# Newspaper Clips
## November 2, 2013

## New IITs Still Plagued By Problems Five Years after Inception!

The eight new **Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT**s) established in 2008 with a view to increase the number of the premier institutions of education are plagued by a host of problems five years after inception. Starting with a lack of permanent campuses, the major problems include a faculty crunch and an unimpressive placement record.

It is a known fact that half the sanctioned faculty posts in these **IITs** are still vacant with the blame being placed on the remote locations, bad infrastructure and associated problems.

The **NITs** are reportedly doing better than these **IITs** with NIT, Trichy having a placement record of 96% with a lowest package being around 4 lakhs as compared to the students from the new IITs with low packages of 3.5 lakhs also. With the exception of IIT-Gandhinagar and IIT-Bhubaneshwar, the other new IITs have not shown a good placement record.

The students who have availed admissions in these **IITs** are also not exactly happy with the poor infrastructure, inadequate faculty etc. Many a times, the teaching is taken up by the Ph.D students or existing professors are forced to teach subjects they are not qualified in as per the complaints of the students. There are no proper classrooms, labs, library, sports facilities or even hostels complain the students

Many of these new **IITs** spend a huge amount on the rents with no permanent structure, campus in sight. Some like IIT-Bhubaneshwar have the construction work going on while some have no clue. The IIT members through feel it is too early for criticism as there are teething problems that will get sorted out soon. The example given is that the old IITS also took more than 5 decades to get established and prove their worth. India has a quality human resource crunch at all levels. Hence it is not surprising to find the vacancies at the new **IITs** according to retired IIT-Delhi director V S Raju.

There is a fear of the dilution of the **IIT** brand name in case the new ones fail to reach the standards set by the older IITs but these are dismissed by many. Pointing out that similar apprehensions did exist when IIT-BHU and IIT Roorkee were set up, it is hoped that the new **IITs** do get off the ground soon with new improved infrastructure, adequate and quality faculty as well as the needed facilities.

(http://www.engineering.careers360.com/new-iits-still-plagued-problems-five-years-after-inception)

# Seemandhra may get elite edu institutions as sops

**New Delhi:** With an aim of placating people of Seemandhra, Centre may allocate elite educational institutions like IIT, IIM and NIT to the region which has witnessed widespread resentment over its decision to bifurcate Andhra Pradesh.

Highly-placed sources in the HRD Ministry said a decision in this regard could soon be conveyed to the Union home ministry which had forwarded representations made by different stakeholders to it in response to the GoM on Telangana inviting suggestions on bifurcation of the state.

The suggestions included establishment of an IIT in Visakhapatnam, an IIM at Vijayawada and conversion of the Andhra University in Visakhapatnam into a central university. The bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh will leave the Seemandhra region without any of these institutes as all of them are located in Hyderabad in the Telangana region.

"Most of the highly developed educational institutions are going to the state of Telangana. The Centre should immediately grant the above said institutions and they should come into operation within a year," the representations said.

They said the existing Andhra University in Visakhapatnam should be accorded central university status as there is not a single central government-run institute in the Andhra or the Rayalaseema region.

In its October 19 meeting, the GoM had fixed November 5 as the last day for receiving suggestions on bifurcation of the state from public, including political parties and public representatives.

The panel would submit its report to the Union Cabinet before the winter session of Parliament. **PTI**

## To ease congestion in public buses, PEC Chandigarh, IIT-B to develop app

**Srishti Choudhary** Posted online: Tue Oct 29 2013, 02:29 hrs

**Chandigarh :** AS overcrowding in public buses turns chaotic for people, with their uneven timings adding to the woes, PEC University of Technology, Sector-12 and Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bombay have got the opportunity to work on a research project to devise a mobile application which will make public transportation systems easier for consumers by giving live updates about the current location of the buses.

The project is aimed towards developing a mobile application and static sensing technique, which will not only be able to determine the current location of a bus, but will also provide information about availability of seats in the bus and congestion on certain routes, explained Professor Divya Bansal, who is one of the principal investigators, along with Professor Bhaskaran Raman, Associate Professor, IIT-Bombay (IIT-B).

Headed by Professor Bansal, a team of ten students from various disciplines of engineering have been working on the project along with a team from IIT-B since September. Titled, 'Communication Assisted Road Transportation Systems', the project is based on intelligent transport systems (ITS), which refers to a host of techniques using sensors to alleviate road traffic congestion.

"Majority of the people own smartphones today, which have a plethora of sensors which can be used to learn users' location and activity. For instance, GPS can be used to know a user's position and accelerometer to know road congestion. Likewise, there is magnetometer, gyroscope and microphone. We have envisioned a scenario where we can intelligently know about road-related information from the data collected through these sensors," explained Professor Bansal.

Elaborating on the research, Professor Bansal said, "If a user is on a specific bus, then we can obtain data from his smartphone about the traffic congestion on that route through data collected by sensors of the mobile which will capture the motion of the bus. This information can then be disseminated to other interested users via wireless interfaces like Wifi, Bluetooth, 3G and even mobile cloud infrastructure."

Interestingly, the application will also be able to deduce if the bus is overcrowded. "That is another result we aim to achieve, by obtaining the data about the mobile traffic within a bus, since mobiles are receptive of each other. But, it involves a number of technical challenges, and we cannot be very sure of success," Professor Bansal added.

With a research period of three years, the project is expected to get completed by September 2016 and will be implemented on transport systems of both Chandigarh and Mumbai.

# IIT-B set to start work on Dandi March memorial

**Dipti Sonawala** Posted online: Sat Nov 02 2013, 04:49 hrs

**Mumbai :** The efforts for a national memorial dedicated to Mahatma Gandhi's Dandi March finally seems to be gathering pace as IIT Bombay, which is entrusted with the responsibility of design coordination and implementation of the same, is set to inaugurate the project at its Powai campus next week.

The memorial, a project of the Ministry of Culture, was announced by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in 2005 to mark the 75th anniversary of the march. But the design was approved only this year and the same will be flagged off from November 7.

The memorial will be built over 15 acres opposite Saifee Villa, the house at Dandi in Gujarat where Gandhi stayed on the night of April 5, 1930, at the end of his march to protest against the imposition of tax on salt.

IIT Bombay has announced two workshops, from November 7 to 24 and from December 7 to 22, during which life-size sculptures of all 80 marchers who participated in the famous march will be created at the institute's campus.

Around 40 sculptors and students from different parts of the world have been selected to be part of IIT Bombay's national design team. They will work in two groups of 20 members each.

The memorial will be 70-metre high, with two stainless steel arms, which will be lit by solar panels.

According to officials of the Central Public Works Department (CPWD), which is responsible for the project's execution, the memorial will have a statue of Gandhi leading the protesters and satyagrahis. The hands of the sculpture will be raised upwards, holding a handful of artificial salt crystals.

According to CPWD officials, the actual design concept includes gradual illumination of the structure as the Sun goes down. A small lake will be constructed at the memorial complex as a symbolic representation of the seaside where the Dandi March took place. The water body will create reflections of the memorial from all sides, according to the design proposal.

The initial project cost was estimated at Rs 64.40 crore. An additional Rs 52.06 crore has been earmarked for the project.

According to a press statement issued by IIT Bombay, the actual plan and project details will be discussed on November 7, when the project will be officially inaugurated.

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# Diwali Mela at IIT-K

TNN | Nov 2, 2013, 06.30 AM IST

KANPUR: The Women's Association of IIT-K organised a Diwali Mela on Friday. Veena Srivatsava, spouse of IIT-K deputy director, inaugurated it. The mela gave IITians and their families a shopping opportunity for Bengali, Kashmiri, Rajasthani sarees, suits and dress material.

Mouth-watering snacks and delicacies like Chinese food, chhole bhature, bav bhaji and bhel puri remained the centre of attraction.

Many members of the Women's Association were present.

HR Lucknow

# There is no future without technology, feels Sam Pitroda

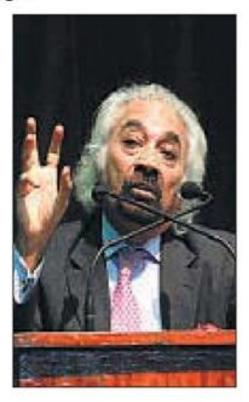**HT Corresponden**
- htdehradun@hindustantimes.com

**DEHRADUN:** On his visit to Welham Boy's School for an interaction on Friday, Sam Pitroda, advisor to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on public information infrastructure and innovation and chairman of National Innovation Council talked of the journey of his life. For him 'self' is the most important. "I want to build a clear self, not to lie at any point of my life", he said.

Talking about his life, Sam said, he was born in Tiklagarh in Orissa to a carpenter in 1942 and his parents had eight children. His father, who had studied only till class 4, sent him to Vallabh Vidyanagar in Karamsad,

Gujarat that had been set up by Sardar Patel. After studying for 5 years, he went along with his elder brother to V adodara where they began to study, he was the first person in his family to become a graduate.

He then went for Masters in Physics.

After saving money from tuitions, Pitroda went to America



- Sam Pitroda addresses the students during his visit to Welham Boy's School in Dehradun, on Friday. Vinay Santosh Kumar   HT PHOTO

through the sea route and started working there. He then set up a company and sold it for a huge sum of money in 1979 by when he was already a millionaire.

When he came back to India, he was frustrated at how difficult it was for him to call his family. He then decided to

make phone connectivity better in the country and began looking for new innovations. During that time, he met former

Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and asked him to help revolutionise the communications network in India. Rajiv Gandhi gave him the much needed support and bit by bit, Pitroda began shaping the communications revolution in India.

There were only 200 million telephones in India at that time when the total number of people was 750 million.

Pitroda then went on to say that there was no future without technology. "We have 32 million court cases pending in India and we want to computerise the details of every case," said Pitroda.

He also pointed out that they were building connectivity platforms under which the panchayats would be connected with the Internet.

This cost ₹10,000 crores, he said. According to him, Indians have a lot to do in the next 30-40 years. "We will continue to grow at the rate of 8-10% per year, I assure you," he asserted.

# UGC nod must for tie-ups with foreign institutions

*Vishwas Kothari*, TNN | Nov 2, 2013, 12.53 AM IST

PUNE: The University Grants Commission (UGC) has notified a fresh set of regulations which make it mandatory for all foreign and Indian educational institutions to seek the commission's approval before entering into any partnership, collaboration or twinning programme arrangement.

Existing collaborative arrangements between foreign and Indian institutions have been given six months' time to ensure that they meet all the norms under the new regulations. The period commenced from September 21, 2013, when the new regulations came into force by way of publication in the official gazette of India, a public notice issued on Friday by UGC secretary Akhilesh Gupta stated.

The new norms called the 'UGC (Promotion and Maintenance of Standards of Academic Collaboration between Indian and Foreign Educational Institutions) Regulations, 2012, were finalized last year, but could not come into force till the time of its publication in the official gazette. Indian institutions which offer technical education are excluded from the new regulations.

Among other things, the regulations provide that only those foreign educational institutions rated with highest grades in their home country will be allowed to collaborate or have twinning arrangements with Indian institutions. A 'twinning programme' refers to an academic course whereby students enrolled with an Indian institution complete their study partly in India and partly in the main campus of the foreign educational institution in its home country where it is established.

As for the Indian institutions, only those institutions which have no less than a 'B' or equivalent grade accreditation by the national assessment and accreditation council (Naac) will be allowed to enter into collaborations with foreign institutions. The commission has clarified that it has, so far, not approved any proposal for collaboration between Indian and foreign institutions under the new regulations.

The new regulations have made elaborate provisions related to applicability of norms; eligibility criteria and conditions for collaborations; norms required to be met by the Indian institutions; and the procedure for securing the UGC's approval for collaborative or twinning programme arrangement.

# Nasa's 'lucky peanuts' wishes for Mars mission

It is a "lucky peanuts" wish from Nasa to the Indian Space Research Organization on its ambitious mission to Mars. As Isro geared up for the Mangalyaan Mars Orbit Mission (MOM), Nasa wished the space agency with "lucky peanuts" on its Facebook page for the MOM scheduled for launch on November 5 from Andhra Pradesh's Sriharikota. The good wishes message titled "lucky peanuts" was posted on Isro's MOM Facebook page on Thursday by Nasa's Jet Propulsion Lab (JPL). "As you prepare for your launch to Mars, do not forget one of the few, but important action: pass around the peanuts!" JPL's post said. The American Nasa/JPL is providing communication and navigation support to the mission. Illustrating the tradition of peanuts for Mars Mission at JPL, the post read: "It goes back to the 1960s with the very first missions we sent to the moon. We had seven mission attempts to go the moon before we succeeded, and on the seventh one, they had passed out peanuts in the control room." PTI