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IIT-Delhi, JNU in dock over foreign funds

Shemin Joy

NEW DELHI: The Union Home Ministry has issued notices to 10,331 NGOs and institutions for failing to file the mandatory annual statement on foreign contributions they received, warning them that they will forfeit the permission to receive funds from abroad.

Supreme Court Bar Association, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), IIT-Delhi, All India Tennis Association (AITA), Education Department of Municipal Corporation of Delhi, NAFED, Nuclear Science Centre and Delhi Karnataka Sangh – all based in Delhi – are among the names in the list.

Bangalore-based Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research, where Bharat Ratna C N R Rao is a faculty, Kuvempu University, Karnataka State Aids Prevention Society, Karnataka State Council for Science and Technology, Karnataka State Handicraft Development Ltd and Karnataka Veterinary, Animal and Fisheries Sciences

Trickling in

FOREIGN CONTRIBUTION*

■ 2010-11	Rs 10,354.93 crore
■ 2011-12	Rs 11,544.75 crore
■ 2012-13	Rs 10,963.81 crore

** Does not include whole amount, many NGOs are yet to file returns.*

FOREIGN CONTRIBUTION IN 2012-13*

■ Delhi NGOs	Rs 2,248.43 crore
■ Tamil Nadu NGOs	Rs 1,262.22 crore
■ Andhra Pradesh NGOs	Rs 1,148.44 crore
■ Karnataka	Rs 1,128.07 crore

** Does not include whole amount many NGOs are yet to file returns.*

University have also got the notice.

The deadline for filing the annual statement under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act had ended long back and these organisations, including 1,441 from undivided Andhra Pradesh and 1,167 from Uttar Pradesh, now face de-recognition under rules if they fail to respond to the no-

tices. The notices have been issued for not filing statements for the years 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12 and the deadline for filing the statements was December 2011, December 2012 and December 2013 respectively. They were to file the statement within nine months from the closure of the financial year during which they received foreign

funds, a senior Home Ministry official said.

While Andhra Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh top the list, Tamil Nadu (1,108), Maharashtra (990) and Karnataka (821) are among the top five.

The notice and the list, which run into 342 pages, throw up interesting facts and names, including those from the public sector. A number of religious organisations, educational institutions and NGOs are also on the list.

The official said it is interesting to note a number of government organisations in the list though they are aware of the rules governing the receipt of foreign funds. "They had been informed and yet did not take any action. Strict action will be taken," he said.

The NGOs and other institutions, who have taken permission for receiving foreign funds, have to submit income and expenditure statement, receipt and payment account and balance sheet every financial year even if they had not received any foreign contribution.

DH News Service

Amar Ujala ND 01/10/2014 P-6

आईआईटी में 'गांधी से गांधीगिरी तक'

आईआईटी दिल्ली में भी स्वच्छ भारत अभियान के तहत 2 अक्टूबर को एक समारोह होने जा रहा है। इसे 'गांधी से गांधीगिरी तक' का नाम दिया है। कैंपस की सफाई के लिए साइकिल परिक्रमा और श्रमदान किया जाएगा। छात्र और फैकल्टी साइकिल पर कैंपस में चक्कर लगाकर स्वच्छता के प्रति लोगों को जागरूक करेंगे। आईआईटी निदेशक छात्रों और फैकल्टी को संबोधित करेंगे। अभियान के तहत कार्यक्रम सुबह 9 बजे से रात तक चलेंगे। वहीं, छात्रों को हिंदी में रिचर्ड एडिनबरो निर्देशित फिल्म गांधी और फिल्म लगे रहो मुन्नाभाई दिखाई जाएगी।

आईआईटी-दिल्ली में इंडस्ट्रीयल रिसर्च पार्क खुलेगा

<http://www.khaskhabar.com/picture-news/NEWS-industrial-research-park-in-iit-delhi-soon-1-54847.html>

नई दिल्ली। आईआईटी-दिल्ली में जल्द ही इंडस्ट्रीयल रिसर्च पार्क खुलेगा ताकि इनोवेशन को बढ़ावा मिले। इसमें दुनियाभर की कंपनियां, आईआईटी के शिक्षक और छात्र एक साथ इनोवेशन और शोध करेंगे। खास बात यह है कि कैंपस में ही छात्रों को इन कंपनियों में पार्ट टाइम नौकरी मिलेगी। रिसर्च पार्क बनाने का मसौदा फाउंडेशन फॉर इनोवेशन एंड टेक्नोलॉजी ट्रांसफर (फिट) ने तैयार किया है।

फिट संस्थान की इनोवेशन का काम देखने वाली आधिकारिक संस्था है। फिट से जुड़े प्रोफेसर अनिल वाली ने बताया कि आईआईटी-मद्रास के रिसर्च पार्क की तर्ज पर दिल्ली में पार्क बनेगा। योजना को अंतिम रूप दिया जा रहा है। मैकेनिकल विभाग के प्रो पीवीएम राव का कहना है कि पार्क में विभिन्न क्षेत्र की कंपनियों को परिसर उपलब्ध कराया जाएगा। वे शोध के लिए अपनी यूनिट खोलेंगी।

छात्र कंपनियों के साथ इन यूनिट में शोध करेंगे। इस दौरान उन्हें कंपनियां पार्ट टाइम नौकरी पर भी रखेंगी। इससे जुड़ने के लिए कंपनियों को पंजीकरण कराना होगा। उन्हें किराये पर परिसर उपलब्ध होंगे। इससे इतर आईआईटी छात्रों को बाजार की बारीकी सिखाने के लिए कंपनी से जुड़े शीर्ष अधिकारियों का सहयोग लेगी। अधिकारी बतौर शिक्षक पार्ट टाइम पढा सकेंगे। बीटेक, एमटेक व पीएचडी स्तर पर पार्ट टाइम कोर्स में वैज्ञानिकों के साथ पढ़ाने का अवसर होगा।

आईआईटी मद्रास रिसर्च पार्क के सीओओ राजेंद्र मुथा का कहना है कि इनोवेशन के क्षेत्र का अगल चरण रिसर्च पार्क है। जो छात्र बेहतर करेंगे उन्हें कैंपस में ही पार्ट टाइम नौकरी का अवसर मिलेगा। दुनिया के नामी विश्वविद्यालय में शुमार हार्वर्ड और स्टेनफर्ड यूनिवर्सिटी में रिसर्च पार्क की सबसे पहले शुरुआत हुई। सबसे बड़ा और आधुनिक रिसर्च पार्क स्टेनफर्ड यूनिवर्सिटी का है।

Hindu ND 01.10 2014 P-5

Smriti focuses on digital India campaign

Central Universities, IITs, IIMs to have scholarship programmes

Vijetha S N

NEW DELHI: The lead in every newspaper when board exam results are announced is how girls outshine boys yet again.

However, in reality, a majority of these girls do not manage to achieve bigger things simply because of financial constraints or social challenges — a situation Human Resource Development Minister Smriti Irani wants to set right with use of information technology.

All this and more was announced to more than 35,000 students, who were jointly addressed by the Minister as well as Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella on Tuesday, at the “Microsoft Talent India 2014,” the company’s initiative to use its resources to help Indian youth succeed in the new digital economy.

While Mr. Nadella, who is on his first trip to the country after becoming the CEO, spoke about the importance of doing what you love and looking at every opportunity as a learning experience, Ms. Irani spoke about the importance of IT as a key factor in providing a better tomorrow for India’s youth as promised by her government.

“Soon, every Central University, Indian Institute of Technology, and the Indian Institute of Management will have scholarship programmes. And we are focusing on the Northeast too. We will facilitate 2,000 students and 500 faculty members to travel to these institutes and see the technology used there, as well as other things that they could use in their own institutes. This will go hand-in-hand with scholarships for 10,000 students,” she said, adding that another feature she would introduce



Human Resource Development Minister Smriti Irani with Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella at the Microsoft Talent India 2014 in New Delhi on Tuesday.

— PHOTO: R.V. MOORTHY

Fall in love with what you do: Nadella

Yuthika Bhargava

NEW DELHI: “Live every day as if it is your last day, but learn as if you are going to live forever.” This quote by Mahatma Gandhi is what Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella chose to inspire thousands of students across India via web-link.

Mr. Nadella, Microsoft’s third CEO after Bill Gates and Steve Ballmer, said one should be passionate about what he or she does and should never stop learning irrespective of the heights

they scale. On a two-day visit to India, he was interacting with students in person and through web-link.

He advised youth that they should “fall in love with what they do. Then it doesn’t feel like work. Everything becomes easy”.

The CEO of the technology giant told his young audience that the opportunity before them as they prepare to change the world “is unparalleled”.

“In the long run, EQ (emotional quotient) trumps IQ (intelligence

quotient). Without being a source of energy for others very little can be accomplished,” he said.

Describing his journey as “surreal”, Mr. Nadella said, “When I was growing up, I had not anticipated that I would even go west of Mumbai... and then I landed in Wisconsin. Believe me, my journey has not been simple. There have been many ups and downs and it is the choices that I made, which have helped shape what I have achieved.”

is a council for academic and industry interface, which will have a placement cell at all Central Universities as well as IITs and IIMs.

“We have managed to get details of 50,000 meritorious students who cannot study further because of financial constraints,” said Ms. Irani, while talking at length about the “digital India campaign,” which she wants to promote as a na-

tional agenda along with the other agendas of her government.

“The mygov.in is an initiative where citizens have not just commented on politicians, but also given concrete ideas about policy which the government can use,” she said.

Students asked questions that ran from how soon technology would be made available to those in small

towns to how a person could move with the times in spite of working for decades in the same industry.

The importance of continuous “learning” and not just continuous “employment”, as well as the ability to listen, change with the times and experiment, and learn to move on from failure were listed as the key factors for professional success.

Experts hail new JEE norms

Gauri Kohli

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Candidates aspiring to get admitted to the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) had reason to cheer when the human resource development ministry and the IIT council decided to introduce a change in the eligibility criteria for JEE (Advanced) last week. One is eligible for the entrance test by scoring 75% marks in the Class 12 board examination.

Currently, only those who are in the top 20 percentile are eligible for admission, once they clear the JEE (Main) and JEE (Advanced). If this is implemented, how will it affect the students? Experts believe it will benefit students in more ways than one.

"This move will give a push to the board exam concept. This is a welcome step by the IIT Council to give a chance to every aspiring student to be a part of these prestigious institutes. The quality and intake of students will not be affected by this move. In fact, you never know we might find more talented students," says Ashok Kumar, president, IIT Delhi Alumni Association.

The decision came after some of the candidates were ineligible for admission even though they performed well in JEE (Advanced) and obtained dis-

tinction in the Class 12 exam. This is because of the very high 20 percentile cut-off in some of the state boards.

"In order to be inclusive and not miss out on candidates who get distinction in Class 12 exams and do well in JEE (Advanced), the criterion has been modified. For admission to IITs and ISM Dhanbad, a candidate must satisfy at least one of the following two criteria: He/she should be within the category-wise top 20 percentile of successful candidates in his/her respective Class 12 (or equivalent) board examination and he/she must have secured 75% (for general or OBC-NCL) or 70% (SC, ST or PwD) of aggregate marks in the Class 12 (or equivalent) board exam. The quality and difficulty level of the JEE (Advanced) would remain the same. The focus of

the JEE continues to test the understanding of concepts and their applications. The change is merely to be more inclusive," says a spokesperson from IIT Bombay.

Since the level of board exams and patterns vary from state to state, the top 20 percentile criterion could not do justice alone, says Aakash Chaudhry, director, Aakash Education Services Ltd. "The 75% criterion sounds reasonably acceptable, considering the state board exams for UP and others are relatively tough as compared to CBSE and ICSE boards," he adds. Professor

MK Panigrahi, member of the Joint Admission Board (JAB) 2014, agrees.

"This would come as a relief to students from different state boards such as Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu who were among the most affected by the earlier criteria with their cut-offs going as high as 90%. There were cases such as that of a student who scored 919 but lost out because of one mark as he failed to qualify through the top 20 percentile norm. The JAB decided that even if a student does not figure in the 20 percentile category, he could get into the IITs, provided he meets the minimum marks prescribed by the Council."

■ Candidates will now be eligible for the entrance test by scoring 75% marks in the Class 12 board exams.

IMAGESBAZAAR



AMONG THE CHOSEN ONES

Indian-origin prof may be in line for Physics Nobel

Vanita Srivastava

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NEW DELHI: Berkeley University professor Dr Ramamoorthy Ramesh, a physicist of Indian origin, has made it to the Thomson Reuters list of potential candidates who may join the ranks of Albert Einstein and Marie Curie by picking up this year's Physics Nobel Prize.

Ramesh, an alumnus of Bengaluru's Indian Institute of Science, works in the area of complex oxides and,

in 1999, started looking into the confluence of electricity and magnetism through Multiferroics — materials that are both ferroelectric and magnetic simultaneously.

"The original idea was to control magnetism by electricity to enable a broad range of low-power electronics... of course, we have to figure out the fundamentals first," Dr Ramamoorthy told Hindustan Times.

Since 2002, the science and intellectual property unit of Thomson Reuters has accu-



■ Dr Ramamoorthy Ramesh

rately predicted 35 Nobel laureates, basing its forecasts on scientists' citations, or references to its published papers by others.

Dr Ramamoorthy quoted

a shloka from the Bhagavad Gita to explain his state of mind: "This is just a prediction. We cannot and should not take it seriously. If I get it, it will be dedicated to humanity, to science and to the young people of the world. If I do not, then I have to take it in an equally good stride."

A total of seven scientists, including six in two different groups of three each, have been listed as possible contenders for the Physics Nobel.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Indian-origin prof may be...

Dr Ramamoorthy's name figures alongside James Scott (University of Cambridge) and Yoshinori Tokura (University of Tokyo) for their study on a powerful type of data storage device, called ferroelectric random-access memory (FeRAM), and on the materials that have the capacity for such technology.

Others on the list are Charles L Kane (University of Pennsylvania), Laurens W Molenkamp (University of Wurzburg, Germany) and Shoucheng Zhang (Stanford University), who have been picked for their research with a special type of material called a topological insulator which easily conducts electricity on its surface, and their investigations into a newly-realised state of matter called the quantum spin Hall state.

Peidong Yang, also from Berkeley, has been chosen for his contributions to nanowire photonics, which could lead to next-generation computer technology with extremely swift data processing and transmission capabilities.

The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences in Stockholm will announce the Nobel Prize for Physics on October 7.

DR RAMAMOORTHY'S NAME FIGURES ALONGSIDE JAMES SCOTT AND YOSHINORI TOKURA FOR THEIR STUDY ON A POWERFUL TYPE OF DATA STORAGE DEVICE

केंद्र सरकार करेगी काउंसिल ऑफ हायर एजुकेशन का गठन

आईआईटी-कॉलेजों का एक साथ प्लेसमेंट

मिलेगा मौका

नई दिल्ली | रोहित पंतार

देश के केंद्रीय विश्वविद्यालयों के छात्र जल्द ही आईआईटी-आईआईएम के छात्रों के साथ कैंपस प्लेसमेंट के जरिए नौकरी पा सकेंगे। केंद्र सरकार काउंसिल ऑफ हायर एजुकेशन का गठन करेगी। काउंसिल सभी केंद्रीय विश्वविद्यालयों, आईआईटी और आईआईएम के लिए कॉमन प्लेसमेंट आयोजित करेगी। मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री स्मृति ईरानी ने इसकी जानकारी दी। अगले सत्र से इस व्यवस्था को शुरू किया जा सकता है।

उन्होंने कहा कि आईआईटी और आईआईएम की तर्ज पर केंद्रीय विश्वविद्यालयों का स्तर बढ़ने के लिए काउंसिल बनाई जाएगी। इसके तहत विश्वविद्यालयों के छात्र आईआईटी-आईआईएम में आने वाली अंतरराष्ट्रीय कंपनियों में प्लेसमेंट के लिए बैठ सकेंगे। उनके पास पहले के मुकाबले नौकरी के अच्छे अवसर होंगे। विश्वविद्यालयों का प्लेसमेंट सेल भी दुरुस्त होगा। इतना ही नहीं, उन्होंने बताया कि स्किल और इनोवेशन बढ़ाने के लिए सभी संस्थानों को एक साथ जोड़ा जाएगा।

हर संस्थान का होगा काउंसलर

हर विश्वविद्यालय के प्लेसमेंट सेल में एक काउंसलर होगा। कॉलेज के कोर्स और छात्रों की जरूरत के हिसाब से प्लेसमेंट के लिए कंपनियों को बुलाया जाएगा। इसका जिम्मा इन काउंसलर पर होगा। काउंसिल ऑफ हायर एजुकेशन इन काउंसलर को प्रशिक्षण देगी ताकि ये छात्रों को कंपनियों की मांग के अनुरूप प्लेसमेंट के लिए समय रहते तैयार कर सकें।



हर जिले में इनोवेशन लैब

मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय आईआईटी की तर्ज पर देश के हर जिले में कॉलेजों व विश्वविद्यालयों के लिए इनोवेशन लैब स्थापित करेगा। मंत्री स्मृति ईरानी ने बताया कि जनवरी 2015 से राष्ट्रीय अविष्कार अभियान की शुरुआत होगी। इसके तहत देश के हर जिले के छात्रों को शोध कार्यों में शामिल करने के लिए लैब से जोड़ा जाएगा। आईआईटी के वैज्ञानिकों के साथ ही अन्य राष्ट्रीय स्तर के शैक्षणिक संस्थानों के वैज्ञानिकों का सहयोग लिया जाएगा। खास बात यह है कि छात्र चाहें किसी भी संस्थान के हों, वे नए आइडिए के साथ यहां इनोवेशन व शोध कार्य कर सकेंगे।

मॉरीशस में आईआईटी

आईआईटी दिल्ली नवंबर से अपना विदेशी परिसर शुरू करेगी। संस्थान मॉरीशस में अंतरराष्ट्रीय प्रौद्योगिकी अनुसंधान अकादमी संस्थान स्थापित कर रहा है। मॉरीशस अनुसंधान परिषद के साथ मिलकर यह नया संस्थान स्थापित किया जा रहा है। आईआईटी दिल्ली के प्रोफेसर एस.एम. इशियाक ने बताया कि यहां इलेक्ट्रिकल, इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स और कंप्यूटर साइंस जैसे विषयों में पूर्णकालिक और अंशकालिक पीएचडी की डिग्री प्रदान की जाएगी। इस संस्थान का मुख्य उद्देश्य मॉरीशस में आईआईटी जैसे शिक्षण संस्थान की स्थापना करना और यहां अनुसंधान की संस्कृति प्रोत्साहित करना है।

Education domain must be autonomous

FEW issues in the higher education domain exist despite numerous contradictory views by academicians, managers of education institutions and politicians. Whether colleges should ever become autonomous? Which areas, that form a vital part of a college's working, should autonomy cover and what would be the implications such autonomous functioning? Many similar aspects have always remained disputable. The only elements that have never been taken into confidence are the student community along with their parents. This unanswered question has existed since the 1960s and became a serious debate for the planning commission only in the 1980s. The reason for such a slow march was that till the 1980s, the growth of colleges and universities was restricted because going to colleges was meant for the enlightened middle class. Sincere efforts and pressure from deprived communities enhanced the scope of higher education. It also raised the issue related to the quality of education provided by universities and affiliated colleges.

Almost 30 years ago, the University Grants Commission (UGC) had suggested the introduction of autonomous colleges as a solution for improving the quality of education as well as a measure to reduce the pressure on our education system. To attract the college and university communities with this reform, the UGC offered special grants and supported them in research and development, training of teachers, and increased connectivity. The Tamil Nadu colleges accepted this scheme of 'autonomy' wholeheartedly and

Arun Nigavekar



ONE FOR ALL: Performance of autonomous colleges in the country has been a mixed bag, which proves that autonomy in itself is not a virtue or a magic wand that could take the nation's education structure to greater heights

today, the state has the highest number of autonomous colleges; almost 30 per cent of the country's total (460) autonomous colleges. Other states that took similar initiatives were Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.

Today, the number of universities has risen to 619 and more than 30,000 colleges follow the age-old examination system completely burdened with administrative workload. In a way, they have become 'administrative academic authorities' that are least bothered about improvement of quality of education, propagating research and development activity, enhancing teachers' ability to deliver focused education and nurturing the students' minds and their careers. The affiliating system, with a large number of students and a weak, dis-

heartened teacher community, has enormously affected the 'standard of learning' in classrooms. Two entities have become extremely strong in today's educational system — 'owners' of educational institutions, who are supported by political parties and 'leaders' in the teacher communities, who directly and indirectly get the 'less work and high income' advantage.

The Menon committee report closely follows UGC's various prescriptions in vital issues of the higher education. Performance of autonomous colleges in the country has been a mixed bag, which proves that autonomy in itself is not a virtue or a magic wand that could take the nation's education structure to greater heights.

By sheer weight of numbers, the education system is

bursting at its seams. The need for either reforming it or bringing in an entirely new system is certainly on the cards. The Menon committee opted for reform and recommended the setting up of autonomous colleges. Respecting the views of the committee, the government has decided to confer autonomous status to a few colleges.

The committee also concedes that colleges will need administrative autonomy also in order to make the whole system functional. One hopes that it should relieve the universities' administrative burden and thus enable them to engage with other vital academic issues.

However, autonomy is not just confined to administration, per se. Indeed, the value of fundamental education and knowledge gained by the stu-

dent is the backbone of the autonomy. So, educational institutions have to be very open and flexible as well as transparent in the curriculum they follow, the manner in which they deliver knowledge, and also how far they make the link between what students learn from real life experiences, (which is the focus of the industries in product development and its production) and the manner in which the world is dynamically changing in the present century. In fact, students today question the utility of the teaching and learning process that they undertake and how they would be successful in a job environment. For a satisfying pay package in future, students are willing to accept a flexible and open approach with a credit-based modular structure as the backbone of their learning years.

This can happen only if colleges, as independent entities, are made autonomous in terms of curriculum, delivery methodology and assessment of students' performance. As a result, in a way, each college becomes a mini-university. Nevertheless, they would still be part of the university to which they are affiliated. For some, this is a bitter pill. However, all those linked with the higher education domain — state and central governments, owners and managers of educational institutions, the teaching community and its various organisations along with politicians — should end their so-called supremacy in the education arena and make sincere efforts to uplift its gloomy state.

(The writer is former chairman of UGC, former vice-chancellor of University of Pune and founder director of NAAC)

Business Line, ND 01/10/2014 P-20

WILDLIFE

Half of world's wild animals lost since 1970

Huge decline in numbers across land, sea and rivers, states the new report

DAMIAN CARRINGTON

The number of wild animals on Earth has halved during the past four decades, according to a new analysis. Creatures across land, rivers and the seas are being decimated as humans kill them for food in unsustainable numbers while polluting or destroying their habitats, the research by scientists at WWF and the Zoological Society of London found.

Sad reality

"If half the animals died in London zoo next week it would be front page news," said Prof Ken Norris, ZSL's director of science. "But that is happening in the great outdoors. This damage is not in-

evitable but a consequence of the way we choose to live." The steep decline of animal, fish and bird numbers was calculated by analysing 10,000 different populations, covering 3,000 species in total. This data was then, for the first time, used to create a representative "Living Planet Index" (LPI), reflecting the state of all 45,000 known vertebrates.

"We have all heard of the FTSE 100 index, but we have missed the ultimate indicator, the falling trend of species and ecosystems in the world," said Prof Jonathan Baillie, ZSL's director of conservation. A second index in the new Living Planet report calculates humanity's "eco-



The number of Olive Ridley sea turtles has plunged by more than half in just 40 years as human population has doubled. AFP

logical footprint," the scale at which it is using up natural resources. Currently, the global population is cutting down trees faster than they re-grow, catching fish faster than the oceans can restock, pumping water from rivers and aquifers faster than rainfall can replenish them and

emitting more climate-warming carbon dioxide than oceans and forests can absorb.

The report concludes that today's average global rate of consumption would need 1.5 planet Earths to sustain it. But four planets would be required to sustain US levels of

consumption, or 2.5 Earths to match UK consumption levels. The fastest decline among animal populations was found in freshwater ecosystems, where numbers have plummeted by 75% since 1970. "Rivers are the bottom of the system," said Dave Tickner, WWF's chief freshwater adviser. "Whatever happens on the land, it all ends up in the rivers." For example, he said, tens of billions of tonnes of effluent are dumped in the Ganges every year.

The number of animals living on the land has fallen by 40% since 1970. From forest elephants in central Africa, where poaching rates now exceed birth rates, to the hoolock gibbon in Bangladesh and European snakes such as the asp viper, destruction of habitats has seen populations tumble. THE GUARDIAN

Business Line, ND 01/10/2014 p-20

APP-LOAD

NASA brings rocket science home

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New York, September 30

The US space agency NASA has launched a new app to make children aware of how rockets are launched. The free app called LSP Activity Book lets kids learn about the mission

planning process and the precise measurements behind creating the right kind of launch vehicle. NASA's Launch Services Programme (LSP) prepares unmanned spacecraft for launch. The app has a character named "Peter the Pay-

load" that guides kids through the online colouring activity book. A crossword teaches children about the solar system, and an "asteroid maze" mimics asteroid belts that spacecraft navigate. The app is available for iOS and Android users.

'World lost 52% of its wildlife in past 40 yrs'

Humans Destroying Earth's Ability To Support Life: WWF

Kounteya.Sinha
@timesgroup.com

London: A report from the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) has found that 52% of the world's animals have vanished in 40 years.

Between 1970 and 2010, populations of mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and fish around the globe dropped 52%, said the 2014 Living Planet Report.

Examples of wildlife that are suffering serious population collapse include elephants in Africa which could be extinct within our lifetime. Marine turtles have seen an 80% drop in numbers. In addition to the precipitous decline in wildlife populations the report's data point to other warning signs about the overall health of the planet.

The amount of carbon in

our atmosphere has risen to levels not seen in more than a million years, triggering climate change that is already destabilizing ecosystems. High concentrations of reactive nitrogen are degrading lands, rivers and oceans. Stress on already scarce water supplies is increasing. And over 60% of the essential services provided by nature from forests to seas are in decline.

"We're gradually destroying our planet's ability to support our way of life," said Carter Roberts, president and CEO of WWF. Jon Hoekstra, chief scientist at WWF said, "What is not complicated are the clear trends we're seeing — 39% of terrestrial wildlife gone, 39% of marine wildlife gone, and 76% of freshwater wildlife gone — all in the past 40 years".

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

Wildlife numbers have plunged by more than half in just 40 years (1970 to 2010) as Earth's human population has nearly doubled, a survey of over 3,000 vertebrate species by the WWF reveals. The report tracks the growth or decline of more than 10,000 populations

Worst decline is among populations of freshwater species, which fell by 76% over the four decades to 2010, while marine and terrestrial numbers both fell by 39%

Biggest decline in vertebrate wildlife is in Latin America

In Ghana, the lion population in one reserve is down **90%**

Globally, habitat loss and hunting have reduced tigers from 100,000 a century ago to just **3,000**

Loss of natural habitats, exploitation through hunting or fishing, and climate change are some of the reasons to have triggered the decline



In West Africa, forest felling has restricted elephants to **6-7%** of their historic range



ECOLOGICAL FOOTPRINT

> Kuwaitis have the biggest ecological footprint, consuming and wasting more resources per head than any other nation, the report said, followed by Qatar and the UAE

> Poorer countries like India, Indonesia and the Democratic Republic of Congo had an ecological footprint that was well within the planet's ability to absorb their demands

“If all people on the planet had the footprint of the average resident of Qatar, we would need 4.8 planets. If we lived the lifestyle of a typical resident of the USA, we would need 3.9 planets — WWF REPORT

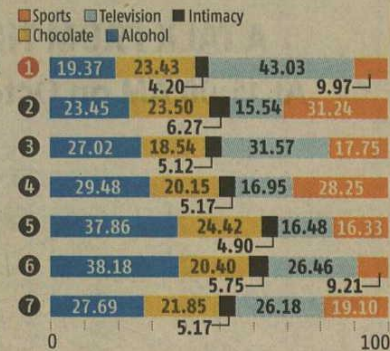
46% INDIANS SPEND 6 HOURS A DAY ON INTERNET

Connected World II, a global survey by Tata Communications, reveals that 82% of Indians admit to a 'fear of missing out' when not connected to the internet, the highest percentage globally. But despite the nation's dependence on all things digital, 60% of Indians surveyed equated the internet with the world wide web — showcasing a gap in the actual understanding of the internet. The report captures responses from 9,417 internet users across six emerging and developed countries — France, Germany, India (2,117), Singapore, the US, and the UK — to better understand how users engage and connect with the internet today.



If you had to give up one of the following to get internet access, what would it be?

(%)



We hear a lot about information being kept in 'the cloud', but where is the cloud?

(%)



Is the internet and the world wide web the same?

(%)



1 India 2 United Kingdom 3 France 4 United States 5 Germany 6 Singapore 7 Grand total

- The study reveals in India, 46% of respondents spend at least six hours a day actively using the internet, compared to 29% globally
- Although Indian men spend more time on the internet than women, it is Indian women (21%) who outdo men (16%) in feeling anxious or lost when not connected to the Internet
- More than half of surveyed Indian internet users (56%) admit they can't survive more than five hours without internet connectivity
- Television seems to be the biggest loser in India, with 43% ready to give it up for an internet connection
- 28% of the respondents globally were willing to give up alcohol for an internet connection
- Globally, 93% individuals spend more than an hour and nearly 28% spend more than six hours on the internet
- 30% Indians stated that the sub-sea cables were the fastest way to access the internet, compared to 19% globally
- More women than men globally and in India happen to be aware that individual countries own the internet

NOTE: Tata Communications conducted an online survey that comprised of 14 closed questions, aimed at capturing behavioural, technical and philosophical responses in relation to people's associations, understanding and emotional connections to the internet. Of the total number of respondents surveyed, 50% of them are women and 50% men. 33% of the respondents are from Asia (India and Singapore), 52% from Europe (UK, France and Germany) and 15% from North America, with age ranges: 15-25=11%, 25-35=23%, 35-45=22%, 45-55=22%, 55-65=21%. The findings of this survey were then analysed as an aggregate of the responses and further based on age, gender and location to arrive at the insights.

Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella and Union Minister Smriti Irani Speak to Students at Talent India 2014

<http://www.ndtv.com/blog/show/microsoft-ceo-satya-nadella-and-union-minister-smriti-irani-speak-to-students-at-talent-india-2014-599985>



- When I think back, I never grew up thinking that I'll go west of Mumbai and then I land up in Wisconsin.
- Believe me, my journey has not been a simple journey of progress. There have been many ups and downs and it is the choices that I made at each of those times that have helped shape what I have achieved

15:11 (IST) Union Minister Smriti Irani says Satya Nadella is a difficult speaker to top

- We are anxious today because there is a huge expectation from all of you (the youth).
- We recognize that expectation and it is the youngsters of this country who gave us this mandate - this mandate is your mandate
- Satya spoke of IQ and EQ - I bring in the GQ component - the governance component.
- We are making available open resources to all students from economically challenged backgrounds.
- I spoke this morning to Mr Nadella about the various initiatives we are undertaking.
- There are some who mock us at times for being overly dependent on social media, on information technology dreams -- but we have seen the benefits of that...
- The Army in Jammu and Kashmir through social media managed to provide support to 12000 people -- how technology can help us is some of the experiences I have shared today.
- All the youngsters who are watching us today, I hope through this transformation you will make your parents proud...
- Satya quoted Gandhiji - let me quote him to say - Be the change you want to see.
- **Here is to more Satya Nadella's -- this is the dream**

- This platform was given to us by a man who began by tinkering with his tools in a garage and I stand here as a representative of a person who began as a tea-seller.
- Out do not others but your own potential



15:00 (IST) It is just such a privilege to be here, says Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella at Talent India 2014.

- The energy is palpable, the optimism is here to see.
- As you prepare to change the world, the opportunity before you is unparalleled.
- All of you represent a multi-disciplinary approach to innovation - and that will change the future.
- The mobile first, cloud first is a very rich canvas for innovation - it is not the device that is mobile, it is the person that is mobile.
- How can we create platforms, how can we be the tools provider so that others can realise their potential? Today we launched our commercial cloud services
- The energy you create around you is perhaps going to be the most important attribute -- in the long run EQ trumps IQ. Without being a source of energy for others very little can be accomplished.
- Every opportunity I got I took it as a learning experience.
- You have to fall in love with what you do because everything else then becomes so easy. Most importantly it is perhaps the best way to find meaning in what you do...
- *Quotes Mahatma Gandhi* - Live everyday as if it your last day but learn as if you are going to live forever...

A new IIT, help against LeT and more: Here's what Obama promised PM Modi

<http://www.firstpost.com/world/a-new-iit-help-against-let-and-more-heres-what-obama-promised-pm-modi-1738249.html>

New York: Prime Minister [Narendra Modi](#) and President Obama did a sterling job of building the momentum that had been missing in India-US ties over the past few years. To the surprise of policy wonks, cerebral, no-drama Obama and folksy, down-to-earth, Modi shared good chemistry. The two leaders held an Oval Office meeting on Tuesday which yielded scores of measurable deliverables.

The security partnership got an upgrade with a focus on the threat of terrorism, including from Pakistan-based groups, and heightened defence and space cooperation.

The cooperation between the two countries on the Mars Orbiter Mission has been admirable and has shown how more synergy is possible. In a meeting in Toronto on Tuesday, Nasa Administrator Charles Bolden and K. Radhakrishnan, chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro), signed two documents to launch a NASA-ISRO satellite mission to observe Earth and establish a pathway for future joint missions to explore Mars.

The pair also discussed trade and “issues of making sure that maritime rules are observed,” Obama said, as well as joint efforts to confront violent extremism in the Middle East and aid the transition of power in Afghanistan.



The two leaders put ties back on track: PTI

“We discussed how we can continue to work together on a whole host of issues, from space exploration and scientific endeavor to dealing with humanitarian crises like Ebola in West Africa,” Obama said.

Modi, for his part, said his visit to the US had demonstrated America's “extraordinary interest and excitement” about India and the India-US partnership. “India and US are natural partners and America is an integral part of our Look East, Link West policy,” Modi told the media after meeting with Obama for over two hours.

The bilateral meeting yielded a slew of practical, measurable deliverables that touch Indian lives:

- An agreement for the US to partner India in developing and modernizing three smart cities in Allahabad, Ajmer, and Vishakapatnam with the US Agency for International Development (USAID), headed by Gujarati American, Rajiv Shah. Organisations like the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation will also be involved with the “smart city” partnership.
- The two sides have launched an alliance which will upgrade water, sanitation, and health in 500 Indian cities under a programme titled WASH.
- The US will provide help to set up a new Indian Institute of Technology (IIT). The US Agency for International Development (USAID) will provide a range of high-level analytic, diagnostic, and organizational development services to support India's efforts to stand up a new IIT. Based on the outcomes of these services, USAID and the US Department of State will explore potential areas for future collaboration, which may include planning, faculty development, and exchange programs, as well as potential partnerships with leading US higher education institutions and private sector entities.
- They have also green lighted an initiative in the education sector christened the Global Initiative of Academic Networks or GIAN for short which will enable 1,000 American teachers to teach in Indian universities.
- In good news for frequent travelers, Indians arriving in the US, will no longer have to spend hours waiting to be cleared by immigration officials at busy airports like New York’s John F. Kennedy, Washington’s Dulles or Chicago’s O’Hare. India will immediately be covered by the US Global Entry Programme, which eliminates the need for pre-approved, low-risk travelers to even meet any immigration agent before entering the United States.

According to officials, quid pro quo was at work in response to Modi's generous announcement at Madison Square Garden on Sunday that American tourists going to India would get visas on arrival while US citizens travelling to India for other reasons would be granted long-term visas. This tipped the US government's hand in agreeing to India's participation in the Global Entry program.

Modi also promised to take the nuclear deal forward.

In a major breakthrough for intelligence sharing, the American side also committed its security and law enforcement agencies to "joint and concerted efforts" aimed at dismantling the networks of Dawood Ibrahim's "D-company," the Lashkar-e-Taiba and the Jaish-e-Mohammed operating mainly from Pakistan. In return, India will help in cracking down on the Haqqani network in Afghanistan and Pakistan as well as al-Qaeda which are of interest to the US.

Following their productive Oval Office meeting, Obama took Modi to the Martin Luther King Jr. memorial on the National Mall, just a few blocks from the White House where the two chatted amiably and gazed on the towering white sculpture.

According to diplomats, Obama is intrigued by Modi's political skills and pulling power. After all, it is rare for a head of state to drop in at the White House with crowds gathered outside, cheering with placards reading "DC loves Modi."

It remains to be seen whether Obama will be intrigued enough to take up Modi on his invitation to make a reciprocal visit to India.

When Shah Rukh Khan couldn't clear the IIT entrance exam

<http://daily.bhaskar.com/news/CEL-when-shah-rukh-khan-couldnt-clear-the-iit-entrance-exam-4761687-NOR.html>

He might be one hell of an actor, but [Shah Rukh Khan](#) had his share of struggle before he entered the entertainment industry. While the superstar's fans already know that he dabbled with various businesses before he became an actor, not many know that [SrK](#) actually wanted to be a software engineer.

The actor spilled the beans on the same, when he visited the [Google](#) headquarters recently.

While speaking about how he managed to be so successful, the actor told everybody that he appeared for the IIT entrance exam since he wanted to be a software engineer.

In the end, the actor also showed off his much talked about 8 pack abs. Well, Shah Rukh has surely come a long way!