

Newspaper Clips November 28-29, 2014

November 28

Navbharat Times ND 28/11/2014

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'प्राइमरी-सी' हालत न हो जाए IIT, IIM में

■ पूनम पाण्डे, नई दिल्ली

देश के टॉप इंस्टिट्यूट और नॉलेज क्रिएशन हब, आईआईटी और आईआईएम फैकल्टी की कमी से जूझ रहे हैं। एचआरडी मिनिस्ट्री के मुताबिक, आईआईटी के लिए स्टूडेंट्स और फैकल्टी के बीच 10:1 का रेश्यो होना चाहिए, लेकिन फिलहाल यह ज्यादातर जगह 18:1 और यहां तक कि 21:1 का भी है। शिक्षाविदों का मानना है कि फैकल्टी की कमी से इन हायर इंस्टिट्यूट को बनाने का मकसद ही पूरा नहीं हो पा रहा है। साथ ही उन्होंने एचआरडी मिनिस्ट्री के नए प्रोजेक्ट पर भी सवाल उठाए, जिसमें आईआईटी और आईआईएम को गांव गोद लेकर उनके डिवेलपमेंट के लिए रिसर्च करनी है।

फैकल्टी की भारी कमी

राज्यसभा में एचआरडी मिनिस्टर ने बताया कि 16 आईआईटी में फैकल्टी के कुल पद 6944 हैं जिनमें से 2836 पद खाली पड़े हैं। जहां स्टूडेंट्स-टीचर का रेश्यो 10:1 होना चाहिए, वहीं एवरेज 16:1 का है। आईआईटी दिल्ली में यह रेश्यो 18:1, कानपुर और बॉम्बे में 16:1, रुड़की में 17:1 का तो आईआईटी बीएचयू में 21:1 का है। दिल्ली में 341, कानपुर में 246, रुड़की में 360, बीएचयू में 324 पद खाली हैं। आईआईएम का भी यही हाल है। 13 आईआईएम ब्रांचेज में फैकल्टी के कुल 178 पद खाली हैं। अहमदाबाद में 35, बंगलुरु में 28, कोलकाता में 16, लखनऊ में 5 और इंदौर में 53 फैकल्टी मेंबर्स की कमी है।



फैकल्टी की कमी से प्रभावित हो रहा नॉलेज क्रिएशन

गांव गोद लेने का विरोध

आईआईएम अहमदाबाद के पूर्व डायरेक्ट इन चार्ज प्रोफेसर जगदीप छोकर का कहना है कि फैकल्टी की कमी की वजह से इन इंस्टिट्यूट में नॉलेज क्रिएशन का काम नहीं हो पा रहा है। रिसर्च प्रोजेक्ट के लिए फैकल्टी को समय ही नहीं मिल पाता, ऐसे में वो कैसे खुद को अकेडमिक तौर पर अपटूडेट रखेंगे और कैसे नॉलेज क्रिएशन होगा। उन्होंने आईआईएम-आईआईटी के गांव गोद लेकर उनकी जरूरत के हिसाब से रिसर्च करने का भी विरोध किया। उन्होंने कहा कि यह इन इंस्टिट्यूट का काम नहीं है। रिसर्च उन सब्जेक्ट्स में होता है जिसमें इंटेरेस्ट हो, इस तरह थोपी गई रिसर्च महज सरकारी नौकरी बन कर रह जाएगी। छोकर ने कहा कि जिस तरह प्राइमरी स्कूल के टीचर को जनगणना से लेकर वोटर लिस्ट तैयार करने तक, हर काम में झोंक दिया जाता है, वैसा ही आईआईटी-आईआईएम के साथ करने की कोशिश हो रही है।

Hindustan Times ND 28/11/2014

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Panel to submit report on pollution control by Jan 9

POISON IN AIR Inter-ministerial committee to look into pollution by vehicles, industries

HT Correspondent

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NEW DELHI: An inter-ministerial committee will early next month submit an action plan to control Delhi's rising air pollution through measures including restriction on car sales and a mechanism for citizens to share vehicles.

The Capital, which has one of the highest vehicle density in the country, has been reporting a sharp rise in air pollution in the last few weeks. Concentration of fine airborne particles — linked with bronchitis, lung cancer and heart diseases — continues to be way above safe levels.

"Top officers of pollution watchdogs, environment, transport, petroleum and urban development ministries, besides Delhi police commissioner and an IIT-Delhi expert will submit their plan to the National Green Tribunal," said a senior government official.

When this panel failed to

CSE'S TAKE ON TRIBUNAL'S ORDER

- Several measures already part of Delhi govt regulations. But no proper enforcement.
- Effective compliance and enforcement needed
- Plan be expanded to entire Delhi-NCR for effective impact
- Polluting vehicles are distributed across vehicle vintages. Rigorous inspection needed for crackdown.
- Ban on parking on motorised carriageway can increase parking pressure on footpaths and cycle tracks.
- Remove all parking from footpaths and cycle tracks.
- **NGT ORDER:** The green court on Wednesday had ordered ban of 15-year-old vehicles, installation of air purifiers in busy markets and crackdown on open burning of waste among other measures to control air pollution in Capital

give a 'substantive' report on Wednesday to control vehicular and industrial pollution, the tribunal banned vehicles over 15 years old, and ordered pollution checks for all state-run buses and the installation of 'air purifiers' in busy markets. The new deadline for the panel to submit the plan is January 9.

The committee will look at

pollution from vehicles, plastic burning, fire crackers and industries and suggest prohibition on certain activities. "The Supreme Court several years ago ruled no vehicle more than 15 years of age would be permitted on roads. This direction is being observed only in violation," the tribunal said in its earlier order.

Pollution-control expert

Anumita Roychowdhury, said, "A periodic assessment of the effectiveness of the action plan is needed to ensure peak pollution levels during winter are brought down and the clean air target is met." She said Delhi needed to scale up walking, cycling and public transport and leapfrog to clean emission standards.

The national green tribunal's orders are also applicable to other towns and cities falling in the National Capital Region (NCR).

"Authorities of areas in Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan falling in NCR will also ensure compliance of the directions. Chief secretaries of these states are being informed," said an official.

Noting that air pollution mainly results in morbidity, "which in turn may lead to mortality", environment minister Prakash Javadekar on Thursday said the government was focussing on promotion of cleaner technologies.

MIT offered help, not Indian Institute of Science, says NR Narayana Murthy

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/services/education/mit-offered-help-not-indian-institute-of-science-says-nr-narayana-murthy/articleshow/45293736.cms>

BENGALURU: Infosys co-founder NR Narayana Murthy said it was disappointing that Indian universities do not work with domestic industry the way global ones do.

"Today, the software industry brings \$40 billion to the city (Bengaluru) and we have Indian Institute of Science (IISc) which is hardly about 12 kms away...None of them bothered to come to any of the Indian companies. On the other hand, the president of MIT, Cornell, Caltech, Carnegie Mellon, Cambridge...you name it and they all came to us saying what problems of yours can we solve," Murthy said at the Commonwealth Science Conference in Bengaluru on Wednesday.

He was responding to a question from a delegate on collaboration with researchers in the area of software development. He, however, said that things had improved after IISc's former director P Balaram accelerated collaborative research efforts between academia and industry. "In fairness, I must say, Balaram was convinced about the need for this. Therefore, we have now created an ecosystem where researchers in our higher education institutions are interested in solving problems of this industry," "In fairness, I must say, Balaram was convinced about the need for this. Therefore, we have now created an ecosystem where researchers in our higher education institutions are interested in solving problems of this industry," he said.

Murthy highlighted many of the software industry's contributions to the country. He noted that the industry had replaced the public sector as the largest job creator in the country. The job creation in turn, he said, created a "positive spiral" in the economy. "The software industry in India employs about 3.2 million professionals and adds about two hundred thousand jobs every year," he said. Murthy said the top IT companies had created more high disposable income based jobs in India than any other company had done in the last hundred years.

He said it was thanks to the software industry that India had a strong balance of payments position in spite of oil prices rising. "And wherever you go in the developed world there is a new respect for India thanks to the software industry," he said.

Hindustan Times ND 28/11/2014 P-10

UGC member attacks Smriti Irani

HT Correspondent

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NEW DELHI: Reviving the debate on educational qualifications of HRD minister Smriti Irani, University Grant Commission (UGC) member MM Ansari said Irani's six-month performance shows that the education ministry needs competent people with vision.

"When she was appointed the human resource development minister she had said she should be judged by her work and not her academic qualifications, but today looking at her performance of first six months, it is clear that qualification matters and ministry should be run by competent



■ Smriti Irani

people with vision," he said.

Ansari also questioned her visit to an astrologer last Sunday saying that while everyone has the right to go to a fortune teller, for the education minister to do so sends a wrong message to the country — especially students.

Ansari, who is a former chief

information commissioner, said Irani lacks the vision needed to clean up the mess in education. "She has not only imposed decisions on regulatory bodies like UGC which is an autonomous body, but has also taken populist decisions like announcing scores of inconsequential schemes, instead of unveiling a vision for the country's education sector," he said.

"What is the need of announcing new IITs and IIMs when the ones announced by the UPA government are running out of temporary campuses?" Ansari asked. "Where is the new education policy? She has not even taken the first step in its direction," he said.

Asian Age ND 28/11/2014 P-14

UGC makes DU change names of courses

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV. 27

On the instructions of the University Grants Commission (UGC) to follow the names notified in its gazette, the Delhi University has changed the nomenclature of a dozen degrees offered by its colleges.

A notification by the University of Delhi said that in order to comply with the list of approved degrees under Section 22 of the UGC Act, 1956, nomenclature of a few degrees has now been

changed. A senior Delhi University official said that the varsity had modified names of a few degrees after it introduced now-defunct four-year undergraduate programme (FYUP) last year. "After the controversial FYUP was rolled back earlier this year under pressure from the UGC, the university had modified the nomenclature of these degrees," he added.

Earlier, the UGC had directed all the universities to abide by its norms for awarding degrees and refrain from using any

"unconventional" names, which had not been notified in the commission's gazette.

From now, the Master of Comparative Law has now been amended to LL.M (Comparative Law), Master of Human Resource and Organisational Development (MHROD) to Master of Business Administration (Human Resource Development), or MBA (HRD) in short, and Master of International Business (MIB) to Master of Business Administration

(International Business).

B.Tech/B.S Innovation with mathematics and IT has been replaced with B.Tech information technology and mathematical innovations. "The change in nomenclature of the B.Tech degree shall also be applicable to students who were admitted in academic sessions 2011-2015, 2012-2016, 2013-2017," the notification said.

The four-year B.Tech humanities course has been changed to three-year B.A Hons. (humanities and social sciences). The Master of

Mathematics Education is now called M.Sc (mathematics education).

"The change in nomenclature of the Meta University concept degree from Master of Mathematics Education to M.Sc Mathematics Education shall also be placed before all competent authorities of Jamia Millia Islamia for necessary approval at the earliest. The students enrolled under the Meta University concept will be awarded a joint degree carrying logos of both the universities," said the notification.

New plastic breaks down by light

WASHINGTON, PTI: Indian-origin researchers and colleagues have developed a way to build novel plastics that can be degraded with light after use and turned back into molecules to make new materials.

The discovery by researchers at North Dakota State University, US, holds scientific promise that could lead to a new type of plastic that can be broken down when exposed to a specific type of light and is reduced back to molecules.

The research team, including Mukund Sibi, Sivaguru Jayaraman, Saravana Rajendran, Ramya Raghunathan and Retheesh Krishnan, focused on biomass, using oilseed from agricultural crops, cellulose, lignin and sucrose to generate building blocks of molecules that are made into polymers to create plastics. In their proof of concept experiment, the group used fructose, found commonly in fruit, to create a solution of molecules, which was then converted to a plastic (polymer).

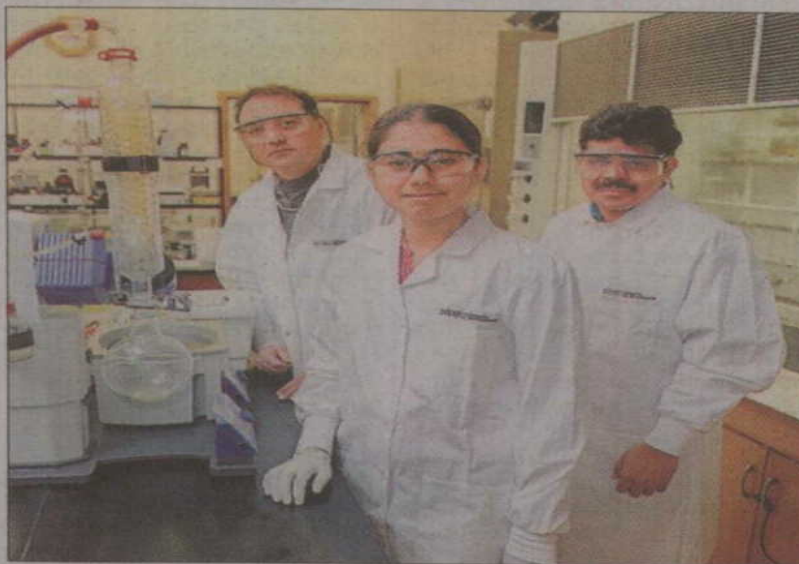
By exposing the plastic to ul-

traviolet light at 350 nanometres for three hours, researchers degraded the plastic, reducing it back to the soluble building block molecules from which it began.

Plastics usually don't decay for hundreds of years, creating solid waste issues. They generally degrade slowly, potentially leaching chemicals into the environment or creating toxins in the air when burned.

"This cradle-to-cradle approach to create a plastic which can be degraded easily offers scientific potential for eventual products that could lessen dependence on fossil fuels and decrease the amount of raw materials needed," said Dean Webster, professor and chair of the Department of Coatings and Polymeric Materials.

"Our strategy has the potential to build novel materials from biomass that are degradable with light after usage, mitigating the stress of unwanted chemicals in our environment. Studies to address these aspects are currently underway in our laboratories," said Jayaraman.



North Dakota State University Graduate students Angel Ugri-nov (left), Ramya Raghunathan (centre) and Retheesh Krishnan in a chemistry laboratory.

Deccan Herald ND 28/11/2014 P-12

Space DNA can help find alien life

LONDON: A unique space experiment has found that DNA has the capability to survive extreme conditions of space and re-entry into earth's dense atmosphere - raising the possibility of finding extraterrestrial life.

During the experiment, small, double-stranded DNA molecules were applied to the outer shell of the payload section of a rocket.

After the launch, space flight, re-entry into earth's atmosphere and landing, the plasmid DNA molecules were still found on all the application points on the rocket from the TEXUS-49 mission.

This was not the only surprise.

For the most part, the DNA salvaged was even still able to transfer genetic information to bacterial and connective tissue cells.

Some scientists believe that



DNA could certainly reach us from outer space in extraterrestrial material made of dust and meteorites.

"The results show that space ships could also carry terrestrial DNA to their landing site. We need to have this under control in the search for extraterrestrial life," said lead researcher Oliver Ullrich from

University of Zurich's Institute of Anatomy.

The experiment called DARE (DNA atmospheric re-entry experiment) resulted from a spontaneous idea.

Scientists Ullrich and Cora Thiel were conducting experiments on the TEXUS-49 mission to study the role of gravity in the regulation of gene ex-

pression in human cell.

They began to wonder whether the outer structure of the rocket might also be suitable for stability tests on so-called "biosignatures".

"Biosignatures are molecules that can prove the existence of past or present extraterrestrial life," Thiel said.

So the two researchers launched a small second mission at the European rocket station Esrange in Kiruna, an arctic town in northern Sweden.

The quickly conceived additional experiment was originally supposed to be a pretest to check the stability of biomarkers during spaceflight and re-entry into the atmosphere.

"We were completely surprised to find so much intact and functionally active DNA," the duo concluded.

Agencies

Protein in eye lens likely to cause eyesight deterioration

LONDON: Long-sightedness caused by age could be due to proteins in the lens of the eye that are converted from a fluid solution to a solid, glassy state, scientists have found.

Around the age of 40-50, many people find their sight deteriorates and they need to use reading glasses. This age-related long-sightedness is thought to be due to a reduction in the elasticity of the lens in the eye.

Now researchers from institutions including Lund University in Sweden have pinpointed what happens in the eye when long-sightedness develops.

"This feels like an exciting discovery. We now intend to continue studying the behaviour of protein mixtures that resemble the interior of the eye

lens," said Anna Stradner, an associate professor at Lund University.

Working with Professor Peter Schurtenberger at Lund University and international research colleagues, she studied the protein that occurs most commonly in the lens of the eye, alpha-crystallin.

The results of the study showed that, at high concentrations, solutions of this protein undergo a transition from a fluid form to a glassy state.

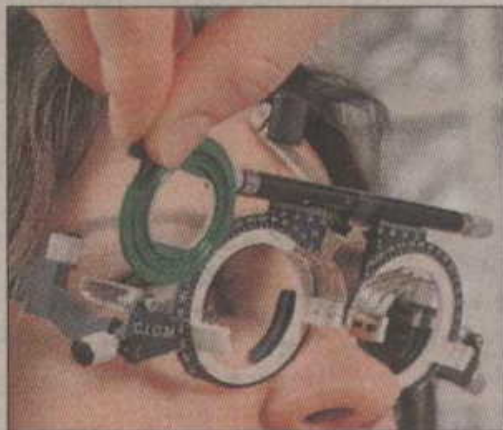
The protein becomes less mobile at high concentrations, which leads to the transition from a fluid to a solid form. This could be the reason why the lens of the eye becomes more rigid with age.

The study also suggests a link to another eye condition, cataract which is an eye disease in which the lens becomes cloudy and less transparent.

The researchers believe that cataract formation may be influenced by the reduced movement of the protein in the lens when the glassy state occurs.

The study has been published in the scientific journal *PNAS*.

Agencies



FB is out, teens hooked to instant messaging

New York: A study involving 170,000 internet users across 32 countries has found that more and more teenagers are spending more time on instant messaging apps than on Facebook.

Nearly 66% of teenagers (aged 16-19) in the United States and Britain said they were using Facebook less frequently.

While the teenagers are not off the social networking site com-

pletely, the interactions have dropped and the group is more passive about the site as a whole, revealed the new "Social Summary for Q3 2014" from market research firm GlobalWebIndex (GWI). "Even though Facebook has more users, activity such as photo sharing and messaging has fallen off by 20 percentage points

in the last two years," the research findings showed.

Nearly 30% of teenagers said they are not on Facebook as often because their friends have gone on Instagram and other messaging apps, StreetInsider.com reported.

The GlobalWebIndex report found that although Facebook has a drop in active users, its Messan-

ger is not very popular among teenagers, even leaving WhatsApp behind as the most used messaging app. Snapchat turns out to be the real winner among teenagers.

"Snapchat has the youngest audience of any social app and usage ranges from 25% to 40% of all online teenagers in key markets such as the US, Britain and Canada," the report said. IANS

FASTER THE BETTER

Indians' love for instant messaging shows up

Global study shows this segment doubled in users over two years; WeChat fastest growing at 2,364%, though WhatsApp still dominates; Facebook sees lot of defection

SOUNAK MITRA

New Delhi, 27 November

The government doesn't seem to like it but Indians are loving it.

Last June, the government discussed a possible ban on WeChat, a Chinese instant messaging application. Since January 2013 till date, WeChat's user base has jumped a massive 2,364 per cent in India, taking it to fourth position, reveals a study by GlobalWebIndex. Globally, its user base rose only 156 per cent in this period.

Its application was developed and is owned by Tencent, a Chinese company. Hence, the government says it has concerns on security.

WeChat apart, India is the hottest land of opportunity for almost all instant chat apps. According to the GlobalWebIndex report, conducted across 32 markets involving 170,000 internet users, instant messaging as a segment has grown 113 per cent in terms of users of mobile messaging tools since 2013.

The study shows 52 per cent of Indian instant messaging users are on WhatsApp, while 42 per cent use Facebook Messenger. Skype is used by 37 per cent. WeChat has a 26 per cent share in the market, followed by Viber (18 per cent), Line (12 per cent), Snapchat (nine per cent), Kik Messenger (five per cent), Tango (four per cent) and Kakao Talk (three per cent).

WhatsApp, the most used instant messaging app, used by about 70 million Indians actively, has increased its user base by 334 per cent since January 2013. Facebook's own messenger followed with a 192 per cent rise in active usage. Skype manage about 190 per cent more users.

Many more have also made their niches, such as Viber, Nimbuzz, Line, home-grown Hike and late entrant Telegram.

Younger people, between 16 and 34 years of age, have preferred WeChat over WhatsApp and Facebook Messenger. While, people over 35 are more inclined to WhatsApp and Facebook, the study shows. In the 16-24 years age group, 49 per cent use WeChat; it is 36 per cent in the 25-34 years group.

As mentioned earlier, there has been a 113 per cent rise in India in the number of people utilising mobile messaging tools since 2013.



LOOK WHO IS TALKING!

Market share in India (In %)

WhatsApp	52
Facebook Messenger	42
Skype	37
WeChat	26
Viber	18
Line	12
Snapchat	9
Kik Messenger	5
Tango	4
Kakao Talk	3

Source: GlobalWebIndex

According to GWT's study, smartphones are vital for internet users in India, where 79 per cent of the online population own one. Further, users of mobile messengers are young, affluent and highly active online.

The study says WeChat has the highest number of users in the Asia-Pacific, with a 38 per cent share at 337 million users. With 140 million, Facebook Messenger takes second spot with a 16 per cent share, followed by Skype (132 million, 15 per cent share) and WhatsApp with 112 million users (13 per cent share).

The study has also noted that teens were increasingly spending less time on Facebook and preferring instant messaging apps more — many believe the social network is not as "cool" as it used to be. Half the study participants said they were using Facebook less frequently than in the past.

Facebook has more users, says the study, but activity such as photo sharing and messaging has fallen 20 per cent in the past two years. This could mean instant messaging apps would eat into Facebook's business.

November 29

Navbharat Times ND 29/11/2014 P-9

नए सिस्टम से मिलेगा नॉन वेज फूड, स्टूडेंट्स खुश आईआईटी में शुरू हुआ नॉन वेज फूड

■ राहुल मानव, आईआईटी

आईआईटी दिल्ली में वेज और नॉन वेज फूड के विवाद पर अब ब्रेक लग गया है। आईआईटी दिल्ली में जुलाई 2014 सेमेस्टर से नॉन वेज फूड आइटम्स को हॉस्टल से हटा दिया गया था। स्टूडेंट्स की कंप्लेंट पर इसे हटाया गया था। हॉस्टल्स में ही खाना बनकर तैयार होता था। कुछ स्टूडेंट्स को इस बात पर दिक्कत थी कि एक ही मैस में नॉन वेज और वेज फूड बनाया जाता है। कुछ स्टूडेंट्स ने बर्तनों को लेकर भी शिकायत की थी, जिसमें स्टूडेंट्स ने कहा था कि एक ही बर्तन में वेज और नॉन वेज खाने को परोसा जा रहा है। अब संस्थान ने नवंबर में यह फैसला जारी किया है कि 12 हॉस्टल में बाहर के वेंडर्स नॉन वेज फूड की सप्लाई करेंगे। यह लागू हो चुका है।

क्या होगा मेन्यु

नए नोटिस के मुताबिक तीन वेंडर्स 6 महीने तक 40 रुपये प्लेट के हिसाब से ग्रेवी के साथ एक लेग पीस (200 ग्राम) देंगे। कुमाऊं, विंध्याचल, शिवालिक, जंसकार, नीलगिरी, काराकोरम, अरावली, ज्वालामुखी, सतपुड़ा, गिरनार, उदयगिरी और कैलाश हॉस्टल में 18 नवंबर को नोटिस जारी कर दिया गया है। हॉस्टल की मैस में नॉन वेज नहीं बनाने का निर्णय लिया गया है।



वेज या नॉन वेज

- 12 हॉस्टलों में बाहर के वेंडर्स नॉन वेज फूड की सप्लाई करेंगे
- हॉस्टल के मैस में नहीं बनेगा नॉन वेज फूड
- स्टूडेंट्स के हिसाब से ही तय किया जाता है हॉस्टल का मेन्यु : शरद कुमार गुप्ता, डीन, आईआईटी दिल्ली

क्या कहते हैं डीन

आईआईटी दिल्ली के डीन (स्टूडेंट अफेयर) शरद कुमार गुप्ता ने बताया है कि हॉस्टल में बनने वाले खाने का चुनाव स्टूडेंट्स ही करते हैं। जुलाई 2014 के सेमेस्टर से स्टूडेंट्स की कंप्लेंट पर सभी हॉस्टल से नॉन वेज फूड को हटा दिया गया था। अब स्टूडेंट्स के साथ हुई मीटिंग में यह फैसला लिया गया है कि 12 हॉस्टल में बाहर के वेंडर्स नॉन वेज फूड की सप्लाई करेंगे। अगर स्टूडेंट्स चाहेंगे तो आगे हॉस्टल मैस में ही नॉन वेज फूड बनाने का काम फिर से शुरू कर दिया जाएगा। स्टूडेंट्स की राय पर मेन्यु तय किया जाता है।

खुश हैं स्टूडेंट्स

स्टूडेंट्स भी इस डिजिजन से खुश हैं। हालांकि पहले नॉन वेज फूड को खाने वाले स्टूडेंट्स वैन के फेवर में नहीं थे। थर्ड ईयर के स्टूडेंट प्रखर कहते हैं कि वह नए फैसला का स्वागत करते हैं। वहीं सचिव कहते हैं कि देश भर से लोग आईआईटी जैसे इंस्टिट्यूट में पढ़ने के लिए आते हैं। सभी स्टूडेंट्स एक साथ बिना किसी मतभेद के काम करते हैं।

क्या है पूरा मामला

मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय ने 15 अक्टूबर को देश की सभी आईआईटी, मेडिकल और आईआईएम संस्थानों को नॉन वेज और वेज खाने के लिए अलग कैटीन करने के लिए लेटर लिखा था। इसमें उन लोगों के लेटर भी साथ में दिए गए थे जिन्होंने वेज फूड खाने वालों के लिए अलग कैटीन की मांग की थी।

मंडे से प्लेसमेंट

आईआईटी दिल्ली में सोमवार से प्लेसमेंट प्रक्रिया शुरू होगी। इंस्टिट्यूट के स्टूडेंट अफेयर काउंसिल के हेड शिवांश अग्रवाल बताते हैं कि इस साल ज्यादा कंपनियों प्लेसमेंट के लिए आ रही हैं। इससे स्टूडेंट्स को अच्छे ऑफर मिल सकते हैं। उन्होंने बताया कि इंडस्ट्री में अच्छा रेस्पॉन्स है। वहीं मार्केट में भी अच्छा सेटिमेंट नजर आ रहा है।

Shuddh vegetarian IIT Delhi: RSS activists spur Smriti Irani to dictate hostel food

<http://www.firstpost.com/living/shuddh-vegetarian-iit-delhi-rss-activists-spur-smriti-irani-dictate-hostel-food-1825509.html>

The HRD ministry, it seems, can't bring itself to say "no" to the RSS even at the risk of looking downright ridiculous.

So, acting on representations from a group of RSS activists, it has taken to policing university campuses to find out—hold your breath—what is cooking in their kitchen. Literally.

Believe it or not, directors of all IITs and IIMs have been sent letters seeking details of cooking and catering arrangements in their institutions, and directing them to send "action taken" report on RSS swayamsevaks' demand for separate dining halls for vegetarian and non-vegetarian students on grounds that "these institutes are spreading bad culture from the West ("kusanskar") and causing grief to the parents".

Sensing the mood, at least one IIT—IIT Delhi—has decided to play safe and has promptly withdrawn all non-veg food from its menu giving over the entire kitchen and dining hall to vegetarians. Non-veg students have been told to either take it or leave it: if they wish to eat in the hostel mess, they must make do with vegetarian food, or fend for themselves.

The reason they have been given is that the university could not find a "suitable supplier" for non-veg food. But nobody, of course, is buying this line. Students are angry and questioning the legitimacy of the ministry's "food diktat". Is it any of the government's business to decide what and how students should eat?



Representational image of IIT Bombay. AFP image

"There has never been any complaint from vegetarian students. And if there's any problem it is for us to resolve it—not for babus sitting in Shastri Bhavan," said one student.

Surprisingly, even the BJP's own student wing ABVP has never seriously raised the issue except in the din of union elections. There is a sense among students and faculty that the real "culprit" is the university which

simply caved in for political reasons. In contrast, the IIMs haven't even bothered to respond to the ministry's directive.

IIT authorities declined to comment officially but, speaking anonymously, faculty members expressed their disappointment. A widespread view is that an institution that takes such pride in its autonomy should have displayed more spine.

Sitaram Yechury, CPI(M)'s Rajya Sabha member, has written to the HRD minister Smriti Irani seeking her intervention.

"The government has no business to police the food habits of IIT students. If there is a need for a separate facility for vegetarian students, that can be understood, but it cannot be at the expense of depriving non-vegetarians of their choice. This is against the students' rights," he wrote.

Over the past six months, the HRD ministry under Ms Irani has been lurching from one controversy to another. But even by its own standards, the "food diktat" takes the cake.

Rewriting school textbooks is one thing—it is a hoary tradition in the Left-Right culture wars—but advising universities on what constitutes culturally kosher food is quite another. What next? Scrap co-education and go back to segregated classes just because a clutch of RSS sevaks believe that mixing of sexes is against Indian culture? HRD ministry says that it was not a directive and the letter was sent in a "routine" manner upon receipt of "so many" representations. Really?

The sequence of events tells quite a different story. The ministry leapt to action the moment it received the first representation from a gentleman called SSK Jain, a Madhya Pradesh grain trader and an influential RSS swayamsevak. He sent it to Irani, with copies to Prime Minister [Narendra Modi](#) and BJP president Amit Shah.

Immediately, an under-secretary in the ministry, AK Singh, allegedly acting under instructions from above, forwarded Jain's missive to directors of all IITs with a covering letter demanding an "action taken" report. Which meant that the ministry was not simply drawing the IITs' attention to Jain's complaint but demanding action on it as well.

Is it "routine" in the HRD ministry to take so seriously every letter that pops up in its offices?

The fact is that Jain is not an ordinary man but an important RSS footsoldier (yes, there are footsoldiers, and footsoldiers) with access to its top echelons, and he knows he can pull ranks with Irani. Other representations were also from RSS-affiliated organisations whose busybodies have had several meetings with Irani to discuss education "reforms".

Jain's letter --and others that followed-- reveal a mindset which, if encouraged, can only lead to Talibanisation of our cultural sphere.

Jain accuses IITs of feeding "kusanskar" (bad culture of the West) to students by serving non-veg food.

"The children who have started practicing non- 'tamsic' behaviour have saddened their parents... It is the call of the parents of India that IITs and other institutions segregate their dining halls for vegetarians."

"Tamsic" refers to foods like meat, onion and garlic apparently frowned upon in Hindu scriptures. "Saatvic" means kosher food.

Here's some more on the supposedly baleful effect of "tamsic" or non-veg diet: "We see many families which are all mixed up. There are Sindhi fathers and Punjabi mothers in the same family and their children get married

to Muslims. It all starts when you mix up food. Wrong food spoils one's mind. That's why I made this request as I am a member of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh and a supporter of the BJP. I knew that this government would understand," he told *The Hindu*.

Thankfully, ordinary Indians are more enlightened. Online chatrooms are buzzing with mocking comments.

Referring to the number of veg students at IIT Madras, one noted: "Totally convoluted.... 400 vegetarians out of 8000 students show that vegetarianism is merely 5%. They are trying to dictate the agenda for 95%"

It is obvious that the HRD ministry has become a soft touch for the Hindu Right. I know, I know the "Marxists" also used it. But here we are talking about a worldview reduced to vegetarianism (Hindustani, good) and non-vegetarianism (western, bad).

That apart, the Modi came power to promising "minimum government" and "maximum governance" but clearly Irani has missed the message. For under her tutelage, her ministry is increasingly constantly micro-managing-- and interfering in areas that lie beyond its jurisdiction. The "food diktat" is a glaring example of it.

Welcome to Irani's nanny state.

IIT-B survey on possibilities of rejuvenating Mithi river

<http://www.dnaindia.com/mumbai/report-iit-b-survey-on-possibilities-of-rejuvenating-mithi-river-2039045>

Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has commissioned [IIT-Bombay](#) to conduct a survey on the possibilities of treating water in [Mithi river](#) and Vakola nullah. This is part of the civic body's effort to clean the river.

BMC has proposed spending Rs 80 lakh on the survey. The proposal will be placed in the next standing committee meeting for approval.

dna had reported about this initiative on October 1.

According to civic officials, IIT will submit a comprehensive report to the corporation in six to eight months after completing the survey.

"After we get the report, we will carry out a feasibility study," said an official associated with the project.

Professor DN Singh of the department of civil engineering, IIT-B, who is spearheading the survey, had told dna that the idea behind the exercise was to rejuvenate the river and free it of pollution.

"We will test the water to ascertain the level of contamination in it. We will also study the sources through which sludge and [contaminated water](#) enter it," Singh had said.

"We will also demonstrate a few state-of-the-art, in-house technologies for treatment and separation of sludge from water. The survey will begin mid-October," he had said.

The move comes after [Maharashtra Pollution Control Board](#) issued BMC a notice last December for inaction in controlling pollution in the river.

The survey will be followed by similar surveys of nullahs like Vakola nullah in the city. It will also look into the possibility of constructing sewerage treatment plants (STPs) along the river, or diverting polluted water elsewhere for treatment before discharging it back into the river.

"The possibility of putting additional sewer lines along the river will also be studied," the official said.

IIT-B, in a report prepared in 2006, had recommended setting up 37 STPs along Mithi. "The ground reality is different now. Cost-wise, it's not feasible to construct so many," the official said, adding that constructing STPs would also require acquiring land from the slums surrounding the river.

National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI) had carried out an experiment in 2009 to see if the foul odour emanating from the river could be controlled and breeding of mosquitoes prevented. Independent of the BMC initiative, MMRDA had decided on a Rs6.97 crore plan in this connection.

Infosys Co-founder's Rs 10 Cr Gift Helps IIT-M establish 3 Chairs

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/cities/chennai/2014/11/29/Infosys-Co-founder%E2%80%99s-Rs-10-Cr-Gift-Helps-IIT-M-establish-3-Chairs/article2546296.ece>

CHENNAI: Three Chairs in computational brain-research have been established in IIT-Madras following an endowment of Rs 10 crore for each chair from IIT-Madras alumnus and Infosys co-founder Kris Gopalakrishnan. The first of these three Chairs, the 'Prof Mahabala Distinguished Chair in Computational Brain Research' was launched by Gopalakrishnan on Saturday.

The two other Chairs, to be based in IIT-M, are yet to be launched. Attended by several of IIT-M's top academia, including IIT-M Director Bhaskar Ramamurthi and Professor Mahabala, the launch saw Gopalakrishnan reminiscence about his time at IIT-M.

"I was introduced to computers at IIT, and my life was changed by the stint here. I am grateful to my teachers, and creating this chair in the name of Professor Mahabala is my way of saying 'thanks' to my teachers," he said.

"We need to enable IIT Madras to enter new and exciting areas that are at the cutting edge of global research," he declared.

The first occupant of the Prof Mahabala chair, Partha Mitra, will be principal investigator at the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory in New York. The Chair, intended for leading mid-career and senior researchers, will commit to a minimum of two five- years stints.

The three Chairs in IIT-M will be complemented by three other research centres: a center devoted to brain research likely to come up in Bengaluru, a similar centre in IISc, Bengaluru, and a brain research centre with postdoctoral fellowships at the Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, USA.

Avinash Chander to continue as DRDO chief

<http://www.niticentral.com/2014/11/29/avinash-chander-to-continue-as-drdo-chief-247345.html>

New Delhi, Nov 28 (PTI) India's premier defence and research organisation DRDO's chief Dr Avinash Chander will retire on November 30 but will continue to occupy the position on a contractual basis till May, 2016.

"The President is pleased to retire Dr Avinash Chander, Secretary, Department of Defence Research & Development (DOB: 06.11.1950), in the Ministry of Defence from Government Service with effect from 30.11.2014 (AN) on attaining the age of superannuation," an official statement here today said.

It said "the appointment of Chander beyond his date of retirement, November 30, for 18 months would be on contract basis, with the same terms and conditions as he would be entitled to Secretary (DRD) before the date of retirement.

"His contractual term will end on May 31, 2016. Asked if this was the first time a DRDO chief will go on contract, sources said there had been instances when chiefs have been given "extraordinary" extensions.

The DRDO chief also holds the post of Scientific Adviser to the Defence Minister and the Secretary of Department of Defence Research and Development.

Chander joined DRDO in 1972 after completing graduation in Electrical Engineering from Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi.

He obtained MS in Spatial Information Technology from Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University (JNTU), Hyderabad. Chander is the chief architect of Agni series of ballistic missile systems.

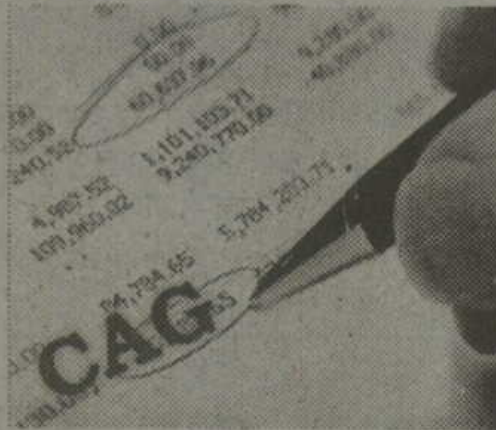
Development of Agni range of missiles under a highly- restrictive international control regimes was possible only out of his technology forecast, perspective planning and relentless efforts, DRDO officials said.

आठ आईआईटी की स्थापना में देरी कैग ने की खिंचाई

नई दिल्ली (वार्ता)। कैग ने 11वीं पंचवर्षीय योजना में खुलने वाले आठ आईआईटी की स्थापना में विलम्ब होने से इसका खर्च ढाई गुना बढ़ने और इस तरह करीब 9500 करोड़ रुपए का नुकसान होने से सरकार की खिंचाई की है। कैग ने संसद में पेश शुक्रवार को अपनी ताजा रिपोर्ट में यह खुलासा किया है।

रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है कि 2006 में प्रधानमंत्री की वैज्ञानिक सलाहकार परिषद ने बिहार, आंध्र प्रदेश और राजस्थान में नए आईआईटी खोलने का प्रस्ताव किया था। 2007-12 में 11वीं पंचवर्षीय योजना में पांच और आईआईटी यानी कुल आठ आईआईटी खोलने का प्रस्ताव हुआ। ये पांच आईआईटी ओडिशा, गुजरात, पंजाब, हिमाचल और मध्य प्रदेश में खुलने थे। 11वीं पंचवर्षीय योजना में प्रति आईआईटी 760 करोड़ रुपए के हिसाब से 6080 करोड़ रुपए खर्च होने का अनुमान लगाया गया है। नए में छह आईआईटी 2008-2009 में अस्थायी परिसर में चलने लगे जबकि 2009-10 में दो और आईआईटी अस्थायी परिसर से चलने भी लगे, लेकिन मार्च 2014 तक आठ में से तीन का भवन भी नहीं बन पाया जबकि पांच आईआईटी के भवन का नौ फीसद निर्माण कार्य हुआ है।

रिपोर्ट के अनुसार मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय ने इस वर्ष मई में आठ आईआईटी बनाने की योजना की का बजट 6080 से बढ़ाकर 15,664 करोड़ कर दिया है। इस तरह इसमें ढाई गुना वृद्धि हो गई। अभी तक वित्त मंत्रालय की खर्च समिति ने वृद्धि को



- कैग की संसद में पेश रिपोर्ट में खुलासा, समय पर काम न होने से ढाई गुना बढ़ी लागत
- आठ में से तीन आईआईटी का भवन भी नहीं बन पाया, जबकि पांच आईआईटी के भवन का नौ फीसद निर्माण कार्य ही हुआ

मंजूरी भी नहीं दी है और वित्त मंत्रालय ने भी मार्च 2014 तक केवल 2807 करोड़ 23 लाख रुपए ही जारी किए हैं, जो संशोधित बजट का मात्र 18 प्रतिशत ही है। रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है आईआईटी परियोजना इसलिए विलंब हुई कि राज्य सरकार ने समय पर जमीन नहीं दी। मास्टर योजना देर से बनी और पर्यावरण मंजूरी मिलने में भी देरी हुई। भवन के वास्तु शिल्पकार की नियुक्ति में देरी हुई। आईआईटी का परिसर नहीं बनने से 6880 छात्रों की जगह केवल 2881 छात्रों का ही दाखिला हुआ। कुल 1888 शिक्षकों को नियुक्त करना था, जबकि केवल 659 की ही नियुक्ति हो पाई।

Hindustan Times ND

29/11/2014 P-11

Chair set up at IIT-M for brain research

NEW DELHI: In what will help boost research, IIT Madras alumnus and co-founder of Infosys, Kris Gopalakrishnan, has set up three chairs in computational brain research at IIT Madras with an endowment of ₹10 crore each.

The first of these, the Prof Mahabala Distinguished Chair in Computational Brain Research was launched on Friday. The first occupant of the chair is Dr Partha Mitra, principal investigator at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, New York. The chairs will complement a brain research center that will come up in Bengaluru, as well as chairs created in IISc, Bangalore and postdoctoral fellows sponsored at Carnegie Mellon University, USA. "I was introduced to computers while at IIT, which changed my life. Creating this chair is my way of saying thanks," said Gopalakrishnan.

VANITA SRIVASTAVA

Undue haste created bitter language soup, say experts

Akshaya Mukul @timesgroup.com

New Delhi: In early September when a German delegation came to the HRD ministry seeking renewal of an MoU between Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan and Goethe-Institut, the government in Delhi had changed.

It was to be a routine renewal. But the Germans were told the MoU can't be extended and violates the National Policy on Education and National Curriculum Framework.

New ministry mandarins had studied the existing MoU and found gaps. It was loaded in Germany's favour. As a result of training Sanskrit teachers in German, the number of Sanskrit teachers was dwindling.

When KVS commissioner Avinash Dikshit insisted there was nothing wrong with the MoU and had the KVS board's approval, ministry officials said the board wasn't bigger than Parliament or national interest. A renegotiating of the MoU, as suggested by some, was ruled down. The Germans returned empty handed.

If this wasn't enough, HRD asked KVS to place the matter before its board and align it with the three-language formula, as envisaged in the national education policy and national curriculum framework.



LANGUAGE BARRIER

KVS decided to discontinue German as an option to Sanskrit immediately. More than 65,000 KVS children will now have to take a new Indian language and be appraised on that in the remaining academic session. It's another matter that KVS says they don't have enough Sanskrit teachers, let alone other language teachers.

Germans have a different story. They claim that in July when they met Smriti Irani she was open to teaching German in BEd courses, so there are enough teachers. A memorandum of intent was signed by her predecessor M M Pallam Raju in 2013. By September the script had gone awry. A fresh German proposal of teaching German from Classes IX to XII is now under consideration.

Many in HRD concede that the episode could've been handled deftly. Some say German should

have been allowed, at least in the ongoing session. On Friday, after SC pulled up the government for showing unnecessary haste, many officials said the option of continuing with German for the rest of the session was given but it was rejected at the higher level.

Officials say the ministry didn't foresee the larger problem the decision might create if extended to CBSE-affiliated private schools. CBSE denies this, the fear among schools isn't unreasonable.

"With this decision we've created two sets of children, a distinction we could've done without in this age of globalization. Are we so insecure," a Delhi school principal asks. "A study should be conducted on why children don't want Sanskrit or other Indian languages as third language. The HRD decision won't benefit Indian languages." The language policy, she says, can't be implemented through coercion.

Asha Sarangi of JNU sees it differently. "The language issue always crops up when BJP is in government. They believe language is organically linked to the idea of nation." Sarangi, author of a book on language and politics, says: "German or any foreign language came because of a globalized world order. English no longer has hegemony over knowledge." She thinks the decision is rhetorical but has deep ideological roots.

Achtung! Smriti Irani Rides In

The education minister proves she is a class act in more ways than one

As the old saying goes education is not a putting in, it's a taking out. And Smriti Irani, the redoubtable Union minister for human resources development, is taking it out of the education system, even if perhaps not quite in the way it might want.

So eager was she to prove her credentials for her important portfolio that she claimed she had a degree from a renowned American Ivy League university, a claim that under scrutiny turned out to be somewhat liberal with the truth and made her the butt of much twitter humour.

just in jest!

Not to be fazed by the disclosure, the former star of TV soaps has gone on to show that while she might not have been a teacher's pet at Yale, she can be quite a teachers' pest on her own stomping ground. Even as her overruling of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad's demand that Sanskrit be made a compulsory subject in all schools has got parivar pedants hot under their saffron collars, her stern 'Nein, achtung!' to the teaching of German in Kendriya Vidyalayas has sent both education and diplomatic circles into a tizzy.

To show that the Teutonic nation bore no ill will for this snubbing of their rashtriya bhasha, the wife of the German ambassador in Delhi planned a satsang to celebrate her husband's birthday, an occasion which the education minister was invited to grace. With characteristic aplomb, Irani could have seized the opportunity to demonstrate that she had no prejudice against foreign languages by addressing the assembled guests in a mirch-masala lingua franker, redolent of the dialogues she'd delivered in her TV heroine avatar, which might have left her audience wondering if it were double Dutch or simply all Greek to them, thus constituting the triad of the three-language formula that's become a catchphrase all over again.



While there was a song and dance – or, rather, a satsang and dance going on – about the language issue, the minister had reason to get literally starry-eyed after a reported visit to an astrologer who is said to have told her that she would be elevated to the office of the president in five years' time.

In the meantime, however, the minister seemed determined not to let the grass grow under her feet and busied herself by cooking up new recipes for controversy. One of them revolved around whether vegetarians should be strictly separated from non-vegetarians dining at IITs – causing wags to wonder if plans were in the pipeline to rename them Irani Institutes of Tomatology, a vegetable which in rotten form is used to target those who've incurred public displeasure.

All in all, the TV actress who featured in saas-bahu dramas has shown that as necessity is called the mother of invention, Smriti Irani might well be called the mother-in-law of Indian education.

GOING GLOBAL FOR EDUCATION

NEW INITIATIVES

Exchange and, collaborative online courses are on the new government's agenda

Shradha Shahani

■ Hundreds of American professors are invited to teach at Indian colleges each year.
 ■ A new platform for Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) to make US course material accessible to Indian students.
 ■ A partnership between the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) to build community colleges in India and link academia with industry requirements.

These are some of the initiatives on the higher-education agenda of the new government, following prime minister Narendra Modi's recent visit to the US.

"Although our education system is expanding, the quality is dipping," says Suhas Pednekar, principal of Ramnarain Rula College, Matunga. "This collaboration is the need of the hour since it will improve the quality of training provided to teachers and students."

Students too feel that access to foreign professors, course material and educational formats will give them an edge. In fact, for many, it will be a step to institutionalise the online assistance they have been seeking on their own, from free courseware available online.

"Faculty members from abroad have a wider perspective on subjects and MOOCs could be the best way to deliver it," says Prakruti Maniar, 20, a mass-media student from Usha Pravin Gandhi College of Management in Vile Parle. Maniar took an online course six months ago on Engaging India, hosted by online education platform EdX.

GOING DIGITAL

US daily The New York Times highlighted 2012 as the year of MOOCs, but India is yet to catch up to this trend. SWAYAM (Study Webs of Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds) is PM Modi's first attempt to change this.

Until now, the Indian footprint in the MOOCs plane has been limited to a few elite colleges, such as IIT-Bombay, IIT-Delhi and IIM-Bangalore, who offer their courses on foreign portals such as EdX and Coursera. EdX, a free education portal started by the US-based Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and Harvard University, is set to provide the platform for SWAYAM, sources said.

As per a government press release posted on the Press Information Bureau website,

SWAYAM's first phase will see IIT-Bombay, IIT-Madras, IIT-Kanpur, IIT-Guwahati, University of Delhi, Jawaharlal Nehru University, IGNOU, IIM-Bangalore, IIM-Calcutta and Banaras Hindu University, alone as well as with the help of foreign faculty offer courses in areas of engineering education, social science, energy, management and basic sciences. "At least 1 crore students are expected to benefit in two to three years through this initiative," states the release, adding that SWAYAM will be launched "in 2014".

"The key to having effective MOOCs is having experts to conduct them," says V Sivaramakrishnan, executive president of education services at Manipal Global Education Services, which currently offers about 6,000 online paid certification courses. "The demand for MOOCs among Indian students has grown considerably, due to the flexibility and convenience of the technology, and it can only grow further."

"I am a big fan of online courses," says Akshay Lakhi, 22, a computer engineering graduate from Veermata Jijabai Institute of Technology (VJIT), who took two courses from Coursera, on finance and irrational behaviour, in February. "Indian colleges do not have the wide spectrum of courses that US universities offer. The Indian government's initiative to introduce the online courses will help students gain an international perspective and earn a certificate, for a nominal fee."

FACULTY EXCHANGES

Under the Global Initiative of Academic Networks (GIAN) programme, India's ministry of human resource development and department of science and technology will "create a channel for US professors in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics to teach in Indian academic and research institutions on short-term exchanges", as per the website of the US Department of State.

"Encouraging faculty exchange between academicians of different nationalities helps achieve productive interaction. Students become open to international ideas too," says Frazer Mascarenhas, principal of St Xavier's College, Fort. "A professor coming from a foreign country will impart fresh perspectives on each subject. The experience gained through this exchange of knowledge and culture will be effective for students."

Indian students studying in the US say the Indian higher education system could learn a lot from the US counterpart. "We are taught to understand everything in a way that can be applied in the real world, unlike the theoretical system in India," says Neelam Patil, 25, an electrical engineering graduate from Illinois Institute of Technology.

"Plagiarism checks, for instance, are taken very seriously," says Moiz Navsariwala, 25, an electrical engineering student at San Jose State University. "We are

taught to develop practices such as independent thinking early on."

COMMUNITY COLLEGES: BRIDGING THE GAP

In developing economies, community colleges can help link industry requirements to college curricula. Under an agreement signed between the AICTE and AACC, collaborative community colleges will provide education through diplomas and certificate programmes.

"This collaboration will enable us to train our faculty with practices followed in the US, and also to receive accreditation from US authorities for training programmes," says SS Mantha, chairman of the AICTE. "We have started working towards building these community colleges and have funded almost 70 colleges to set them up."

"Establishing community colleges leads to a win-win situation for both industry and the student," says Rajpal Hande, director, board of college and university development, University of Mumbai. "For instance, one of Mumbai university's community colleges are sponsored by Hindustan Coca-Cola. The company helps train students to meet their standards, and at the end of the course, many are placed at the company."

"The growth of community colleges is extremely beneficial since it bridges the gap between the academics and industry requirements," adds Hande. The Mumbai university has also signed an MoU with Hawaii University in October 2013, to set up more community colleges.

INDIA CALLING

The US government has re-launched the Passport to India initiative as a part of the collaboration between the two countries. The programme was launched in 2012 to encourage students from the US to study in India.

"The reverse flow of US students is barely 2%, as compared to the number of students going to America," says Ajit Ranade, an economist and political analyst. "This is asymmetric, despite India's population being four times higher than that of the US."

Passport to India aims to provide specific opportunities and financial support to encourage marginalised US students to gain experience and exposure in India. "If more private corporations and universities choose, through philanthropy, to fund part of the expenses of American students, perhaps more will come," says Ranade. "Some of the students may choose to work in India as well, which could be beneficial too."

they say



"In the US, students are taught to think independently and to apply theoretical concepts."
MOIZ NAVSARIWALA, an electrical engineering student at San Jose State University



"Although our education system is expanding, the quality of our education is dipping."
SUHAS PEDNEKAR, principal, Ramnarain Rula College, Matunga



"Having community colleges will enable us to train our faculty with practices followed in US."
SS MANTHA, chairman, All India Council for Technical Education

UGC vice-chairman favours performance based funding

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<http://www.deccanchronicle.com/141129/nation-education/article/ugc-vice-chairman-favours-performance-based-funding>

Chennai: University Grants Commission vice chairman Prof. H. Devaraj said on Friday that performance based funding to universities was integral to build excellence in universities across all dimensions. Presenting the Sastra – G.N. Ramachandran Award at SASTRA University, Thanjavur, to scientist Prof. M. Vijayan, Devaraj said, “Excellence needs to be nurtured in universities through policy decisions that identify performing institutions and provide support to such institutions, both public and private.”

Prof. M. Vijayan is currently the INSA Albert Einstein Research Professor at IISC, Bengaluru and known for his work in the area of molecular biophysics and crystallography. Appealing to VC Devaraj, Prof. R. Sethuraman, Vice-Chancellor, Sastra University urged him to offer a two year full time postgraduate programme in engineering education and pedagogy and also provide performance based funding to all types of universities.