

Newspaper Clips

Oct. 25-27, 2015

Oct. 25

Indian Express ND 25/10/2015 P-5

FINDINGS OF IIT-LED STUDY ON DELHI

Commuters exposed to high pollution levels, cyclists are worst hit

PRITHA CHATTERJEE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 24

IN YET another damning indication of air pollution in Delhi, a study has found that a student who travels from IIT Delhi till India Gate and back in various modes of transport, during rush hour, is exposed to 130-250 micrograms per cubic metre ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) of Particulate Matter (PM) 2.5 every month, according to a study conducted by IIT Delhi with other collaborators.

This exposure is much higher than the average of $150 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ of PM 2.5 levels seen in Delhi from 2012-2014, which is 15 times higher than the World Health Organisation's recommended annual average.

According to the study, published in the international journal *Atmospheric Environment*, if the student was riding a cycle, the PM 2.5 exposure per kilometre was nine times higher, when compared to the exposure of someone travelling in an air-conditioned car. "At current level of concentrations, an hour of cycling in Delhi during the morning rush-hour period results in a PM 2.5 dose which is 40 per cent higher than what commuters are exposed to, in an entire day, in cities like Tokyo, London, and New York," stated the study.

The particulate matter concentrations were measured along the same 8.3-km route in south and central Delhi. PM 2.5 levels were studied between January

and May last year, to take into account the seasonal variations in pollutant levels. The researchers compared PM 2.5 concentrations in 11 differently modes of transport including public buses, air conditioned buses, autorickshaws, cycles, two-wheelers, air-conditioned cars and the Metro, among others. They also mapped exposure to PM 2.5 concentrations when the student was travelling on foot.

"For every mode of transport, we accounted for the exposure to access the route. For a bus ride, we also measured exposures while walking to the bus stop and waiting there. While measuring the exposure on a cycle, we took a route that routine cycle users take from IIT Delhi via Aurobindo Marg till the UPSC office," said Rahul Goel, a PhD scholar from IIT Delhi's Transport Research and Injury Prevention Programme who is the corresponding author of the study. The study was jointly authored by investigators from the University of Texas, IIT Mumbai, Desert Research Institute and University of California, along with IIT Delhi.

The study found that the on-road concentrations of PM 2.5 were between 10 to 40 per cent higher for different modes of transport, in comparison to the ambient air quality levels. According to the findings, the on-road PM 2.5 concentrations exceeded the ambient measures by an average of 40 per cent while walking, 10 per cent when

the subject was cycling, 30 per cent for motorised two wheelers-like bikes and scooters, 30 per cent for open-windowed cars, 30 per cent for auto rickshaws, 20 per cent for air-conditioned as well as open-window buses and 30 per cent for underground metro stations.

Interestingly, the on-road concentration of PM 2.5 was lower than the ambient air quality levels by a staggering 50 per cent inside air-conditioned cars and 20 per cent inside a Metro compartment.

"It is almost as if our transport system is encouraging people to take air-conditioned vehicles, instead of making cycling or walking safer. But we have established that distance from traffic has a huge bearing on exposure, so building dedicated cycle lanes away from traffic can be a major way to control this," said Professor Geetam Tiwari from IIT Delhi. According to the authors, this also explains why cyclists who take bylanes, away from the traffic, had a much lower exposure to particulates than other two-wheeler riders.

"Both modes are virtually the same, neither have the protection of a closed vehicle. Yet bike riders have a much higher exposure than those on cycles," Dr Tiwari explained. In cleaner cities like London and Tokyo, where vehicles are a bigger source of pollution according to the authors, the difference between ambient and on-road air pollution levels are higher.

Chief commissioner for disability issues a notice to IIM Indore

HTIMPACT

Brajesh Kumar

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NEW DELHI: The disability chief commissioner's office has issued a notice to the Indian Institute of Management, Indore to make allowances for a dyslexic student who failed her first year and was not allowed to take her exam again despite a plea by the the human resource development ministry.

The management school turned down the ministry's plea to allow the Mumbai student to repeat her exam on humanitarian grounds following her complaint that she failed because she was not given facilities given to people with dyslexia, a learning disability. The ministry asked IIM Indore this month to allow her to write the examination with facilities like a scribe, or a writer, calculator and additional time.

The disability commissioner's office asked the management school to take action within 20 days, saying that admitting the student under the disability quota would be meaningless if no relaxation was given.

"Though the girl was admitted under the disability quota considering learning disability as a disability but by not granting her the relaxation/promotion

YOU READ IT HERE FIRST

HT had reported how IIM Indore had not permitted a dystexic student who failed to take the exam again

IIM Indore refuses to consider plea to help dyslexic student



IIM Indore has not provided the facilities on the ground that she had not asked for them. However, it may be desirable to take a humanitarian view and allow her for re-examination under

the purpose of the admission will be meaningless," the letter from deputy chief commissioner SS Sinha said. The student, who suffers from dyslexia and attention-deficit and hyperactivity disorder, got admission to the institute's five-year Integrated Programme of Management (IPM) under the disability quota last year.

"IIM Indore has not provided the required facilities on the ground that she had not asked for them. However, it may be desirable to take a humanitarian view and allow her for re-examination under the prevailing rule," the ministry said in its communication to the management school.

Millennium Post ND 25/10/2015 P-6

India London's 3rd largest student market

ADITI KHANNA

LONDON: India is the third-largest international student market in London after China and the US, according to a latest report. International students studying at London universities last year provided a 3 billion pounds boost to the UK economy and helped support 37,000 jobs, the report by London & Partners, the Mayor of London's official promotional company, said.

Of those figures, Indian students spent an estimated £130 million in 2013-14 compared to £407 million by the Chinese and £217 million by the Americans. Of the £130 million total, Indians spent 43 per cent at £56 million on tuition fees, 56 per cent at £74 million on subsistence and

less than 1 per cent on visiting friends and relatives.

"The Economic Impact of London's International Students' report also noted that while Chinese student numbers have grown by 49 per cent since 2009-10, the Indian market has continued to decline, falling by 11 per cent year on year.

"The drop in Indian students, started after the peak in 2009-10, followed a sharp expansion of the Indian student population that took place between 2004-5 and 2009-10. It is widely speculated in the press that the decline can be attributed to a change in post-study visa requirements," the report said.

Italy, Germany, France, Hong Kong, Greece, Malaysia and Nigeria complete the



top 10 countries of origin for international students in London.

London Mayor Boris Johnson said, "There's a reason why thousands of university students from all over the world are drawn to London each year we have some of the best universities on the planet, produc-

ing everything from ground breaking scientific research to virtuoso musicians."

"London's universities help to make the capital such a thought-provoking, stimulating and breathtaking city which provides a learning experience in itself. London is also the global capital of

culture and I urge this year's intake of international students to make the absolute most of their time here. Visit our iconic theatres and galleries, take in our amazing museums, learn from our greatest minds and inspire others to follow in your footsteps."

In 2013-14, London had 13,460 Chinese students, 6,440 American students and 4,790 Indian students enrolled across the capital of a total of 106,000 international students. Students from the USA were the highest contributors per capita, spending £33,600 per year on average, while the European Union occupied the lower rungs of the top 10 league, with per capita spending for Italian, German, French and Greek students averaging around £23,000 per year. P11

HRD Ministry clearing way to bring 'single entrance test' for engineering colleges

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/education/story/hrd-single-test/1/506220.html>

While expert committee mulling to establish 'one exam, one rank, one counselling' for admissions in engineering institutes like IITs/NITs/IISERs and other, Ministry of Human Resource Development is trying to clear the way for the making it reality. The committee is due giving the report its report in first week of November which was decided in the IIT Council meet earlier this month.

According to a report published by The Times of India, the ministry is trying to get IITs for conducting the single test so that the quality does not deteriorate. The effort is also to create an exam paper where there are right balance of questions which are both knowledge based and analytical so that there are lesser stress on the students.

The biggest reason for creating the 'single test' is to curb the time taking procedure which puts stress on students. Moreover, the initiative is likely to curb the mushrooming coaching industries that are putting huge financial pressure on students and parents due to multiple examination patterns. The students giving engineering entrance test now undergo two kinds of coaching one for NIT and other engineering colleges and advanced coaching for IITs.

Earlier on October 6, a council meeting headed by Smriti Irani had decided that a core committee will study and evaluate the proposal to hold single entrance test for IITs. The recommendation is likely to be put in place by the first week of November. According to the proposal made by IIT council, the admission procedure for IIT were 'time-taking' and 'cumbersome' and did not leave much time for institutes to conduct enough number of counselling sessions.

The aspirants, currently, need to give two-tier entrance tests namely, JEE Mains followed by JEE Advanced to get admission in IITs. Pitching the National Institute of Technology (NIT) admission procedure, IIT asked for single entrance test for admissions. For NIT, clearing only JEE Mains is required for admissions.

Fixing India's Higher Technical Education

<http://www.niticentral.com/2015/10/24/fixing-indias-higher-technical-education-335478.html>

This came in the advent of a whopping reduction of Engineering seats by 40% from the current 1.67 million.

An otherwise well meaning academic having steered the prestigious College of Engineering, Pune for over a decade, he has somehow chosen to tow the conventional line from the high office he has been elevated to, this July.

His predecessor, another soft spoken academic at heart, Prof. S S Mantha, was known to pass on the buck of ailing regulation to the states which don't share the perspective plans while having such a vast spectrum of members on his governing council at his disposal.

The riddle of regulating Higher Technical Education in the country has been besieged with such conventional commentaries which somewhere fail to envision and thereby position its role and relevance in consonance with the larger national narrative.

In an increasing technological era, every strand of economic intervention is getting affected and influenced by technology in one way or the other. Transforming an age-old civilisation like that of India, which is considered to live in multiple centuries at the same time, would thereby need an army of technocrats possessing a sound orientation and initiation into the world of technological discourse.

The Top-Down aspirational Policy initiatives of Make in India, Digital India, Smart Cities, AMRUT, Swaccha Bharat, Shramev Jayate et al would somewhere need a ground swell and support which can be duly provided by these Higher Technical Institutions which dot at least 400 districts of the country at large.

When the elite club of Centrally Funded Technical Institutions (CFTIs) of all hues like Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs); National Institutes of Technology (NITs); Indian Institutes of Scientific and Engineering Research (IISERs) etc. have not been able to synchronise their institutional priorities with those of national objectives, how come these insignificant lots having got established from unorganised small scale private investments can envision the same?

Nonetheless, these institutions governed by the respective State Technical Universities, present the stark potential to make a difference at the grassroots, if given a chance. Interestingly, the Vice-Chancellors of these State Technical Universities are rarely given a chance in National Level Policy making in due spirit of Team India for Higher Technical Education. It should not be a far fetched proposition to have a special place for these eduLEADERS who are steering through this vast higher technical education establishment in their respective states in AICTE governance.

The District Level Governance is replete with inadequacies and inefficiencies in terms of adequately empowered manpower and platforms for research, analysis, deliberations and customisations suiting the local needs. The 31 odd line departments running a district are in a perpetual need of technologically oriented manpower aiding and supporting their various planning and analytical functions. The Municipalities, the Development Authorities, the Traffic Police, the Irrigation Department, the Tourism Department, you name it, and you have it – the craving for additional efficient manpower and local level research and customisation.

The local industrial clusters which have been carrying forward the subsistence manufacturing need technologically oriented manpower to understand their current challenges and find out resolutions suiting their local and regional context. The back-end design and front-end communications of their business life-cycles is a dominant need of these 40 million odd MSMEs.

The artisans of all hues can be duly empowered by technology enabled interventions. Innumerable other trading enterprise; social organisations; religious outfits; other institutions all are in the process of transformation thriving on technological tools.

Why can't this huge pool of techno-managers being nurtured in this vast higher technical education set-up be oriented and deployed as an additional cadre to support this local level demand? Engagement with one stream or the other can ensue right from the first year of study in the due spirit of exposing them to the spree of problems which can have a technological solution.

The dove-tailing and stitching together of such a vast initiative won't be difficult. Ample experiments have already been done on this philosophy.

However, a structured policy push is what is warranted for whereby these Higher Technical Institutions are seen as Local Resource Centres and not merely as Dengue Mosquitos which have unwarrantedly emanated on the national scene. A sense of ownership would have to be taken up than the typical extension of the 'save the skin' syndrome.

This would however need a paradigm shift in perspective about the role and relevance of this vast array of Higher Technical Institutions which was allowed to germinate in the last one and a half decade. Instead of seeing this as a monstrous development, it can rather be seen more as a God-send opportunity. The population narrative of India, which was surmised to be a national specter somewhere got transformed into a more positive one of "demographic dividend", whose potential is now being invoked time and again.

The long term sustainability and ascendance of India's prowess on the global scene can only be accentuated by a well meaning original thought on India's educational governance and the best starting point can be the technical education of the country which is thankfully duly invested in and is replete with profound edupreneurs connected to the ground realities.

It probably needs the much left-out "Modi-Touch" to galvanise the energies and enthusiasm of all those who matter in the fray.

Will Indian rankings work for institutes of higher education?

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/education/will-indian-rankings-work-for-institutes-of-higher-education/story-VxntNc2vjFx744PvGgJKuK.html>

Two top global rankings this year had good news for some Indian institutes of higher education. While the 2015 Times Higher Education rankings had 17 Indian institutions in the top 800, two Indian institutes made it to the top 200 on the QS Global rankings for the first time. Chances of things improving look bright as the ministry of human resource development has recently launched the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF), India's own ranking system, to help institutes establish themselves globally.

How will it function?

According to Prof Surendra Prasad, chairman, National Board of Accreditation, "The parameters for selection are broadly divided into five major heads – resources for teaching and learning, research and collaborative

effort, graduation outcome, outreach and inclusivity and peer and stakeholder perception. Nearly 20 parameters have been identified over these five heads, and suitable metrics have been defined based either on desirable benchmarks, or on normalised values. Work is currently in progress in a few other disciplines like pharmacy, architecture and comprehensive universities.”

Professor Prasad, who is also a part of the core committee involved in devising the ranking framework, says that many of the parameters are similar to those employed globally. “There are a few which are especially relevant to the Indian situation, especially those dealing with outreach and inclusivity,” he says.

The ranking framework is currently available for engineering and management colleges. The NIRF considers India-centric parameters such as diversity and inclusivity apart from excellence in teaching and research. Three broad domains of disciplines have been picked for separate rankings, which include engineering institutions, management institutions and comprehensive universities. Within each discipline, there may be a separate ranking in two categories – institutions which are engaged in research and teaching, and those engaged in teaching.

Institutions that have been given academic autonomy will be classified as Category A while those affiliated to universities will be classified as Category B. An autonomous college which is engaged primarily in teaching, can be ranked in Category B. Category A would comprise Institutes of National Importance set up by an Act of Parliament, state universities, deemed-to-be-universities, private universities and other autonomous colleges. A ranking authority is also in the process of being identified, which will invite institutes intending to participate in the exercise to submit their applications by December. The rankings will be published ahead of next year’s admission schedule.

Do we need it?

Is there a need for an India-specific ranking? “Yes, we need a ranking system to capture all facets of education, teaching, learning and facilities for overall development of students. It will also capture nuances like inclusiveness, outreach, regional and international diversity, education to disadvantaged sections of society, gender equity and support to the physically-challenged,” says Anil D Sahasrabudhe, chairman, All India Council for Technical Education.

A look at how Indian institutions have fared on the global rankings reveal that only a few have found a place. “So, when parents and students seek admission to Indian institutions, they only have others’ recommendations to go by. There is a need for an Indian ranking system or at least a rating system. Also having a system sends a message: pay attention to key parameters. If that happens, you are empowering institutions to improve their international standing,” adds Prof Prasad.

Prof DP Singh, director, National Assessment and Accreditation Council, says, “The MHRD has initiated the process of consultations for formulating the new education policy (NEP). For this purpose, several themes have been identified. The MHRD is holding thematic consultations for all the themes.” A national consultation meeting on ranking of institutions and accreditation was recently held in Bengaluru. Inputs from academicians and other experts will be put together for the preparation of an outcome document on the ranking of institutions and accreditations.

NIRF Highlights

It is currently available for engineering and management institutions

The NIRF considers India-centric parameters like diversity and inclusiveness apart from excellence in teaching, learning and research

Three broad domains of disciplines have been picked up for separate rankings: engineering institutions, management institutions and comprehensive universities

Autonomous institutions, state universities, deemed-to-be-universities and private universities to be included in the framework

The rankings will be published ahead of next year's admission schedule

HOW THE INDIAN RANKING WILL RATE INSTITUTIONS

Parameter	Marks	Weightage
Teaching, learning and resources	100	0.30
Research, professional practice and collaborative performance	100	0.30
Graduation outcome	100	0.15
Outreach and inclusivity	100	0.15
Outreach and inclusivity	100	0.10

Oct. 26

Times Of India ND 26/10/2015 P-10

India set to produce world's largest number of engineers

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London: India is all set to produce the world's largest number of engineers. The first ever global report commissioned by the Queen Elizabeth Prize for Engineering and to be made public on Monday has revealed that while just 20% of 16- to 17-year-olds from the UK and 30% from the USA are interested in an engineering career, in India the rate is as high as 80% — the highest in the world.

The report will also unveil another interesting finding — India has closed the gender gap in engineering to an all-time low of 14% in 2015.

Around 66% of men in the world are interested in engineering while the figure stands as low as 43% for women globally. However when it comes to India, both men and women have shown great interest in engineering — the highest in the world.

While 85% of Indian men have shown interest in engineering, the number stands at a close 79% among women in India. In comparison, 62% of women in China are interested in taking up engineering as a career,

ENGINEERING GENDER-GAP AT ALL-TIME LOW

➤ **80%** of 16 to 17-year-olds in **India** interested in an engineering career compared to **30% in the US** and **20% in the UK**

➤ India has closed **engineering gender-gap** to an **all-time low: 85% of Indian men** are interested in engineering, the number stands at **79% for women**. In comparison, **62% of women in China**, 55% in Brazil, 35% in the US and 33% in Germany have shown interest in engineering

“US Ivy League colleges and UK Oxbridge universities have traditionally focused on the **liberal arts**... In India, the **software services industry** alone recruits about **300,000 people** every year... This boom is partly due to businesses wanting to make use of the **comparatively cheap production** and talent costs — **NARAYANA MURTHY, INFOSYS FOUNDER**



55% in Brazil, 48% in Turkey, as low as 35% in the US, 33% in Germany, 28% in the UK and 27% in Japan.

Also when asked whether they would like to take up engineering as a career, 80% of 16-year-olds in India said it was their first choice, while the number rose to 81% among 18-24-year-olds, and 87% among 24-30 year olds.

“Emerging economies like India have narrower gender gaps regarding overall interest in engineering than leading economies of the world. This is astounding since women have

a far more equal access to education in the US, Germany and Japan, yet their aptitude to pursue engineering careers is less,” said professor Viola Vogel from ETH Zurich.

The report said: “To the contrary, in India where women of the emerging middle class are increasingly fighting for equal rights, only 29% of the population consider engineering as masculine, while an amazing 30% consider it as feminine.”

For the full report, log on to www.timesofindia.com

Times Of India ND 26/10/2015

P-10

CSIR launches ₹5 herbal drug for diabetics

Tablet Made Of Plant Extracts; No Side Effects

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Lucknow: A scientifically validated anti-diabetes herbal drug, named 'BGR-34', was launched by a Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) laboratory in Lucknow on Sunday.

A combination of natural extracts from plants, the drug is based on ayurveda and has no side effects. The drug is for management of type-II diabetes mellitus.

The drug has been jointly developed by two CSIR labs, the National Botanical Research Institute (NBRI) and the Central Institute for Medicinal and Aromatic Plant. It was launched on the NBRI's 62nd annual day for commercial manufacturing and marketing by M/s Aimil Pharmaceuticals Pvt Ltd, New Delhi.

"The drug has extracts from four plants mentioned in ayurveda and that makes it safe," said Dr AKS Rawat, senior principal scientist, NBRI. It has been tested on animals and scientific study has found it safe and effective, with clinical trials showing 67% success.

The drug boosts the immune system, works as an antioxidant and checks free radicals. Though there are other anti-diabetes herbal drugs in

The scientifically validated drug, named 'BGR-34', is meant for management of type-II diabetes. It has extracts from four plants mentioned in ayurveda and may be available in the market within the next 15 days

the market, 'BGR-34' has been validated scientifically. The drug will help maintain normal blood glucose levels, reduce chances of complications due to persistent high blood glucose levels and impart a good quality life to patients with high blood sugar levels.

The formulation was launched earlier by Vice-President Hamid Ansari in February last year at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi, but on Sunday the product was launched commercially. "We will manufacture it now and it will be available in the market shortly, may be in 15 days," said V S Kapoor, marketing head of Aimil Pharmaceuticals for UP and Delhi. It will be available in the form of tablets and may cost Rs 500 for 100 tablets.

For the full report, log on to www.timesofindia.com

Indian Express ND 26/10/2015

P-10

Irani: Non-NET fellowships to be continued

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 25

HRD MINISTER Smriti Irani Sunday announced the rollback of the University Grants Commission's (UGC) decision to scrap the non-National Eligibility Test (NET) fellowship scheme, which had sparked massive protests by students.

Irani took to Twitter to announce the decision, right after she met a delegation of students associated with the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) on Sunday afternoon. The scheme, she said, will now cover research scholars of state universities too and the fellowship amount will be transferred directly to the beneficiaries' bank account.

The non-NET fellowship provided financial assistance of Rs 5,000 per month for 18 months to MPhil students and Rs 8,000 per month for four years to PhD students. This was limited to research scholars of central universities.

The UGC decided to discontinue the fellowship on October 7, on the grounds that the scheme lacked accountability and transparency. However, after protests by students, the HRD Ministry asked the UGC to refer its decision to an expert committee last Friday. Irani on Sunday said the ministry was not only in favour of continuing the scheme, but also wants to bring it within the ambit of the Direct Benefit Transfer scheme.

Hindustan Times ND 26/10/2015 P-16

Universities have lost their radical streak

Increasing dependence on government benefits is making university teachers indifferent to pressing social matters

CP Bhambhri

At a time when a large number of Sahitya Akademi awardees have returned their awards in protest against the growing culture of intolerance and violence against religious minorities, why are our universities — JNU included — so silent?

So stunning has been their stillness that the RSS has taken notice of this. RSS general secretary Bhaiyyaji Joshi has said: "There is a huge question mark on the honesty of the writers who are giving back their awards. Where are university-based professors when great men and women of letters are fighting for the preservation of (the) 'basic values and structures of (the) constitution' of India? Are university professors, generally described as 'intellectuals' or 'academics', not expected to actively participate in this ongoing struggle...?"

It was not always like this.

The two major central universities of Delhi — JNU and Delhi University (DU) — had proved they were centres of dissent when the authoritarian forces during the emergency of 1975-77 arrested a few members of the teaching faculty

and students. The very fact that the ruling elite felt it was essential to terrorise teachers and students of the two universities is the best evidence of their intellectual strength and conviction. Even abroad, in the US, the turmoil on the campuses had compelled the government to re-think America's war against Vietnam. University professors and students participated in demonstrations on the campuses under the banner: "It is not our war, withdraw from Vietnam." The campus revolt of students in 1968 in France and some European universities thrilled French philosopher Jean Paul-Sartre to proclaim that the campuses will create new levels of social avalanche against the ruling classes.

However, the present ruling formation at the Centre, rattled by the revolt of the Sahitya Akademi awardees and other persons of eminence, has ignored JNU and DU as if they do not exist. The explanation for this is that a very large component of the teaching faculty consists of people who choose to play safe and expect benefits from the government. They act as supplicants before government agencies for appointment to gov-

ernment committees, or before foreign funders for fellowships to travel abroad. This works well for foreign funders also because they have learnt, to their discomfort, that being on the wrong side of the government has its disadvantages. How can such teachers be taken seriously as dissenters by the government, which is distributing goodies to favour-seekers? The central and state governments have successfully silenced them by simply corrupting the academic community.

JNU and DU should have revolted against those who have indulged in character assassination of the men of letters. While students of the FTII could stand up to the government against the imposition of a supposedly undeserving chairman, the teaching faculty of universities is not ready to play even a small price by taking out a demonstration in their support.

Favour-seeking professors are not only intellectually marginalised, those who dole out favours have contempt towards them. This is the reality in which teachers of JNU and DU find themselves in.

*CP Bhambhri taught politics at JNU
The views expressed are personal*

Ajit Prasad is new IIM-L director

<http://www.nyoooz.com/lucknow/241686/ajit-prasad-is-new-iiml-director>

Summary: Ajit Prasad, a professor of strategy at SP Jain Institute of Management and Research, Mumbai is the newly appointed full-time director of the premier management institute. In an e-mail to TOI, Prasad confirmed that he has been appointed as the IIM-L director and would take charge in November. An alumnus of St Stephens College, the Delhi School of Economics and International Management Institute, Prasad has rich experience in the government, industry and academia. LUCKNOW: The wait for a full-time director at Indian Institute of Management, Lucknow (IIM-L) is finally over after 19 months. The post of the IIM-L director had been lying vacant for the last 19 months after Prof Devi Singh's extended second term ended in September last year.

LUCKNOW: The wait for a full-time director at Indian Institute of Management, Lucknow (IIM-L) is finally over after 19 months. Ajit Prasad, a professor of strategy at SP Jain Institute of Management and Research, Mumbai is the newly appointed full-time director of the premier management institute. He replaces the interim director Bharat Bhasker. In an e-mail to TOI, Prasad confirmed that he has been appointed as the IIM-L director

and would take charge in November. An alumnus of St Stephens College, the Delhi School of Economics and International Management Institute, Prasad has rich experience in the government, industry and academia. On July 8, MHRD assigned the additional charge of the director, IIM-L to the next senior faculty Bharat Bhasker, after Prof Yogesh Agarwal, second senior-most faculty declined to take charge, for a period of three months.

This came after senior-most professor Rajiv Kumar Srivastava completed his six-month term as the IIM-L director on July 7 and refused to continue on health grounds, maintaining that his professional work was suffering due to this post. On October 8, MHRD issued fresh directives giving extension to Bhasker till further orders. In the interview held on October 21, the search-cum-selection panel gave nod for Prasad's appointment which was endorsed by the Appointment Committee of Cabinet (ACC) headed by the prime minister. The post of the IIM-L director had been lying vacant for the last 19 months after Prof Devi Singh's extended second term ended in September last year. Singh's second term ended on March 9, 2014 after which he was given six months' extension. . .

Centre has approved to set up IIT near Vadodara: CM Anandiben Patel

<http://www.dnaindia.com/india/report-centre-has-approved-to-set-up-iit-near-vadodara-cm-anandiben-patel-2138952>

Gujarat Chief Minister [Anandiben Patel](#) on Monday said that the Centre has approved its proposal for setting up an IIT near Vadodara. Patel inaugurated the L&T Institute of Project Management (IPM) and L&T Power Training Institute (PTI) at the campus of Larsen & Toubro knowledge in the city.

The Chief Minister said the Union government has decided to establish the Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIT) on 20 hectares of land near [Vadodara](#) after it experienced difficulties in acquiring large swathes of land for establishing the Central university in Vadodara.

An IIT will be established on a public-private partnership (PPP) model where [Gujarat](#) government, the Centre and an industry partner will be the stakeholders.

Meanwhile, Patel also announced to establish sports and children university near here saying Vadodara is emerging as educational hub in the country.

"Gujarat government will provide all help for setting up of IIT, sports and children university here," she added.

The Chief Minister requested Anil M Naik, chairman of Larsen &Toubro Group of Companies to help the state government in developing Vadodara city as educational hub where 135-year-old Maharaja Sayajirao university is located.

Anil Naik said, "The purpose behind establishing of IPM and PTI is to meet requirements of infrastructure development projects and their speedy and time bound implementations in the country". He claimed, "L&T is first private sector company in India which contributed a total amount of Rs 75 crore to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Swachh Bharat, Swasth Bharat (Clean India, healthy India) campaign". He further said this figure does not include contributions made by the trusts promoted by him in his personal capacity.

Naik said at present nearly 20,000 employees are working with L & T Group of Companies and 2,000 more workforce will be added. Gujarat Finance Minister Saurabh Patel requested Naik to provide more jobs to youths from Vadodara region.

Oct. 27

Only 10% of IIT-Delhi students to get entry to Mark Zuckerberg's town hall

NEW DELHI: When Facebook founder and CEO Mark Zuckerberg interacts with students and faculty at the Indian Institute of Technology in Delhi in a town hall on Wednesday, most students will be sitting out.

Almost everyone of the over 8,000-strong student community at the IIT wants to meet and, if possible, ask a question to Zuckerberg, a role model for many of them. But the venue where the tech entrepreneur is holding the town hall is too small to accommodate all of them.

Only one in nine students will get an entry to the hall and they have been selected through a lottery. The hall has a seating capacity for 1,100, but only 900 of the seats are reserved for students.

The entire session is being handled by a Facebook team. It started the process last Thursday and the response so far has been huge.

When an invite was posted on the IIT website, 1,300 students filled up the application form in the first two hours. Facebook discontinued the link after it got 3,500 applications.

"Town hall has always been popular, but not like this one," said a faculty at IIT Delhi. "Mark is a role model for most of the students as he is easy to identify with. Also as the focus of both the institute and students is moving towards entrepreneurship and innovation, his visit has created a lot of enthusiasm."

Zuckerberg is expected to speak for 15 minutes and spend the next hour answering questions from the audience.

Arshad Nasser, one of the lucky students selected to participate in the town hall, said there would be no direct questioning, though most town hall meetings allow that. "I wonder whether my question would be read out on Wednesday."

Nasser, who is in his final year of Master's in Design, said he was not sure whether it was the question he had put in the application form for Zuckerberg or the lottery that got him through. His question was: "Will FB extend itself as a physical product so that it can interact with devices at home and also connect with social circle?"

Jyoti Meena, a final year B-Tech student, said many of her friends who could not make it to the list were upset. Still, she said the Facebook chief's visit itself has created excitement on the campus.

"Before any town hall, there are posters, banners, etc. but this time there was nothing but still the entire campus is abuzz with FB," she said. Her question for Zuckerberg is: "What was your Eureka moment that helped you decide that to pursue with FB?"

Dhiriraj Das, a third-year dual degree (bio-chemical engineering and bio-technology) student, is one of the majority who could not make it to the list of students who received invites for the town hall. Das is already an entrepreneur and is busy bringing an ecommerce venture, called All Day Sports, to life. "I wanted to ask Zuckerberg a question on the Internet.org. As I would want to know what technology support will FB provide for this so that rural and backward areas in the country access to the Internet?"

A Facebook spokesman said the upcoming event is a rare occasion for the company to have the media invited in any country. "It is mainly because India is one of the countries with largest users outside of the US for the company," he said.

Zuckerberg in his earlier speeches at the company headquarters had shared his views on India. "India is personally very important to the history of our company here. This is a story that I have not told publicly and very few people know," he had said.

During his visit, Zuckerberg is likely to be mostly in Delhi, said a source.

Times Of India ND 27/10/2015 p-10

IIT group shows versions of history, much like Talvar

A youth group formed by current and former IIT students aims to present history through multiple narratives, saying that they follow a *Talvar*-like format

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Pics: Nitin Malik

It's said that history is written by the victors. This didn't seem to go down well with Saksham Agarwal, a 19-year-old IIT Delhi student. Saksham wants history to be told through all possible perspectives, however contradictory they are to each other, much like the film *Talvar*'s presentation. So, along with Swati Mittal, 25, an IT professional, he recently co-founded *Itihaas - The Expressionists*, which he describes as an initiative to transform the way history is taught, through various creative techniques like theatre, historical discussions and story-telling.

ONE STORY, MULTIPLE VERSIONS

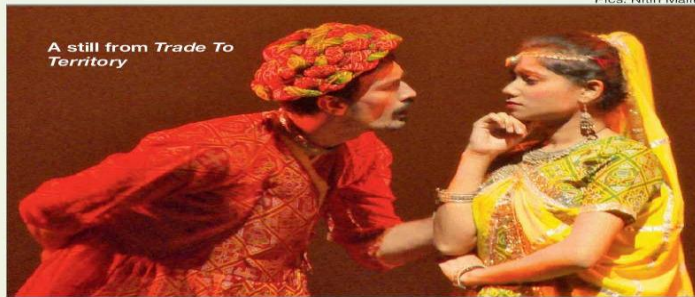
The idea of forming such an initiative came about almost simultaneously and independently to both Saksham and Swati, who met each other at a youth conclave held in the city. "People like watching history-based shows and movies or going to museums and forts. However, when it comes to studying history in textbooks, there's a major disconnect in what is taught and what is real. So, we plan on teaching history through various fun-filled activities," said Swati.

While trying to teach history in an innovative manner may not be a novel idea, the fact that *Itihaas* attempts

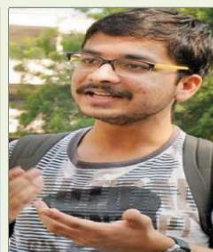
Everything has a history and we tell students to explore this. Through this process, we hope that they will realize that different people say contrasting things about the same person or thing, courtesy their own biases. This was exemplified by Meghna Gulzar's film. When history is written, the biases of the writer come into play

- A second-year IIT student

to squeeze out all kinds of biases from history, appears to be a fresh concept. They recently staged an hour-long play named *Trade To Territory*, based on the Battle of Plassey, at an auditorium in Mandi House. The play, which was attended by 400-odd students from various schools, showed the perspectives of both the Indian rulers and East India Company. "We make deities or demons out of mere characters. But, in reality, we all are shades of grey. Much like the films *Rashomon* or the very recent *Talvar*, where different versions of the same story are shown, we also want our audience to make their own judgments. We want them to see different points of view. They should ask questions like 'Why this and not that'," says Saksham. He added, "In one of our activities, we narrate a story and ask students what they think about the characters. Then, we go a level deeper and explain why a certain character did what they did. Often, the protagonist who seems cunning and selfish in the first version becomes benevolent when other sides of his characters are brought out. It shows



Swati Mittal



Saksham Agarwal

hope that they will realize that different people say contrasting things about the same person or thing, courtesy their own biases. This was exemplified by Meghna Gulzar's film. When history is written, the biases of the writer come into play. We try to keep biases out of our scripts," says a second-year engineering student at IIT Swati added, "Students who study history are taking up different jobs and are not becoming historians. The idea is to engage them as well."

NEUTRAL POV REQUIRED

Trade To Territory was directed by Ravi Taneja, a noted theatre artiste, with Atul Jassi as the design director. Shalini Agarwal, an academician, was the script advisor. The group has a research and writing team that consists of around 11 members, most of them from IIT. The acting team consists of amateur actors from different engineering colleges. Praful Shahi, an IAS aspirant and a member

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- IIT student Saksham Agarwal, co-founder, *Itihaas - The Expressionists*

that there are no right answers, it's all open to interpretation."

REVIVING ANCIENT TRADITIONS

The group is trying to revive traditional forms of storytelling like *Qissa-goi* and *Dastan-goi*, while encouraging people to become historians. "Everything has a history and we tell students to explore this. Through this process, we

of the research team, said, "I have to read what foreign writers thought of our history to develop a neutral point of view." Dalbir Singh, a final year student at Delhi Technical University, says, "I have played quite a few roles in the last one year but as an actor, I found it more engaging that the same character, when portrayed from different points of view, evokes different reactions."

Indian Express ND 27/10/2015 P-4

FYUP good for system, faced no academic argument: DU V-C



EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 26

INSISTING THAT he was convinced the erstwhile Four-Year Undergraduate Programme (FYUP) would have been "good" not only for Delhi University but also for the education system, DU Vice-Chancellor Prof Dinesh Singh said Monday he was yet to hear an academic argument against the initiative.

Asked during *The Indian Express Idea Exchange* why he thought the FYUP was rolled back, Singh said: "I honestly don't know. I cannot find... if you followed the debates, the discussions... have you come across a single academic argument which says this is a faulty system? At least I could not."

He said the programme was a "well thought-out experiment", one that he and his team was convinced would be good "not just to the university, but to the larger context of education".

Asked if, in hindsight, he would have tweaked any aspect of the FYUP, Singh said: "Not at all. Nothing at this point. Remember, it wasn't that at that point it was an imperfect system, it's just that the ideal situation is something just ideal... and you have an approximation...



DU Vice-Chancellor Dinesh Singh at the Idea Exchange event on Monday. *Express*

and over time you get better at approximations... and that was all there was to it."

Singh clarified that due process was followed in securing clearances for its implementation and that there was no procedural lapse on his behalf. The HRD ministry had served a show-cause notice early this year to the V-C for introducing the programme allegedly without due clearances from the Visitor.

Singh had positioned the FYUP as the switch to a modern higher education format that was in tune with global higher education formats, and facilitated greater reform through student mobility, inter-varsity credit transfers and a semester system. But he faced strong resistance from the teaching community.

"I can tell you with complete assurance there was not a single procedural lapse... look, we are

not nitwits. We are all fairly reasonable people and it wasn't a one person driving a diktat. We followed a process over a large period of time. And I can assure you, there is not a single lapse. That is the way I answered in the show-cause notice also," said Singh, who completes his term on October 28.

Dismissing reports that he had resigned during the days of the agitation against FYUP, Singh said that while resignation was certainly one of the options, he didn't do so. However, he added that he was pretty sure he must have said he would do so "in his emotional moments".

The FYUP, which was implemented in 2013, was rolled back in 2014 after opposition and in accordance with UGC's directive.

Asked about the decision of DU's Academic Council to drop A K Ramanujan's essay "300

Ramayanas" from the BA syllabus, Singh said he did not think there was much scholarship in it.

"We were directed by the Supreme Court to place it before the academic council. It wasn't my decision. The SC told us to take it to the academic council and we took it... They deliberated on it for eight-nine hours. And then by an overwhelming vote, they disapproved it. There was enormous deliberation. So it isn't that it was my decision or my whim of fancy, not at all."

"Have I read the essay? Yeah, I have read the essay. It's an entertaining essay but there isn't much scholarship in it. And I say this with a great deal of thought, there isn't much scholarship. I have checked many parts of the essay and I don't find... he was a great scholar, but he didn't write this in any great scholarship," he added.

Indian Express ND 27/10/2015 p-4

Students meet UGC chief, seek clarification over MHRD statement

ARANYA SHANKAR

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 26

OCCUPY UGC protesters Monday met University Grants Commission (UGC) Chairman Ved Prakash to seek a clarification over the Ministry of Human Resource Development's Sunday night statement with regards to non-NET fellowship issue.

Unsatisfied with the response, the students have decided to

continue occupying the area outside the UGC.

The statement had said a review committee would be set up look into issues related to non-NET fellowship but "irrespective of the recommendations" of the committee, the non-NET fellowship would be continued. Students, however, find some issues to be considered by the committee problematic.

"There was a clear attempt by the UGC chairman to confuse on several issues. He was also non-committal on many issues which were supposedly clinched by the ABVP like extending the fellowship to state universities. The letter also mentions that the economic criteria may be employed as 'eligibility' which we reject but he did not clarify on that," said JNUSU president Kanhaiya

Kumar, who led the delegation.

"The committee set up by the UGC to look into enhancement of non-NET scholarship recommended its scrapping, then why should we believe that it will give recommendations favourable to students?" said AISA national president Sucheta De.

After the HRD ministry statement, the protesters have drawn up four demands. These include the issuance of a notification by the HRD ministry and the UGC making the previous decision null and void, withdrawal of any "exclusionary criteria" such as merit or economic criteria, increase in the fellowship from the present scale of Rs 5,000/Rs 8,000 commensurate with increase in JRF and for it to be extended to "all state universities".

Hindustan ND 27/10/2015 P-6

भारतीय यूनिवर्सिटी के साथ काम करना चाहता है ईयू

नई दिल्ली | वरिष्ठ संवाददाता

यूरोपीय संघ (ईयू) ने भारतीय विश्वविद्यालयों के साथ सहयोग बढ़ाने की बात कही है। सोमवार को ईयू के उप प्रमुख कैसर ओनेस्टिनी ने कहा कि भारत

के पास बेहतरीन विद्यार्थी हैं, लेकिन जनसंख्या को देखते हुए अच्छे संस्थानों की कमी है। ईयू देशों में बेहतरीन विश्वविद्यालय हैं लेकिन अच्छे छात्र नहीं हैं। ओनेस्टिनी ने कहा कि इच्छुक भारतीय छात्रों के लिए संसाधन पर्याप्त मात्रा में हैं।