students read the stories, and contact the alumni members directiv

■ This effort by IIT alumni members have earned it widespread praise from others in the circle

■ Says Abhay Jain, president of Students' Gymkhana at IIT-Kanpur, "I forward the posts of the alumni members to students, and I am sure that the coping capacity of students will increase after reading them."

HT Bhopal

hardatwork

RACE FOR NEW UGC CHIEF HOTS UP

The heat is on in the race to the top post of the University Grants Commission. A search committee has finalized five names — acting UGC chairman Ved Prakash, former Hyderabad University vice-chancellor Syed Hasnain, IIM Bangalore director Pankaj Chandra, Tata Institute of

Social Sciences chief S Parasuraman and India's chief statistician TCA Anant. Amid the hectic lobbying, Hasnain and Chandra were picked but Hasnain faces a CBI probe and Chandra and Anant don't have any administrative experience. What happens now could prove critical to the future of India's universities.

Who'll be Pallam's new secy?

When MM Pallam Raju moved from the defence ministry to Shastri Bhawan as a human

HT Chandigarh

PGI to collaborate with IIT Ropar for research work

Vishav Bharti

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CHANDIGARH: The Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER), Chandigarh, is going to collaborate with the Indian

Institute of Technology (IIT), Ropar, for interdisciplinary research.

According to sources in the PGIMER administration, both institutes have started the process to identify the potential areas for collaborative research.

Sources revealed that these areas were identified in a meeting between representatives of IIT, Ropar, and PGIMER faculty.

From the PGIMER, departments of radiology, neurology and cardiology, anaesthesia, otolaryngology and head neck surgery, orthopaedics, experimental medicine, neurology, oral health sciences are going to collaborate with IIT's departments of mechanical engineer-

ing, chemistry, physics, electrical engineering and social sciences, sources added.

Sources also revealed that both the institutes are soon going to organise a collaborators' meet. Earlier collaborations between IIT, Delhi, and All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Delhi, have done major breakthroughs in medical science.

Significantly, in the recent past, in a bid to boost academic activities, educational cooperation and collaborative research, the institute has initiated partnership programmes with Virginia Commonwealth University and Medical Centre (CVU), University of Iowa Health Care. These collaborations will aim to give training to the hospital staff, developing agenda for joint research, short-term faculty exchanges (two-three months) and long-term graduation and post-graduation research experiences, which will be for six to nine months.

AREAS OF COLLABORATION

- Early detection of cancer
- Development of chemosensors for biologically and environmentally important components
- Chemical synthesis for anti-fungal, anti-bacterial and other medicinal applications
- Medical image processing: noise removal in MR images, segmentation of brain and cardiac MRI, segmentation/classifications of different cell structures from microscopic images or any other modality
- Improvements in anaesthesia delivery system
- Animal experiments to study bone mechanotransduction (mechanisms by which cells convert mechanical stimulus into chemical activity)
- Biomechanical regulation of bone repair

Times of India ND 19/11/2012

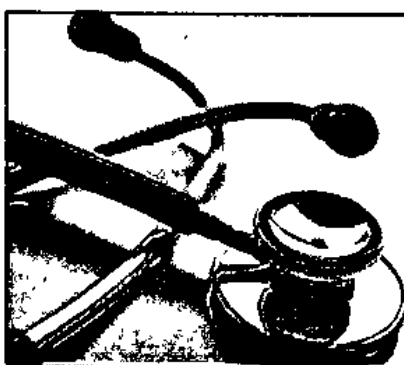
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10k foreign-educated docs jobless after failing MCI test

Pratiksha Ramkumar | TNN

Chennai: Close to 10,000 Indians across the country who have completed their undergraduate medical education abroad are unemployed or under-employed. This is because they have not been able to clear the screening test mandated by the Medical Council of India (MCI). Now, the graduates plan to approach Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Parliament demanding that the test be scrapped.

The foreign medical graduates and their parents held a meeting in Chennai on Sunday. Dr Ameer Jahan, chief patron of All India Foreign Medical Graduates' Association, said each student had spent Rs 15 to 20 lakh to study abroad. "They spend half of what it would cost at a private college here. Their course is nearly seven years long compared to the five-



and-half-year medical course here. Every time they fail the screening test, they get delayed by six months and get depressed," he said.

Since 2002, students who have studied medicine abroad have had to appear for a screening test conducted by MCI, the regulatory authority for medical education. Only those who clear the test, administered by the National Board of Examinations, get certificates from the state medical council permitting them to do a year-long internship in a university or hospital in the state.

So far, the highest pass percentage has been 50% in 2005. Pass percentages have varied from a dismal 9% in 2003 to 27% in 2011.

Senior MCI officials said they would not cancel or dilute the test. "Medicine, unlike other courses, cannot be taken lightly. Doctors deal with lives. We want to convince ourselves that every doctor is adequately trained," the official said.

Every time the screening test is held in March or September, about 75% of students fail. Prabhu Raj, 27, completed his undergraduate degree from Stavropol Medical Academy in 2009. He has not been able to clear the test for four years. "I had dreamt of being a doctor from the time I was young. When I could not get a merit seat, I decided to study in Russia since it was cheaper than paying capitation fee to a private college," he said.

Hindu, ND 19/11/2012 p-16

Start-up environment is fragile: study

Huge divide in fund-distribution between metro and non-metro cities

Karthik Subramanian

CHENNAI: The success story of the “start-up economy” that has seen a significant mark-up in the five years past also has its dark side, according to the findings of the Indian Venture Capital and Private Equity Report 2012, brought out recently by the IIT-Madras.

The report notes that the recent years have been good in terms of incubation support for aspiring entrepreneurs as well as spurring a growth in the number of angel investments backing good ideas.

Abnormalities

However, the downside is the abnormalities: though incubation centres are spread out across the country, most of the angel and advanced funding (like venture capital) are focussed heavily in the six metros; and the distribution

is uneven in geographic positioning, too. The south and the west get more support than the north and the east.

The report focussing on “incubation support and angel funding for start-ups” is the fourth in the series brought out by the institute’s Department of Management Studies. The previous reports have focussed on the other aspects of venture capital and private equity. For the current report, IIT-Madras took into account 159 incubation facilities nationwide.

Gaining momentum

The report notes that though incubation centres have been working in the country since 1988, it is only since 2007 that the country has witnessed a substantial growth. In a span of 25 years so far, nearly 60 per cent of the incubatees have been supported in the past five years.

Likewise, the period from 2009 to 2012 has accounted for 64 per cent of the angel investments (the primary stage). Direct government investment support programmes have seen a significant growth since 2000.

The bulk of angel investments is concentrated in IT and IT-enabled services, non-financial and consumer services, and telecom, media and entertainment. These sectors account for 88 per cent of the investments.

Unequal distribution

Bangalore and Mumbai alone account for 62 per cent of all angel investments among the metros. The investments have stood at 47 per cent in the south, 35 per cent in the west; 17 per cent in the north and 1 per cent in the east.

A. Thillai Rajan, associate professor at the Department

of Management Studies, IIT-Madras, who co-authored the report with Ankit Jain, said the inequitable distribution was not healthy and surprising even, given that the first of the incubation centres was set up in the east.

Another issue that required attention was the skewed ratio of angel investment to venture capital, especially in the metro cities. While in the classical Silicon Valley model, where such investments were pioneered, the ratio would be something like 1:4, in India it was more like 1:1.5. At the outset, this might appear to be good, but it was not.

“This means there is excessive advanced level funding available for the start-ups that manage to break through. It could potentially lead to a bubble scenario like the one we witnessed with the dotcom era,” Mr. Rajan said.

TH Mumbai

Foreign students throng India

BRAIN GAIN Despite few recruitment efforts and complicated admission procedures, foreign student numbers go up

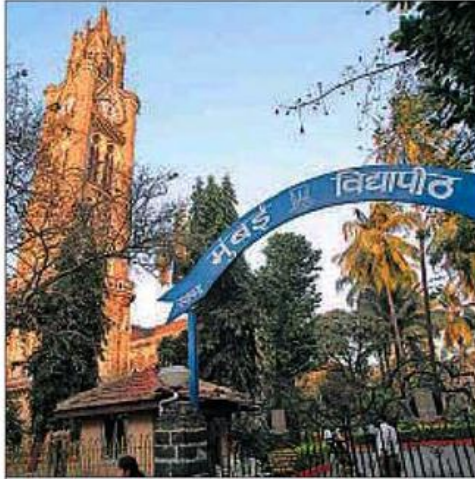
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MUMBAI: Samwel Odhiambo, feels like he fits in right here in Mumbai. The Kenyan student, now in this third year studying BSc IT at Patkar College in Goregaon left Nairobi after his schooling to pursue higher education in India. "It is five or six times more expensive in Kenya," he said. "I also wanted a new experience, so I came here."

Mumbai University has more than 100 foreign students on its rolls this year, mainly from African and Asian countries including Afghanistan, Ghana, Laos, Myanmar and Ethiopia. In 2008-09, the University had exactly 80.

Foreign students make up a very small proportion of those studying in India, however, despite little or no recruitment efforts and complicated admission procedures, their numbers have been slowly growing.

The Open Doors report released by the Institute of International Education with a US state department last Monday showed that India jumped three spots from the number 14 most popular international destinations for American students to number 11. The numbers grew 12% from 2009-10 to 2010-11 (data for 2011-12 will be released next year).



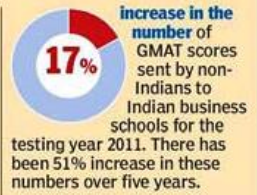
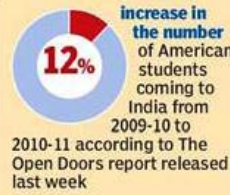
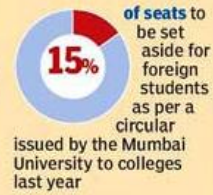
■ MU has separate hostel facilities for outstation students. FILE

Similarly, data from the Graduate Management Admission Council (GMAC), which conducts the GMAT shows that scores sent to management programmes in India from non-Indian citizens, has increased by 17% for the testing year 2011 and 51% over 5 years.

"Over the past 5 years, there has been a substantial growth in interest from candidates based

overseas in pursuing management education in India, albeit from a small base," said Ashish Bhardwaj, vice-president, Asia Pacific at GMAC, via email. "As an ecosystem, business schools in India have made limited efforts in attracting these students though the regulatory framework for admitting students exists. The top 50 business schools in India are well known overseas due to

3,300 FOREIGNERS STUDYING ON SCHOLARSHIPS



100 NUMBER of foreign students at Mumbai University this year, up from 80 in 2008-09. These students are largely from countries such as Kenya, Ethiopia, Afghanistan, Myanmar, Laos and Ghana

peoplespeak

"Foreign students at Mumbai University will keep rising because education is becoming more internationalised. And now our university has also introduced the credit system."

MRUDUL NILE
 advisor to foreign students at Mumbai University

"Higher education is five or six times more expensive in Kenya. I also wanted a new experience, so I came to India."

SAMWEL ODHIAMBO, Kenyan student, studying BSc IT at Patkar College in Goregaon

a successful internationally dispersed alumni body."

Mumbai University has separate hostel facilities for outstation students, and last year made a rule that 15% of seats in colleges be set aside for foreign students to help broaden the university's international scope.

"Foreign students at Mumbai University will keep rising because education is becoming

more internationalised," said Mrudul Nile, advisor to foreign students at the University. "And now our university has also introduced the credit system."

There are 3,550 students studying in India on scholarships, according to the International Council of Cultural Research website. One of the parameters India scores poorly on is that there are barely any international

students on its campuses compared to other universities in the world.

Culture, language and cost are concerns for international students in the city. But there are other benefits. "Degrees from India will hold value in our country," said Haji Abdinoor, 21, a Kenyan second year student pursuing a Bcom in banking and insurance.