Newspaper Clips
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Times of India (Delhi Times) ND 15.10.2015 P-01

Shankar-Ehsaan-Loy, Piyush Mishra headed to IIT-D


Shankar Mahadevan


Piyush Mishra

Umang.Aggarwal@timesgroup.com

Music trio Shankar-Ehsaan-Loy, actor Piyush Mishra, international music act Junkyard Groove and desi band Spud In The Box will perform at IIT Delhi's cultural fest, Rendezvous. The bands will come to the institute for the pro-night on October 17. Piyush Mishra will come for an event called Kavi Ki Kalpana on October 18, and Shankar-Ehsaan-Loy will perform on October 19 for Dhoom, the finale night.

While 'She', the student organizers' campaign last year, was for women's empowerment, this year, 'Aashayein' focuses on child rights.

Nai Duniya ND 15.10.2015 P-05

झटका | नेवई में प्रदूषण, कुटेला भाठा में ट्रांसपोर्ट कनेक्टिविटी से आ रही अड़चन

भिलाई से छिन सकता है छग में प्रस्तावित आईआईटी

भिलाई (ब्यूरो)। छत्तीसगढ़ में प्रस्तावित आईआईटी भिलाई के हाथ से खिसक सकता है। पखवाड़ेभर पहले जमीन का निरीक्षण करने आई केंद्र की टीम ने अपनी रिपोर्ट राज्य शासन को भेज दी है। जिसमें कहा गया है कि नेवई में बीएसपी, एनएसपीसीएल व जेपी सीमेंट प्लांट के कारण प्रदूषण है। वहीं कुटेला भाठा में कनेक्टिविटी की दिक्कत है। इस रिपोर्ट के बाद राज्य शासन ने भिलाई में संभावना तलाशने के अलावा नया रायपुर को विकल्प बना लिया। नया रायपुर में 500 एकड़ जमीन का प्रस्ताव बनाया गया है। यह प्रस्ताव केन्द्र को भेजने की तैयारी कर ली गई है। आईआईटी के लिए जमीन का निरीक्षण करने दूसरी बार केंद्र की टीम 25 सितंबर को आई थी। कुटेला भाठा में प्रस्तावित जमीन देखने के बाद नेवई की प्रस्तावित जमीन देखे बिना ही टीम लौट गई थी।

...कुटेला भाठा में यह रोड़ा

- स्टेट हाइवे से प्रस्तावित जमीन तक सीधे पहुंच मार्ग नहीं है। सीधे पहुंच मार्ग के लिए सौ एकड़ निजी जमीन अधिग्रहित करनी पड़ेगी।
- एयरपोर्ट से इस स्थान की दूरी करीब 57 किलोमीटर है। इसे लेकर भी टीम को आपत्ति है।

...नेवई में दिक्कत

- नेवई में प्रस्तावित स्थान भिलाई के अति प्रदूषित जोन में से है। बताते हैं कि प्रदूषित जोन व कब्जे के कारण ही केंद्र को आपत्ति है।
- प्रस्तावित 325 एकड़ जमीन के करीब 25 प्रतिशत हिस्से पर लगभग 400 अवैध कब्जे हैं।

2015 में कह दिया था अन्य विकल्प तलाशें

रायपुर में सीएम के साथ बैठक के बाद टीम ने भरेंगाभाठा रायपुर में एनआईटी के लिए प्रस्तावित जमीन का भी निरीक्षण किया था। यहां ट्रांसपोर्ट कनेक्टिविटी व करीब 450 एकड़ जमीन की उपलब्धता है। इससे पहले बीते 10 जनवरी 2015 को टीम ने नेवई में प्रस्तावित जमीन का निरीक्षण किया था। तब टीम ने अन्य विकल्प तलाशने कह दिया था। इसके बाद ही कुटेला भाठा में 325 एकड़ जमीन का प्रस्ताव शासन ने दिया था। अधिकारियों से मिली जानकारी के अनुसार केन्द्रीय टीम ने हाल ही में किए गए निरीक्षण के बाद अपनी रिपोर्ट राज्य शासन को भेज दी है। इसमें कहा गया है कि नेवई में प्रस्तावित जमीन के पास ही बीएसपी, एनएसपीसीएल व जेपी सीमेंट है। हवा का रूख प्रस्तावित जमीन की ओर होने पर प्रदूषण की स्थिति गंभीर हो जाएगी। वहीं कुटेला भाठा में प्रस्तावित जमीन तक सीधे ट्रांसपोर्ट कनेक्टिविटी नहीं है।

नया रायपुर में 500 एकड़ जमीन का प्रस्ताव

इस रिपोर्ट से भिलाई में आईआईटी की संभावना पर पानी फिरता नजर आ रहा है। अधिकारियों ने अब नया रायपुर में 500 एकड़ जमीन का प्रस्ताव बना लिया है। इसे केन्द्र को भेजने की तैयारी कर ली गई है। वहीं उच्च शिक्षा मंत्री प्रेमप्रकाश पांडेय ने कहा है कि आईआईटी भिलाई में ही खुलेगा।

IIT Ropar signs MoU with ISRO's research institute

Hindustan Times (Chandigarh)

RUPNAGAR: The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Ropar and Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) Semi-Conductor Laboratory(SCL) have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for collaboration in the fields of teaching, research and development and consultancy activities.

Financial Express ND 15/10/2015 P-08

The fits in the starts

Outside the IT, ITeS and financial sectors and top B-schools, you would be mad to be an entrepreneur in India

BIBEK DEBROY

We still don't have an insolvency law, as against a personal bankruptcy law. Assets/liabilities of an enterprise are inseparable from those of the owner. If the enterprise fails, so does the owner. That's just one instance of how we punish entrepreneurship and start-ups

The prime minister has mentioned start-ups more than once, in greater detail in Silicon Valley than earlier at Red Fort. Several people have sought to define start-ups and the definitions don't necessarily agree, because each person has a different angle on what a start-up is. There is a children's riddle: "I come in different shapes and sizes. Parts of me are curved, others are straight. You can put me anywhere you like. But to do my job, I only have one right place. What am I?" Like many such riddles, the answer isn't always obvious, especially because the classic form of the object in question is disappearing. In the case of this particular, the answer is "a key". The key to start-ups, which also come in different shapes and sizes, is partly disruption, a splicing of Shakespeare with Schumpeter. Shakespeare has to be mentioned. To the best of my knowledge, *Much Ado About Nothing* contains the first known instance of the word "start-up" being used. "That young start-up hath all the glory of my overthrow"—Shakespeare used the word in the sense of upstart and indeed, there is a parvenu kind of angle to all start-ups. They overthrow and disrupt the status quo, a bit like Schumpeter's creative destruction.

Every start-up is an upstart, but every upstart is not a start-up. The business angle to start-ups is circa 1970s. In Silicon Valley, PM used the terms "imagination", "inspiration", "invention" and "innovation". An individual uses imagination to think of a new product, process or service. This is the innovation bit, which may fall short of strict legal requirements of invention. However, for an upstart to be a start-up, there has to be a present, or potential, commercial application. Most importantly, there has to be an entrepreneur and an act of entrepreneurship. Who is an entrepreneur and what is entrepreneurship? The trouble with borrowing words from French and not reading classical economists like Richard Cantillon or Adam Smith is that we sometimes miss the most critical element of entrepreneurship. That happens to be risk-taking. This isn't a very common human trait. Perhaps that's understandable, since risk-taking can entail failure, as well as success. After all, if a human ancestor stepped out of a cave in search of better food, there was the off-chance of being gobbled up by a sabre-toothed tiger. Did you know that some human genome research shows risk-taking attributes to be partly genetic? Roughly, one-third of test subjects possess this risk-taking gene. (The MAOA-L gene variant, also called "warrior gene". It is inherited from the mother, not the father.)

How many risk-taking endeavours succeed? That depends on the context, but is rarely above 5%. There is no guarantee about success in risk-taking. That's the reason success in entrepreneurship cannot be encouraged without encouraging failure. The eco-system encouraging or inhibiting start-ups isn't only about credit, or financial products, or equity. Thus, some definitions of "start-up" get fixated on financing, such as venture capital. Alternatively, they are fixated on information technology. Hence, use of expressions like scalable and replicable, the implicit assumption being these start-ups graduate upwards and become large companies. That's a laudable objective and several high-profile and successful start-ups have done that. But there are others that fail and several that aren't scalable. That doesn't mean such a start-up is born to blush unseen, or waste its sweetness in a hostile environment. That paraphrasing from an elegy occurred in the subconscious, but there is a wasting in the ecosystem. While there are data problems and time-lags in data, some 30 million of India's employment is in organised sector, roughly 18 million public and 12 million private. This private means private corporate sector. Without distinguishing between labour force and work force, there are almost 500 million who work. There are issues in measuring how many are in agriculture, as opposed to primary pursuits in agriculture. Let's say 250 million are in non-agricultural pursuits.

Consider the mind-space occupied by public sector (18 million) and private corporate capital (12 million). That 500 million is also private capital and if PM's mention of start-ups shifts our attention to 500 million, that's a desirable fallout. Notice that in risk-taking appetite, this 500 million is far less risk-averse. For the 12 million private corporate capital, risk taking is a matter of choice. For the 500 million, it is a matter of survival. You will say I am stretching the mind-space argument too much. Are we not concerned about agriculture? Yes, we are, but let's take an example. Subject to data and definitional problems again, 131,666 people committed suicide in 2014. 25,904 were self-employed. You have heard about the 12,360 in agriculture (farmers and labourers). Have you heard about the others, that "others" category including vendors and tradesmen? There was a news item about Chinese government pushing for 10,000 start-ups a day. Yes, India's younger generation is probably more risk-loving and entrepreneurial, especially if you arrive at that conclusion on the basis of IT or financial sectors or top management schools. Yes, entrepreneurship is desirable, because it is better to create employment for others too. But outside that visible sector, you would be mad to be an entrepreneur. Did you know we still don't have an insolvency law, as against a personal bankruptcy law? Assets/liabilities of such an enterprise are inseparable from those of the owner. If the enterprise fails, so does the owner. That's just one instance of how we punish entrepreneurship and start-ups.

The author is Member, NITI Aayog. Views are personal

Indian Express ND 15/10/2015 P-07

Row over appointment in selection panel for DU VC

Kasturirangan welcomes HRD's decision to replace him

RITIKA CHOPRA
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 14

K KASTURIRANGAN, former chief of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), has backed the Human Resource Development Ministry's (HRD) decision to replace him in the selection panel to find the next vice-chancellor (VC) of Delhi University (DU).

Last week, the government had objected to Kasturirangan's nomination to the search-cum-selection committee on the grounds that he is an honourary professor at DU and this could amount to a conflict of interest.

As first reported by *The Indian Express* on October 8, the HRD Ministry was miffed with incumbent vice-chancellor Dinesh Singh over nominating Kasturirangan to the search-cum-selection committee.

In a letter addressed to HRD Minister Smriti Irani, a copy of which has been reviewed by *The Indian Express*, the former ISRO chief has expressed his support on the HRD's decision to replace him, saying it is the "right" one.

"Unfortunately, I noted through the communication from MHRD dt. (sic) 30th September 2015 that persons nominated by the Council shall not be connected with the university or a recognised college or institution, for the first time. Even though I immediately contacted Delhi University to clarify this matter, not to take any chance, I decided to bring to the notice of MHRD directly... I am relieved that the MHRD under your guidance has taken the right decision to look for an alternate name," Kasturirangan said in the letter.

The letter was written on October 12, just a day before an emergency meeting of the university's executive council was convened at the direction of President Pranab Mukherjee, who is the Visitor of all central universities.

DU authorities have now nominated former UPSC chairman D P Agarwal to replace Kasturirangan.

The ministry had earlier urged Mukherjee to send Singh — who is scheduled to retire on October 28 — on forced leave, alleging that he was trying to derail the selection of his successor by nominating an honourary professor of the university to the panel.

The President however, asked the varsity to convene a meeting of the executive council instead to nominate a replacement.

Hindustan Times ND 15/10/2015 P-14

Embark on a new adventure

India can do wonders in the sciences by joining quality with support for science education, research and applications, writes K VijayRaghavan

India requires a mindset that breaks the boundaries between basic and applied science and a sense of adventure to explore our marine, terrestrial and extra-terrestrial ecosystem REUTERS

When the former premier of the People's Republic of China Wen Jiabao visited the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in Bangalore in 2010, he spoke about his country's rise in the world of science. His impressive speech ended with a striking statement: He said that the two countries should collaborate in science and technology because there must be a "bridge between knowledge and power". There was no doubt in his mind on who controlled the levers of power, but it was interesting to hear him say that India was still a fountain of knowledge.

We in India, however, have other views. Despite successes — our average lifespan today is much higher than it was in 1974, many diseases have moved from being lethal to treatable and some have been eliminated — many feel that we have not done well and our science institutions are moribund.

Such cynicism is not always correct. Just as we should be proud of our achievements in applying science through technology, we must also be proud of our standing in basic sciences. Much has been achieved since Independence and despite great odds these have had an enormous social and economic impact. This basic foundation needs to be strengthened if India wants to become a true knowledge economy.

At the nucleus of the foundation in basic sciences are our institutions. Despite all odds, we have built excellent ones and they have catalysed new ones. The IISc nucleated the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) and the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR) that has put India in the nano-material global map. The TIFR has nurtured many institutions and the older IITs continue to nurture new ones.

Institutional qualities with a culture of questioning are vital to the success of this ecosystem. Just as our space and defence R&D programmes owe much to IISc, there have been new ecosystems in Bengaluru, Pune, Mumbai and Delhi that have grown thanks to investment in basic sciences. These institutions have strengthened India in engineering, chemistry, mathematics, computer science, materials and many other areas. The Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research are remarkable examples of transformative investment that is having a positive effect on the ecosystem. In terms of value for money, we have done as the best in the world.

Extraordinary institutions nurture extraordinary individuals. Yet if we have done well in building institutions, why don't we have Nobel Prize or the Fields medal winners? Three kinds of people get such awards: Talented geniuses who transcend institutions; talented scientists who build and lead teams; and those who are ordinary but lucky to have extraordinary collaborators and a nurturing environment. We have many in each of these categories but the global competition is stiff.

Yet we must not forget to praise the many excellent scientists who are in the Nobel category: Shambu Nath De for his work on cholera; GN Ramachandran for his work on protein structure and Subhash Mukhopadhyay for his work on in-vitro fertilisation. In mathematics, the TIFR school is extraordinary, exemplified by MS Raghunathan and MS Narasimhan's work as has IIT-Kanpur led by Manindra Agarwal. In materials science, the JNCASR team has done wonderful work led by CNR Rao. In string theory, Ashoke Sen is a leader. Ajay Sood in condensed matter physics and Satyajit Mayor in cell biology are some other examples.

To continue on this path of success, India today requires a new mindset that breaks the boundaries between basic and applied science and a new sense of adventure to explore our marine, terrestrial and extra-terrestrial ecosystem. This new adventure must include building scientific foundations in schools, colleges and universities, more support for science, more cohesion among the institutions, reinventing our research institutes/universities and better functioning of our science agencies. We must also invest in people as they matter the most.

The 'system' needs to change, but the time spent in relentlessly flaying ourselves is the time spent away from working out solutions. We demand 'process-based' miracles for our problems. But if there is one thing we can learn from our scientific successes it is that the places that have done well are those that have combined good processes with good culture driven by quality collective leadership and the quality of young people.

India has everything going for embarking on this new adventure. By joining the components of quality, which we have, with a steadily increasing support for science education, fundamental research and applications, we can do wonders. The next time a Chinese premier comes to Bengaluru he should say that we should collaborate because India has shown the world how our quest for knowledge and understanding of nature leads to wisdom, prosperity and a sustainable planet.

K VijayRaghavan is secretary, department of biotechnology and ministry of earth sciences
The views expressed are personal

IISc's mobile robot can help in household work

Bengaluru, Oct 15, 2015, DHNS:

http://www.deccanherald.com/content/506513/iiscs-mobile-robot-can-help.html

It can move in a stable manner on uneven surfaces

Robotic engineers at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) have designed a wheeled mobile robot that can move in a stable manner on an uneven terrain with minimal slipping.

Prof Ashitava Ghosal from the Department of Mechanical Engineering, the Indian Institute of Science, and Dr Tharakeshwar Appala from SSJ Engineering College, Hyderabad, have successfully demonstrated a prototype of an "autonomous mobile robot" that can travel in a straight line, make turns and also switch lanes on bumpy terrain, without the risk of falling off and with minimal slip.

Autonomous mobile robots are capable of navigating in unknown and unstructured environments and have the capability of negotiating rough terrains with minimal intervention from human operators. This makes them suitable for activities such as household cleaning, delivering goods and services and planetary exploration. NASA's 'Curiosity' Mars rover, currently exploring the surface of the Red Planet, is an excellent example of an autonomous mobile robot.

Common problem

A common problem with these robots is the slip at the wheel-ground contact. "When a wheel slips, during the rotation of the wheel, the robot's location is unchanged and this leads to localisation errors," explains Prof Ghosal. He also notes that the wheel slip leads to power wastage – a premium resource in planetary exploration. Wheel slip can also lead to unstable motion and the robot can tip over or fall on the uneven terrain. Motivated by this challenge, the team at the IISc focused on designing robots that do not slip and are stable in such terrains.

In the proposed design, the robot consists of one front wheel and two torus-shaped rear wheels connected to a platform. The wheels are designed to always keep contact with the ground and they are driven by motors. The rear wheels are connected to the platform through a suspension mechanism having four links. Two of the links are fixed and the other two are free to move at an angle.

Enables lateral tilting

This enables lateral tilting of the wheel, thus preventing a slip. The performance of the robot was assessed for three types of desired paths: straight line, a circular motion of 30 degrees and a lane change. With the new design, the team observed 50 per cent reduced slippage in comparison with previous models.

The applications of such autonomous wheeled robots are enormous. "Rover 'Opportunity' sent by NASA has

been successfully exploring Planet Mars for more than seven years now. In my opinion, apart from planetary missions, the wheeled robots will find increasing use in industry and security related applications in India," points out Prof Ghosal.

JoSAA 2015: Common counseling to be conducted

http://indiatoday.intoday.in/education/story/jossa-2015/1/498180.html

In order to allot seats in Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), ISM, National Institute of Technology (NIT), Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIITs) and GFT, JoSAA (Joint Seat Allocation Authority) is required for choice filling. Admission to all the academic programmes offered by these Institutes will be made through a single platform, this year onward.

Earlier CSAB and IIT JAB used to be conducted, but this year for the first time, a joint counseling is being conducted for the academic year 2015-16. JoSAA is the conducting body for the common counseling.

Candidates who submitted seat acceptance fee during JoSAA counseling, and reported at any one of the reporting centre of NIT+ System but did not report in respective participating institutes (NITs/IIITs/GFTIs only) will also be treated as rejecting the offer. Such candidates may seek refund of seat acceptance fee after deduction of Rs 1,000 through the CSAB portal.

Presently, 440 candidates have filled incorrect bank details like account number, IFSC code etc. CSAB has already sent a mail regarding this for re-filling correct information.

Candidates who cancelled their admission after taking admission at NITs,/IIITs/GFTIs may seek refund from the Institute as per the norms of the respective Institute. Candidates will be allotted seats in the colleges on the basis of merit and the choice filled.

Total number of seats offered

IITs: 10006

NITs: 17390

GFTIs: 3741