

Newspaper Clips

November 23, 2013

UNIITE: Entrepreneurship Meetup and Startup Showcase at IIT Delhi



15th of November, on the verge of semester completion, an [entrepreneurial talk](#) series and product showcase event was held at the Seminar Hall, [IIT Delhi](#). The event was in collaboration with the [IIT Delhi Alumni Association \(IITDAA\)](#) and was flagged off by Mr Atul from IITDAA, with the recitation of the National Song 'Vande Mataram', who further went into the elaborated prologue about the entrepreneurial activities in the nation, highlighting the 170,000 inventions registered in the last 2 years. The evening then witnessed the IITDAA's president giving out details about the event and recollecting his IITD days and officially declaring the event open for discussion.

Image Credits: [edcatiitd](#)

The stage had the privilege of having Mr. Rajul Garg as the first speaker, who had been the source of inspiration and incubator of many start-ups, who went up discussing what he did NOT do in his life. From dropping out of a whopping placement offer worth \$45k to firing out himself off a particular role and anointing the road not taken, which quite goes by his saying, "Success is incidental".

Event then had Mr. Prashant Tondon, who went about sharing his phases of life to giving out complete capsule of entrepreneurial stint. He, who is the founder of [HealthKart](#), believes in having strong conviction, which ensures a good life ahead. According to him, entrepreneurs should have a note of the following:-

- *Opportunities, it is about detailing and Game is about execution.*
- *Persistence; it pays, stick to the basic belief/motivation and you'll get going throughout the end.*

- *Receptive; be receptive to the environment around you, it should reflect in your work.*

He, then, very aptly pointed out, which also is quite often recommended to be followed, that social pressure shouldn't be determining your decisions and should be kept aside.

The night then observed the entrepreneurial stint of Mr. Rohit Pandey, followed by Mr. Ajay Poddar, Mr. Siddhartha Jain, Mr. Sameer Jain, Mr. Joy Manglani, Mr. Pankaj Vermani, and Mr. Ashutosh Goel. The speaker series concluded with the following notes for the entrepreneurial spirit:

- *Success is incidental, enjoy every moment and enjoy what you do.*
- *'Time' and 'Timing' are the essence.*
- *It is about Detailing and the game is of execution.*
- *Be persistent, it pays.*
- *Be receptive; and shielded of what society might ponder about you.*
- *It all is the matter of your perspective, be an optimist.*
- *Think about cash, profits, and try and think bigger.*
- *Life is about changing, so is entrepreneurship, so Observe, Adapt and Change.*
- *Hands on with Working Cash Management, it is a dreary gift for every entrepreneur.*

The speaker series went off with the saying, "Turnover is Vanity, Profit is Sanity, but eventually the Cash is Reality".

The event then observed a Q&A session, followed up by the Felicitation session of the distinguished speakers and the night, then turned up for the product showcase.

Product Showcase had 10 start-ups, mostly founded by IIT Delhi students or linked to an IIT Delhi Graduate, showcasing their product at the deep. It had following start-ups presenting:-

1. Riklr.com

An online dating platform where you get to anonymously choose your partner up-till your second degree connections on Facebook, which then waits for that person to select his/her partner and if both selects each other, then there is an anonymous chat box setup to facilitate the two, with the option to reveal identity whenever comfortable.

2. Zumbl.com

Anonymous chatting platforms for strangers, with the tagline "Talk meaningfully". It has its protocol based on the interest areas viz. Interest groups, Topic requests, Preferential filters, culture, and likewise.

3. Tripoto

A crowd sourcing travel itineraries, which is shared by the users throughout the world! This also has P2P commerce model wherein the experienced and exhaustive users would be roped in for being the travel guide in the particular area of their travel expedition.

4. Touchtalent

It is a platform to showcase or to say brag, or better value your talent, where not only you showcase but also you can sell your piece of art. It has a social reach of over 22 million, with users from 192 countries listed under 19 categories.

5. Invoxel

Ever wondered about that fascinating touch surfaces in the movie Iron Man, well this start-up is all about that, though still in the beta phase. This is already in the collaboration with the Microsoft, and had developed multi user touch surfaces.

6. My epoch

Ever thought of having a year/slam book, but all your mates have been spread up all over the world. Don't worry, with

this launch it's not a problem anymore. This product gives you a customized platform wherein your mates can give in their memes or share their 'masti moments' for your yearbook, and you can get it done at your ease.

7. Bloodconnect

The Social Enterprise with a humane touch that organizes blood donation camps in the colleges and offices at a large scale with the consultants from the distinguished hospitals. It has covered whole of north and west India with over 8500 donation camps since its inception in 2010.

8. Zootzy

Not many have much insight into website designing and to ease that very crucial decision to have or not to, a website, this start-up is all about. It basically relates the Facebook page with the website with very simple and easy to access UI.

9. VdoCipher

Another secured video hosting service, with a cliché; customized to the need of the diversified country as India.

10. Evolphin Software

It is a Digital Asset Management company that provides "The Operating System for Creatives" giving complete control of your creative process. This also integrates de-duplication, asset versioning & workflow technology to automate the entire creative lifecycle.

The night then concluded with the exchange of good words amongst the Speakers, Organizers, and the people from the different start-ups, after the recitation of the National Anthem, Jana Gana Mana.

<http://www.coolage.in/2013/11/22/uniite-entrepreneurship-meetup-and-startup-showcase-at-iit-delh/>

IIT-K plans research park in Calcutta

BASANT KUMAR MOHANTY, The Telegraph

New Delhi, Nov. 22: IIT Kharagpur is planning to set up a dedicated research park in Calcutta for projects on technology development for industry and to incubate ideas to form small companies.

The Kharagpur school and IIT Bombay have sent proposals to the Union human resource development ministry to set up a research park each at a cost of Rs 100 crore each, official sources said.

The proposals will be forwarded to the finance ministry soon and are likely to be approved, sources said. They will then be sent to the cabinet for final approval.

Sunando Dasgupta, the dean of sponsored research at IIT Kharagpur, told **The Telegraph** the proposed park will provide researchers a platform to come up with innovative ideas and incubate the ideas to form small companies. Established companies can have their centres in the park to take up research projects.

“This will be the only research park in eastern India. It will promote research and development for industry of this region in particular and the country in general,” Dasgupta said.

He said MTech and PhD students would have the choice to work on research projects at the park. The alumni can involve themselves too.

“Companies will be benefited as they can have their research centres where faculty members of IIT Kharagpur will work on their projects. The research centres will promote new ideas for new products,” he said.

The Bengal government has allotted 10 acres in Rajarhat for the park.

At present, IIT Madras is the only institution that has a research park. This park creates a collaborative environment between industry and academia through joint research projects.

Amar Nath Samanta, the dean of post-graduate studies and research at IIT Kharagpur, said the research parks were significant in view of the need for economic growth.

“The institutions have to collaborate with industry and cater to their technological requirement. Industry-academia linkage has remained a neglected area. Dedicated research parks would change the scenario,” Samanta said.

A Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) official said a recent study had found that engineering institutions in the country, particularly in the east, had poor industry linkage. Although IITs were not covered by the study, it found that engineering colleges produce graduates and post-graduates who are not industry-ready.

The survey on industry-linked technical institutions was done by the All India Council of Technical Education and the CII. About 1,050 technical institutions were assessed.

The survey found that institutions from south India had better industry linkage. Of a total score of 95, the average score obtained by an institute from the south was 30.73 while it was 13.84 in the central region, 16.16 in the south-central region and 18.60 in the east.

According to the proposal, the research park would get Rs 100 crore as seed money. Once it is started, it will seek sponsored research projects from companies and different government departments.

Samanta said IIT Kharagpur has a small centre at Salt Lake in Calcutta where short-term training programmes are conducted. The new facility will be the tech school’s second address in Calcutta.

IIT Bombay’s research park will be situated on campus.

President disappointed over quality of higher education

Burdwan/Durgapur (West Bengal), Nov 22 (IANS): President Pranab Mukherjee Friday expressed disappointment over the quality of higher education in the country and regretted that leading academic institutions lacked orientation towards research.

Addressing educationists, researchers and students at two academic institutions in Burdwan district, the president also called for spreading the spirit of innovation across all sectors, saying India's future progress will depend increasingly on the ability to innovate.

At the 34th annual convocation of Burdwan University, Mukherjee referred to the qualitative shortcomings in higher education and said there was no room for complacency.

"India will be able to attain high economic growth and become a leader in the comity of nations only by developing a knowledge economy," he said, drawing attention to the neglect of research in the universities.

Quoting the National Knowledge Commission's 2006 report, Mukherjee said the situation in higher education was a "quiet crisis that runs deep".

"There is no dearth of talent in the faculty or students of the country. What is needed is more coordinated efforts," he said.

Earlier, speaking at the ninth convocation of the National Institute of Technology (NIT), Durgapur, Mukherjee said during the past few years, a concerted effort has been made to put higher and technical education on a firm footing.

But he said the urgency to build up and expand the engineering education infrastructure could be no reason to give quality any lesser priority.

"We have only a few good quality institutions unlike our past when we had world class institutions of higher learning like Nalanda, Odantapuri, Somapura, Takshashila, Valabhi and Vikramashila.

"We do not have today a single university or institution that can compete with the best universities in the world. Reputed international surveys have ranked Indian institutions outside of the top two hundred places," he said.

"Higher academic institutions in India lack orientation towards research, as a result of which, their standing amongst the top global institutions is not very high," the president said.

He emphasised that the institutions should be able to challenge the frontiers of knowledge and make revolutionary contributions in different disciplines.

"They must be able to find solutions that help common man to lead a better life. They must be able to guide policymakers in issues ranging from energy security to environment degradation, sanitation, urbanisation, healthcare and education."

"Our future progress will depend increasingly on our ability to innovate, to devise efficient processes for the industrial sector and better solutions for governance. For that, it is necessary to permeate the spirit of innovation to all sectors - business, government, education and society," he noted.

Mukherjee said the country's innovation strategy must focus on generating ideas that promote inclusive growth and benefit those at the bottom of the socio-economic pyramid.

Averring that there were many grassroots innovations that can be developed into suitable products if provided with technological support, he called on the higher academic institutions to play an important role in mentoring such innovative endeavours.

http://www.daijiworld.com/news/news_disp.asp?n_id=203176

IIT-BBS organises 'Prayatna'

Indian Express

The Indian Institute of Technology, Bhubaneswar (IIT-BBS) organised a social campaign 'Prayatna' as a part of its annual socio-cultural fest Alma Fiesta recently. During the campaign, the students of the institute visited different schools to propagate eco-friendly ideas and encourage the school students to 'go green'. An essay competition on innovative green ideas was organised and winners will get an opportunity to express their ideas at IIT fest on January 10, 2014.

India, Mauritius sign two MoUs to boost educational ties

MM Pallam Raju, Minister of Human Resource Development in his recent visit to Mauritius has signed two memorandum of understanding to boost educational ties.

The first MoU is between IIT, Delhi and Mauritius Research Council for setting up of an International Institute of Technology Research Academy (IITRA) in Mauritius.

The aim of the IITRA is to provide world class research based educational platform for full time and part time post graduate research leading to MS(Research) and Ph.D. degrees to be awarded by IIT Delhi in identified areas (clusters). IITRA aims to attract foreign researchers and students to Mauritius, mainly from Africa and Asia and build core research infrastructure including faculty and facilities, the government said.

In the initial phase spanning a period of 5 years, IIT Delhi will help IITRA to build a core research facility including research infrastructure and capacity, the government said. "It is expected that 6 clusters will be implemented with a total of 25 faculty members and some 50 research scholars. IIT Delhi will provide the required academic leadership necessary for setting up the IITRA, partnering in defining the research and education agenda as well as help recruit faculty and admitting students as per norms of IIT Delhi."

The other MoU between Association of Indian Universities (AIU) and Tertiary Education Council (TEC) of Mauritius for mutual recognition of educational qualifications was also finalized and signed.

The MoU will ensure that both parties facilitate the mutual recognition of higher education qualifications awarded to students in Mauritius and India. Both AIU and TEC would advise higher education institutions in their countries on the provision of higher education and the comparability of qualification with the aim of facilitating academic mobility and cooperation. They will make available information on currently recognized higher education institutions in their respective countries, the government said.

- See more at:

<http://www.myiris.com/newsCentre/storyShow.php?fileR=20131122114123715&dir=2013/11/22#sthash.kE319QhX.dpuf>

Process on to develop vocational skills in youths: Minister

Business Standard, Hyderabad

The Centre has begun the process of building capacity for training 500 million youths in various vocational skills, Union Human Resource Development Minister [M M Pallam Raju](#) said today.

"Prime Minister [Manmohan Singh](#) has set a target of 500 million youngsters to be skilled by 2022 and we are in the process of building up the capacity for training boys and girls in vocational skill," Raju said after inaugurating the National Integration Meet-2013 of Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti here.

The minister said that there are about 12 million young people coming out to join work force every year.

"It is very important that we should create the avenues to skill them so that they can learn skillset of international standard which will help them in their career, not only in the country, but probably get them opportunity abroad also," Raju said.

The government will device every avenue to make sure that the children are educated and skilled, the minister said while stressing the need to focus on vocational skills.

Noting that the combination of poverty and illiteracy was lethal that could destroy any society, he said that is the reason why three years ago the Centre decided to make the Right to Education a fundamental right.

"We have brought an Act in Parliament because of which today 23 crore children are studying from Class I to Class XII all across the country," he pointed out.

The country has one of the largest mid-day meal scheme programmes in the world and 11 to 12 crore children are having mid-day meal every day.

"... Why we are doing all this because we feel that education is a necessity if society has to grow," the minister said.

Education is a necessity to strengthen the foundation of the country, he said, adding that they will not stop there and create a capacity in secondary and higher education.

About 60 per cent of the country's population is under the age of 35 years and there is a need to strengthen this resource, not only for their individual growth but for the benefit of the nation, he added.

The stomping ground of three Bharat Ratna recipients

T. S. Ranganna



NEEDS REVIVAL: The over 150-year-old Central College as it stands today. Photo: V. Sreenivasa Murthy

The Hindu

C.N.R. Rao is an alumnus of the august Central College

The over 150-year-old Central College, which has produced a long list of iconic figures, including three Bharat Ratna recipients, has been almost like an abandoned fort ever since the Bangalore University campus shifted to Jnana Bharati on the outskirts of the city three decades ago.

After the announcement of a Bharat Ratna for C.N.R. Rao, head of the Scientific Advisory Council to the Prime Minister, the historic institution is once again in focus. Dr. Rao did his B.Sc. (Hons) in Chemistry here. The other two Bharat Ratna recipients — the first Indian Governor General of India, C. Rajagopalachari, and Sir M. Visvesvaraya are also alumni of this prestigious institution. It is believed that the institution once hosted Nobel laureate-physicist Sir C.V. Ramam, who was here to explain the Raman Effect to young science students. Mr. Raman was also a recipient of the Bharat Ratna.

Over the past decades, two events led to the campus losing its glory. One, shifting of the university, and the need to find a place for the National Law School of India University. The college, which had an aura around it with the presence of great professors and researchers in various disciplines and humanities, lost its shine when most departments shifted from the campus.

Except for the Department of Chemistry, all others were replaced by the office of the Vice-Chancellor. The post of principal of what was once called as the University College of Science was abolished long ago. The ground on the same premises gave way to the Jnana Jyoti Auditorium.

Elated by the recent announcement, BU Vice-Chancellor B. Thimme Gowda told *The Hindu* that he would take up schemes to restore the lost glory of academic excellence of the institution by starting new courses and research works. He said the university would felicitate Prof. Rao and announce programmes on science when it celebrates its golden jubilee next year.

Keywords: [Central College](#), [Bangalore Central College](#), [C.N.R. Rao](#), [C. Rajagopalachari](#), [Sir M. Visvesvaraya](#)

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Rao 1st Indian in China science academy

Bangalore: Eminent scien-



tist and
Bharat
Ratna
awardee
CNR Rao
has be-
come the
first Indi-
an scien-

tist to be elected honorary
foreign member of the Chi-
nese Academy of Sciences.

"Rao is the first Indian
scientist to be elected to this
prestigious academy, which
consists of several Nobel
laureates and eminent sci-
entists of the world," the Ja-
waharlal Nehru Centre for
Advanced Scientific Re-
search, of which Rao is a
founder and honorary presi-
dent, said in a press release
on Friday. ¶¶

Students must be attracted to basic science, says IISc prof.

Special Correspondent

There is a need to motivate school students to opt for studying basic science in higher education level, according to S. A. Shivashankar, professor, Centre for Nano Science and Engineering, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore.

Addressing a gathering after inaugurating a seminar on 'advances in materials science' at Mangalore University on Friday he said that basic science was the mother of all applied sciences.

There is an increasing tendency among students to ignore basic science and opt for the study of Information Technology at the higher education level. If students were to be attracted to basic science they should be prompted at primary and high school levels, he said.

T. C. Shivashankara Murthy, Vice-Chancellor, Mangalore University said that emergence of nanotechnology has opened up research avenues in nanoscience. Manjunatha Pattabi, chairman, Department of Materials Science said it has completed 25 years.

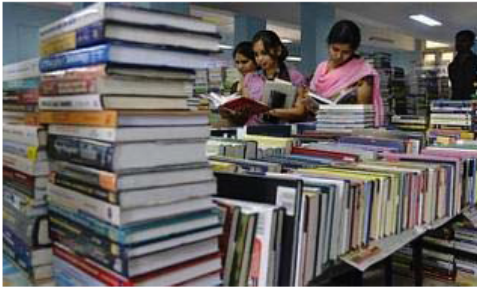
There is a tendency among students to ignore basic science and opt for IT: Shivashankar

'If students were to be attracted to basic science they should be prompted at school'

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Creative Commons: thinking beyond copyright

T. Ramachandran



The traditional copyright licence has for long been the mainstay of writers and content creators.

Are there ways of going beyond copyright when it comes to promoting and sharing original work and content online? Yes, think of Creative Commons, which has been relaunched in India.

The multiple options available these days for sharing content using the range of licences that are being promoted in the Creative Commons domain were in focus at the recent relaunch of Creative Commons India.

The Creative Commons(CC) licenses, which provide more options compared to the traditional copyright licence for sharing creative work and digital content, and permit its creators to set the conditions for such sharing, has gained global traction. Compared to the traditional copyright licence, which is very restrictive in nature, CC licenses enable authors fine-grained ways of deciding on the rights they would like to retain over their work.

As the Creative Commons website explains, "Creative Commons licenses are not an alternative to copyright. They work alongside copyright and enable you to modify your copyright terms to best suit your needs." The activities of the Commons, which is a non-profit organisation, are driven by volunteers in different parts of the world through more than 100 affiliates working in over 70 jurisdictions.

Creative Commons and different kinds of licence options for sharing content














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 	Attribution - NoDerivs CC BY-ND
 	Attribution - NonCommercial CC BY-NC
  	Attribution - NonCommercial - ShareAlike CC BY-NC-SA
  	Attribution - NonCommercial - NoDerivs CC BY-NC-ND

Image source: Creative Commons

The relaunch of Creative Commons India took place under the aegis of Wikimedia India, Centre for Internet and Society, and Acharya Narendra Dev College in New Delhi on November 12.

"Generally the licenses are written in a manner such that they are applicable across the world. They are based on provisions in the UN mediated agreements to which many nations are signatories," said Wikimedia public lead Sowmyan Tirumurti. Porting these to a specific nation's laws could help users take advantage of these; porting of version 2.5 of the CC licence to Indian law was done by the "pioneers who took the initiative to launch CC India some years ago. The current version of the licenses are 3.0. Users can very well use this version," he said in response.

to a question as to whether more India-specific versions of the licences were being planned.

The Creative Commons India website says that it would aim to raising awareness of licenses and open educational resources. It would connect with photography communities because there was a dearth of free-licensed images related to India. It also hoped to build free licence repositories.

Minister of State for Human Resource Development Shashi Tharoor, who was the chief guest at the event, had earlier at the launch of the National Repository of Open Education Resources (NROER) emphasised the need for such resources to be freely accessible to all. He said he had advocated a minimally restrictive Creative Commons licence version for the NROER content, which made it possible to "reuse, revise, remix and redistribute" it.

NROER aims to offer educational resources for school subjects in different languages including text books videos, audio clips, multimedia, photographs, diagrams, charts, articles and wiki pages.

Keywords: [Creative Commons](#), [copyright](#), [licences](#)

A blog that explores happenings in the realm of data and provides insights into the world we live in. Ultimately, people matter, not the numbers.



[DATADELVE](#)

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