

# Newspaper Clips

## Oct. 29, 2015

Times Of India ND 29/10/2015 P-21

# Zuckerberg gets hero rating in IIT-D, insists internet.org is not a villain

### Net neutrality advocates say it's a false choice, Facebook project not best way to spread free access

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** As loud cheers rang out at IIT-Delhi welcoming Mark Zuckerberg to the capital, cyber experts in the city voiced their concerns over Facebook's internet.org initiative. While the founder of the social networking powerhouse claimed that the views of people not connected to the internet were being ignored in the ongoing debate, net-neutrality advocate Nikhii Pahwa blamed Facebook for creating a "false choice".

"Zuckerberg is asking people to choose between universal connectivity and net-neutrality," Pahwa said. The principle of net-neutrality he added, means that the opera-

#### CLICK ON THE WALL

tor shouldn't be giving a competitive advantage to any entity whether by manipulation of speed or differing pricing.

"Free Basics (the new name for internet.org) users will primarily get access to Facebook and its partners and this effectively discourages usage of the open web," Pahwa said, pointing out that internet penetration has increased dramatically in the past six months alone — rising by 52 million new users according to the Internet and Mobile Association of India.

We really don't have a problem, according to Pahwa. "There are ways to provide free access — it has been done in Africa, Bangladesh and the government free Wi-Fi projects are also on the same format. And none of these restrict usage to just a few sites," he said.

- But, speaking at the IIT campus, Zuckerberg insisted that the line taken by net neutrality proponents may ultimately harm access to the net for the very large num-

bers who are still not online. "Those pushing for net-neutrality have access already," Zuckerberg said. "Those not on the net can't sign a petition pushing for access. We have a moral responsibility [toward] people who do not have access."

The type of content that'll be available through Free Basics is low-bandwidth, text and "not directly cannibalizing the operator's business". The platform "isn't a filter," Zuckerberg said.

Apparently Free Basics users — about 15 million across the world — tend to become full subscribers once they realise the benefits of being connected.

Zuckerberg's in India to interact with its Facebook community — population roughly 130 million — and a tiny part of it, about 1,100, attended Wednesday's Town House on the IIT campus.

"That's the second largest Facebook community in the world," Zuckerberg said. "Our mission is to connect the world and India is the world's largest democracy. For every 10 people who get access, one gets a job, one gets elected out of poverty. It is a big opportunity to develop the economy here, one of the things you can do for the world."

Speaking on social tools from the Facebook stable, Zuckerberg said, the safety tracking tool was used by millions to reassure family and friends after the recent earthquake. There's also Amber Alert on Facebook — a missing child alert currently available only in Canada and USA — that was launched in January this year and "at least one child has been found using it." "In 5-10 years, we want to build computers that are better at main human senses — that can see better, hear better," he said.

## ZUCKER PUNCH

SPEAKING AT IIT-DELHI, FACEBOOK CEO SAYS INDIA IS CENTRAL TO CONNECTING THE WORLD

Connecting people in India is one of the most important things we can do for the world

When it comes to the elements of an ideal start-up, focus on what you want to do and the impact of what you want to change in the world



Zuckerberg with Bharti CEO Sunil Mittal

NETWORKING IN NEW DELHI: Mark Zuckerberg poses for a picture at a Townhall attended by over 1,000 people in IIT-Delhi on Wednesday



NO MATTER WHAT YOU DO YOU'LL MAKE A TON OF MISTAKES AND I MADE EVERY MISTAKE YOU CAN MAKE. YOU WANT TO FOCUS ON NOT WHAT ARE THE MISTAKES YOU DO NOT WANT TO MAKE, BUT TO DO AS MUCH GOOD AS YOU CAN

Products built on a scale as big as Facebook are not built by one person or conceived in one eureka moment

India is the largest democracy. It is one of the countries where you cannot connect the world without connecting India



OUR MISSION IS GIVING PEOPLE THE POWER TO SHARE AND MAKING THE WORLD MORE CONNECTED BUT I'VE SPEND TIME THINKING WHAT IMPACT WE CAN HAVE OUTSIDE FACEBOOK

We are creating new types of schools for the poor in Africa and soon plan to spread to India

Every good company that has come up is because someone cares

Our mission is giving people the power to share

People not on the internet can't sign online petitions for increased access to the internet — we need to be careful about that

Like the transition from sharing text to photos and now videos, virtual reality is the future

Times Of India ND 29/10/2015 P-21

# Mark his words: IIT-D the real thing, where you learn to build anything

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** If Mark Zuckerberg wasn't their most generous potential employer — Facebook made the highest "offers" in the last round of placements in IIT Delhi — he could be a slightly older exchange student.

At Facebook's Town Hall Q&A session on Wednesday, he appeared in his usual jeans, T-shirt and runners. "This is one of the best technical institutes in the world," he said. "This is the real thing. What you're learning here are the skills you need to build anything."

Zuckerberg had drawn plenty of attention in Agra a day earlier. He said a girl, trying to take a photo, "wiped out on the sidewalk and fell

## Candy Crush request cure in the works



Asked to speak on the pet peeve of many users, Mark Zuckerberg on Wednesday said his team was working on finding a "solution" to Candy Crush invitations. "This is why such townhalls are so useful," Zuckerberg said. "This was the top voted questions on our thread. I sent a message to the team in charge of our developer platform and I said by the time I do this Town Hall Q&A, it would be good if we had a solution to this problem," he said.

into a bush." The next big cheer from the IIT crowd came when he mentioned the daughter who's still on the way. He said he wants friends and family to "feel like they're there" when the "baby is taking her first step."

On the future of social networking, the Facebook founder said: "Internet video will become the primary way of sharing our experience,

but it's still small screen, still 2D. In 5-10 years, you can capture and share through feed that is very close to real life experience."

Someone asked what he would do if he had a super power: "The good thing about technology is, you can build superpowers for the world," he said, citing the example of Oculus, an American firm which is close to building a

head-mounted virtual reality display gadget.

Most listeners were as old as Zuckerberg was when he started Facebook. Asked to talk about his "eureka moment", he said he didn't actually have one. A computer science student sceptical about the "growing trend of building apps and labelling themselves as startups" asked him about if there were any 'ideal start-up' elements.

Every successful company was "started by someone who cared about something and not the decision to start a company, Zuckerberg replied. "Think about your impact and thing about what you want to change." And apparently, "If you do good, you get the strength to power through a lot of mistakes."

आईआईटी दिल्ली में छात्रों के सवाल पर जकरबर्ग बोले...

# पूरा इंटरनेट फ्री नहीं दे सकते

नई दिल्ली @ पत्रिका

patrika.com/India

फेसबुक के संस्थापक मार्क जकरबर्ग बुधवार को भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (आईआईटी)



दिल्ली में छात्रों से मुखातिब हुए।

उनके सवालों के जवाब देते हुए बोले-हम अफ्रीका में शिक्षा के बड़े प्रोजेक्ट पर काम

कर रहे हैं। ऐसा प्रोजेक्ट भारत में जल्द शुरू करेंगे। इंटरनेट कनेक्टिविटी रहने से छोटे स्कूल में भी हम सारी सुविधाएं दे सकते हैं। यह विज्ञान को आगे ले जाएगा।

## नेट न्यूट्रैलिटी को लेकर

जकरबर्ग बोले-हम 100 फीसदी नेट न्यूट्रैलिटी को सपोर्ट करते हैं। हम पूरा इंटरनेट तो फ्री नहीं दे सकते, लेकिन फ्री-बेसिक प्रोग्राम के लिए एक हिस्सा दे सकते हैं। बता दें कि फेसबुक के प्रोग्राम internet.org को लेकर पूरी दुनिया में सवाल उठे हैं। आरोप है कि इसके जरिए इंटरनेट को कंट्रोल करने की कोशिश की जा रही है।

## तीन अहम सवाल

### कैंडी क्रश बंद कैसे करें

कैंडी क्रश ने मार्क को भी नहीं छोड़ा। एक छात्र ने पूछा, आखिर कैंडी क्रश की रिक्वेस्ट को कैसे बंद करें? इस पर हंसते हुए मार्क बोले-जल्द ही इस समस्या का हल निकालेंगे। बता दें कि कैंडी क्रश गेम फेसबुक प्लेटफॉर्म पर बेहद मशहूर है। इसे खेलने वाले अन्य यूजर्स को रिक्वेस्ट भेजते हैं। इससे बहुत सारे यूजर्स को परेशानी होती है।

### भारत में इतनी दिलचस्पी क्यों

जकरबर्ग बोले-भारत बड़ा बाजार है, जहां 13 करोड़ लोग फेसबुक यूज करते हैं। हजारों लोगों के पास अभी भी इंटरनेट एक्सेस नहीं है। इस लिहाज से यहां इकोनॉमी को आगे बढ़ाने की काफी संभावनाएं हैं।

पढ़ें पूरा @ पेज 6

### पूरा...

भारत उन देशों में है, जिसे जोड़े बिना दुनिया को नहीं जोड़ा जा सकता। भारत में लोगों के साथ जुड़ना काफी जरूरी है।

**किसी फैसले पर पछताए...:** जकरबर्ग ने कहा मैं बड़ा पॉजिटिव था। मैं बिजनेस के बारे में नहीं सोचता था। मैंने भी आप लोगों की तरह ही सीखा है। 1.5 अरब यूजर्स हैं इसका मतलब यह नहीं है कि हमने गलतियां नहीं की। हम सब इंसान हैं, कोई भी परफेक्ट नहीं होता।

**पहले समझे, फिर स्टार्टअप:** जकरबर्ग ने कहा, लोग जानने से

पहले स्टार्टअप के बारे में काम शुरू कर देते हैं। इसके लिए पहले आइडिया अच्छी तरह समझें। फिर उसे कंपनी बनाने के बारे में सोचें। फोकस रखें कि करना क्या चाहते हैं और क्या बदलना चाहते हैं।

**इंडिया गेट पर किसी ने नहीं पहचाना :** मार्क ने सुबह इंडिया गेट पर मॉर्निंग वॉक किया। उनके साथ फेसबुक टीम के कई साथी भी थे। मार्क ने इसकी फोटो भी फेसबुक पर शेयर की। कहा-दिल्ली आकर अच्छा लग रहा है। खास बात यह रही कि जकरबर्ग इंडिया गेट पर घूम रहे थे तो उन्हें किसी ने पहचाना नहीं।

# IIT-B teachers protest HRD 'interference'

Yogita.Rao@timesgroup.com

**Mumbai:** IIT-Bombay professors and other academicians from within the IIT system are aghast at the level of "interference" in academic and administrative affairs by the Union ministry of human resources and development (MHRD).

Professors have strongly condemned the ministry's interference in a "minor" issue related to a PhD candidate's admission, and backed their IIT-Delhi colleagues' protest against the ministry. This is not the first case of academic interference by the ministry, say professors.

Last December, professor RK Shevgaonkar resigned as IIT-Delhi director, allegedly after the ministry sought an explanation from him over an MoU signed between the institute and the Mauritius Research Council.

In March this year, nuclear scientist Anil Kakodkar resigned as the chairman of the board of governors of IIT-Bombay. Kakodkar, who was also the chairman of the search-cum-selection committee for the appointment of directors, resigned allegedly after disagreement with the MHRD over choice of candidates.

He later mentioned that

the appointment process of directors of premier institutes such as the IITs was too casual.

Kakodkar last Thursday said he was not aware of the details of the IIT-Delhi incident, but believed that autonomy of institutes such as the IITs is important and that they should be left alone. A professor from IIT-B said the senate is the supreme au-

**Professors have strongly condemned the ministry's interference in a 'minor' issue related to a PhD candidate's admission**

thority to take decisions in the IITs.

"Be it admission-related matters or performance evaluation, it is the senate's prerogative. It was just an admission matter of an individual candidate and not a policy decision for the ministry to intervene.

The senate is justified in cancelling the admission of any candidate who has given false information." The professor said the senate never makes decisions on the spur of the moment.

*For the full report, log on to [www.timesofindia.com](http://www.timesofindia.com)*

## Honour for IISc. Professor

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/bangalore/honour-for-iisc-professor/article7816056.ece>

An Indian Institute of Science (IISc.) professor has become the first Indian to bag the 'IEEE Electron Devices Society Early Career Award'.

Mayank Shrivastava, an Assistant Professor in the Department of Electronics Systems Engineering, has been recognised for his contributions to micro-nanoelectronics, says a release. The award will be presented during the International Electron Devices Meeting at Washington D.C. in the U.S. in December.

## New official website launched for JEE Advanced 2016

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/education/story/jee-advanced/1/508007.html>

The new official website of JEE Advanced has been launched by IIT Guwahati, which will be organising the exam. The JAB, also known as Joint Admission Board conducts the JEE Advanced exam. The website was launched on October 24.

The exam is expected to be conducted tentatively on May 22, 2016. While registering for JEE Advanced 2016, the candidates will be given a choice to choose the language option of their question paper. JEE Advanced 2016 will be held in two languages - English or Hindi. The paper will not be bilingual. If a candidate is absent in one of the papers, then the candidate will be considered as absent in the examination.

### Number of attempts:

A candidate is allowed to appear for JEE (Advanced) examination for a maximum of two times, that too consecutively. For securing admission into IITs and ISM, the candidates should either be in category wise top 20 percentile in Class 12 or must have scored at least 75 percent aggregate marks for general and OBC-NCL or 70 percent aggregate marks for SC, ST and PwD candidates.

### Eligibility criteria for JEE Advanced 2016

The candidate should be among the top 1,50,000 students (all the categories included) in JEE (Main).

The percentage required for various categories is as below:

General (from the common rank list): 5 percent

OBC-NCL: 27 percent

SC: 15 percent

ST: 7.5 percent

The candidates should note that within each of these four categories, 3 percent score horizontal reservation is available for PwD candidates. Hence, 1215 of OBC seats, 675 of SC seats and 338 of ST seats are for PwD candidates of their respective categories.

### Age limit:

The age of the general candidates and other backward class (OBC) candidates should not be more than 25 years. It means they should have been born on or after October 1, 1991. Relaxation in age will be provided as per government norms.

Asian Age ND 29/10/2015 P-6

# PANEL TO REVIEW UGC GRANTS

## DECISION COMES AMID UNRELENTING PROTESTS BY STUDENTS AGAINST UGC'S DECISION

SNS & PTI

New Delhi, 28 October

Amid unrelenting protests by students against the scrapping of the non-NET fellowship by the University Grants Commission, the government today appointed a five-member panel to review the research grants offered by UGC, which has been asked to continue all existing grants.

The government reiterated that it has directed the UGC not to implement the decision to discontinue the non-NET fellowships.

The students, who have been protesting since the last eight days, termed the government's notification an "eyewash" and said they will continue with their agi-

tation till the "review" is done.

"In order to encourage and expand quality research in diverse fields, the Central Government has constituted a five-member review committee to go into the issues related to the research fellowships provided by UGC. The panel will submit its report to the HRD Ministry by December, 2015," an official notification said.

"The Central Government has directed the UGC not to implement the Commission's decision to discontinue the non-NET fellowships and continue all existing fellowships," it added.

The committee has been asked to determine the feasibility of enhancing the cov-

erage of NET fellowships which are merit based, establish a transparent system of transfer of fellowship amounts every month to non-NET fellows, considering economic and non-economic criteria for eligibility for the fellowship, among others.

UGC had resolved to discontinue the scheme of non-National Eligibility Test (NET) fellowship, which is provided to those undertaking research in central universities across India, in a meeting held on 7 October, contending that the fellowship programme was discriminatory in nature and lacked uniformity among universities in the selection process.

The Commission had

also cited shortage of funds as the reason behind inability to provide fellowships, triggering protests last week by the students from universities across Delhi demanding that the decision be revoked.

Under the scheme, financial assistance was provided to students undertaking MPhil and PhD of Rs 5,000 and Rs 8,000 per month respectively.

PhD students got assistance for four years and MPhil students for 18 months. They also got a contingency amount per year to help them carry out their research.

Union HRD Minister Smriti Irani had on Sunday assured that the fellowships will not be discontinued

after she met a student delegation.

"We demand that the committee must be an enhancement panel and not a review panel. Also it should not restrict fellowships by merit or income criteria for the fellowship. The notification does not say anything about scholars who are going to enrol in the next academic session," said Shehla Rashid, Vice-President, Jawaharlal Nehru University.

Hundreds of students from JNU, DU, Jamia Millia, Ambedkar University and other institutions have been camping outside UGC office since last week demanding that the authorities restore the fellowships.

## Indian Express ND 29/10/2015 P-14

# NO EASY FIXES

Court's contention that reservation trumps merit in higher education admissions masks a deeper malaise

**O**N TUESDAY, THE Supreme Court implored the government to do away with reservation in higher education institutions, arguing this would be in the "national interest". The court was hearing two cases related to reservations in super-specialty courses in medical institutions, where the tightly controlled supply of training by the Medical Council of India has created a dearth of specialist doctors. Limited seats force doctors to seek specialised training abroad, after which many choose not to return. This also feeds into resentment of quotas and the candidates who avail of them, or are perceived as having benefitted from them. There are many instances of bright, promising SC and ST students being driven to suicide at the country's best colleges and educational institutions, due to the insensitivity they face from faculty and peers. The apex court's positioning of reservations as anti-merit lends credibility to an argument that is oblivious to the way educational capital reproduces itself, and to how difficult it is for less-privileged students to access books and other materials, or even leisure time.

The court's diagnosis of what ails higher education, therefore, misses the larger issue. While higher education institutions need to confront their internal biases, the yawning gap between the demand for quality graduate study and its supply, not just in medical education but across all disciplines, needs to be addressed. Despite an expansion in the number of higher education institutions, the state has struggled to ensure commensurately high standards that would guarantee that the young people entering college are employable upon graduation. Nor has it created an environment that would allow private players to plug the gap in supply and demand, both quantitatively and qualitatively.

Instead of systematically addressing the story of creaky infrastructure, abysmal teacher-pupil ratios and poor instruction quality characterising higher education, the ministry of human resource development has rushed into one avoidable confrontation after another. We need more initiatives like Gian, which looks to recruit over 200 scientists and academics from abroad for up to 28 hours of instruction at Central universities. Rather than seeking to supplement such innovative short-term teaching programmes with long-term solutions for, say, chronic teacher shortages, the UGC, after emerging victorious from a damaging spat over Delhi University's Four-Year Undergraduate Programme, picked a fight with the IITs, over whose degrees it claimed jurisdiction. Later, the HRD ministry got in an unseemly public disagreement with Anil Kakodkar, chairman of the IIT-Bombay board, and in June appeared headed towards an altercation with the directors of the boards of the oldest IIMs, on suspicion that it sought to strip away their autonomy. That the ministry's overbearing interference extends to the most prestigious graduate institutions is a measure of how deeply dysfunctional higher education in India is. The apex court's solution of doing away with quotas is unlikely to change that.

Mint ND 29/10/2015 P-09

## IIT ADMISSION

# Govt tells state boards to declare class XII results by 31 May

INDRANIL BHUMIK/MINT

BY PRASHANT K. NANDA  
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NEW DELHI

The human resource development (HRD) ministry on Thursday urged all school education boards in India to declare class XII examination results by 31 May so that admission to Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) is not delayed.

In a meeting with 37 state school education boards and the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), the ministry agreed to adopt several reform measures, including a standardized question pattern and marking system and a common code for roll numbers to make it easier for students passing out of schools to get admission in colleges and in preparing for competitive exams after due consultations, three government officials said. All of them requested anonymity.

"IITs have told the ministry about the problem they faced during the admission process this year as more than half a dozen school boards had delayed their results. This is a first of such meetings where the school boards were made aware of the practical difficulties. At max, 31 May should be last date for announcing results and furnishing class XII board scores," said one of the three government officials, requesting anonymity.

The official said that some representatives of the IITs were also present in the meeting to discuss the problem areas. The joint seat allocation process for IITs and other top engineering schools such as National Insti-



**Addressing problems:** CBSE and IITs had not received class XII results from three state boards by the third week of June.

tutes of Technology, aimed at reducing the number of vacant seats in the top schools, were delayed by a few weeks this year.

CBSE and IITs had not received class XII results from three state boards—Odisha Council of Higher Secondary Education, Mizoram Board of School Education and Tripura Board of Secondary Education—by the third week of June. The scores from open schooling boards from states such as Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and the CBSE International Board were also not ready.

Without class XII scores, CBSE was unable to release the joint entrance examination (main) rankings, essential for the joint

seat allocation process by IITs, NITs and other such schools.

Besides admissions to IITs, the HRD ministry has set up three committees to improve the quality of education across boards, standardization of question pattern and devise a common code for all class XII students appearing for board exams.

"Standardization of pattern will make life easier for all school boards as every students will know that across the country, all students will get a same pattern of question and marking. For example, out of 100, there may be 50 marks for objective-type questions, 10 for long answer-questions, 20 for short answer-questions and rest 20 marks for practical," said a school board administrator from a southern state, who also declined to be named.

Cheating in exams in several states and impact of coaching in exam results too were discussed, and moderation of marks to reduce high cut-offs in universities such as Delhi were touched upon but were kept for the next meeting, a second government official said, requesting anonymity.

Standardization of exams is a necessity as it will iron out the dissimilarities among school boards and the marks obtained by students, said R.P. Sinha, a former chairman of the Bihar School Education Board.

Although some state school boards have genuine problems in declaring class XII marks by 31 May, they need to try harder, he said. Otherwise, their students will miss out on getting admissions to IITs and leading universities, Sinha added.



Statesman ND 29/10/2015 P-2

# Non-NET fellowship: Students to protest outside MHRD today

**STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE**

New Delhi, 28 October

Undeterred by the police crackdown, scores of students today protested outside the UGC offices here terming the government's stand on the non-NET fellowship issue as "eyewash" aimed at inordinately delaying the matter.

"Their suppression and oppression will only give an edge to our determination. They are only fuelling our movement by resorting to lathi-charge and use of force," said Shehla Rashid Shora, vice-president, JNU-SU.

Students sitting on protest are determined to settle for not only restoring the scholarship but also for increasing it with immediate effect.

"The promises of making review committee which will submit its report by December is a deliberate attempt on the part of government to delay the matter in order to weaken the movement. The government is afraid of our show of strength. We

will continue our protest till thousands of research scholars are given their due," said Shehla.

"We are forced to sleep on footpath and roads. But nothing would stop or deter us and we will protest until our demands are met," said Prashant Mukherjee, a member SFI. He added that UGC is working at the behest of Ministry of Human Resources and Development (MHRD), so there will be protest outside the ministry offices from tomorrow.

Many students asserted that the protesters should come under one banner and a united front is needed to fight against the UGC and government. "We are united but under different banners. We should shun all differences and stand united under a single banner for all left parties" said Amit, a Ph.D student. "Despite of difference of opinions we stand united for students' cause. This is a sign of healthy democracy where different viewpoints are not ignored and common consensus is made," said Shehla Rashid Shora.

Indian Express ND 29/10/2015 P-09

# Top scientists join protest, slam 'climate of intolerance'

'Peace disturbed by rash of bigoted acts, attacks on minorities and Dalits'

**AMITABH SINHA**

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 28

AFTER PROTESTS by writers and artists, over 100 distinguished scientists from some of India's top institutes issued a statement on Wednesday denouncing the "climate of intolerance" and "a rash of bigoted acts".

The statement — a rare public stand by a community that is reluctant to voice its collective opinion on non-scientific issues — came just a day after two smaller groups of scientists issued separate statements making a similar point.

Wednesday's statement was signed by some of the top names of Indian science including P Balram, former director of Indian Institute of Science; Ashoke Sen of the Harish-Chandra Research Institute, Allahabad; A Gopalakrishnan, former chairman of Atomic Energy Regulatory Board; P M Bhargava, former director of the Hyderabad-based Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology; B Ravindran of the Institute of Life Sciences, Bhubaneswar; Partha Pratim Majumdar of the National Institute of Biomedical Genomics



**Dissent is integral to science... reason must prevail: T Jayaraman of TISS**

in Kalyani; and Satyajit Rath of the National Institute of Immunology in Delhi. At least five of them are Padma awardees.

"The scientific community is deeply concerned with the climate of intolerance, and the ways in which science and reason are being eroded in the country. It is the same climate of intolerance and rejection of reason that led to the lynching in Dadri of Mohammad Akhlaq and the assassinations of Prof (M M) Kalburgi, Dr Narendra Dabholkar and Shri Govind Pansare. All three fought against superstition and obscurantism to build a scientific temper in our society," said the statement.

"The Indian civilisation is a

truly plural one. We have always had many practices and communities that have allowed space for each other; we celebrate the festivals and anniversaries of all faiths. This unity and peace has now been disturbed by a rash of bigoted acts, attacks on minorities and Dalits, which show no signs of abating," it added.

Among those who signed the statement were scientists from the Indian Institute of Science, Indian Statistical Institute, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Raman Research Institute, National Institute of Advanced Studies, Indian Institute of Astrophysics, IIT, Mumbai, JNU, Tata Institute of Social Sciences and several other institutes. The statement was also put online for other scientists to lend their name and weight.

Satyajit Rath of the National Institute of Immunology said the statement was a result of informal conversations between several scientists. He said the scientists were not reacting to any individual incident but to a pattern that had become very evident. "Of late, there has been a disturbing tendency in our public discourse to replace civility

with violence," he said. Rath said there was no conversation about scientists returning any awards like the writers had done.

T Jayaraman of the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, a signatory to the statement, said while scientists generally refrain from intervening in political and social issues, the recent incidents were being seen as an attack on core values of science, scientific temper and rationality. "In a democracy like ours, there is no option but to tolerate dissent. Dissent is integral to science... Reason must prevail," he said.

The scientists did not hide the fact that they had been influenced by the writers' protest. "The writers have shown the way with their protests. We scientists now join our voices to theirs, to assert that people will not accept such attacks on reason, science and our plural culture. We reject the destructive narrow view of India that seeks to dictate what people will wear, think, eat and who they will love," they said.

**TWIST IN KALBURGI MURDER PROBE**

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# Why self-driving cars must be programmed to kill

## In Case Of 'Inevitable' Accidents Automatic Vehicles Have To Decide Who's Worth Saving

Andrew Griffin

Car companies will have to decide who their self-driving vehicles are going to kill in the event of a crash, philosophers have warned. Self-driving vehicles are now being widely adopted, and are likely to soon become the norm.

But their manufacturers will have to tell the cars which sets of people they are going to kill when the cars do crash, according to a new paper. The cars that generally will allow you to sit back in leisurely comfort might one



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day have to drive you into a wall and kill you.

Some accidents will be "inevitable", the authors note. In

that case, "some situations will require AVs to choose the lesser of two evils", according to a paper by Jean-Francois Bon-

nefon at the Toulouse School of Economics in France and his two co-authors. In those kinds of situations, the car would have to make a choice. The three researchers set out to explore how that choice should be made, by asking members of the public how they think that cars should decide who to kill. The researchers asked people on Amazon's Mechanical Turk who they thought should die in a range of different situations.

In general, people are happy to using a utilitarian approach to deciding who to kill, they found. That meant that cars should generally mini-

mise the death toll, irrespective of who that meant would die in a crash.

But that mostly applied to other people's cars — the respondents were less keen on buying cars that would sacrifice themselves.

People "were not as confident that autonomous vehicles would be programmed that way in reality—and for a good reason: they actually wished others to cruise in utilitarian autonomous vehicles, more than they wanted to buy utilitarian autonomous vehicles themselves", the team write. And the team

aren't sure that the question might be that simple.

"Is it acceptable for an autonomous vehicle to avoid a motorcycle by swerving into a wall, considering that the probability of survival is greater for the passenger of the car, than for the rider of the motorcycle? "Should different decisions be made when children are on board...? "If a manufacturer offers different versions of its moral algorithm, and a buyer knowingly chose one of them, is the buyer to blame for the harmful consequences of the algorithm's decisions?" THE INDEPENDENT