

Newspaper Clips

November 8, 2010

Hindustan Times, ND p-13
08-Nov-10

Big-ticket education deals this week

OBAMA EFFECT Trips by US, UK, Canada officials indicate India's role as global education destination

ht SPECIAL

EDUCATION ITINERARY

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NEW DELHI: US President Barack Obama's visit to India is set to start to an unprecedented wave of back-to-back, big-ticket international education deals over the coming week aimed at making India a global education destination.

India will sign key education pacts with Canada on Tuesday and the UK on Thursday after finalising projects with Obama's delegation on Monday, top government sources confirmed.

"Don't forget that the US, UK and Canada are countries that Indians have traditionally thronged for education. It is indicative of India's role in the global education scenario today that they are coming to India virtually in back-to-back trips we have never witnessed before," a senior government official said. "These countries need us as much as we need them."

Named after Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and the US President, the Singh-Obama 21st Century Knowledge Initiative will be the cornerstone of the discussions between officials of the two nations on education this Monday. The US also wants to declare an education summit with top Indian officials.

On Thursday, human resource development minister Kapil Sibal will ink a pact for a second phase of the UK-India Education and Research Initiative (UKIERI) with British minister of state for education and skill David Willetts.

Under the UKIERI-2 pact the UK will declare officially a plan to make India a major destina-

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tion for its students — for education and work experience. 'Destination India' is aimed at increasing the number of British students in India — currently only about 1000, in sharp contrast to the 50,000 Indian students in the UK.

Pacts will be signed with private Indian firms under UKIERI-2 to hire British students as interns. "India is one of the fastest-growing economies in the world. We want British youth to be better aware of India and its evolving realities because India will be a major global player," said a British official involved in the deal.

On Tuesday — just the day after Obama departs — Sibal is scheduled to hold talks with Canadian officials for an Indo-Canada partnership in education which Canadian PM Stephen Harper is very keen on, sources said. UNESCO officials are also visiting New Delhi on Thursday for talks with Sibal.

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hardat work

Churning in Kapil Sibal's team

Shashtri Bhavan observers say that the changes in the team of human resource development minister Kapil Sibal could reshape the ministry's approach. The ministry's chief policy master and strategist, additional secretary Sunil Kumar is expected to return to his cadre state Chattisgarh in

January. In preparation for the departure of the ministry's "brains", some of Kumar's work has already been transferred to joint secretary Anant Kumar Singh.

Hectic lobbying on for JNU V-C post

Delhi's power circles are buzzing with hectic lobbying over the next vice-chancellor of Jawaharlal Nehru University. Although the selection committee, headed by former ISRO chairman K. Kasturirangan, is yet to

finalise a list of nominees for current V-C BB Bhattacharya's successor, at least five vice-chancellors of central universities are strong contenders. And while one of them is a particularly strong candidate, others' lobbies are opposing him tooth and nail.

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21 hrs? Mach 5 jet can cover Sydney to NY in less than 3

London: Sydney may soon be just 2 hours 30 minutes away from New York compared to 21 hours it is now, for Nasa is planning to develop "hypersonic" passenger jets that would travel at five times the speed of sound.

These aircraft would fly through the Earth's atmosphere and slash flight times around the world to a few hours at most.

The US space agency wants to manufacture an aircraft that would travel at five times the speed of sound and bring in a new age of aircraft akin to a turbo-charged Concorde, reports the Daily Mail.

The project is thought to be aimed at making a reusable aircraft that could fly to Mars but, as with previous space technology, it could have a huge impact upon passenger transport too.

Under the Nasa Aeronautics 2010 proposal, the space agency will allocate \$5 million per year for the next three years to make the new aircraft a reality.

According to the proposal, engineers will look into "entry, descent and landing of high-mass vehicles entering into planetary atmospheres" and "airbreathing access to space".

The proposal says: "The hypersonic heating environment, coupled

Nasa is planning to develop 'hypersonic' passenger jets that would travel at five times the speed of sound. The project is ultimately aimed at making a reusable aircraft that could fly to Mars

with the emphasis on reusability, creates additional severe technology challenges for materials, material coatings, and structures that not only carry the aerodynamic loads of the air but also repeatedly sustain high thermal loads requiring long-life and durability while minimizing weight.

"Space access launch vehicles must be lightweight, fully reusable and easily maintained if low-cost access to space is to be achieved."

In June, an experimental aircraft traveled at a record-breaking speed Mach 6 – 6 times the speed of sound. The aircraft achieved a maximum speed of 7,200 kmph.

Hypersonic means travelling at five times the speed of sound. The supersonic jet, the Concorde, flew at Mach 2, or twice the speed of sound. ANI

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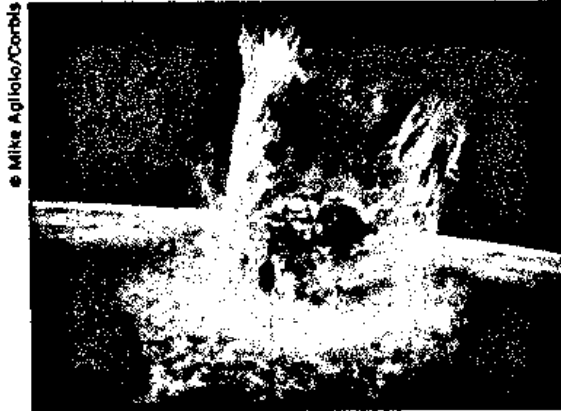
Will you survive asteroid impact? Calculate online

London: What if a giant asteroid crashed into the area near your home? Scientists have come up with an "impact effects calculator" that lets you work out what would happen if an asteroid hits our planet.

An international team from Purdue University in the US and Imperial College, London has created the online 'Impact Earth!' calculator where users can type in size of their hypothetical asteroid, its speed, what it will hit, its angle of entry and even how far they are from the blast.

And, for those who cannot visualise how big their asteroid should be, there is even a helpful drop-down menu of pre-set sizes which include "school bus", "humpback whale", "Empire State building," all the way up to the ominous-sounding "small planet".

The website's algorithms then cal-



CRASH TEST FOR DUMMIES: The calculator tells you what the effects of the asteroid's impact would be on the Earth's axis, and what chance of surviving any bystander would have

culate what the effects of the asteroid's impact would be on the Earth's axis and what chance of surviving any bystanders would have. PTI

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Unearthed: An entire Ice Age ecosystem

London: Scientists claim to have uncovered an entire Ice Age ecosystem, after unearthing a wealth of bones from an excavation site in western Colorado in the US.

A team from the Denver Museum of Nature and Science discovered two additional Ice Age mammal species at the fossil dig site at Ziegler Reservoir in Colorado, last week.

The first find was a humerus, or upper arm bone, of a giant ground sloth. The second discovery was a deer-like animal. Partial remains of five mastodons, three bison and a juvenile Columbian mammoth, as well as plant matter and insects, have also been found.

Mammoths and mastodons are elephant-like creatures that faded into extinction on this continent over 12,800 years ago.

"It is truly uncommon to get all parts of a fossil ecosystem preserved in one place," Ian Miller, the museum's curator of paleontology, said. PTI

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Sitting for long at work can be fatal: Study

Working longer hours at a desk job might impress your boss, but it's definitely not good for your health, says a new research. A new Kiwi research proposed that people who sit without moving for 10 hours a day - and for at least two hours without getting up - are three times more at risk of an embolism or deep vein thrombosis than those who do not. The study was conducted by the Medical Research Institute of New Zealand. Lead researcher Richard Beasley said the risks were potentially higher than for those who took long-haul flights.

Cellphone cheaper than cup of coffee:

Mobile phone retailer Carphone Warehouse is introducing the ultimate throwaway accessory - the 99-pence mobile phone. Available in a range of colours, the handset is the perfect Christmas gift for the hard-up shopper. The retail chain claims that the OT-209, made by French firm Alcatel, is the cheapest pay-as-you-go phone sold in Britain - cheaper than a cup of coffee.

Chest injury may have killed King Tut:

A new research has claimed that Tutankhamen, Egypt's famous "boy-king", suffered a "massive injury to his chest" that may have killed him. X-rays and CT scans have earlier shown that the pharaoh's heart, chest wall, the front part of his sternum and adjacent ribs, are missing. "The heart, considered the seat of reason, emotion, memory and personality, was the only major organ intentionally left in the body," wrote Robert Ritner in the book 'Ancient Egypt'.

Gladiators' house in Pompeii collapses:

A 2,000-year-old house in the ancient Roman city of Pompeii, which was once used by gladiators to train before combat, collapsed on Saturday. The site was closed at the time and nobody was injured. There was no official word on possible causes. News reports said water infiltration following heavy rains might be the cause.

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Cancer breakthrough: Skin turned into blood

Washington: Stem cell researchers have found a way to turn a person's skin into blood, a process that could be used to treat cancer and other ailments, according to a study published on Sunday.

The method uses cells from a patch of a person's skin and transforms it into blood that is a genetic match, without using human embryonic stem cells, said the study in the journal *Nature*.

By avoiding the controversial and more complicated processes involved with using human embryonic stem cells to create blood, this approach simplifies the process, researchers said.

"What we believe we can do in the future is generate blood in a much more efficient manner," said study author Mick Bhatia of the Mc-

Master's Stem Cell and Cancer Research Institute in the Michael G DeGroote School of Medicine.

With the ability to create blood for transfusion from a person's own skin, the advance means someday patients needing blood for surgery or to treat anemia could bypass the blood bank and derive the necessary supply from themselves.

The breakthrough could also see future uses such as allowing patients undergoing chemotherapy to endure a longer regime of treatment without the breaks currently needed to rejuvenate the body.

Researchers have performed the skin-to-blood transformation in the past, but using embryonic stem cells, which carry risks, such as the potential to create tumors. AFP

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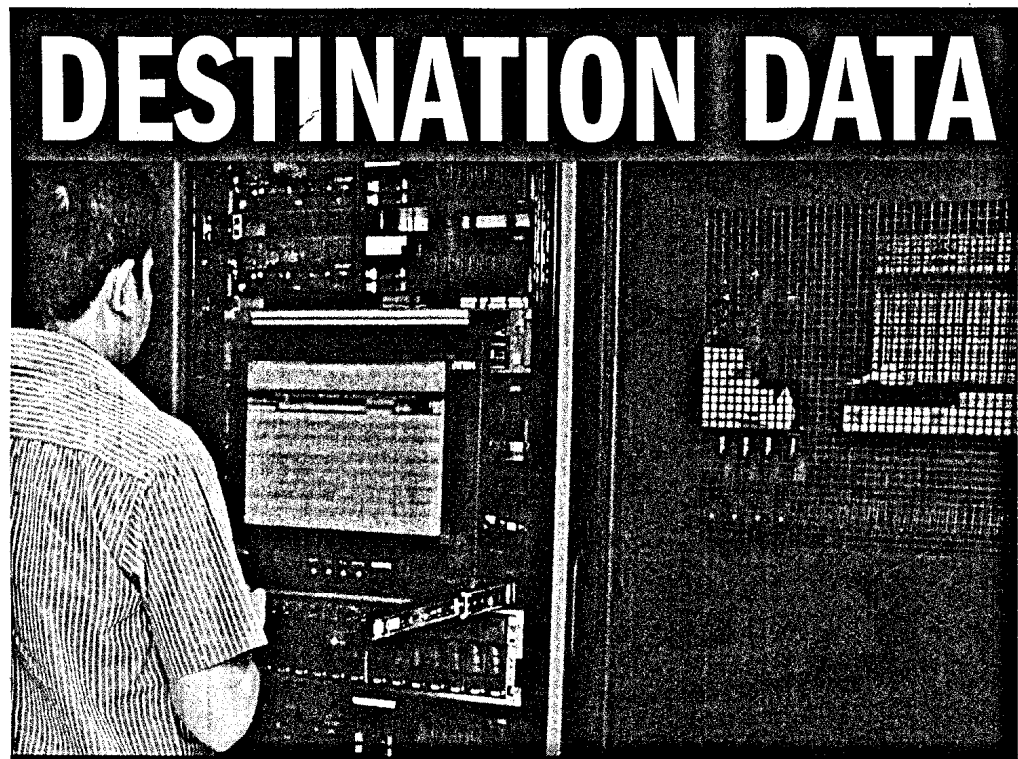
FROM COMPUTERS AND POWER TO COOLING AND PROTECTION, TODAY'S DATA CENTRES ADDRESS THE ENTIRE SYSTEM. SUCH INTEGRATED KNOWLEDGE, GOING BEYOND TRADITIONAL IT EXPERTISE, CREATES HIGH DEMAND FOR DATA CENTRE PROFESSIONALS

By S Sadagaopan

For a long time, computer centres were the hallowed premises of many universities, government departments and corporations. Delhi University Computer Centre, Southern Railways Computer Centre, IIT Kanpur Computer Centre, ONGC Computer Centre, super computers housed in India Meteorology Department/NIC/IISc and Tata Electric Computer Centre were great places for students to visit and showpieces to take VIPs during the 70s, 80s and 90s. They were large airconditioned spaces maintained very well to avoid rodents and other insects; the high costs associated with computers ensured they ran multiple shifts with near 24x7 operation under strict security and access control, with almost a halo around them.

With PC penetration, decreasing costs of minicomputers, the old computer centres lost their charm. With widespread applications like railway reservation systems, online banking and insurance and e-governance, the user profile changed from scientists (computer science and other sciences) to everyone, specialist to generalist; also, with the shift to client server computing, the number of computers in the form of servers increased dramatically; from one or two computers in the 70s or 80s, one saw dozens and hundreds (if not thousands) at data centres. The value of the data stored was becoming as valuable as, if not more than the cost of computers themselves. So, the term data centre began to be used instead of computer centre. With large-scale use of computers in enterprises to run ERP (Enterprise Resource Planning), SCM (Supply Chain Management) and CRM (Customer Relationship Management), portals and e-commerce, data centres have begun to occupy an important place.

Pundits predict that cloud computing will fundamentally alter the IT industry structure in the next decade. Cloud computing allows micro applications (Apps) to be developed by end users (not software professionals), distributed over the cloud by service providers Apple/Android/Aircel/Airtel and consumed by end customers anywhere on any device (PC or Smart Phone) on a 24x7 basis. The application is consumed like utility on a pay-per-use model with enough elasticity in capacity so that applications are on demand instead of



Ganesh Chandra

one-time purchase of shrinkwrapped software on a floppy/CD that has been the norm. The centrepiece of orchestration of apps over the cloud is once again the data centre.

Wikipedia defines a data centre as a facility used to house computer systems and associated components, such as telecommunications and storage systems. It generally includes redundant or backup power supplies; redundant data communications connections; environmental controls (e.g., air conditioning, fire suppression) and security devices.

Today's data centres address the entire system (computers, power, cooling and protection). Such integrated expertise, going beyond traditional IT expertise creates high demand for data centre professionals.

The Internet led to web presence of all organisations big and small, technical and non-technical, private and public. Everyone wanted a www.xyz.com or www.xyz.org or

www.xyz.edu or www.xyz.gov.

Since running a server needed server administration expertise (rare and expensive), hosting services proliferated: a service provider hosted many web servers on a single machine; thanks to virtualisation and load balancing tools, such hosting service providers could rent data centres; these in turn provided an opportunity for entrepreneurs to build, operate and rent data centre services commercially. SIFY was one of the first data centre providers in India. Uptime Institute (www.uptimeinstitute.org) began classifying data centres into four tiers: Tier I centre has availability of 99.671 (corresponds to 28.8 hours of downtime in a year); Tier II has availability of 99.741 (22 hours); Tier III centre has availability of 99.982 (1.6 hours); Tier IV centre has availability of 99.995 (0.4 hours). Obviously, higher level tiered centres are very expensive to build and operate.

India's first Tier IV data centre came up in Hyderabad in 2008; it is operated by CTRLS (www.ctrls.in); the biggest Tier IV data centre in Mumbai will be launched in December 2010. Globally, there is a race to build larger data centres somewhere in the remote areas where power is available and cheap. So, if you love technology, big machines, working at your own pace, living close to nature (away from the city) and are a super expert whose expertise goes beyond computer hardware and software to power, electronics, control, equipment engineering and systems engineering, data centres are the place to be in the next decade or two. Indians will have a key role to play. If you want an early mover advantage in this exciting career, tomorrow may be too late. Start today.

(The writer is the director, IIIT-Bangalore. These are his personal views)



CLOUD COMPUTING WILL ALTER THE IT INDUSTRY STRUCTURE IN THE NEXT DECADE. IT ALLOWS MICRO APPLICATIONS TO BE DEVELOPED BY END USERS, DISTRIBUTED OVER THE CLOUD BY SERVICE PROVIDERS AND CONSUMED BY END CUSTOMERS ANYWHERE ON ANY DEVICE ON A 24X7 BASIS

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SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

The Pan IIT 2010 Global Conference, a three-day conclave, was attended by more than 5,000 senior government officials and management executives from both public and private sector, veteran leaders, IIT alumni and corporate honchos. The PanIIT organisation that was formed as an umbrella organisation, covering alumni of all Indian Institute of Technology, with the key objectives of nation-building, enhancing the IIT Brand and policy advocacy, recently organised its sixth PanIIT Conclave 2010 in the Capital. The conclave focused on the imperatives of an emerging 'New India', where the speakers and delegates deliberated on the various facets of growth and transformation and identified ways and means to ensure sustainable and equitable use of available human and natural resources in India.

ENTREPRENEURIAL ECOSYSTEM

Over a 100 of India's most celebrated thought leaders, successful entrepreneurs and top bankers will put their heads together at The Indus Entrepreneurs (TIE) Entrepreneurial Summit 2010 in December this year to generate ideas for doubling the number of private ventures in the country's thriving entrepreneurial ecosystem. Nearly 2,000 entrepreneurs across sectors will participate in The TIE Entrepreneurial Summit that kicks off on December 21 in New Delhi. The event will host a series of sessions with home grown entrepreneurs and other

stake holders. A dialogue between Nobel Laureate Amartya Sen and Infosys founder NR Narayana Murthy on the first day will set the tone of deliberations over the next three days.

EDUCATION LEADERSHIP

The WISE Institute for Education Leadership recently held its first seminar in Doha, Qatar. Over three-and-a-half days, 12 leaders of higher education establishments in nine developing countries took part in a training and networking programme designed around their stated needs. The programme included case studies, workshops and masterclasses intended to spark discussions on such topics as skills required by graduates in 2025; top-level decision-making; governments and governance; the role of the university and its students in world society.

IN BRIEF

COLLABORATIVE VENTURE

Ansal Institute of Technology (AIT), Gurgaon, signed an MOU with Edith Cowan University (ECU), Australia. The MoU encompasses development in areas including information technology, engineering, hotel management, business communication, nursing and health education, collaborative research projects, staff and student exchanges between the two institutes. An immediate result of the MoU would be AIT's foray into new areas like nursing and biomedical sciences. Both AIT and ECU are striving towards excellence under this collaboration.



M.R. MADHAVAN

Bills of passage

Parliament's winter session has a full legislative agenda

THE winter session of Parliament begins on Tuesday, a day after US President Barack Obama addresses MPs. Several important bills could be taken up for discussion. The government's lack of majority in Rajya Sabha implies that we could see a greater degree of debate and compromise before some bills are passed.

The Seeds Bill makes a good case study of how Parliament should work. It was introduced in 2005, and the Standing Committee on Agriculture heard many stakeholders. Its report recommended several changes, following which the ministry circulated an amendment list. There were further negotiations with MPs across political parties.

The cabinet has approved some more amendments, and the bill may come up for consideration this session.

The HRD ministry had introduced four bills to change the regulatory structure for higher education. One of these, the Educational Tribunals Bill, was passed by Lok Sabha and deferred by Rajya Sabha after discussion, with the decision to vote on it in the winter session. This legislation establishes tribunals at state and Central levels to settle disputes regarding admissions of students, service matters of staff and faculty, and affiliation of colleges to universities. Three other bills — to prevent unfair practices including

capitation fees, to set up accreditation agencies that will give quality ratings to colleges and universities, and to regulate foreign universities — are being examined by the standing committee. The National Commission for Higher Education and Research Bill, which replaces the UGC and AICTE with a new regulator, is listed for introduction this session.

The standing committee has submitted its report on the Companies Bill. This bill makes significant changes in the way companies are regulated. On a number of issues, it transfers oversight

The government's lack of majority in Rajya Sabha implies that we could see a greater degree of debate and compromise before some bills are passed.

from the government to shareholders, defines new types of companies, prescribes norms for independent directors and auditors, and increases the powers of creditors in case of debt restructuring. The bill is listed for consideration and passing this session.

The Enemy Property Bill was introduced last session to replace an ordinance. However, it was not passed as the government's proposed amendments were opposed by the BJP. The cabinet has approved a fresh bill, which incorporates the contentious amendments; it will be interesting to see whether the BJP supports this version.

The Women's Reservation Bill

was passed in Rajya Sabha in April but it has not been taken up by Lok Sabha yet. Given that the BJP and the Left parties support it, garnering a two-third majority will not be a difficult task; however, many MPs reportedly oppose the bill, and it is to be seen whether the government brings forth this bill for consideration.

Some contentious bills are listed for introduction almost every session, and have been included yet again: the Land Acquisition (Amendment) Bill, the Rehabilitation and Resettlement Bill and the Forward Contracts Bill.

Another important bill — to establish the Unique Identification Authority — could be introduced. While this concept has been hailed as a tool to better target development projects, some activists have raised privacy related issues. The government has also listed the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Bill, to replace the current act. This bill gives statutory backing to the new mining policy, and would have wide ramifications, especially in the Naxal-affected areas. The Protection of Women against Sexual Harassment at Workplace Bill is also listed for introduction, bringing in force the guidelines of the 1997

Vishakha judgment. The Biotech Regulatory Authority Bill, which would regulate genetically modified organisms, may also be introduced.

This session could see a historic event: the impeachment motion against Justice Sen of the Calcutta high court. The first few steps of the process have been completed: a motion moved by 50 Rajya Sabha MPs, constitution of an inquiry committee by the chairman of that House, and the recommendation by the committee that the removal motion be taken up. For removal, each House of Parliament has to vote with a two-third majority, within the same session, followed by the assent of the president. Currently, another inquiry committee is looking into the charges made against Justice Dinakaran. Coincidentally, a bill that regulates the conduct of judges — the Judicial Standards and Accountability Bill — has been listed for introduction and passing during the session.

The last session of Parliament saw some interesting developments. On several instances, Parliament insisted that bills be examined by committees, and not passed in a hurry. We hope that this trend, of Parliament taking an informed view on legislative proposals, continues this session.

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Redefining the MBA

From course content to the method of instruction, B-schools will have to reflect the changing priorities in management education.

Arun Pereira

(The first of a two-part article that looks at the changing face of management education and the agenda that the B-schools of tomorrow need to pursue to meet the changing expectations of MBA graduates.)

The passing of C. K. Prahalad earlier this year and the appointment of Nitin Nohria as the Dean of Harvard Business School bring to the fore their respective passions: the potential of emerging markets, and accountability in business leadership. Coincidentally, these are key issues that shape the discussion on the changing priorities in management education.

Tomorrow's business schools are expected to be different, from the content of the curriculum to the methods of instruction, from student learning to the corporate expectations of MBA graduates. Are the existing B-schools ready for the challenge? Or, will we see a Schumpeterian form of creative destruction whereby new and more relevant B-schools emerge, crowding out the out-moded, established ones?

To excel, B-schools will need to redefine the restrictive walls within which they currently operate with regard to cultivating business leaders, teaching priorities, management curricula and student expectations.

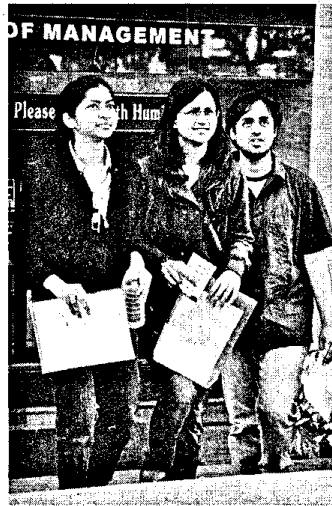
INTEGRITY & BROADER ACCOUNTABILITY

Warren Buffet once said that the characteristics that he seeks in a manager are intelligence, hard work, and integrity. "If you don't have the third," he said, "the first two will kill you." Buffet's words ring true as we witness many a business leader crash to ignominy, seemingly bankrupt of any notion of integrity, be it Ramalinga Raju at Satyam, Jeff Skilling at Enron or the many others who have exchanged their pin-striped suits for prison stripes.

At last count, the US Department of Justice was investigating 150 companies on corruption charges.

Without doubt, the traditional view that business leaders are solely accountable to shareholders is passé. Today the expectation is that business leaders are also stewards of society and its interests — particularly given the relevance of businesses as engines of growth and prosperity in the many emerging markets. As such, business leaders can expect to have their decisions scrutinised through a public lens that is coloured with societal and environmental issues.

The B-schools of tomorrow must focus on producing graduates who are equipped to meet the challenges of these re-defined expectations of business leadership. This requires MBA programmes to go far beyond cosmetic initiatives such as isolated courses on "business ethics" to a more substantive



B-schools must equip their students to meet the new expectations of leadership.
— K Murali Kumar.

focus on facilitating the transformational role expected of tomorrow's business leaders: the ability to motivate employees to look beyond themselves and the company, and embrace the well-being of various stakeholders tied to our communities, our society, and the environment.

For such transformational leadership to work various pre-requisites are necessary, starting with Buffet's view of integrity, followed by an acute understanding of the role of business in society, the nature of business as an economic engine, the power of the free market, as well as its limitations.

An important outcome of leadership with such a broadened scope is that it can enable a collective level of "self-governance" in free markets — important to help pre-empt onerous Governmental regulations that are likely to emerge to protect the environment, society, and its interests.

Unchecked such regulations can adversely impact the growth of free markets which, in turn, can impede the power of businesses to transform societies. Bottom line, tomorrow's B-schools must produce a different type of leader, one with a different set of priorities and abilities than seen in the past if businesses are to continue to be powerful engines of growth in society.

TEACHING, BEYOND THE SAGE ON STAGE

The model of a 'sage on the stage' imparting knowledge to students (described by researchers such as Alison King) will likely give way to the teacher as a 'guide on the side' in the B-schools of tomorrow.

Case discussions and lectures will have to compete with new and powerful learning

tools that range from podcasts and simulations to immersion experiences (be it with customers in different cultures or students partaking in real-world negotiations, or watching stressful team discussions) to new approaches, such as metaphoric learning.

A common pedagogical approach in today's B-schools is the "case method" and this approach tends to reward decisive thinking during the discussion of the case as long as it is backed by a sound perspective, relevant analysis, and often, hard numbers. Such an approach may need to be modified, given the broadened expectations of tomorrow's business leaders.

Possibly, teachers will need to accommodate a more nuanced approach to decision-making that embraces intuition, creativity, empathy and even collaboration, underscoring the complexity of business decisions, and the need to embrace issues that are broader than the narrow problem at hand. This is, of course, hugely challenging to implement in a classroom; it means more creative methods of teaching and managing classes.

It may mean going beyond isolated classroom sessions to include mentoring and coaching outside the classroom. In all this, faculty in research intensive schools who can bring cutting edge thinking to their teaching will likely trump over schools whose faculty are less involved in research and, as such, are likely to rely on outdated material for their teaching.

In the future, it is likely that the student-teacher relationship developed during business programmes will morph into one of a manager-mentor after the programme, or an executive-coach, or even teacher teaching partner. For example, alumni of B-schools can become powerful teaching resources who can be leveraged to advise, train, and mentor current students.

In return, alums can be expected to seek modern thinking, and as such, faculty involved in cutting edge research will more likely be sought out by these ex-students.

Given this broad mantle for teachers in B-schools, it would be myopic for administrators to continue using end-term student evaluations as the only measure of teaching effectiveness.

Ideally, other measures should be included, such as a measure of the teachers' impact in the long term, be it at the student level, the corporate level, or the societal level. Thus, for example, continuing feedback from alumni on the impact of a teacher or a class, over the years, can be a useful supplement to student ratings. This can be incorporated in the reward structure for faculty to help incentivise them to take a broad, long-term view of their responsibility in shaping future business leaders.

(To be continued)

(The writer is a Clinical Associate Professor of Management Education and Head, Initiative for Excellence in Teaching and Learning at the Indian School of Business. This article was published in ISB Insight, the journal of the ISB.)

B-SCHOOLS INCHING TO PEAK PLACEMENT LEVELS

Offers up by 50-70 per cent; stipend up by 35-40 per cent

VINAY UMARJI
Ahmedabad

Hectic placement activity on B-school campuses may still be far away, but the institutions are closing in on the peak summer placement numbers of 2007. More companies, more offers and better stipends are some of the benefits that are on offer for business school students.

"It has been easier to invite companies this year. We have also seen new firms and fresh profiles being offered to students which, at a summer internship level, are quite challenging. What's more, we could place all the 120 students in four days," said Saurabh Bansal, placement committee member at Mumbai-based Jamnalal Bajaj Institute of Management Studies (JBIMS).

JBIMS has witnessed several first timers on its campus for the summer internships, including Reliance Industries and Schlumberger, apart from the regular investment banks.

The highest domestic stipend at JBIMS stood at ₹1.50 lakh against ₹1.10 lakh in 2009 — an increase of 36 per cent.

Out of the total 114 students who opted for final placements, 30 students have been offered pre-placement offers. About 50 per cent of these students have already converted their offers and the remaining are being interviewed, the institute said in a press statement.

At Jamshedpur-based Xavier Labour Relations Institute, the present batch of 240 students have got 307 offers. The number of recruiters who participated in the process increased by 27 per cent. The average stipend for the internship period this year was ₹1.12 lakh — an increase of 26 per cent over last year. Aditya Birla Group and Goldman Sachs were the largest summer recruiters with 10 offers each.

The highest international offer was made by an investment bank for its trading desk in Singapore that stood in excess of ₹5 lakh.

"This year not only saw the participation of new companies but also the emergence of new sectors. We are very optimistic going forward, and these are definitely positive upwards signals for the coming few quarters as well. The improvement in the general economy is well reflected in the way the recruitment has happened over the past week," said Rajiv Misra, chairperson, placements, at XLRI Jamshedpur.

In terms of profiles, students are being offered positions in treasury management, structure finance, and mergers and acquisitions, to name a few. Stipends have also seen a rise this year for the summer internships.

At the Indian Institute of Management Lucknow, (IIM-L) 417 placement offers were made by 151 firms

— up by 75 per cent over the previous year, when close to 240 offers were made. Out of these, 123 offers were made in the coveted slot zero.

Key recruiters on the campus include McKinsey & Co, The Boston Consulting Group, Tata Administrative Services, Hindustan Unilever, Procter and Gamble, Aditya Birla Group and Cadbury-Kraft, among others.

The buoyancy in summer placements also reflects IIM Ahmedabad (IIM-A)'s preparations. The premier B-school is replicating its cohort-based system, which was introduced during final placements last year, for its upcoming summer placements process from November 12.

"Summer placements are important because such hiring helps firms to build a pipeline for the future, which is reflected in pre-placement offers (PPOs). The cohort-based system is being introduced to allow companies to check their relationship with the students. And because summer internships are not final placements, the risk is low. We are expecting a buoyant summer placements process because we are in a different situation than what we were two years ago," says Saral Mukherjee, chairperson, placements, IIM-A.

Indian Institute of Management Bangalore begins its process for summer placements on November 8.

The highest international offer, at ₹5 lakh, was made by an investment bank for its trading desk in Singapore



At IIM-L 417 placement offers were made by 151 firms, up by 75 per cent over the previous year

Upinder Dhar
Vice Chancellor,
JK Lakshmiipat University



'Admission to the varsity will follow the IIM pattern'

JK Organisation, promoter of JK Tyre, JK Paper and JK Lakshmi Cement, among other group companies, is in the process of setting up a multi-disciplinary university — JK Lakshmiipat University (JKLU) in Jaipur. The university will be operational from the next academic year. UPINDER DHAR, vice chancellor of JKLU tells Kirtika Suneja that the university will be based on four principles — long term teaching, corporate training, research and consulting. Edited excerpts:

What was the idea behind setting up the university?

The JK Group is more than 100 years old and we have around 40 primary schools in the country. So, our involvement in education is nothing new but this is for the first time that we thought of setting up a full fledged university. The group wanted to offer quality education in the country and cater to the needs of specific disciplines to enable people to develop their skills and become employable. The focus of the varsity will be on long-term teaching, corporate training, research and consulting.

How will you fund the varsity?

The university will be a self financed institution in the long run with an investment in the order of ₹100 crore now and ₹300 crore over the next five to six years. The funding will mostly be in the form of contribution by the JK Organisation group companies including JK Tyre, JK Paper and JK Lakshmi Cement. The Rajasthan government had given us the land and the construction of the 30-acre campus began in 2009. We will start our academic session from next year.

What programmes will the university offer?

The university will roll out its operations with the Institute of Management with a fully residential MBA programme and an Institute of Engineering and Technology from the 2011-12 session. The admission criteria

will generally follow the IIM pattern. The candidates will be shortlisted on the basis of a Common Admission Test or equivalent examination followed by group discussion. Work experience will also be given due consideration. Besides, we are also looking at offering corporate training or management development programmes. We will announce nine programmes between November this year and March next year along with faculty development programmes.

What would be the expected student strength?

We plan to have 5,000 students on our roll in the next 5-10 years. In the first year, we hope to have 500 students. There will be an addition of 200 students in the second year. There will be 10 hostels accommodating 206 students each in the long run. Three of the hostels are ready. We will also have the faculty on campus so that students can benefit all the time.

Are you looking at collaborations with international universities?

JKLU has signed a memorandum of understanding with Han Yang University, Seoul, Korea for cooperation in the field of education and academic activities of mutual benefit. We are also in dialogue with a few renowned universities in the US, Canada and Europe for cooperation for faculty development, students exchange and research.

Business Standard ND08/11/2010 P-9

UWS forms partnership with 20 Indian institutes

KIRTIKA SUNEJA
New Delhi

University of the West of Scotland (UWS) has roped in Punjab-based GGS Group of Colleges as its India partner, besides Hyderabad-based Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University (JNTU).

GGS Group of Colleges has 19 institutions under its wing. The UK-based university has over 120 partnerships worldwide. "It is our first endeavour in India and we will focus on joint teaching and orientation visits besides staff and student exchanges. We are also tying up with Gopalan College in Bangalore. However, we have no plans of setting up a campus in India as of now," said Alison Anderson, senior marketing co-co-

ordinator overseas, UWS.

Anderson said the university is spending 10 per cent of its India budget on MoUs for research collaborations and scholarships. It has 358 research students and is hoping to have 400 by year-end. Research and knowledge transfer activity generates £4-5 million (Rs 28-35 crore) per year. There are around 80 Indian students of the total 1,500 international students.

UWS had discussions with the JNTU to focus on several other aspects of a working partnership. "We want to develop mutually beneficial international projects covering areas like research collaboration, curriculum design and staff and student exchange along with delivery of UWS programmes in-country. Nursing is an area where we would be partnering India," she added.

The power of ideas

Indians are donating in a big way to their US alma maters

AMITABH MATTOO

In October, the chairman of Tata Sons, Ratan Tata, gifted \$50 million to his alma mater, the Harvard Business School, to give back to the school — in his words — a little bit of what it had given him. Earlier, Anand Mahindra donated \$10 for a Humanities Centre at Harvard. And in 2008, Rohini and Nandan Nilekani had gifted \$5 million to Yale University. These are just a few examples of Indians who are making generous philanthropic contributions to American universities.

While these donations have been criticised as reflecting misplaced priorities, in reality they make a powerful statement, recognising the extraordinary role played by the American education system in not just transforming "individual" Indian lives, but in building arguably the strongest bond between the people of the two countries. While the relationship has, so far, been asymmetric — with the US playing the commanding role — this too is, hopefully, beginning to change, with India and Indians playing a significant role.

Indeed, there is probably no other area of India-US bilateral relations which has played a more transformational role than the cooperation in education. While ties in other sectors may have been able to produce instant "highs" and "lows", cooperation in education has gradually created an extraordinary win-win relationship. This happened due to three factors.

The first is through the initial American intellectual and financial investment in building Indian institutions of excellence. From 1961 to 1972, USAID supported the Kanpur Indo-American Programme (KIAP) to help IIT Kanpur find its feet. This included generous material help to build infrastructure, as well as exposure of Indian students to world-class American faculty. Professors from MIT, Princeton, and other top Ivy League universities came to IIT-Kanpur as visiting professors. The results were extraordinary.

Rakesh Pandey, an alumnus, recounted to Robert Blake, the

US Assistant Secretary of State for South Asian and Central Asian Affairs, one such example. "A professor from MIT arrived in Kanpur for his assignment. The professor's research focused on image processing systems — including televisions (he later helped pioneer digital and HD television) — and to the excitement of students and staff at IIT-Kanpur, he introduced broadcast television to Kanpur." Indian students were exposed not only to new inventions, but also to American academia's dedication to teaching, research and innovation. IIT-Kanpur was not alone; many Indian agricultural universities were supported by US land grant universities, and the path-breaking research conducted in these institutions is often forgotten. In short, a generation of some of the most gifted Indians became inspired by the American com-

mitment to academic excellence.

Second, there was, for several years, a virtual open door for good Indian students to enter top US universities, where they went for further studies. Today, the IIT Kanpur Alumni chapter in the US alone has 5,000 members. Often, tuition waivers, assistance ships or scholarships allowed Indians from even the most deprived backgrounds to enter the top US universities. Many stayed back and became part of the dazzling Indian Diaspora whose role in bridging the bilateral relationship is well known. Those who came back had often been converted to and championed the American dream of enterprise and opportunity, even at a time when autarky and socialism were the reigning mantras in India.

Finally, through programmes like the Fulbright, the US was able to give mid-career aca-

demics and professionals, including IAS officers, exposure to the best academic universities through the Mason Fellowship. On return, many became natural stakeholders in the bond of India-US friendship. The number of students from India enrolled in US universities and colleges has crossed 100,000 this year, with Indians now the largest overseas student group.

In the past this relationship was relatively one-sided. Compared to the thousands of Indians who went to the US, only a small number of American students came to India, primarily through the Fulbright programme. Even for this limited number the experience was not painless. During India's honeymoon with the Soviet Union, visas were denied to almost all those wishing to study contemporary India. It was fine if a scholar wanted to learn Pali or Sanskrit or study Indian philosophy, but not so if the area of interest was the political, strategic or economic life of contemporary India.

Fortunately, this is beginning to change. In November last year, President Obama and Prime Minister Singh launched the 21st Century Knowledge Initiative. This is designed to enhance the India-US strategic partnership in education through increased exchanges and greater academic collaboration. Also, we may see a flow of students into India once our "world class" universities take shape and the Foreign Education Service Providers Bill is finally enacted.

But even without governments there will individual Indians who help to further cement India-US cooperation in education. Consider this story: John P Kapoor graduated from Bombay University in 1960 and wanted to study further in India but could not afford it. The State University of New York at Buffalo (SUNY) offered him a graduate fellowship, and he completed his doctorate in medicinal chemistry in 1972. Kapoor went on to become a great entrepreneur in the pharmaceutical industry. In 2000, he gave SUNY \$5 million, increasing it to \$11 million in 2010.



N R NARAYANAMURTHY
Chairman, Infosys

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ANAND MAHINDRA
V-C, Mahindra & Mahindra

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RATAN TATA
Chairman, Tata Sons

DONATED \$50 MN TO HARVARD BUSINESS SCHOOL FOR EXECUTIVE EDUCATION FACILITY

India Inc to create 7L US jobs in 10 years

CII says Indian cos engaged across wide spectrum & not just in IT

By Mail Today Bureau
In New Delhi

INDIA'S SOURCING of US military and nuclear hardware and civilian aircraft could create over seven lakh jobs in the US over the next ten years, according to a report by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) released on Sunday.

The CII survey of member firms with operations in the US shows that Indian business is now engaged across a wide spectrum of sectors, and not just information technology (IT) and IT-enabled services (ITeS).

The survey also dispels the myth that Indian firms operating in the US typically hire Indian workers. It shows that Indian firms have been aggressively hiring US workers and a large majority of the workers in their US operations are US citizens.

One interesting find of the CII survey is that Indian firms have been actively engaged as stakeholders in community development programmes such as in developing library programs, health research and imparting skills to college graduates.

"These examples of deep integration of these firms in the economic and social fabric of the communities in the US that they inhabit show that Indian business is in the US for the long-term and see themselves as partners in the resurgence of the US economy," said Chandrajit Banerjee, director-general, CII.

US President Barack Obama during his current visit has announced \$10 billion worth of deals between Indian and US

companies, which are expected to create 50,000 jobs in the US.

The deals include a \$2 billion equipment order from Anil Ambani Group firm Reliance Power and the purchase of 30 Boeing 737 aircraft by low-cost carrier SpiceJet.

Reliance Power has also announced a deal to secure \$5 billion (nearly ₹22,000 crore) in funding from the US Export Import Bank for gas-based and renewable energy projects (solar and wind) totalling about 9,000 MW.

The deal, which coincides with the three-day visit of US President Barack Obama to India, was signed by Reliance Power chairman Anil Ambani and Exim Bank chairman and president Fred Hochberg.

"It is expected that the purchase of goods and services by Reliance Power and its affiliate companies and financed by Exim Bank will provide interna-

tional quality products and services to Reliance Power's projects at competitive terms and will create jobs in the manufacturing and services sector in the United States," the company said in a statement.

Earlier, the Board of the Exim Bank had accorded its final

RPower to secure \$5-bn loan from US Exim Bank

approval for project finance facilities aggregating \$917 million for Reliance Power's 3,960 MW Sasan ultra mega power project (UMPP). The funding facility is for the support of Sasan Power's plans to purchase coal mining equipment from Bucyrus and various other associated equipment and services from US suppliers.

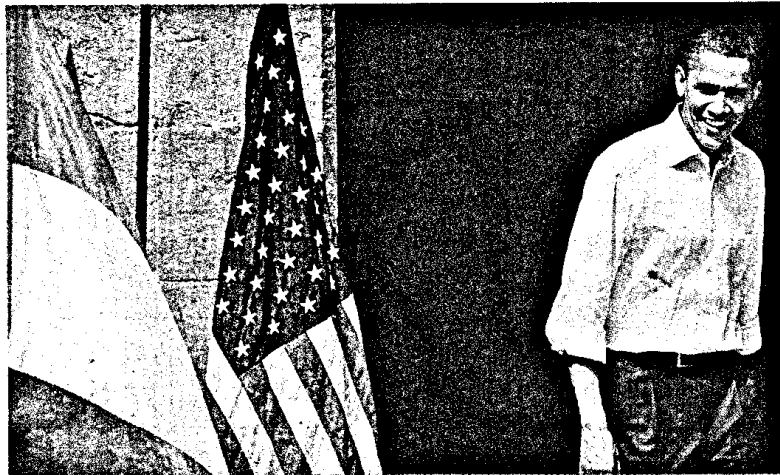
This clearly indicates that the economic relations between the

US and India are not one-sided.

In fact, US deputy national security adviser Mike Froman had stated on Saturday that exports of US goods to India have already quadrupled over the last seven years to about \$17 billion while exports of services have tripled to about \$10 billion a year. "So it's a fast-growing economic relationship. And it's a two-way street as well. Indian companies are the second-fastest-growing investors in the US," Froman had said.

According to Planning Commission deputy chairman Montek Singh Ahluwalia, India is not as dependent on exports for its growth as the other emerging economies.

India's exports to the US between January and August this year were \$19.7 billion, which is a mere fraction of the Chinese exports to the US which total a phenomenal \$229.2 billion.



BANKING ON INDIA INC

■ Survey dispels the myth that Indian firms in the US hire only Indians

■ US Prez announced \$10-bn worth deals between Indian & US cos, which are likely to create 50,000 jobs in the US

■ Deals include a \$2 bn equipment order from R-

Power & purchase of 30 Boeing 737 by SpiceJet

■ Indian cos have been engaged as stakeholders in community development programmes

■ R-Power announced a deal to secure \$5 bn funding from the US Exim Bank

■ Exports of US goods to India have already quadrupled over the last 7 years to about \$17 bn

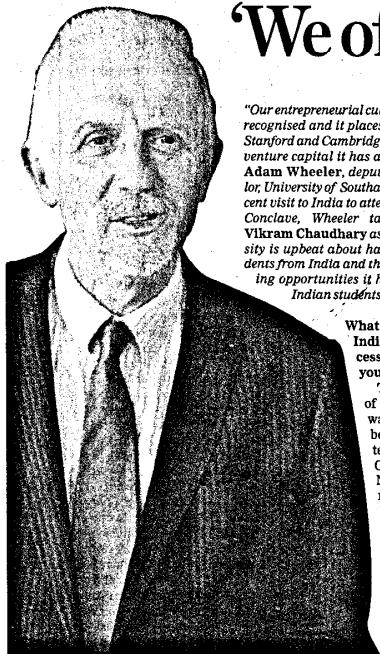
■ Exports of services have tripled to \$10 bn a year

■ India's exports to the US between January & August this year was \$19.7 bn

INTERVIEW: PROF ADAM WHEELER

DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR, UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHAMPTON

'We offer students an entrepreneurial culture'



"Our entrepreneurial culture is globally recognised and it places us third after Stanford and Cambridge for the level of venture capital it has attracted," says Adam Wheeler, deputy vice-chancellor, University of Southampton. On a recent visit to India to attend the Pan-IIT Conclave, Wheeler talked to FE's Vikram Chaudhary as to why University is upbeat about having more students from India and the various exciting opportunities it has in store for Indian students. Excerpts:

What brings you to India? How successful has been your trip?

The University of Southampton was privileged to be invited to attend the Pan-IIT Conclave held at Noida. It has most certainly been a successful visit for me; by interacting with a number of colleagues in higher education, the private sector and the government, I have

a much clearer and deeper understanding of the current education environment in India.

Apart from the truly global exposure, what else does the varsity offer, which, may be, is missing in other UK varsities?

We offer our students an entrepreneurial culture in which to flourish, combined with a challenging and rigorous intellectual education. Our entrepreneurial culture was recognised by an independent review, which places the University of Southampton third after Stanford and Cambridge for the level of venture capital it has attracted. Studying in this exciting environment, our students are also offered the opportunity to work towards the University's Graduate Passport, which is an opportunity to develop skills that can help them excel in today's competitive job market. As well as the University's leading engineering and science subjects, there are several academic programmes that are of great interest to students from India; audiology, race car aerodynamics and actuarial sciences are much sought after. Many of our programmes offer unique opportunities; for example, the department of law has set up a couple of initiatives, one which gives our students the opportunity to offer free consultations to any University of Southampton stu-

dent requiring advice on renting property and another called 'Street Law', which enables our students to take part in working towards identify legal concerns with community groups.

Also, what steps and innovations you carry out so as to constantly match the British higher education standards?

We are leading on developments in curriculum innovation that offer our students a range of both interpersonal and business skills. By developing a broad-based curriculum our aim is to encourage the students to become global graduates and future leaders. The University is leading on an international curriculum innovation initiative that will bring together leading educationalists from around the world to share views.

A good number of your students come from abroad. Which region contributes the most?

Yes, we have a very diverse student population with students from over 100 countries. Our largest student cohort is from China, followed by Malaysia.

What is so special about studying in the UK?

UK universities provide internationally recognised qualifications of the highest standard and British degrees are important to employers as they have a strong emphasis on gaining practical experience in the relevant field. UK universities place greater focus on smaller group

tutorials, one-to-one tuitions, students are helped to think creatively, work from their own initiative and also as part of a team. The UK is known for having a multicultural society and is considered to be safe for students. The country also offers the opportunity of obtaining professional recognition

from the professional bodies.

Does a university work as a corporate body? For instance, looking at emerging markets and trying to get more international students from the emerging markets when the not-so-good conditions at home don't add up to the required revenues...

The University of Southampton is a world-class institution continually de-

veloping its global presence by attracting the best staff and students. Our aim is to be distinguished by being international in our perspectives and reputation, responding to issues of global importance.

Have you also thought about setting up campuses abroad?

The University is constantly reviewing and considering opportunities which meet its strategic objectives and to develop where appropriate.

What has been the trend on the applications this year from India?

We have been delighted that the number of well-qualified students applying from India has increased this year; in particular, we have seen increased interest in courses such as electronics, computer science, management, law, creative arts, actuarial sciences and renewable & sustainable energy technology.

What about the scholarship programmes for Indian students?

As well as the University's Winchester School of Art offering 15 scholarships to Indian students, biological sciences, maths and law all offer a number of scholarships to the students from India. Our Indian students can also apply to one of the many other scholarships that the University offers.

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CAMPUS OF THE WEEK: DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, DELHI SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS



An Initiative by The Financial Express

fe@campus, a collaborative and cynosure initiative taken by *The Financial Express* in sync with a variety of higher education institutes representing today's youth, provides students an opportunity to pen their views on trends and trendsetters in the world of business. For this week, we put forth the topic: "Is lack of trained manpower a hurdle to India becoming an industrial economy?" Students of the Department of Commerce, Delhi School of Economics, sent us their essays. Here are two of the best:



THEME OF THE WEEK:
IS LACK OF TRAINED MANPOWER A HURDLE TO INDIA BECOMING AN INDUSTRIAL ECONOMY?

Redefine goals, budgets

Kamal Girdhar

INDIA is primarily an agrarian economy. Although we might boast that we are the 'outsourcing hub', produce world-class engineers, proficient and 'employable' graduates, but still 60% of our population toils in the fields. With India enjoying demographic advantage, the country should lead the world by the strength of its sheer

headcount! But still we see our growing population as a liability? Why?

**THE SUCCESS
 MANTRA FOR A
 FLOURISHING
 INDUSTRIAL
 BASE IS A
 TRAINED
 WORKFORCE**

Why don't we have a thriving industrial set-up when we have the right numbers? The truth is that we have the numbers right but the equations wrong.

Transformation from the rural set-up to the developed industrial framework is possible when a transfer of people takes place across these two sec-

tors. We know that unskilled labour may occupy the positions of floor workers but what about the positions that require proper skill set and application of a specialised knowledge; for instance, knowledge of basic accounting, production and technological details requires a different kind of people mix and unskilled people can't fit in such job requirements. The success mantra for a flourishing industrial base is not a mere transfer of people but a trained workforce transfer.

The author is MIB 2009-11 student of Delhi School Of Economics

We have to fix our education system

Swati Chaudhary

INDIA had always been viewed as an agrarian economy, what this meant was that the agricultural sector and its allied activities had been for the longest time the mainstay of the Indian economy, providing the lion's share of contribution to the GDP and employment to more than 60% of India's labour.

However, change seems to be slowly creeping into the economy now. Agriculture has now lost its position of being the largest contributor to the GDP, although it is still provides employment to about half of India's workforce. This is perfectly in sync with the trend of development that happens in other countries, albeit with a little difference. What happens generally is that as a country develops, there seems to be a shift of labour and resources from agriculture to manufacturing, and once the economy becomes a high income one, the services sector becomes the most important contributor to both the GDP and employment. But India seems to have bypassed the manufacturing field and directly arrive at the services field. It has now become a

knowledge economy from an agrarian economy.

While our competence in services might be reassuring, the picture is incomplete at best. Despite the astounding number of graduates that we spin out each year, very few have the right skill sets to be 'employable' in the industry, services or otherwise, so that on the job training becomes impera-

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tive. The government has drawn up ambitious plans to set up more ITIs and duly upgrade the existing ones in order to tap them as the primary nursery of a skilled workforce. The industry, too, hires unskilled and semi-skilled workers and imparts them the specific skills needed in particular areas of work, thereby playing the role of a trainer at a mass scale itself. However, private industry is guided by real economics and is usually inclined to invest only

so much in training and skill development as is required to meet its short-term requirements and is highly cost-sensitive. This is clear signal that somewhere our education system fails the students. Perhaps it is time to fix this.

The author is MIB 2009-11 student of Delhi School Of Economics

P&B Daily ND 08/11/2010 p-11

Women in IT sector suffer from mental agony: Study

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, NOV 7

DESPITE glamour and hefty salaries associated with the field, women in the IT industry suffer from physical discomfort and mental tension, even in their plush office environments, a study revealed.

High salaries and social status associated with the IT sector has attracted women to take up these jobs, but many suffer on account of various factors like late working hours, the study conducted by Kerala State Women's Commission said. The study also

covered problems faced by women in various other fields, including nursing in private hospitals. Covering 150 women in the IT sector and 50 others in allied areas, the study found that long working hours at the desk and job related pressure creates a lot of physical discomfort and mental tension. The study suggested that all IT institutions conduct stress management counselling services for women employees, and a law be enforced by the government to reschedule working hours. It also said all women profession-



als in IT sector should receive maternity benefits, as is available for government jobs.

Agreeing with the study, former CEO of Technopark here N

Radhakrishnan Nair, however, said that working conditions in IT industry are far better compared to most other fields.

"Women are well taken care of. They are picked up from their homes and dropped back by most companies," he said.

"Of course there is some pressure of work as there are deadlines to keep in IT jobs. Many companies take up contracts for foreign clients and it is important to keep contractual obligations," Nair, now with animation major Toonz told PTL. This kind of pressure is there for both men

and women and it is not always correct to say only women suffer, he said. "It however, is true that women have to cope with practical problems of balancing work at home and office in our social and family set-up. But the same is the case in all professions," he said.

Women in BPOs especially may need some guidance initially, but those working for MNCs are well taken care of, he said. The study about nurses in private hospitals revealed that women in this profession are prone to sexual advances from patients. —PTI

Virat Vaibhav ND 08.11.2010 P-3

शिक्षा सुधार योजना पर अमल सरकार के लिए चुनौती

शीतकालीन सत्र में विधेयक पास हो जाएंगे, शिक्षा सुधार में केन्द्रीय मंत्री कपिल सिब्बल से काफी उम्मीद

■ विराट न्यूज

नई दिल्ली। शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में सुधार से जुड़े विधेयकों को अमलीजामा पहनाने, आईआईटी एवं आईआईएम में प्रशासनिक तंत्र को सुदृढ़ बनाने तथा नए केन्द्रीय विश्वविद्यालयों एवं आईआईटी के लिए स्थाई परिसर एवं आयापूरत संरचना के विकास के साथ एएमयू और डीयू जैसे विश्वविद्यालयों में शिक्षा व्यवस्था को बेहतर बनाने की योजना पर अमल सरकार के सम्बन्ध अहम चुनौती बना हुआ है। विरोधों के अनुसार, जामिया मिलिया इस्लामिया विश्वविद्यालय को अल्पसंख्यक विश्वविद्यालय का दर्जा देने, उच्च शिक्षा संस्थाओं में प्रशिक्षित शिक्षकों की भारी कमी के साथ बदलते समय के अनुरूप देश भर में गुणवत्तापूर्ण पाठ्यक्रम पर अमल भी अहम समस्या का कारण बना हुआ है। दूसरी ओर

एएमयू, बनारस हिन्दू विश्वविद्यालय जैसे विश्वविद्यालयों में वर्षों से छत्र संघ का चुनाव

ऑस्कर फर्नांडिस की अध्यक्षता वाली मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय से जुड़ी एक स्थाई समिति की सिफारिशों को विधेयक में स्थान नहीं दिए जाने के कारण आलोचना किए जाने की बात भी सामने आई

नहीं होने के कारण छात्रों ने आंदोलन छेड़ रखा है। इस संबंध में रहल गांधी के नेतृत्व में छात्रों के एक शिष्टमंडल ने हाल ही में सिब्बल से

मुलाकात की। शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में सुधार से संबंधित महत्वाकांक्षी विदेश शिक्षा प्रदाता एवं



नियमित विधेयक, शैक्षणिक कदाचार रोकथाम, शैक्षणिक पंचाट, उच्च संस्थाओं की संबद्धता प्रदान करने वाला प्राधिकार गठित करने वाले विधेयक अभी तक कानून की शक्ति नहीं ले

पाए हैं। मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री कपिल सिब्बल ने हालांकि से बताया कि संसद के शीतकालीन सत्र में विधेयक पास हो जाएंगे। जबकि हार्बर्ड, आक्सफोर्ड, स्टैनफोर्ड जैसे विदेशी विश्वविद्यालयों को भारत में परिसर खोलने की अनुमति देने वाले विदेशी शिक्षा संस्थान (प्रवेश एवं परिचालन नियमन) विधेयक, 2010 का कई विपक्षी दल विरोध कर रहे हैं। शैक्षणिक पंचाट गठित करने के विधेयक के विरोध के कारण मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री को राज्यसभा में मानसून सत्र के दौरान काफी कठिनाई का सामना करना पड़ा था और यह विधेयक पारित नहीं हो सका था। मंत्रालय के सूत्रों ने बताया कि इन महत्वपूर्ण विधेयकों को

पास करने के संबंध में मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री ने कुछ दिन पहले विभिन्न दलों के सांसदों से विचार विमर्श किया। ऑस्कर फर्नांडिस की अध्यक्षता वाली मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय से जुड़ी एक स्थाई समिति की सिफारिशों को विधेयक में स्थान नहीं दिए जाने के कारण आलोचना किए जाने की बात भी सामने आई है। इस समिति में कांग्रेस महासचिव रहल गांधी भी सदस्य हैं। इधर विश्वविद्यालयों के एक जवाबदत्त संगठन ने देश में उच्च शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में सुधारों को ध्यान में रखते हुए कई विधेयक पेश किए जाने को असंवैधानिक करार देते हुए मांग की है कि इस विषय को उच्चतम न्यायालय के न्यायाधीश के नेतृत्व वाली समिति के सुपुर्द किया जाना चाहिए। सेवानिवृत्ति से ऐन पहले जट्टबाजी में सचिव की नियुक्ति करने के विश्वविद्यालय अनुदान आयोग (यूजीसी) के अध्यक्ष

सुखदेव थोपट के निर्णय के खिलाफ कई सांसदों के मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री कपिल सिब्बल से शिकायत किए जाने के बाद आयोग में नया विवाद उत्पन्न हो गया है। मंत्रालय को इस विषय पर पहल करनी पड़ी और अध्यक्ष से सचिव की नियुक्ति प्रक्रिया के बारे में ब्यौग देने को कहना पड़ा। यह पद पिछले पांच वर्षों से खाली पड़ा हुआ था। नियमों के अनुसार प्रावधान है कि यूजीसी जैसी शैक्षणिक संस्थाओं के प्रमुख नई नियुक्ति अपना कार्यकाल समाप्त होने से कम से कम तीन महीने पहले कर लें। इधर, मंत्रालय को आईआईटी जैसी संस्था में श्रष्टाचार और पद के दुरुपयोग जैसे आरोप का सामना करना पड़ रहा है। दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय (डीयू) में सेमेस्टर प्रणाली के विरोध में शिक्षकों के विरोध प्रदर्शन के कारण कई महीनों से शिक्षा दीक्षा ठप पड़ गई है।

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आईआईटी में नौकरियों की बहार आई

लौट रहा है मंदी से पहले का खुशनुमा दौर, दिसंबर से शुरू होगी प्रक्रिया

कल्पना पाठक और विनय उमरजी

दो साल के सन्नाटे के बाद भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थानों (आईआईटी) में नौकरियों की बहार फिर आती नजर आ रही है। नौकरियों के आकर्षक प्रस्तावों की उम्मीद से यहां पर सभी चेहरे फिर खिले-खिले नजर आ रहे हैं।

सभी आईआईटी में नियुक्ति प्रक्रिया दिसंबर से शुरू होगी लेकिन संकेत अभी से अच्छे मिल रहे हैं। जहां पहले पूर्व नियुक्ति के प्रस्तावों (पीपीओ) का अता-पता नहीं था, लेकिन अब कंपनियों की तरफ से शानदार प्रतिक्रिया मिल रही है।

आईआईटी-बंबई की बात करें तो 100 से अधिक कंपनियां पहले से ही स्नातकों की नियुक्ति करने की पुष्टि कर चुकी हैं और कई अन्य ने नियुक्ति प्रक्रिया में भाग लेने की इच्छा जताई है। लगभग 20 छात्रों को विभिन्न कंपनियों में सफलतापूर्वक समर इंटरशिप पूरी करने पर पीपीओ मिल गए हैं। कई अन्य को प्रस्ताव मिलने की उम्मीद है।

एक ई-मेल के जवाब में आईआईटी-बंबई के प्लेसमेंट ऑफिस ने कहा, 'हमें विश्वास है कि छात्रों की वरीयता में शामिल 200 से अधिक कंपनियां कैम्पस में आकर नियुक्तियां करेंगी। वर्तमान में हमारे यहां जापान, ब्रिटेन, ताइवान, मलेशिया, यूएई और अमेरिका आदि देशों के लिए भर्तियां हो रही हैं। कई अन्य बहुराष्ट्रीय कंपनियां अपने भारतीय कार्यालयों के लिए भर्तियां करेंगी। लेकिन एक साल पूरा करने के बाद अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्थलों पर उनकी तैनाती की जाएगी।'

संस्थान ने बताया कि अभियांत्रिकी क्षेत्र के अलावा फाइनेंस, परामर्श,

एफएमसीजी, विश्लेषक, आईटी एवं सॉफ्टवेयर, सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की इकाइयों, शोध एवं विकास क्षेत्र से भी अच्छे प्रस्ताव मिले हैं। सभी क्षेत्रों से मिलने वाले प्रस्तावों और उनके स्तर में अच्छी वृद्धि देखने को मिली है।

आईआईटी खड़गपुर में बारक्लेज बैंक

सभी आईआईटी में नियुक्ति प्रक्रिया दिसंबर से शुरू होगी लेकिन संकेत अभी से अच्छे मिल रहे हैं। जहां पहले पूर्व नियुक्ति के प्रस्तावों (पीपीओ) का अता-पता नहीं था, लेकिन अब कंपनियों की तरफ से शानदार प्रतिक्रिया मिल रही है। पीपीओ के लिए परिदृश्य में सुधार इसलिए भी महत्वपूर्ण है क्योंकि वैश्विक मंदी ने आईआईटी और अन्य उच्च शिक्षण संस्थानों को बुरी तरह प्रभावित किया था।

से 13 पीपीओ प्रस्ताव मिले हैं, इसके अलावा सिंगापुर के डॉयचे बैंक सहित कई अन्य की तरफ से भी प्रस्ताव मिले हैं। डाइचे बैंक की तरफ से मिले प्रस्तावों में वेतन पैकेज पिछली बार के अधिकतम 22 लाख रुपये से ऊपर पहुंच गया है।

आईआईटी खड़गपुर के प्रमुख (प्रशिक्षण और नियुक्ति) सुनील श्रीवास्तव ने कहा, 'बारक्लेज बैंक की तरफ से मिलने वाले सर्वाधिक वेतन के प्रस्ताव में पिछले

साल की तुलना में सुधार हुआ है। हालांकि, हम वेतन का खुलासा नहीं करेंगे। वैसे तो पीपीओ में इजाफा होगा, लेकिन हम आने वाले दिनों में अच्छे प्रस्तावों की उम्मीद कर रहे हैं। कंपनियों से मिलने वाले प्रस्ताव, विशेषकर अभियांत्रिकी, बैंकिंग और आईटी क्षेत्रों से काफी अच्छे रहे हैं। पिछले साल की तुलना में परिस्थितियां अच्छी नजर आ रही हैं।'

पिछले साल कैम्पस में पूर्व नियुक्ति बातचीत (पीपीटी) के लिए 160 कंपनियां आई थीं, इस साल संस्थान यह आंकड़ा बढ़कर 200 तक पहुंचने की उम्मीद कर रहा है।

दूसरी तरफ आईआईटी दिल्ली ने कहा कि संस्थान पीपीओ को लेकर अधिक चिंतित नहीं है। आईआईटी दिल्ली के प्रमुख (प्रशिक्षण और नियुक्ति) कुशल सेन ने कहा, 'पीपीओ हमारे लिए महत्वपूर्ण नहीं हैं। यह बी-स्कूलों के लिए महत्वपूर्ण होगा, जबकि हम अंतिम नियुक्ति को तबज्जो देते हैं। फिर भी, कोर अभियांत्रिकी और आई क्षेत्र की कंपनियों की ओर से 15-20 पीपीओ प्रस्ताव मिलने की उम्मीद है। बहरहाल आर्थिक मंदी का दौर का दौर खत्म हो चुका है, इसलिए बीते सालों की तुलना में अच्छे प्रस्ताव मिलना स्वाभाविक है।' पीपीओ के लिए परिदृश्य में सुधार इसलिए भी महत्वपूर्ण है क्योंकि वैश्विक मंदी ने आईआईटी और अन्य उच्च शिक्षण संस्थानों को बुरी तरह प्रभावित किया था। उस दौर में आईआईटी के कुछ छात्रों को कई बैंकिंग और फाइनेंस क्षेत्र से जुड़ी कंपनियों की ओर से 'खेद पत्र' मिले थे, तो कई कंपनियों ने प्रस्तावित वेतन में कमी कर दी थी।

प्रॉब्लम होने पर किच-किच नहीं क्लिक-क्लिक करेंगे छात्र

अविनाश चंद्र

नई दिल्ली। जामिया मिल्लिया इस्लामिया के छात्र जल्द ही अपनी किसी भी शैक्षणिक अथवा गैरशैक्षणिक समस्याओं के समाधान के लिए अधिकारियों के साथ किच-किच के बजाए कम्प्यूटर पर क्लिक-क्लिक करते नजर आएंगे। इतना ही नहीं वह घर अथवा होस्टल रूम में बैठे-बैठे सभी प्रकार के एप्लिकेशन व दस्तावेज संबंधित विभाग तक चुटकियों में पहुंचा सकेंगे। और तो और कम्प्यूटर पर छोटे से छोटे कार्यों के संपादन के लिए सीआईटी का मुह ताकने वाले अधिकारी व अध्यापक भी अब वेबसाइट पर सारी सूचनाएं स्वयं ही अपडेट करने में सक्षम हो सकेंगे। ऐसा संभव होगा जल्द ही लांच होने वाली जामिया की नई स्टूडेंट्स व यूजर फ्रेंडली वेबसाइट की सहायता से।

सूचना तकनीकी के युग में ऑनलाइन कामकाज की सहूलियत को देखते हुए डीयू, इग्नू व एनसीईआरटी की तर्ज पर अब जामिया मिल्लिया इस्लामिया भी जल्द ही नई वेबसाइट लांच करने वाला है। नई वेबसाइट जहां पुरानी वेबसाइट से कहीं अधिक यूजर फ्रेंडली होगी, वहीं अधिक इंटरैक्टिव भी होगी। छात्रों की सुविधा के लिए जहां ई-लर्निंग की भी व्यवस्था होगी, वहीं स्टूडेंट फोरम, कोर्स मैनेजमेंट

आदि की सुविधा भी उपलब्ध होगी।

एक अन्य बात जो जामिया की वेबसाइट को अन्य संस्थानों की वेबसाइटों से अलग करेगी, वह यह है कि इस पर दस्तावेज सबमिट करने की भी सुविधा होगी। छात्र अब अपरिहार्य परिस्थितियों में विश्वविद्यालय परिसर में गए बगैर ही एप्लिकेशन अथवा अन्य दस्तावेज सबमिट कर सकेंगे। नई

हो जाएगी बल्ले-बल्ले

► डीयू, इग्नू व एनसीईआरटी के बाद अब जामिया के पास भी होगी नई स्टूडेंट्स फ्रेंडली वेबसाइट
► नई वेबसाइट पर छात्रों के लिए मौजूद होगी ई-लर्निंग, डॉक्यूमेंट सबमिशन, कोर्स मैनेजमेंट व इंटेरेक्शन की सुविधा

वेबसाइट डेवलप करने में जुटे सेंटर फॉर इन्फॉर्मेशन टेक्नोलॉजी (सीआईटी) के अधिकारियों की मानें तो वेबसाइट पर कम्प्यूटर से कोई भी फाइल अथवा दस्तावेज ब्राऊज कर अपलोड करने की सुविधा होगी। इससे दाखिले आदि के दौरान यदि छात्रों से आवेदन पत्र के साथ दस्तावेज जमा कराने में चूक हो जाती है तो शहर के बाहर रहते हुए भी वह आवश्यक कागजात को विश्वविद्यालय प्रशासन

तक तत्काल पहुंचाने में सक्षम हो सकेगा। सीआईटी के निदेशक प्रो. जेडएच खान के मुताबिक, देरों खूबियों वाली यह नई वेबसाइट डेढ़ से दो महीने के भीतर लांच कर दी जाएगी। विदित हो कि दिनानुदिन हाईटेक हो रहे जामिया में इन दिनों कार्यालयी कामकाज में पारदर्शिता बरतने व तीव्रता लाने के लिए तमाम कदम उठाए जा रहे हैं। नई वेबसाइट के विकास को भी इसी योजना को मूर्त रूप देने की कड़ी के रूप में देखा जा रहा है।