

Newspaper Clips  
November 9, 2010

**Times of India ND**  
**09-Nov-10 p-12**

**IGNOU's Xlth year plan**

**Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) in the Eleventh Five-Year Plan Period (2007-2012), has embarked upon a large number of partnerships with and through Central and State Governments, and other government agencies. Almost all the schools of studies, institutes and a few regional centres of the University have effectively availed of these collaborations, announced Prof. V.N. Rajasekharan Pillai, VC, in the latest monthly publication 'Openletter' of the University.**

Times of India ND p-15  
09-Nov-10

# MPhils till mid-2009 exempt from NET

D Suresh Kumar | TNN

**Chennai:** In a major relief to thousands of MPhil degree holders aspiring for a lecturer's job, UGC has decided to exempt all candidates who obtained an MPhil degree on or before July 10, 2009 from clearing the tough-to-crack National Eligibility Test (NET). This was earlier required for appointment as a teacher in a college or university.

The decision, taken at the UGC's 472nd meeting recently, comes as a huge relief for scores of MPhil degree holders who stood disqualified for an assistant professor's post (earlier called lecturer) sans NET qualification. UGC had last year notified its new regulations about minimum qualifications for teachers. According to this, a pass in the NET was mandatory for appointment as assistant professors.

This regulation had sparked strong protests from a cross-section of the academic community and also led to multiple litigations in various high courts, including Madras High Court.

At the meeting, it was noted that the UGC Regulations of 2009/2010 "are prospective and not retrospective in nature", and therefore resolved that "all candidates having MPhil degree on or before July 10, 2009 shall remain exempted from the requirement of NET for the purpose of appointment as lecturer/assistant professor".

A copy of the minutes of the meeting furnished to a Delhi-based applicant under the RTI Act revealed that similar exemption shall be applicable to all candidates who have obtained a PhD degree on or before December 31, 2009. Candidates, who had registered themselves for PhD degree on or before July 10, 2009.

# **Times of India ND**

## **09-Nov-10 p-17**

### **Photos of moon taken by Chinese probe unveiled**

China on Monday unveiled photos taken by its lunar probe of the moon's Sinus Iridium, the area marked out for the nation's first landing, highlighting the success of the mission so far. The photos of the moon's surface, made public by premier Wen Jiabao, were taken at the end of last month by the Chang'e-2 unmanned probe.

Chang'e-2 was launched on October 1. The images of Sinus Iridium, also known as the Bay of Rainbows, show the surface is "quite flat" with craters and rocks of different sizes. The bay was formed by a massive impact billions of years ago.

### **World's oldest axe discovered:**

Archaeologists have discovered what they claim is the world's "oldest ground-edge stone tool" in northern Australia, dating back to 35,000 years ago. The discovery was made by an international team, led by Bruno David of Monash University, at Nawarla Gabarnmang in northern Australia, which is a rock-shelter in Jawoyn Aboriginal country in southwestern Arnhem Land. David said that while there have been reports of much older axes being found in New Guinea, the implements were not ground.

Times of India ND 09-Nov-10 p-17

# Keep laptops away from lap to protect sperm

**New York:** Using a laptop computer as the name suggests may not be good for male reproductive health, according to a study.

And there is little that can be done about it, aside from using the laptop on a desk, said Yelim Sheynkin, a urologist at the State University of New York at Stony Brook who led the study published in **Fertility and Sterility**. In

the study, thermometers were used to measure the temperature of the scrotums of 29 young men balancing a laptop on their knees. Even with a lap pad under the computer, the men's scrotums overheated quickly.

"Millions and millions of men are using laptops now, especially those in

the reproductive age range," said Sheynkin. "Within 10 or 15 minutes their scrotal temperature is already above what we consider safe, but they don't feel it," he added.

According to the American Urological Association, nearly one in six couples in the US have trouble conceiving. About half the time this is due to male infertility. Under normal

circumstances, the position of the testicles outside the body keeps them a few degrees cooler than the inside of the body, which is necessary for sperm production.

Earlier research has showed that warming the scrotum even more than 1°C is enough to damage sperm. REUTERS

---

**TECH TENSION**

---

# Now, crystals which trick you into weight loss

**London:** Struggling to shed the flab? Fret not. All you need to do is to smell scented crystals, say scientists who claim to have developed the new weight loss aid which tricks one into thinking that one is full.

The scented crystals, known as Sensa granules, aid weight loss by convincing the brain that the body does not need to eat. And, when scattered over food, the aroma of the crystals is enough to trick you into thinking you are full, even if you have only eaten a few morsels, say the scientists.



**INTELLIGENT FOOD**

The weight loss aid, which comes in several artificial flavours such as cheese, horse radish and coffee, is scheduled to be made available in Britain next year, British newspaper The Daily Telegraph reported. Six-month trials on more than 1,400 dieters resulted in an average weight loss of two stones by obese patients, and will be followed by a five-year study involving over 1,000 participants.

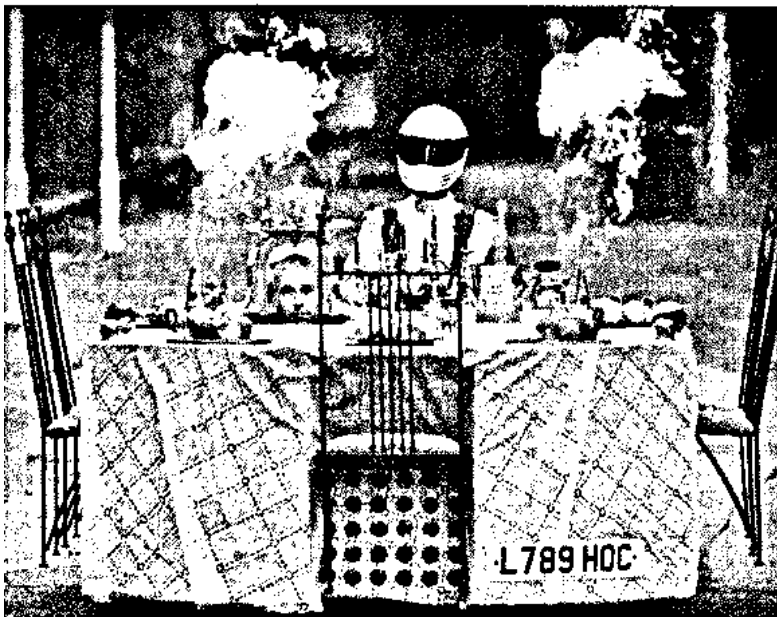
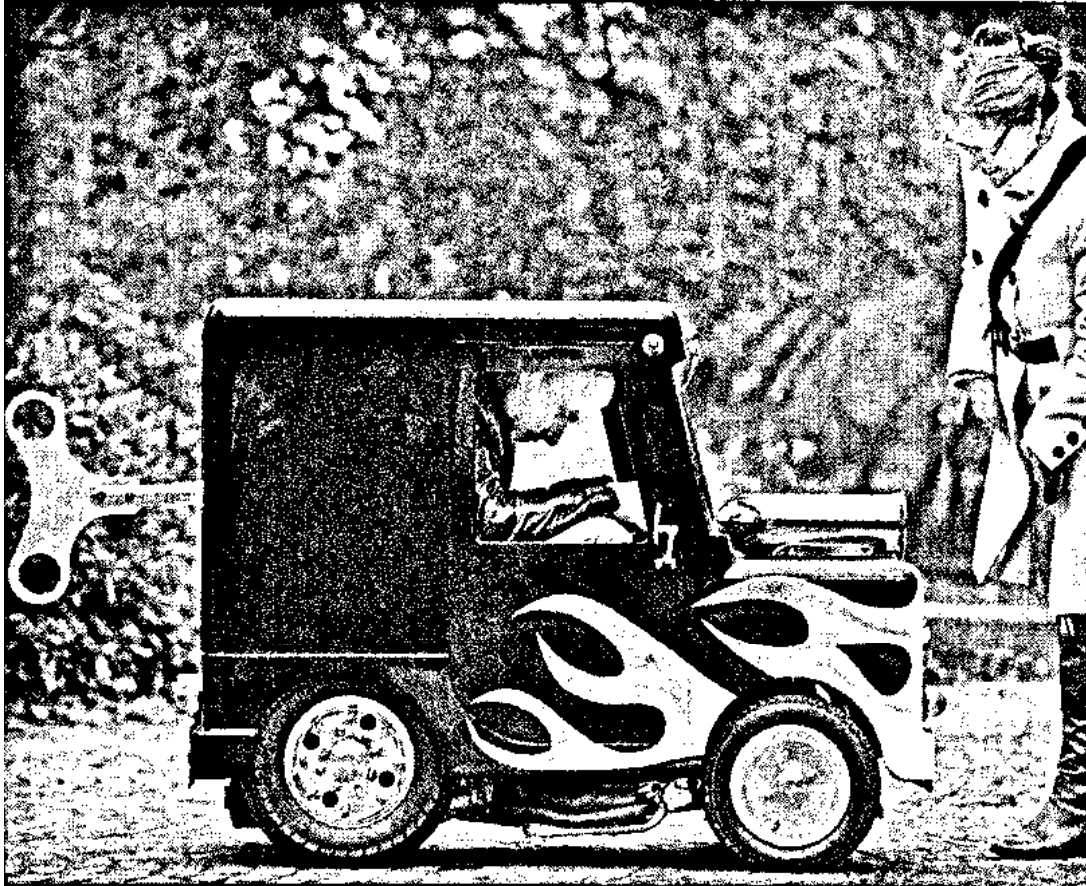
Alan Hirsch, the neurologist who developed the crystals, said the smell of food — which accounts for up to 90%

of the “taste” of food — can be used to trigger a “fullness” message in brain which then tells body it is full. The crystals are already available in health food shops in US and are being prepared for release in Canada, Mexico and Germany.

Experts claim the crystals could provide lasting health benefits. Dominic Dwyer, from Cardiff University, was quoted as saying, “A mouth-watering smell from food can simply make us eat more. This stuff would have to be very carefully used.” ❧

Times of India ND 09-Nov-10 p-17

## WHEELS OF REVOLUTION



**MARVELS ON ROAD:**  
A 'Wind Up' mini car in Essen, Germany. Measuring 41 inches in height, 51 inches in length and only 26 inches in width, it is listed in the Guinness book of records as the world's smallest car with a licence to drive on public streets. (L) 'Fast Food', a car designed as a mobile restaurant table. The vehicles will be showcased at the Essen motor show

**Times of India ND**  
**09-Nov-10 p-17**

# Mini 'Big Bang created in lab, may unravel cosmic mysteries

**London:** Researchers at the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) have succeeded in recreating the Big Bang on a miniature scale.

The Telegraph reports that the collisions were produced by firing lead ions – atoms with their electrons removed – at incredible speeds in opposite directions around the LHC's underground tunnel at Cern, the European Organization for Nuclear Research, near Geneva. The heavyweight particle collisions follow seven months of earlier experiments crashing protons – 200 times lighter than lead ions – at near-light speeds. The reaction created temperatures a million times hotter than the centre of the Sun, which have not been reached since the first billionths of a second following the Big Bang.

This was expected to cause atomic particles such as protons and neutrons to melt, producing a 'soup' of matter in a state previously unseen on Earth. Scientists, including British particle physicists, will now study the particles in the hope of discovering what holds atoms together and gives them their mass.

"The collisions generated mini Big Bangs and the highest temperatures and densities ever achieved in an experiment," David Evans, of Birmingham University, said. "At these temperatures even protons and neutrons, which make up the nuclei of atoms, melt resulting in a hot dense soup of quarks and gluons known as a Quark-Gluon Plasma," Evans said. "By studying this plasma, physicists hope to learn more about the Strong Force, one of the four fundamental forces of nature," he added. ANI

Times of India ND 09-Nov-10 p-22

# 'India can benefit from new-age technology of US'

Saurabh Sinha | TNN

**New Delhi:** Backing US President Barack Obama's call for enhancing access to Indian markets for US products, the American Chamber of Commerce (Amcham) on Monday said India exports much more to the US than it imports from there. "The balance of trade is in India's favour. We hope the President's visit and the big business delegate accompanying him will open more vistas for US companies," said Amcham chief Dinesh Keskar, who's also the head of Boeing India.

Obama had said in Mumbai: "Of all the goods that India imports, less than 10% comes from the US. Of all the goods America exports to the world less than 2% go to India." Amcham, which has 450 US companies as its member, is trying to implement Obama's



It will be a win-win situation for both, says Amcham chief Dinesh Keskar

vision which sees US exports doubling in next five years but sees a more rapid rise with India due to its 8-9% GDP growth.

"It's true that US will be able to generate jobs back home with more business but India stands to

gain from new-age technology. US has a lot to offer in areas like nuclear power, infrastructure, aviation and healthcare. It will be a win-win situation for both," Keskar said, said while talking of India's negative trade balance with US. "The only exception is when we deliver a aircraft, the balance of trade for that month shifts. Last year we delivered five Boeing 777s to Indian carriers in a month worth \$1 billion and that happened. But this is temporary."

Giving an example of type of cutting-edge technology US can offer, he spoke of Boeing 787 Dreamliner project. "This e-enabled aircraft will automatically relay any technical issue that may develop inflight to the base station and any place that the airline wants it to. By the time the plane lands, engineers will be ready to resolve that issue," he said.



Hindustan Times ND

09/11/2010

p-10

# India-US education summit next year

**Charu Sudan Kasturi**

■ charu.kasturi@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** India and the US will hold their first-ever higher education summit next year, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and US President Barack Obama announced at a joint press conference here on Monday.

*HT* reported on November 5 on the summit proposal that the two countries had been discussing as a takeaway of the Obama visit. The summit would witness top leaders of India and the US identify areas of cooperation and concerns for further strengthening of the relations in the sector.

Singh said: "No two other countries are better equipped to be partners in building the knowledge economy of the future."

Close to 100,000 Indian students are enrolled in higher educational institutions and research laboratories in the US.

Obama said the summit and the 21st Century Knowledge Initiative that was announced last November during Singh's US visit were key indicators of the strengthening of the India-US ties in the education sector.

The summit, likely to be held

**FIRST-EVER HIGHER EDUCATION MEET WILL IDENTIFY AREAS OF COOPERATION AND CONCERNS IN SECTOR**

in India, will be unique since independent lobby groups and institutions alone have so far held bilateral conferences on education, with official representatives as speakers at best.

The summit proposal that came from the US is likely to involve HRD minister Kapil Sibal and US secretary of state Hillary Clinton.

Sibal was part of the delegation-level talks between India and the US on Monday where the proposal was finalised.

The presence of presidents of several US universities in Obama's delegation has been interpreted as an indicator of the role the education sector would play in the India-US partnership initiative.

Presidents of the universities of Pennsylvania, Stanford and Cornell and representatives of universities of Boston, Arizona and Rutgers are members of the Obama delegation.

# Hindustan Times

## ND 09/11/2010

### **Writes of passage** p-12

Human resource development minister Kapil Sibal is set to become the first Indian education chief to write for the *Harvard International Review*, whose editors have requested Sibal to write for their magazine. Sibal, an alumnus of Harvard Law School, is understood to have agreed. Sibal, known to have a soft corner for his past academic associations, will be able to reconnect with his alma mater. National Book Trust chairman Bipan Chandra, who once taught Sibal, supposedly has easier access than most to the HRD minister and never tires of speaking about his former student.

Hindustan Times ND  
09/11/2010

p-11

# Tempting monsoon offer from US

Zia Haq

■ Zia.haq@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** American and Indian scientists will jointly predict next year's monsoon — the rainfall system that powers the Indian economy — under an ambitious weather forecast agreement signed on Monday.

The pact — first reported by Hindustan Times on November 2 and inked during delegation-level talks chaperoned by US President Barack Obama and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Monday — bolsters agricultural partnership between the two countries, which already spans key areas such as food security and climate impact.

The agreement, loosely called the Monsoon Mission, was signed by Shailesh Nayak, secretary in India's ministry of earth sciences, and Jane Lubchenco, administrator of the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The pact also includes setting up of an India-US "monsoon desk".

"We aim to enhance climate and crop forecasting to avoid losses that cripple communities and drive up food prices," Obama said in his address to members of both houses of Parliament on Monday.

A truant southwest monsoon has been a big worry for the Indian government, as 60% of the country's farmed areas remain outside its irrigation network and two-thirds of Indians depend on farm income.

"This is not about a ready-made transfer of any perfect weather forecasting model but about collaborating with the

## WHAT'S THE DEAL?

- The agreement, loosely called the Monsoon Mission, was signed by Shailesh Nayak, secretary in India's ministry of earth sciences, and Jane Lubchenco, administrator of the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

- The pact will boost agricultural ties between the two countries, which includes key areas such as food security and climate impact

- It also includes setting up of an India-US "monsoon desk".

US to develop one that will work for us. We are excited about this," Indian Met department chief Ajit Tyagi said.

A monsoon changing course suddenly or stalling mid-way has been hurting farmers and forcing additional government spending to offset losses.

While the US has committed \$100,000 (about ₹ 43 lakh) annually towards the project, India's share will be \$480,000 (about ₹ 2.4 crore) a year over the next five years.

India homed in on the US model, called Couple Forecasting System, for two reasons.

One, it combines oceanography and atmospheric sciences, unlike the Indian model that relies on the former.

Two, scientists feel the US model can be better experimented for India's needs.

Tyagi feels the monsoon was of interest to the Americans too because all weather systems lasting beyond a month, such as the Indian monsoon, had implications for them.

Hindustan Times ND 09/11/2010 p-25

# India, US talk education links

## UNIVERSITY TIES Legal changes needed



HT Correspondent  
 ■ letters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** India and the US eyed stronger partnership in education and innovation - two critical areas in powering high economic growth in both countries — as President Barack Obama's key aides talked shop with policymakers here at the business sessions marking the US leader's visit.

"What India needs is to create the kind of climate that universities in the US have, that breeds innovation," deputy chairman of the Planning Commission Montek Singh Ahluwalia said. "Achieving that will require working harder and altering the prevailing laws a little bit. While we are grappling with what flexibilities an institution requires, we can look to the US to guide us."

He mentioned the US model of using private non-profit universities as critical.

"The majority of top education institutions in the US are private and I do not think there is any other place in the world where private institutions exist in such large numbers," said Robert Brown, president, Boston University. "The challenge before India today is to create a large number of quality higher education institutions that are capable to meet the demand for qualified professionals."

Though small, India's private education market is attracting US interest.

"We very much appreciate the opening of multi brand retail sector but opening of FDI (foreign direct investment) in the Indian education sector will also hold immense potential," said Ron Somers, President, US-India



■ From left: HDFC chairman Deepak Parekh, Reliance Industries chairman Mukesh Ambani and Tata Group chairman Ratan Tata at Hyderabad House after a luncheon meeting with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and President Barack Obama in New Delhi on Monday.

HIPHOTO/ T. NARAYAN

What India needs is to create the kind of climate that universities in the United States have that breeds innovation

MONTEK SINGH  
 AHLUWALIA

Business Council (USIBC). "India needs to build 30,000 new colleges in the next five years and build 1,500 new universities. US and India could work together in higher education to build global workforce of tomorrow."

However, Somers underlined that the process would be lengthy as US needed to pass

enabling laws. Speaking at another session on innovation, Sam Pitroda, advisor to the Prime Minister on public information infrastructure and innovations, said there were schemes such as the Unique Identification (UID) project in which India had emulated the US and a \$1-billion (₹ 4,400 crore) fund to promote new ideas for inclusive development and innovation.

The fund is aimed to be raised through public private partnership model.

"It's early to talk about the fund as we are still working on it. We have identified 20 leading innovator czars and are writing letters to invite them for a conference," Pitroda said.

**Business Line ND**  
**09/11/2010 P21**

## **IIM-C golden jubilee fete from Nov 14**

### **Our Bureau**

*Kolkata, Nov. 8*

Indian Institute of Management-Calcutta, the country's first premier management institute, will celebrate golden jubilee with a three-day event starting on November 14, according to an IIM-C release.

The Union Minister of State for Human Resource Development, Ms Pundeshwari, will be the chief guest at the inaugural function while Mr M.K. Narayanan, Governor of West Bengal, will be chief guest at the concluding session, the release added.

### **CONVENTION**

There will be two-day convention on management education on November 14 and 15 to be attended by the Directors of all IIMs and renowned management schools within the country and outside, noted academicians and industry leaders, IIM-C professors and alumni.

Business Line ND 09/11/2010 P3

# Clean energy: \$50-m R&D centre soon

## Our Bureau

New Delhi, Nov. 8

Ahead of the Cancun climate summit, the US and India have decided to collaborate on developing clean energy technologies. They will jointly set up a clean energy research and development centre in India by investing \$50 million over five years.

## ALTERNATIVE ENERGY

India is looking at alternative sources of energy to plug gaps in its supply and demand for electricity which lead to frequent power cuts.

This is where the US expertise in the renewable sector, especially solar, will help as it would bring down the cost of production. The high cost of solar modules is impeding the take-off of solar technologies

in India.

"We agreed to deepen our co-operation in pursuit of clean energy technologies, including the creation of a new clean energy research centre here in India, and continuing our joint research into solar, bio-fuels, shale gas and building efficiency," said the US President, Mr Barack Obama, at a press conference.

Collaboration with the US will provide a further impetus to India's clean energy programmes such as the National Solar Mission, which the country has initiated as part of its efforts to reduce green house gas emissions by 20-25 per cent by 2020 over the 2005 levels.

## FUNDS

In fact, India has already started building a corpus of around

\$600 million a year for the National Clean Energy Fund by levying a cess of Rs 50 per tonne on coal domestically produced.

"Compared to the Clean Energy Fund, the joint investment in the R&D centre is peanuts. If the Government was serious about this, we should have pushed the US for putting more money on the table," said Mr Chandra Bhushan, Associate Director at Centre for Science and Environment.

Currently, over two-thirds of the country's electricity needs are met from the polluting fossil fuel sources such as coal and liquid fuel. Electricity generation from nuclear and renewable sources such as hydro-electric and wind energy account for the rest.

Business Line ND 09/11/2010

P10

# Removal of export sanction comes late

## It will not make a big difference to ISRO, say space officials

### NEWS ANALYSIS

**Madhumathi D.S.**  
Bangalore, Nov. 8

Does Mr Barack Obama's gracious promise of removing export sanctions on Indian organisations or 'entities' come too late for the four ISRO centres that are on that list for between 12 and 20 years?

It appears so, from early reactions of people who have been in the Department of Space through the tumultuous nineties.

Now that Mr Obama has said the sanctions will be removed, at the news conference and in his address to Parliament, it is a matter of time and paperwork before his officials formally scratch the Indian names from the US Bureau of Industry and Security's blacklist.

When a company or organisation is named an 'entity', it makes it next to impossible for it to import components from US companies.

ISRO officials, past and pre-

sent, were not elated. Some implied that this amounted to tokenism, though it was welcome. Embargo or not, the refrain was: Lifting of sanctions will not make a big difference to ISRO. "Rather, it would benefit US exporters."

The real big news for ISRO and its commercial arm, Antrix Corporation, they said, will be when the US allows ISRO to launch bigger commercial satellites made in the US or carrying US components. For that, the two governments are said to be readying the CSLA (Commercial Space Launch Agreement). But Mr Obama was silent on the CLSA. Small scientific satellites of a few kilos are allowed selectively now.

"In 20 years, our programmes have not at all been affected (for want of devices). Our centres have been managing so well without US components all these years, either by sourcing internally or from Europe and other countries," said one former high-ranking official who did not wish to be

### Listed since 1998

Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre,  
Thiruvananthapuram  
Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre, Mahendragiri  
Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota  
Solid Propellant Rocket Boosting Plant.

named. "Yes, these can now be significantly cheaper as US components are cheaper than elsewhere."

The ISRO Chairman and DoS Secretary, Dr K. Radhakrishnan, was in Delhi on Monday but sources said he would not sign any agreements; all space-related issues during the Obama visit were handled at "very high levels" — the PMO and the External Affairs Ministry levels.

Since the nation conducted the nuclear tests in May 1998, four centres connected with the launch vehicle development programme are on the US watch list: Rocket making centres Vikram Sarabhai

Space Centre Thiruvananthapuram; Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre, Mahendragiri; satellite launching centre the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota; and the SDSC unit, the less known Solid Propellant Rocket Boosting Plant (SPROB). Some of them have been on the list since 1993.

Some eight to 10 units of the Defence Research and Development Organisation, the Atomic Energy Department and Bharat Dynamics Ltd were also on the sanctions list.

For their communications and Earth observation satellites, ISRO centres frequently need to import dozens of crystal oscillators that generate radio frequencies per satellite.

A satellite may use up to 30-40 travelling wave tubes (TWTs) to boost the RF signals and the equipment may now be bought at Rs 1 crore apiece instead of Rs 1.25-1.5 crore.

There is also a need for microprocessors and memory devices for satellites and

launch vehicles. Umpt electronic components are so sourced from outside.

Technically, as IS speeds up its program with more satellites launches each year, the lift of sanctions or curbs on IS centres should smoothen port of components from suppliers — now may be launch vehicles too, said former official. The launch hicle programme is almost tirely indigenous.

Indo-US space cooperat the official said, had been fectly demonstrated du the 2008-09 lunar mis Chandrayaan-1 when N. had put five experiment: the Indian orbiter.

It made sense cost-wise US space industry is the r developed and signific offered cheaper compon than European sources.

Explaining imports, th ficial said, "These cor nents are used in s numbers. Hence we ca expect the local industry t vest to make them."

# Business Line ND

09/11/2010

P10

## Duke University mulls India foray

*New Delhi, Nov. 8*

The Duke University is looking to enter the Indian education sector for which it is currently holding negotiations with some domestic institutions to offer courses here, according to the consultancy adviser to the US-based varsity. Albright Stonebridge, which provides consultancy services to the Duke University, said the institution is keen to tap the higher education sector in India. "Many of our clients are looking at India. One of the interesting area is higher education where our client Duke University is interested," Albright Stonebridge Senior Director, Mr Raymond E. Vickery, told PTI here. As currently, no foreign universities are allowed to set up campus here, Duke is looking at tying up with some domestic institutions to start some courses, he added. Mr Vickery said the Bill to permit foreign universities to set up campuses in India is very crucial and uncertainties over its passage in Parliament is delaying the process. —

**PTI**



Indian Express  
ND 09/11/2010  
P-4



## India, US to hold annual education summit

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 8

BEGINNING 2011, India and the US will hold annual summits to enhance collaboration in higher education. The first such summit, it will be headed by HRD Minister Kapil Sibal and US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

The summit will see members of the academia, industry, government and other stakeholders from the two nations discuss a range of issues related to education, sources said, adding the details are yet to be worked out.

"We have decided to hold a Higher Education Summit next year. Cooperation in the education sector holds a great promise because no two other countries are better equipped to be partners in building the knowledge economy of the future," Prime Minister Manmohan Singh told his joint press conference with US President Barack Obama.

The White House, in a statement, said "the US and India have agreed to convene a summit on higher education... to highlight and emphasize the many avenues through which the higher education communities in the US and India collaborate".

The summit follows a series of meetings between Sibal and American leaders. Sibal visited the US twice in the last year and interacted with the various stakeholders, from academic leaders to industry representatives. The series of education reforms being initiated in India have also generated interest in the US.

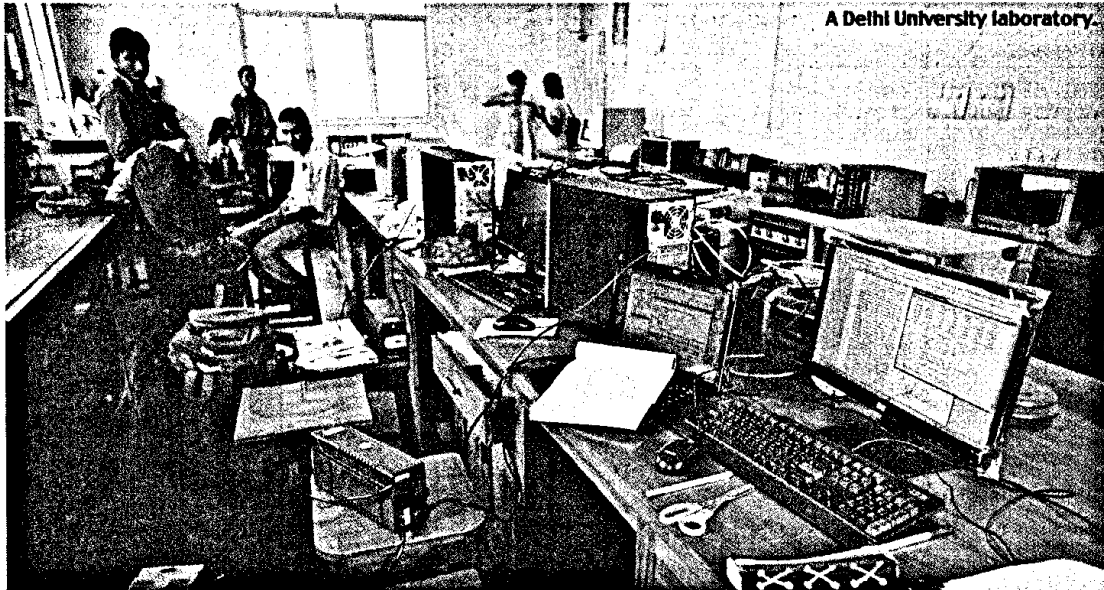
In fact, Obama's delegation included representatives from Boston, Cornell, Stanford, Pennsylvania universities and Arizona State University, which indicates the level of interest of the US institutes in the Indian education sector.

Yale University last month signed an MoU with IIT-Kanpur and IIM-Kozhikode to launch the India-Yale University Leadership Programme while VIRGINIA Tech and Georgetown University, among others, are working on plans to set up campuses in India and tie-up with Indian institutes.

The White House also said that Prime Minister Singh and President Obama have agreed that India and the US will continue their existing education cooperation that includes the US-India Education Dialogue, the Obama-Singh 21st Century Knowledge Initiative and the Women's Empowerment Dialogue.

Apart from these initiatives, 40 per cent increase in the funding for Fulbright-Nehru fellowship and a new skill development programme are also on the anvil.

The US has also initiated a pilot community college program linking Montgomery College with 3 technical institutes in India. The initiative aims to better align programming including curricula, student support services and internships to the actual needs of local businesses.



By **Ritika Chopra** in New Delhi

**THERE'S** a glimmer of hope for Delhi University's (DU) science students.

Laboratory experiments of the Physics departments will soon be back on track as the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) has finally initiated the process of lifting the ban it imposed on DU for the use of radioactive sources.

A team of three AERB members visited the university recently in a bid to inspect all science departments which require radioactive resources. The inspection, which was conducted on November 1 and 2, happened just two days after Dinesh Singh took charge as the institution's new vice-chancellor.

"Yes, an AERB team was here for a regulatory check. They visited both the north and the south campus. We are in touch with them constantly and are hopeful that the ban will be lifted soon," Singh said.

"The three officers checked all 10 science departments, including Physics, Chemistry, Zoology, Anthropology, Botany, Genetics, Bio-chemistry and Bio-physics. The purpose of the inspection was to see how many radioactive sources the university actually has and how many out of these we really need for experiments," a source said.

AERB — the country's nuclear watchdog — had withdrawn permission to DU to use any radioactive source in its laboratories about two months ago as it had

# N-watchdog starts process to lift DU ban

failed to submit its final reply on the radiation exposure incident at Mayapuri scrapyard in Delhi within the stipulated period.

The university's irresponsible auction of a gamma cell irradiator carrying highly radioactive Cobalt-60 from its Chemistry laboratory to scrap dealers in Mayapuri had led to the death of one person and injuries to 10 others in April.

The subsequent ban on radioactive experiments has crippled laboratory work of especially two DU programmes — namely MTech in Nuclear Science and Technology and MSc in Physics (nuclear science).

"The final year students of the two courses have managed to complete their practical curriculum for the first semester at the Inter University Accelerator Centre in Vasant Kunj. But around 300 first-year students haven't conducted a

single experiment based on radioactive sources since the new session started," a Nuclear Physics teacher said.

The plight of the students finally saw some action on DU's part in October, as a two-member team comprising chemistry department head A.K. Bakshi and registrar R.K. Sinha met AERB officers in Mumbai on October 8 to convince them to lift the ban.

While the AERB visit has definitely made the university hopeful, the board has some conditions.

"All departments have to send a detailed report on their stock of radioactive sources to the board. AERB also wants DU to appoint a radiation safety officer as soon as possible. The university has to return sources that it does not require and for this we need a certified radiation safety officer," the source added.

*ritika.chopra@mailtooday.in*

Pioneer ND 09/11/2010

p-7

# Official India-US higher education summit next year

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

India and the US agreed to hold the first ever official higher education summit next year. This is considered a major deliverable from US President Barack Obama's visit that is expected to further galvanise their ties in the sector. The announcement to this effect was made by PM Manmohan Singh and President Obama on Monday.

The tone was set at the joint Press conference in Hyderabad House itself, when the Prime Minister said, "Cooperation in the field of education holds great promise because no two other countries are better equipped to be partners in building the knowledge economy of the future."

Obama reciprocated, saying the summit and the Singh-Obama 21st Century Knowledge Initiative which the two leaders announced last

November during Singh's visit to the US, were key indicators of the deepening Indo-US ties in education.

According to well-placed sources, both Singh and Obama have emphasised the need to focus on collaboration in education as a key component of the Indo-US partnership which both leaders have defined as one of the "defining partnerships of the 21st century."



HRD minister Kapil Sibal had participated in the delegation level talks at Hyderabad House where the proposal for the higher education summit was finalised. The delegation accompanying Obama has several US University presidents including those from the Universities of Pennsylvania, Stanford, Cornell besides senior representatives from Boston University, Arizona State University and Rutgers University.

Economic Times ND 09/11/2010

p-13

# Indian IT to battle foreign cos over \$12-billion opportunity

## Acid Test For Domestic Tech Majors Coming Up Next Year

Our Bureaux

BANGALORE | MUMBAI | NEW DELHI

**I**NDIAN technology vendors will lock horns with multinational rivals IBM, Accenture and Hewitt to gain a share of the back-office outsourcing contracts worth \$12.2 billion, set to expire next year. According to Jens Butler, principal analyst at Ovum, Microsoft's \$200 million credit and collection services deal with Accenture and Canadian brewer Molson's over \$60-million BPO contract with H-P are among the top contracts where existing vendors will face a bidding war from challengers in 2011.

"While recovery from recession is likely to continue at a slow pace, the way the BPO market will address the changing needs and desires of potential customers will be more rapid," said Patrick O'Brien, principal analyst at Ovum. "Outsourcing back-office processes were once seen as radical, aggressive move based entirely on Indian labour arbitrage. But the market has become more complex and nuanced," he says.

As top outsourcing customers come out of recession, they are increasingly pushing to give more work to fewer vendors at lesser rates. And to put pressure on existing vendors, these customers are asking them to bid against aggressive challengers, who are ready to offer discounts for gaining an entry.

Ovum has details of 207 BPO deals — or IT service deals with a BPO component — that will expire in 2011, to-



talling \$12.2 billion in contract value. This is up by 15% over the \$10.6 billion value of the 201 contracts that were due to expire in 2010. However, unlike IT services contracts where customers can switch vendors frequently, BPO deals are difficult to rejig. "Disengagement in BPO is tougher than in IT deals. It takes six to nine months for a process to stabilise in a BPO transaction," says Pramod Bhasin, president and CEO of Genpact, which counts GE among its top clients.

Ovum says the largest opportunities in expiring contracts are in the manufacturing (31% of total contract value) and banking (24%) industries. Telecommunications (6%), as well as both local (9%) and central government (6%) also represent significant opportunities.

"The competitive landscape has

## Behind the back-office

### • Bigger Deal Value

207 BPO deals will expire in 2011 totalling \$12.2 billion in contract value. This is up by 15% over the \$10.6 billion value of the 201 contracts that were due to expire in 2010.

### • Fewer vendors

As top outsourcing customers come out of recession, they are increasingly pushing to give more work to fewer vendors at lesser rates.

changed dramatically and the capabilities of vendors have improved while more locations are positioning themselves for BPO work, opening up new low-cost possibilities in multiple languages," said O'Brien of Ovum.

Meanwhile, outsourcing advisory firm TPI also says customers are opting to restructure some contracts even ahead of expiry dates. Restructuring, which include renegotiations, renewals and extensions of outsourcing contracts, represented 48% of the global market for the September quarter and have been a key factor influencing results across the industry year to date, TPI added.

Large IT services vendors including IBM, TCS, Infosys and Wipro are able to bundle a software application development project with BPO and seek more work at lesser rates.

Economic Times ND 09/11/2010

p-4

# Knowledge Power: Higher education summit next yr

Our Political Bureau

NEW DELHI

**E**ducation continues to be an important area of cooperation for India and the United States. On Monday, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and US President Barack Obama announced the decision to host a higher education summit next year.

"Building on our successful efforts to expand educational exchanges, including our Singh-Obama 21st Century Knowledge Initiative, we'll convene a summit to forge new collaborations in higher education," US President Barack Obama said in his opening statement at the joint press conference.

The summit chaired by HRD minister Kapil Sibal and US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton will bring together top education leaders from both countries to discuss areas of cooperation and concerns. The summit is part of the US-India Cooperation on Education agreed to last November during Prime Minister Singh's state visit to the US. The co-operation includes three initiatives—enhanced India-US strategic partnership in education, Fulbright-Nehru Fellowship Expansion and the Obama-Singh 21st Century Knowledge Initiative.

Progress on the education initiatives has been slow. Senior HRD officials have attributed the

delays to putting a legal framework in place. Parliament is yet to pass the foreign education providers bill which will make it possible for foreign education institutions to set up campuses in India. It is clear that top drawer institutions are unlikely to set up campuses in India, but Indian institutions can expect greater faculty and student exchange and interaction as well as collaborative research.

During his recent visit to India, Yale president Richard C Levin had said that his university would not be setting up campus in this country. A fact reiterated by his counterparts in Ivy league universities like Cornell. Experts say that once the legal framework for educational reforms are in place, there could be greater interaction among universities.

India-US education summits led by institutions and associations have been held in the past, but Monday's announcement is the first time that governments of the two countries will hold summit level talks on education. Both Prime Minister Singh and President Obama have emphasised the need to focus on collaboration in education as a key component of the Indo-US partnership which both leaders have defined as one of the "defining partnerships of the 21st century."

The summit is aimed at providing greater momentum to reforms that can facilitate further deepening of ties in the sector.

# Economic Times ND

## 09/11/2010 p-11

### **Private investment must in higher education: Montek**

**NEW DELHI:** The Planning Commission on Monday advocated a larger role for private sector in education, particularly higher education, as public resources are not enough to meet the requirement. "With this kind of economic growth, the public resources would not be enough to meet the expanding demand for higher education in the country and private investment is needed," Plan panel deputy chairman Montek Singh Ahluwalia said at a CII summit. He said the country should focus on expanding the existing educational infrastructure to better serve the needs of the country. The government is in the process of setting up 14 innovation universities, he said adding that the charter will be rewritten for these universities giving them the desired flexibility and resources to impart knowledge at international standards. "There is also the need to provide the existing universities with greater flexibility," he said, adding that a sustained policy was needed for the sector. — Our Bureau

# Product cos wilt as IT buy favours majors

## Indian Government Should Mark A Part Of Tech Spend For Start-Ups

Pankaj Mishra  
BANGALORE

**S**TRUGGLING to grow in the shadows of the much larger software services companies, India's emerging product firms are finding that the biggest buyer of technology products and services — the government — is still following a procurement policy that favours bigger vendors with proven track-record.

Unlike in countries such as the UK, where the government wants small and medium businesses (SMB) to account for a quarter of the IT spending by public sector organisations, many Indian start-ups cannot even bid for government technology contracts despite having relevant, and at times, better solutions.

"We will have to earmark projects which can be handled by smaller companies — we must set something apart for them to grow," says NR Narayana Murthy, chairman and founder of Infosys Technologies. Countries like China, for instance, made it mandatory for most of the local telecom equipment demand to be met by companies such as Huawei Technologies.

"If you can't get us to sell in India, how do you expect us to become successful global firms," asks Sanjay Nayak, CEO of Tejas Networks which competes with much bigger Chinese rivals like Huawei and ZTE apart from with European telecom equipment vendors such as Ericsson.

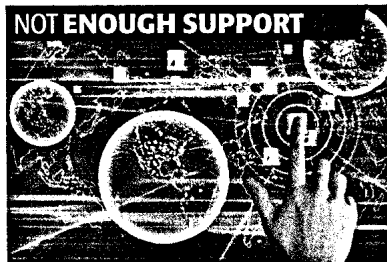
Unlike software firms that are able to bid for and even win smaller projects, emerging companies in sectors such as telecom face several challenges. For them to compete as one of the lowest-priced bidders, they need assurance on volume so that economies of scale can help them offer products at competitive prices. "This is a huge handicap for us," says Nayak.

China, for one, has helped emerging companies such as Huawei and ZTE not only become the biggest local supplier, but even top global vendors, through billions of dollars in grants. On the other hand, Indian product firms such as Tejas have to go through a long, slow burn, before even getting considered for a large order.

"The country needs to nurture local product companies and this can be done by allocating a certain percentage of demand for smaller, emerging firms with innovative solutions," adds Nayak.

For companies like Tejas, addressing the \$125-billion market for electronic and hardware products in India by 2014 is a huge opportunity. But it still needs substantial changes in government policy to ensure that most of it does not go to bigger Chinese and European rivals.

Government officials say while they would be more than willing to consider smaller firms but the current procurement norms do not allow eli-



### Locally Wobbly

Indian start-ups cannot even bid for government technology contracts despite having relevant, and at times, better solutions

On the other hand, UK wants small and medium businesses to account for a quarter of the IT spending by public sector organisations

China, for instance, made it mandatory for most of the local telecom equipment demand to be met by companies such as Huawei Technologies



**Without even wanting to do it, India actually killed its hardware industry many years ago because of restrictive policies and lack of support — we should not repeat that**

NR NARAYANA MURTHY CHAIRMAN, INFOSYS

gibility for companies without any track record.

"For us to trust a start-up with say revenues of Rs 50-100 crore for a Rs 1,000-crore-plus project will be a big leap of faith, and something too risky," said a government official involved with IT purchasing decisions. He requested anonymity.

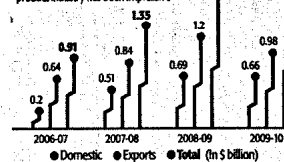
However, countries like China have created behemoths out of telecom equipment firms like Huawei by taking such leap of faith. When Huawei and ZTE wanted to go global, China offered them \$35 billion line of credit. "With that kind of a war-chest, they have been able to aggressively tap into growing markets like India," says Nayak.

E-governance and defence verticals were expected to generate about \$1.2 billion of software sales and Indian software firms were expecting to get a sizeable share of this spend. However, with majority of the mission-mode projects setting higher qualification criteria in terms of turnover or number of deployments, many first-time software product vendors are recognising that entry is difficult and sales cycles are longer than they expected.

Citing example of how France helped its smaller software companies three decades ago, Mr Murthy said India needs to learn from China, Brazil and France. "During the early 1970s, France awarded a global tender for a

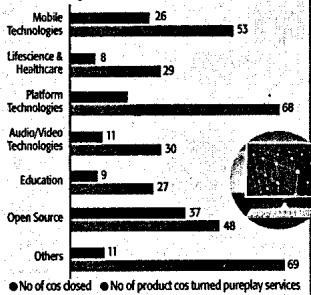
### Product Paradigm

The growth of the Indian software product industry has been impressive



### ...But There Have Been Blips

'09-10 Saw High Exits From The Software Product Space



Source: Browne & Mohan, IDC

while the combined revenue of many other companies has slipped, research by a Bangalore-based firm shows.

In the past few years and months, none of the Indian products have made it as big examples raising questions about whether the country with around 3 million software code jockeys can actually create a successful product out of India.

From around \$1.89 billion in revenues during 2008-2009, the Indian product firms' revenues fell to \$1.64 billion during year ended March 2010, says Browne & Mohan, which analysed 418 top product companies across Chennai, Bangalore, Pune, Delhi, Thiruvananthapuram, Bhubaneswar, Chandigarh, Ahmedabad and Hyderabad.

Apart from government support for getting business, India also needs to increase its spend on research and development. China, for instance, offers R&D grants worth anywhere between \$100-\$700 million.

Even while making a case for the government to allocate certain projects for smaller firms, Mr Narayana Murthy says it needs to be done with caution. "There is always a tendency among entrepreneurs to take advantage of any SME benefits by launching more companies — we cannot have people having multiple smaller companies," he says.

Product firms across sectors like life sciences, telecom, education and other areas saw their revenues dip by 15% during the financial year to March 2010, as large multinational rivals such as IBM and storage vendor, EMC, increased their share of the domestic market and the growing e-governance industry failed to encourage smaller vendors to bid for big contracts. "Without even wanting to do it, India actually killed its hardware industry many years ago because of restrictive policies and lack of support — we should not repeat that," says Mr Murthy.

huge contract to an American company but said every project team should have at least one member from a local French IT firm," he recalls.

Experts such as Parit Natarajan of advisory firm Zinnov Management Consulting say India has been lagging other countries in building an ecosystem for local innovative companies. "There is no focus or vision on improving the start-up ecosystem within the government. Small countries such as Chile, with a limited talent pool and market, have better policies to support start-ups compared to India," says Natarajan. "Tax structure for software-as-a-service based products is still not clear. Is it being considered a service or a product? The tax structure is different for both in India at this point," he adds.

Software products are designed to be used by multiple customers, either businesses or consumers. They typically carry intellectual property that creates higher value compared to software services, which caters to a limited clientele, but forms the bulk of India's \$50-billion software industry.

Indian software product companies struggled once again to keep their heads above water in the fiscal year 2010, highlighting the unforgiving environment that crushes aspirations, forcing either a shutdown of operations or a switch to a focus on services.

Nearly 100 software product start-ups downed their shutters last year,

Tribune ND 09/11/2010 p-2

# India, US ink key health and education pacts

- Global Disease Detection Centre to come up in India with US help
- Indo-US higher education summit next year to forge collaborations

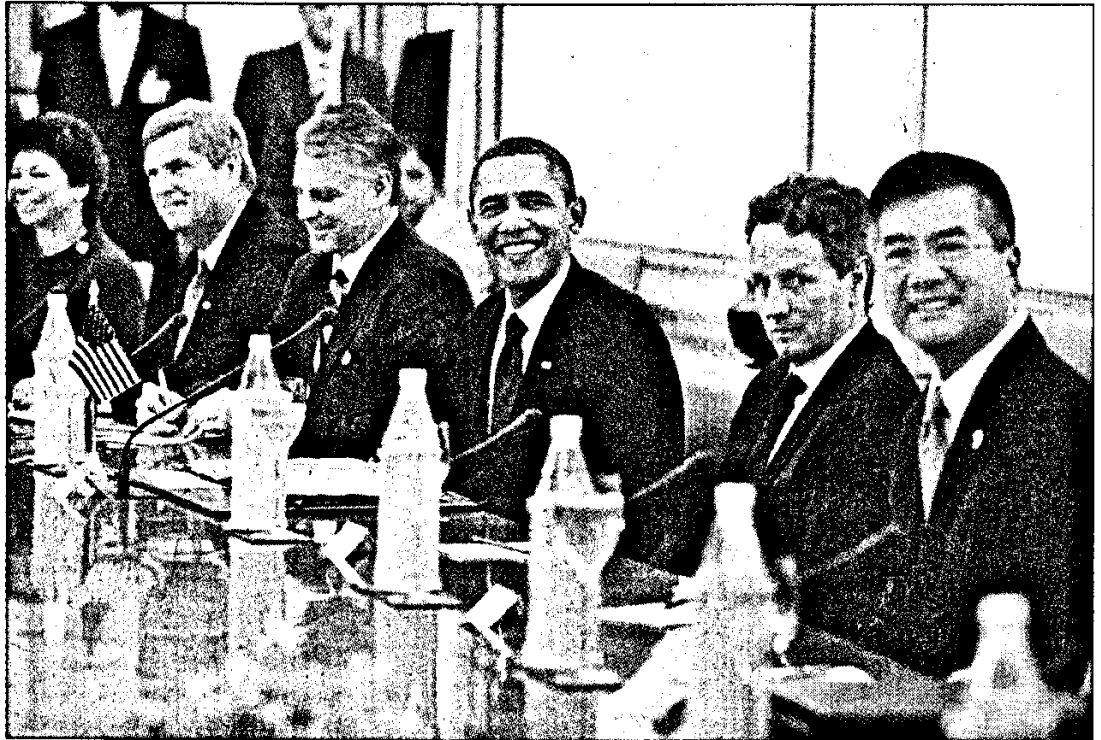
ADITI TANDON  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 8

A promise to help India battle old and emerging infections and another of forging collaborations in higher education were the high points of US President Barack Obama's India visit, which today saw two key pacts being inked in the sectors.

On the health front, Obama and PM Manmohan Singh announced the setting up of the Global Disease Detection India Centre to come up under the MoU between the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), Delhi, and the Centre for Disease Control (CDC), Atlanta. The Tribune was the first to report the inking of this MoU between the two sides.

On the education front, the two sides committed themselves to a higher education summit in New Delhi next year to develop "collaborations" in the area. Importantly, Obama, even in his address to the Members of Parliament this evening, referred specifically to the Indo-US partnerships in



US President Barack Obama with members of his delegation during a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in New Delhi on Monday. — Reuters

health and education sectors.

Parliamentarians in attendance, he promised to keep supporting India's efforts against tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS, besides contributing to global health by preventing the spread of pandemic flu.

The US President also proclaimed from the Central Hall of Parliament the significance of knowledge society and the need for India and the US to forge exchanges between students, colleges and universities, which he described as "the best in the

world", underlining the emergence of the two nations as equal partners.

A joint working group under the Singh-Obama initiative was set up today to work out the modalities of higher education summit next year.

In the health sector, the MoU between the NCDC and the CDC, Atlanta, will be valid for five years and will involve sharing of research and technical expertise in public health to develop human resources, both in epidemiology and laboratory.

## Team up for evergreen revolution

VIBHA SHARMA/TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 8

India and the US today launched a joint initiative for an 'Evergreen Revolution' in agriculture to promote food security across the world. As part of the food security initiative, India's expertise in agriculture sector will be shared with farmers in Africa. An agreement was also reached between the two nations for cooperation on forecast of monsoon, the most crucial weather feature for a good crop.

The pact promises to help Indian farmers save water, increase productivity; improve food processing so that crops don't spoil on way to the market; enhance climate, crop forecasting to avoid losses, prices to go up; improve forecasting systems in India before the next monsoon.



Tribune ND 09/11/2010 p-12

# Canadian varsities to woo Indian students

**GURMUKH SINGH**

**TORONTO:** Presidents of 15 Canadian universities embark on a seven-day mission to India today to woo students from the second fastest growing nation in the world.

It is the biggest mission to India by Canadian educational institutions after the two countries signed a memorandum of understanding on higher education during Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's visit in June.

Though more than 150,000 Indian students go abroad for higher education each year, Canada gets only about 3,000 annually. Thus, Indian students account for a fraction of more than 90,000 for-

eign students who enrolled in Canadian universities last year.

With foreign students paying more than \$15,000 in fees each and collectively pumping more than \$6.5 billion into the economy, Canada is looking to a big jump in enrollment from India.

Organised by the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC), the Canadian education mission will travel to Pune and Delhi for meetings with educational institutions, the private sector and administrators to usher in new era in ties in this sector between the two nations.

Its major engagements in India include a roundtable with Indian university presidents, which will also be attended by Human

Resource Development (HRD) Minister Kapil Sibal and his Canadian counterpart Gary Goodyear. The mission will also participate in the higher education summit being organised by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).

"This mission is a way for us to get to know India and its needs more deeply — and to make sure that when Indians think of research and higher education, they think of us," said AUCC president Paul Davidson before the mission's departure for India.

"Educators and business people in India need to know that Canadian universities are open to building successful partnerships that will enrich experiences for

students, strengthen links between our countries and advance international research collaboration," he said. — IANS

## ADMISSION DEADLINE

From now, more information on Admission Deadline will be available online. Please visit *The Tribune* website at [www.tribuneindia.com](http://www.tribuneindia.com) and click on "Education" in the "Weekly Specials" section to get details.

— Pervin Malhotra,

[www.careerguidanceindia.com](http://www.careerguidanceindia.com)

Hamara Mahanagar ND 09/11/2010 P1

# माइक्रोसॉफ्ट देगा डीयू छात्रों को मुफ्त ई-शिक्षा

महानगर संवाददाता

नई दिल्ली

दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय ने माइक्रोसॉफ्ट के साथ मिलकर डीयू के कॉलेजों में शिक्षकों और छात्रों को डिजिटल क्षमताओं से लैस करने के लिए डिजिटल लर्निंग पाठ्यक्रम लांच किया।

छात्र इस पाठ्यक्रम को पूरा करने के बाद ऑनलाइन परीक्षा दे सकते हैं। परीक्षा उत्तीर्ण करने के बाद उन्हें आईएलएलएल-डीयू माइक्रोसॉफ्ट डिजिटल लिटरेसी सर्टिफिकेट दिया जाएगा। दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय के वाइस चांसलर

प्रोफेसर दिनेश सिंह का कहना है कि हाल के समय में टेक्नोलॉजी सफलता के प्रमुख औजार के तौर पर सामने आई है।

ऐसे में सभी छात्रों और शिक्षकों के लिए ये बेहद जरूरी बन जाता है कि वह तकनीक रूप से दक्ष और मजबूत हों, जिससे वह उस नए दौर की चुनौतियों का सामना बेहतर तरीके से कर सकें। इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ लाइफ लांग लर्निंग के प्रोफेसर एके बख्शी ने कहा पहले चरण में डिजिटल लर्निंग प्रोग्राम के द्वारा विभिन्न कॉलेजों के शिक्षकों को प्रशिक्षित किया था।