

Newspaper Clips

Oct. 21, 2015

Shankar Mahadevan, Ehsaan Noorani and Loy Mendonsa's IIT-D gig stopped over 'student injury'

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/entertainment/hindi/music/news/Shankar-Mahadevan-Ehsaan-Noorani-and-Loy-Mendonsas-IIT-D-gig-stopped-over-student-injury/articleshow/49468893.cms>

Shankar Mahadevan, Ehsaan Noorani, Loy Mendonsa and Piyush Mishra headed to IIT-D *Inside IIT's Open Air Theatre (OAT)*, the venue for Shankar-Ehsaan-Loy's performance on Monday, students, professors and even some families sat on the stairs, waiting for the Bollywood trio to arrive.

But at the entry to the OAT, in the 'village area', things weren't so cool. Student volunteers, security guards and Delhi Police officers stood on one side of the barricades, and hundreds of aspiring attendees on the other, even as an announcement said, "Aap log pata nahin kis ummeed mein yahaan khade hain. Last entry shaam paanch baje hui thi. Ab faculty ki bhi entry nahin hai." "Humne Rs. 500 ka pass khareeda hai. Entry kaise nahin hogi?" someone screamed. "Humara fest hai, humara college hai, aur humari hi entry nahin hai?" asked others. Probably referring to the recent Skrillex concert in Gurgaon, one of the guards replied, "Akhbaar padhte ho? Gurgaon mein marr gayi ladki gaane sunne ke chakkar mein. Yahaan bhi aisa hi karwana hai?"

Some of the latecomers just made their peace with the screen in the village area that played the performances in the OAT, but others tried to sneak in. Manoj, a Dyal Singh College student, said, "Bas peechhe se deewar kood kar jaana hai. Mujhe pass nahin mil paaya, warna hoon toh main yahaan 4pm se. Hum toh Skrillex concert mein bhi thay." Meanwhile, back at the entry point, the tussle between the guards and people who wanted to go in was still on. And when Shankar-Ehsaan-Loy finally arrived, in an attempt to force their way in, some of the students pushed against the barricades.

The musicians started with their famous 'Ganpati' song. Shankar said, "We love you, IIT Delhi. The biggest high we get is from performing for students. And now, we are going to play a song from when we were students." They played *Dil Chahta Hai's* title track, moved on to a couple of other Bollywood tracks, but then suddenly excused themselves from the audience for a bit. And then an announcement was made which said, "[The programme is being closed because some of your friends have broken the barricades and a student has been injured.](#) We'll be opening the exit gates; all of you can leave."



At the entry point to the OAT, a guard said that after one barricade was broken, a student who was probably from DU had tried to jump off another barricade and hurt himself on the head. And in yet another reference to Gurgaon's Skrillex concert, an IIT student added, "The organizers are just scared - nobody wants a repeat of Skrillex. Inside the OAT, there was plenty of space, but they decided to leave some *khaali*. Entry point *pe bhi* nobody has been seriously hurt, but they've ended the programme so things don't get worse."

Himanshu Lunawat, a fourth-year student and one of the organizers, later told us, "Because people were getting unruly, we announced that somebody was injured, but no one was hurt. We were just trying to make sure that nobody actually gets injured. Also, the passes are always free. Whoever paid for them must have been duped."

IIM Lucknow gets a regular director

Hindustan Times (Lucknow)

The Centre on Tuesday appointed Ajay Prasad, a professor at SP Jain Institute of Management, as the new director of IIM Lucknow.



2 करोड़ का सैलरी पैकेज देने वाली फेसबुक इस बार नहीं आएगी IIT

US की ओर से H1B वीजा की सीमित संख्या जारी करने से IIT से दूर रह सकती है फेसबुक

[प्राची वर्मा | नई दिल्ली]

इंजीनियरिंग इंस्टीट्यूट्स में सबसे अधिक सैलरी ऑफर करने वाली कंपनियों में शामिल फेसबुक के इस साल इंडियन इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ टेक्नोलॉजी (आईआईटी) जाने की संभावना कम है। यह इंटरशिप और फाइनल प्लेसमेंट दोनों के लिए आईआईटी से दूरी रख सकती है।

इसकी वजह अमेरिका की ओर से एच1बी वीजा को सीमित संख्या में जारी करना है। कम से कम पांच आईआईटी ने ऑनलाइन सोशल नेटवर्किंग सर्विस फेसबुक के इस साल उनके यहां कैम्पस हायरिंग के लिए नहीं आने की पुष्टि की है।

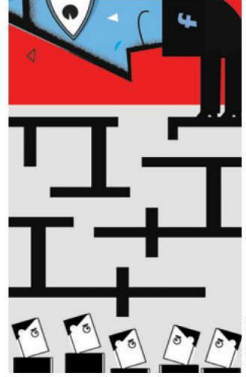
फेसबुक ने पिछले वर्ष तीन आईआईटी में लगभग 12 ऑफर दिए थे। इनमें दो करोड़ रुपये सालाना तक की सैलरी की पेशकश की गई थी। इस बारे में फेसबुक ने कोई टिप्पणी करने से मना कर दिया। लेकिन कंपनी से जुड़े स्रोतों ने बताया कि फेसबुक को पिछले वर्ष भी वीजा से जुड़ी समस्याओं का सामना करना पड़ा था। उसे आईआईटी से हायरिंग वाले एंजिनियर को लगभग एक वर्ष तक ब्रिटेन में तैनात करना पड़ा था और इसके बाद इन एंजिनियर को वीजा मिलने पर अमेरिका भेजा गया था। आईआईटी

खड़गपुर में टेक्नोलॉजी स्टूडेंट्स जिमखाना के वाइस प्रेसिडेंट अटल आशुतोष अग्रवाल ने बताया, 'इस वर्ष फेसबुक हमारे आईआईटी में अंडरग्रेजुएट इंटरन्स के लिए नहीं आई।' अन्य आईआईटी से भी ऐसी ही रिपोर्ट मिल रही है। एक प्रमुख आईआईटी के स्टूडेंट प्लेसमेंट सेल के हेड ने कहा, 'इस वर्ष फेसबुक ने हमसे संपर्क नहीं किया है और कंपनी के पीपीओ के लिए भी आने की उम्मीद नहीं है।' आईआईटी बॉम्बे के पूर्व प्लेसमेंट मैनेजर मोहक मेहता ने बताया, 'भारत से हायरिंग करने वाली अमेरिका की टेक्नोलॉजी कंपनियों के लिए वीजा एक समस्या है।'

एच1बी का मौजूदा कोटा 65,000 का है। यह कोटा प्रत्येक वर्ष अप्रैल में खुलने के कुछ दिनों के अंदर ही भर जाता है। साइंस, टेक्नोलॉजी, इंजीनियरिंग एंड मैथमैटिक्स (एसटीईएम) के लिए अमेरिका में डिमांड 2020 तक बढ़कर 10 लाख एंजिनियर तक पहुंचने की उम्मीद है। सॉफ्टवेयर कंपनियों के संगठन नैस्कॉम के वाइस प्रेसिडेंट शिवेन्द्र सिंह के मुताबिक, 'अमेरिका में अगले कुछ वर्षों में टेक्नोलॉजी से जुड़े एंजिनियर की डिमांड बहुत बढ़ जाएगी। भारत में इस टैलेंट की अच्छी सप्लाई है और इसमें आईआईटी स्टूडेंट्स भी शामिल हैं।'

PLACEMENT BLUES

Visa Shortage Forces FB to Skip IITs



Facebook faced H-1B trouble last year too

Prachi Verma
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Facebook, one of the best paymasters at engineering campuses, is likely to give the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) a miss this year, both for internship and final placement, according to sources from IIT placement cells.

This is not because the company has lost its appetite for Indian engineering talent, but due to the limited H-1B visas issued to companies by the US. At least five IITs confirmed that the online social networking service, headquartered in Menlo Park, California, was not visiting them this year.

Facebook had made about a dozen offers at three of these institutes last year with salaries going upwards of a crore and even touching ₹2 crore for positions of software engineers in California.

No UG Intern Taken this Year >> 21

No UG Intern Taken This Yr

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Facebook declined to comment. But sources close to the company said it had visa problems last year too. It was forced to position its IIT hires at the UK for almost a year before getting visas in place for the US. "Facebook did not come this year for undergraduate interns at our IIT," confirmed Atal Ashutosh Agarwal, Vice President, Technology Students' Gymkhana at IIT Kharagpur. It is the same story at other IITs. "This year, Facebook has still not approached us and they are unlikely to turn up for the pre-placement offers too," said a student placement cell head of a leading IIT. He added that the social networking company usually picked up at least a couple of UGs from each of the leading IITs last year.

"Visa is an issue for US based technology companies that hire from India," said former placement manager at IIT Bombay, Mohak Mehta. The current quota for H1B visas is 65,000,

Other Doors Than H-1B

ET VIEW

The limited number of visas is an issue. India needs to lobby for easier norms. However, career-wise it would make better sense to enroll

for a master's or higher degree in the US. For such graduates, there are exemptions available over and above H-1B caps. Also, those working at -- not necessarily for -- universities, non-profit research facilities associated with teaching establishments, and government research centres are exempt from the quota ceiling. Due to exemptions and roll-overs, the actual number of H-1B visas issued each year is far higher than the limit of 65,000, often twice as much. But the cap needs to be reviewed.

which is exhausted in a matter of days of the annual allocation becoming available at the beginning of April each year. US demand for talent in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) is estimated to go up to a million by the year 2020.

"Considering that a million of STEM workers would be needed by the US in some years, they are likely to fall short by almost 50%. India has a good supply of talent in this space, which also includes the young IITians," said Shivendra Singh, VP, NASSCOM.

पीएचडी डिग्री न रखने वालों को भी मौका मिलेगा

उद्योग विशेषज्ञ एनआईटी में प्रोफेसर बन सकेंगे

बदलाव

नई दिल्ली | मदन जैड़ा

राष्ट्रीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थानों (एनआईटी) की गुणवत्ता में सुधार के लिए मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय ने उद्योग जगत के पेशेवरों को कुछ शर्तों के साथ एनआईटी में प्रोफेसर नियुक्त करने की इजाजत प्रदान कर दी है। इस संबंध में एनआईटी के प्रस्ताव को केंद्र ने मंजूरी दे दी है।

अब एनआईटी पीएचडी के बगैर भी उद्योग जगत के लोगों को प्रोफेसर नियुक्त कर सकेंगे। बता दें कि देश में चल रहे 20 एनआईटी में प्रोफेसर नियुक्ति के लिए पीएचडी एक न्यूनतम अर्हता है।

मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय के सूत्रों के अनुसार, पूर्व में आईआईटी निदेशकों की बैठक में इस प्रस्ताव पर

एनआईटी में 35 फीसदी पद खाली

एनआईटी में शिक्षकों के करीब 35 फीसदी पद खाली पड़े हैं। मंत्रालय का कहना है कि योग्य शिक्षकों की कमी है। दूसरे, एनआईटी में शोध बढ़ाना और उन्हें आईआईटी के समकक्ष खड़ा करने के लिए उन्हें उद्योग जगत के करीब लाने की कोशिश भी चल रही है, ताकि वे उद्योगों की जरूरतों के हिसाब से इंजीनियर तैयार कर सकें। इसी कड़ी में उद्योग जगत के विशेषज्ञों को एनआईटी में बतौर प्रोफेसर नियुक्त करने की पहल की गई है।

सहमति बनी थी कि एनआईटी में उद्योग जगत के लोगों को बतौर प्रोफेसर नियुक्त दी जाए। उद्योग जगत के लोगों को गेस्ट फेल्ल्टी के रूप में पढ़ाने की अनुमति है। लेकिन एनआईटी अपने प्रशिक्षण का स्तर बेहतर बनाने के लिए उद्योगों में कार्य कर रहे विशेषज्ञों को प्रोफेसर नियुक्त करना चाहते थे।

केंद्र के स्वीकृति प्रस्ताव के तहत एनआईटी में नियुक्तियों के लिए बनने वाली चयन समिति ऐसे मामले में अंतिम

निर्णय करेगी। यदि कोई व्यक्ति उद्योग जगत में कार्य कर रहा है तथा उसके पास पीएचडी डिग्री भी है तो ऐसी नियुक्ति में कोई अड़चन नहीं है। लेकिन यदि उसके पास पीएचडी डिग्री नहीं है तो चयन समिति इसके बगैर भी उसे प्रोफेसर नियुक्त कर सकती है। इसके लिए जो अतिरिक्त अर्हता रखी गई है, वह यह है कि उस उम्मीदवार के विभिन्न जर्नल में कम से कम दस शोध पत्र प्रकाशित हुए हों।

Students cry foul as UGC scraps non-NET grants

'AMONG BIGGEST ANTI-STUDENT MOVES'

“ This is another step in the BJP-led central government's series of moves to **cut budgetary allocation** and restructure higher education to make it **inaccessible and destroy its quality**. It is nothing but a step to comply with conditions formulated at the behest of the WTO

— **Sucheta De** | AISA NATIONAL PRESIDENT

“ This decision is one of the biggest **anti-student** moves by the NDA government. At a time when students have been demanding a rise in scholarship amount given the **rapid inflation**, a decision to discontinue it is a **cruel joke**

— **Democratic Students Federation**

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The University Grants Commission (UGC) has decided to discontinue non-NET fellowships for MPhil and PhD students at central universities from the next academic session, triggering protests by student groups who have termed it “one of the biggest anti-student moves” of the NDA government.

The All India Students Association (AISA) read in the decision a sinister move to make the public education system compliant with the impending WTO-GATS (World Trade Organisation-General Agreement on Trade in Services) under which India has made an offer to open up higher education commercially by classifying it as a tradable service. There is widespread demand for the offer to be revoked.

“This is nothing but another step in the BJP-led central government's series of moves to cut budgetary allocation and restructure higher education to make it inaccessible and destroy its quality. Once the government confirms this, it will be necessary to cut

subsidies provided to government-funded universities. The WTO regime necessitates a level playing field for Indian/foreign and public/private institutes,” AISA national president Sucheta De said.

Till now, the UGC granted scholarships of Rs 5,000 a month for MPhil students and Rs 8,000 a month to PhD students. “The scholarship is a lifeline for students in all central universities. If this is discontinued, it will be impossible for a vast majority of students to engage in research and knowledge creation,” said AISA's Ashutosh Kumar.

AISA sees all the recent reforms by the NDA government in higher education — choice-based credit system, semesterisation and the Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan — as steps taken with an eye on the WTO negotiations slated to be held in Nairobi this December.

The Democratic Students Federation also termed the move as a “cruel joke” on students and has planned protests by burning effigies of UGC chairman Ved Prakash.

IIT Kharagpur inks MoUs with 3 varsities of Israel

Hindustan Times (Kolkata)

HOPE IIT, KHARAGPUR, CONTINUES TO LEAD IN RESEARCH COLLABORATIONS IN THE NEAR FUTURE. WE ARE PLANNING SOME STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAMMES, FACULTY VISITS AND RESEARCH WORKSHOPS AND PROJECTS

PP CHAKRABARTI, IIT KGP director

KOLKATA: With the director of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kharagpur (Kgp), Prof PP Chakrabarti, signing MoUs with three universities of Israel, the institute is in the process of forging a stronger collaboration with that country. The MoUs were signed during the recent visit of the President of India, Pranab Mukherjee, to Israel and Jordan. Prof Chakrabarti, who led the academic delegation from India, said, "I hope IIT, Kharagpur continues to lead in research collaborations in the near future. We are planning some unique student exchange programmes, faculty visits and research workshops and projects."

The universities in Israel with which MoUs have been signed are Ben-Gurion University (BGU), Hebrew University and University of Haifa. These universities are traditionally strong in areas such as computer science, aerospace, agriculture, food engineering and so on which have synergy with the areas of academics and research at IIT, Kgp. While Hebrew University is known for its excellence in agriculture and food engineering, BGU is well-known for its computer science faculty. IIT, Kgp has departments such as aerospace, agriculture and food engineering. It also has one of the best computer science and engineering departments in India.

The current scope of cooperation with these universities range from exchange programmes for the faculty, students and scholars, joint research and exchange of research materials, joint academic activities, teaching and supervision of students, joint conferences, workshops, participation of students in programmes to study abroad.

IIT, Kgp, already has a tie-up with Technion Israel Institute of Technology, which is the oldest university in Israel. "India's defence cooperation with Israel has been improving in present times. However, Israel has made rapid strides in the development of indigenous technology not only in the defence sector but the country has imbibed a culture of innovation and new technology which makes it a start-up nation. Even universities in Israel actively promote this start-up culture," said an official at IIT, Kgp.

Every university in Israel has a technology transfer group which facilitates start-ups. IIT, Kgp has a similar facility at its Kharagpur campus wherein the science and technology park (STEP) has incubated (given support or mentored) more than 100 companies in the domains of ICT, healthcare and biotechnology, energy, agriculture & food technology and software, robotics and MNC-dominated home appliances.

The institute would like to further inculcate the culture of innovation among its students by inviting innovators from the Israeli universities and inspiring students through various avenues agreed upon in the MoUs, said Prof Siddhartha Mukhopadhyay, dean, alumni affairs and international relations.

IIT-Madras: Two suicides in four weeks raise several questions

<http://indianexpress.com/article/explained/iit-madras-two-suicides-in-four-weeks-raise-several-questions/>

According to some professors its changing character with an increase in the number of students has led to an alienation of those who come from weaker backgrounds as the main reason for the suicides.

The suicide of an engineering student in the hostel room in IIT-Madras on Monday was the second such incident in less than a month, raising serious questions about the pressures on IIT-M students to succeed.

According to the police, Rahul G Prasad, 22, a B.Tech student from Kerala's Kollam district, hanged himself in his room in Ganga Hostel on the campus. No suicide note was found. On September 21, N Nagendra Kumar Reddy, another student who committed suicide, had also left behind no clues to the reasons for his suicide. There have been about 10 suicides in the last five years at IIT-M.

Among the reasons being floated for Rahul's suicide are a failed relationship and anxiety about his placement. His teachers says he was a bright student although he had a few papers to clear. His classmates said he failed to appear for a periodical test held on Monday. "Since there was no suicide note, we are now looking at various angles including a reported relationship that he had," said the police officer.

If anything, the suicides highlight the stress levels for students at the institute. According to some professors its changing character with an increase in the number of students has led to an alienation of those who come from weaker backgrounds as the main reason for the suicides. "A section of students who are highly competitive and an increasingly ambitious faculty also create a tough academic environment here," said a researcher.

An MA student said the change in the character of students and the entry of first generation learners also create conflict. "Even professors who would stand for rights and equality conveniently avoid Dalit students or those who come from poor backgrounds as a delay in completing a thesis or projects would affect their careers too. So many teachers don't think it is useful to help these students; instead they prefer the best ones. All these realities strengthen the alienation of a section of students who eventually fail to convince themselves about their goals and purpose of life," he said.

Mitr, earlier known as Guidance and Counselling Unit (GCU), a body comprising faculty and senior students is there to provide guidance and counselling "for students who are facing any curriculum-related or or personal problems". Director Bhaskar Ramamurthi has denied criticism that Mitr is not being run properly: "it is playing a significant role and addressing several issues," he said. He added that IIT-M has an effective suicide prevention mechanism and the campus hospital also has an advanced system offering psychiatric help.

A day after the suicide, IIT-Madras was silent on the death of the student. Administrators and departments were busy with arrangements for Saraswati Puja. The administration of IIT-Madras was silent on the news of suicide.

"We all learnt about the suicide from the media although we have multi-level communication systems and mail services. The suicide of a student remains a shame for many in this institution as we are all supposed to run after bigger dreams and career," said a head of department.

Ramamurthi said they were helping the police in investigations and the parents to take Rahul's body back to home. He said there was no official communication about the death as the police investigation was on. "We are giving all possible help to the family," he said.

Meanwhile, a [Facebook](#) post by a student that is being shared by the students has this to say: “I don’t hear or see anything around me acknowledging the tragic end of someone who shared this campus space with us, who probably ate at the same mess, shared a classroom or hostel. This silence is deafening, disturbing. Have we become so indifferent, that we don’t pause for a while, that it doesn’t matter because it isn’t us or me?”

In the wake of the recent suicide, a student writes about his own battle with depression, and how he overcame it.

Teaching in IITs need a make-over; Part V: Professors should be engrossing storytellers

<http://blogs.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/elephants-can-dance/teaching-in-iits-need-a-make-over-part-v-professors-should-be-engrossing-storytellers/>

When my son told me of his reason to switch from Electrical engineering to Economics, I was rudely awakened. In his Signal Processing course, the professor started off by stating “assume a signal is represented by a mathematical function $f(x)$. Then the signal disappeared and thereafter the professor only talked about $f(x)$.” Take a course on partial differential equation (PDE) offered by the mathematics department. As a tutor, I discovered the beauty of maths where a dry subject such as a PDE suddenly acquired a life of its own and promoted abstract thinking. But the language used by mathematicians was daunting and the lack of applications disappointing. If you ask an economist about the meaning of marginal cost, chances are that she will relate it to the first derivative of the cost curve. A student would rightfully ask “but, how does the math relate to the earth-bound transmission of Pluto’s photographs by New Horizon, the shape of a TGV engine, or the current price of arhar dal?”

Mathematics is omnipresent in IITs, for quantification of real-life phenomena is the essence of science and engineering. Unfortunately, students, more often than not, spend more time in understanding the intricacies in deriving the final equation, rather than appreciating its use in solving real-life engineering applications. Or, for that matter, equations in homework problems are solved mechanically without understanding the practical significance of the numbers. A student wouldn’t flinch even if, by some calculation error, the diameter of a sewer pipe comes out be 100 m. Can’t blame the students though, as relating maths to real-life has to do more with the learning environment.

Equations actually tell a story, dying to be told! What we need is a breed of engrossing storytellers who understand both math and engineering in equal measure. A contradiction in itself, for most professors in IITs have grown up on a diet of journal papers, largely unconnected with the real world. This scenario is unlikely to change in the near future. Indian industry, living on imported technology with one-minded focus on profits, does not have the patience to nurture R&D. Even their own! IIT faculty live in a world where professional rewards are based on the number of publications, impact factors, and citation indices, largely unmindful of reality.

How do we relate math to engineering? IITs have to move from an individual to a collaborative teaching model. Professors who teach the same course normally do not share their teaching resources. The wisdom of experience and exuberance of youth remain unconnected. One way out is that for each course, the designated group of professors, in consultation with industry and R&D institutions create a database of real-life engineering examples associated with fundamental concepts. Of course, individual professors, as before, can garnish the course with their personal touch. But the key is sharing!

Storytelling, I mean teaching, is a dynamic process. Teaching methodologies must adapt to the present-day students immersed in a connected, digital world. We faculty are unwilling to change, the major concession to

modernity being the frequent use of PowerPoint (PPT) presentations in lectures, which ironically, may devitalize teaching. How do we overhaul the nuts and bolts of teaching?

First, the course content should be reduced. If you think CBSE alone is guilty of burdening children with a mind-numbing syllabus, think again. IITs are equally culpable. When IITs switched to the four year UG program in 1980, the five year content was still retained, resulting in a significant increase in the overall academic load. Although the course load has gradually reduced over the years, individual courses are still heavily loaded. The emphasis on covering the course content results in a frenetic pace of instruction. Consequently, lectures are primarily monologues and a comprehensive understanding of the subject becomes a casualty.

How do we make the lectures interesting and devoid of unnecessary details? One way is the flipped classroom approach (FCA), fine-tuned by IIMs, where students watch videos and read course materials in advance. Lectures are then devoted to understanding the finer points through two-way interactions and problem solving. Implementation of FCA means changing students' mindset towards learning, as they tend to study before quizzes and exams. Strictness, role playing games, apt quizzes and grading strategy should change students' outlook towards FCA. Using FCA in large classes would indeed be daunting and calls for more innovative interventions.

Careful construct of quizzes and examinations is important too, primarily because the importance students attach to grades. A professor may elegantly bring real-life engineering to the classroom. But, if exams consist of numerical problems that can be solved mechanically, you can be sure "Love's labour will be lost," for students know how to work the system for good grades. Another important aspect of exams is often overlooked by professors. Students are asked to solve problems where all necessary data are provided. Engineering is about guesstimating missing data to solve problems.

What about modern tools such as PowerPoint Presentations (PPTs), video lectures and MOOCS? By themselves they may not add significantly to the learning process. In fact, PPTs act as double-edged swords. It is a great tool for illustrating concepts through pictures and animations. However, using PPTs indiscriminately as the predominant content delivery tool is fraught with danger. Lectures can metamorphose into research seminars, with the inevitable increase in the speed of instruction. An extremely painful learning experience for students!

Video lectures for most students would be the modern avatar of text books, to be "mugged" before exams. It is difficult to visualize present-day students viewing hours of video lectures when more engaging non-academic alternatives are present in the net. Video lectures will be a helpful learning tool only if it is integrated with the FCA.

Since mobiles are the lifeline of GenY, the mobile platform is the best bet for effective content delivery. Hour long video lectures are passé. They should be replaced by a series of short videos explaining concepts and the attendant applications, with the help of attractive animations. We can then pray hard and hope that instead of habitually surfing the net during their spare time, students will get hooked to these short videos.

I eagerly look forward to using WhatsApp to conduct the "Fastest Fingers First" quiz in my forthcoming course.

India should fund its innovators: Jayant Sinha

Mumbai, October 20:

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/india-should-fund-its-innovators-jayant-sinha/article7785212.ece>

The Centre's move to assist start-ups and SMEs appears to have gathered steam, with fund-of-funds India Aspiration Fund (IAF) already sanctioning ₹700-800 crore of its first tranche of ₹2,000 crore to domestic venture capital firms.

The Fund is an attempt to boost the start-up ecosystem and harness the potential of India's innovators and entrepreneurs by providing them with a network of domestic financiers, said Minister of State for Finance Jayant Sinha.

“Almost 90-95 per cent of venture capital funding comes from outside India. India's innovation is being funded by the Teachers Pension Plan of Ontario, the Stanford Endowment, the Norwegian sovereign wealth fund, by Temasek (Singapore's sovereign fund). We need to fund Indian innovation here in India, and we need to build venture capital here,” he said.

He was addressing a gathering at the Global Business Forum (GBF), an initiative of the IIT Bombay Alumni Association. At this year's GBF, held in Goa, technology innovators from IIT Bombay and Delhi interacted with the nation's political decision makers.

“We have studied the best practices around the world. We created the India Aspiration Fund so that we can have domestic capital funding Indian firms that are working on India's problems,” said Sinha, adding that India is expected to surpass the UK in terms of number of start-ups launched, and would soon mimic the US in its start-up ecosystem.

He added that the fund is expected to catalyse tens of thousands of crore of equity investment in start-ups and SMEs. “We know and recognise that if we have to create millions of jobs for a young workforce, they are going to come from companies like Flipkart, Snapdeal and Ola. We have to give encouragement to our entrepreneurs for large-scale businesses as well as for micro enterprises,” he added.