

Newspaper Clips October 11, 2010

Times of India ND 11-Oct-10 p-9

China benefits from Insat 4B failure?

Sachin Parashar | TNN

New Delhi: A US expert has attributed the partial failure of of Isro's Insat 4B satellite a few months ago to the Stuxnet internet worm, allegedly created by China.

"The satellite in question (INSAT 4B) suffered the power 'glitch' in an unexplained fashion, and it's failure served another state's ad-

vantage — in this case China," Jeffrey Carr said.

Alongwith Indonesia and Iran, India has had the maximum number of infections from Stuxnet which affects Windows computers and gets transmitted through USB sticks. While Iran and Indonesia had about 60,000 and 13,000 Stuxnet infections respectively till late September, India was at the third posi-

tion with over 6,000 infections. However, it infects only those computers which use certain Siemens software systems. Siemens software systems are used in many Indian government agencies including Isro.

As it had impacted Bushehr nuclear plant in Iran, it was thought that Iran might have been the intended target. Israel, in fact, had emerged as

the prime suspect.

According to Carr, the Siemens software in use in Isro's Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre is S7-400 PLC and SIMATIC WinCC, both of which, he said, would activate the Stuxnet worm. The Stuxnet worm was first discovered in June this year, a month before INSAT 4B was hit by the mysterious power failure.

Publication: The Times Of India Delhi; Date: Oct 11, 2010; Section: Times Business; Page: 22

'More quota for emerging nations'

Washington: In a move that will give emerging economies a greater say in the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the multilateral agency has said it is close to increasing quota share of developing countries by at least 5% by January 2011. The move will make IMF more representative and better able to tackle the economic problems facing the global economy.

International Monetary Fund MD Dominique Strauss-Kahn Strauss-Kahn at a news conference said the aim is for shifting quota share to dynamic emerging market and developing countries by least 5% from over-represented to under-represented countries by January 2011.

At a joint news conference with Youssef Boutros-Ghali, the Egyptian finance minister, who is also the head of the International Monetary and Financial Committee, Strauss-Kahn said that he expected IMF members to agree in either days or weeks on needed reform of the institution. "We are still not there, but not far off. Still some divergent views, but I am used to this. I think we are on the right track," he said.

India has pressed for a revision in quota formula in

FMs urge IMF to avert currency war

Global governments tasked the International Monetary Fund with calming the recent outbreak of tensions over currencies amid signs they are already triggering a protectionist backlash. Officials including US treasury secretary Timothy F Geithner and Egyptian finance minister Youssef Boutros-Ghali said the lender should outline how countries can expand their economies without damaging those of other nations.

China is accused of keeping the yuan undervalued to boost exports, while low interest rates in US and other industrial nations are blamed for propelling capital flows into emerging markets.

the IMF based on purchasing power parity. It has demanded 5-6% increase in voting power for emerging economies in the 186-nation Fund. ¶T

Times of India ND 11-Oct-10 p-10

Indicted NCTE chief called back by Jamia

Akshaya Mukul | TNN

New Delhi: National Council for Teacher Education chairperson Mohammad Akhtar Siddiqui, already found guilty on many counts by an inquiry set up by the HRD ministry, has been recalled by Jamia Milia Islamia, his parent employer.

HRD ministry sources said Siddiqui is likely to be repatriated. But before he is sent back, the ministry has to take a decision on what disciplinary action can be taken against Siddiqui. "He is certainly going to face stern action," a ministry source said.

Najib Jung, vice-chancellor, Jamia Milia Islamia, confirmed that he had written to the HRD ministry seeking Siddiqui's return. Jung's reason for seeking Siddiqui's services was purely academic.

"Our education department is one of the best in the country. We are running short of senior faculty and therefore want Siddiqui back," Jung told TOI. However, Jung said the university was unaware of any inquiry against Siddiqui.

Ministry sources said a decision on action to be taken against Siddiqui would be taken this week.

The inquiry panel headed by a senior official of the HRD ministry found that many allegations against Siddiqui were correct. It found that an Innovative Institute of Education and Technology at Noida was given clearance to run BEd courses despite lacking necessary facilities.

NCTE's expert committee gave a false report about the institute that helped it to get recognition. Siddiqui,

The inquiry panel headed by a member of HRD ministry found many allegations against Siddiqui to be correct. It found that an institute at Noida was cleared to run BEd courses despite lack of necessary facilities

it is alleged, was himself involved in changing the report of the expert team that helped it to get recognition.

Siddiqui is also alleged to have concealed crucial information about facing criminal charges when he was made head of NCTE.

Sources the HRD said ministry was informed about the criminal case within months of his appointment. But it was reiterated by Harsha Kumar, Congress MP from Amalappuram, in his complaint against Siddiqui in the Central Vigilance Commission.

The rot in NCTE is not limited to its central office in Delhi but across regional centres. A few months back, an HRD ministry panel had found massive irregularities in Northern Regional Centre in granting recognition to teacher training institutes.

It was also found that NRC was disregarding the parent organisation. Irregularities and corruption in NRC had its impact on teacher education in six states — Haryana, Himachal, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Delhi and the UT of Chandigarh — all of whom fall under its jurisdiction.

Times of India ND 11-Oct-10 p-12

It's Sukhoi vs Eurofighter as IAF 'takes on' RAF

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Top-notch fighters and other aircraft from India and UK will match their combat skills in the 'Indra-Dhanush' joint exercise at Kalaikunda airbase in West Bengal later this month.

While the British Royal Air Force will deploy their spanking new Eurofighter jets for the exercise slated to begin from October 20, the IAF fleet will be led by the 'air dominance' Sukhoi-30MKI fighters.

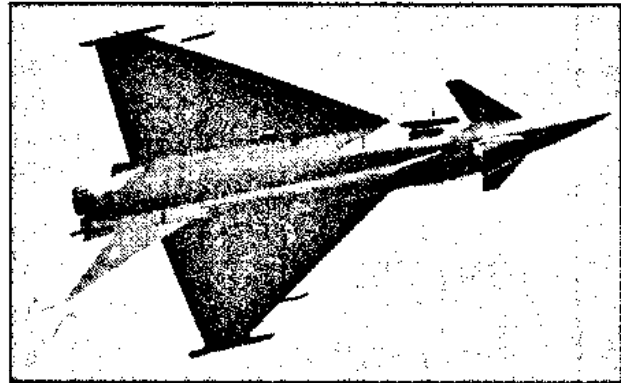
"The exercise will be held in an Awacs (airborne warning and control systems) environment, with air defence being a major thrust area. We will be fielding different types of our fighters," said a senior official.

Both the Indian and British forces are also expected to use their mid-air refuelling aircraft, like the IL-78 and VC-10 tankers, during the combat manoeuvres.

"The aim of the joint exercise is to learn from each other and enhance mutual operational understanding. With every exercise, IAF has gained valuable experience and gained respect as a highly-professional and motivated force," the official added.

The exercise comes at a time when the \$10.4 billion project to acquire 126 medium multi-role combat aircraft (MMRCA) for IAF is in the final stages of selection process.

Apart from Eurofighter, the other five contenders in the hotly-contested race to bag the lucrative MMRCA project are the F/A-18 'Super Hornet' and F-16 'Falcon' (both US), Gripen (Swedish), Rafale (French) and MiG-



DOG FIGHT: UK's Eurofighters (top) and India's Sukhois will be pitted against each other during the 'Indra-Dhanush' exercises later this month

35 (Russian).

A major Indo-UK defence deal has been the 'Hawk' AJT (advanced jet trainer) project. As reported earlier, India is going in for another 57 Hawks as a "follow-on" order to the ongoing Rs 8,000 crore AJT project, finalised in March 2004 with BAE Systems, under which IAF is already getting 66 Hawks.

Times of India ND 11-Oct-10 p-17

Wind power heads for deep sea

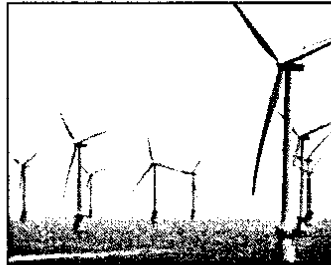
Floating Windmills Will Harness Energy Where Winds Are Strongest

Danny Fortson

A group of companies has come up with a radical proposal that it claims will open up thousands of kilometres of coastline to zero-carbon power: floating windmills.

Project Deepwater was launched last year by firms including BAE Systems, the defence giant, and the utility EDF Energy to research ways of overcoming the engineering problems that limit offshore turbines to water depths of 40 metres or less.

That is not a problem in the shallow North Sea but it is in the much deeper waters off Britain's west coast, where winds are



stronger. Project Deepwater was launched last year to overcome limits of offshore turbines. Floating turbines have the potential to open up vast amounts of potential power

behind the initiative, said the floating turbines have the potential to open up vast amounts of potential power.

He said: "Off Cornwall and the western coast of Scotland the depths quickly drop to more than 100 metres. That makes it off-limits to the typical fixed, monopole structures of wind turbines, but that is where the best wind is."

A typical turbine sits inside a steel sleeve that has been hammered 60 metres into the seabed. The height of the tower and the ocean forces to which it is subjected make deep-water installation impossible.

The answer involves a windmill with a buoyant, bulbous base held in place by cables attached to a steel

and concrete disc on the seafloor. Clarke said the deep-water turbines would cost about the same as normal ones—a single 3MW turbine can cost up to £10m to install—but could sit in depths of up to 300 metres. But the advantage is that they can be placed in areas with more consistent wind.

Blue H, a British firm founded in 2004 to develop technologies for wind power far offshore, led the project. Offshore wind is a central plank of the government's drive for a green Britain. Sector analysts say that of the £200 billion that will need to be spent over the next decade on new power infrastructure, at least a third will go on wind power. SUNDAY TIMES, LONDON

Times of India ND 11-Oct-10
p-17

Baby born from embryo frozen 20 years ago

Sarah-Kate Templeton

A healthy baby has been born from an embryo frozen for almost 20 years — a scientific breakthrough that may give women the chance to put off starting families until much later in life.

The infant's mother, who is 42, had undergone 10 years of unsuccessful infertility treatment when she was given the embryo last year. She gave birth to a baby boy weighing 6lb15oz in May this year.

News of the birth, published in the medical journal *Fertility and Sterility*, coincides with the introduction of laws which extend the period that embryos can be stored in Britain for up to 55 years.

The technology raises ethical dilemmas. A woman could give birth to a baby conceived a generation before she was born or to the biological offspring of her mother or even her grandmother.

The baby boy was born from a batch of five embryos frozen in 1990 and given away by a couple who no longer needed them once they had got a child from their IVF treatment. The embryos were available for "adoption" for almost 16 years before they were fi-



TIMING ISN'T EVERYTHING: The scientific breakthrough is a boon for single women who wish to freeze their eggs until they want and for those whose fertility is impaired

nally matched with the woman and her husband.

Her doctor, Sergio Oehninger, director of the Jones Institute for Reproductive Medicine at the Eastern Virginia medical school, said: "She has been going through treatment for a long time. She was a patient here in 2000. She was a persistent lady."

This success story gives hope to single women who wish to freeze their eggs until they have found someone with whom to start a family. It could also give a chance to women whose fertility is impaired by chemotherapy, for example, to store their eggs before the treatment. SUNDAY TIMES, LONDON

Times of India ND 11-Oct-10

p-17

Google to launch car that drives by itself

London: Internet giant Google will soon launch a car that can drive by itself. Google engineers have tested a "self-driving" car on the streets of California and covered 140,000 miles on the road, BBC reported.

The cars use video cameras mounted on the roof, radar sensors and a laser range finder to look out for traffic, software engineer Sebastian Thrun said. There is, however, a trained driver in stand-by mode, ready to take control. Thrun, a professor of computer sci-

ence and electrical engineering at Stanford University, said safety was the "first priority" in the project.

Routes are pre-planned, mapped first by real drivers, and local police

TAKE A BACK SEAT

are briefed in advance, he said. "We believe our technol-

ogy has the potential to cut that number, perhaps by as much as half."

"It provides a glimpse of what transportation might look like in the future thanks to advanced computer science. And that future is very exciting," he said. IANS

Times of India ND 11-Oct-10

p-6 education

A NORWEGIAN TOUCH

BI Norwegian School of Management is Norway's second largest educational institution and one of the largest business schools in Europe. The school received the EQUIS accreditation from the European Foundation for Management Development in 1999 and was re-accredited in 2010.

The school offers a range of international BBA programmes in English along with seven two-year Master's programmes — MSc in business and economics, international management, financial economics, strategic marketing management, leadership and organisational psychology, political economy and innovation and entrepreneurship. The medium of instruction for all the above mentioned programmes is English.

In their second year, students get an opportunity to study a semester or a whole year at one of BI's international partner institutes. In India, BI has exchange agreements with MDI Gurgaon, IMT Ghaziabad and IIM Calcutta. The tuition fee for the MSc programme is approximately 8000 euros per-year and living costs vary from 8000 to 10,000 euros per-year. Students can work part-time earning around 14 euros per-hour. Students with GMAT scores of 650 and a good academic record can compete for scholarships. These scholarships include fee waivers for the first year. Additional partial grants to cover living costs are also available. CAT and GRE scores are accepted in lieu of GMAT score.

Norway is a prosperous nation as it is endowed with oil and gas reserves. Shipping, maritime, pulp and paper products, chemicals, shipbuilding and fishing are some of the significant traditional industries. Employment remains currently high and the prospects for economic growth are encouraging.

A seminar on admission and visa procedures to the BI Norwegian School of Management will be held in Delhi on October 30 (6.30 pm to 8 pm) at The Governor's Room, First Floor, Hotel Intercontinental Eros, near Satyam Cinema, Nehru Place. On-the-spot admission decisions and interviews will be conducted during the seminar. No application fees are required to attend the seminar, but prior registration is compulsory. For registration log on to www.studyabroad-seminar.com/bi or mail your CVs to ashish.sachde@gmail.com. For programme details log on to www.bi.edu


Startups usher in third IT wave

After ITes And BPOs, SaaS Turning Out To Be Next Big Thing For Desi Cos

Padmini Copparapu | TNN

Hyderabad: The Indian IT/ITes industry may lately have been at the receiving end of US President Barack Obama's protectionist policies, but when it comes to most US government websites, Obama and his boys rely on popular Made-in-India software like FusionCharts for data visualization.

Surprisingly, FusionCharts is no big-ticket tech firm out of one of India's hot and happening IT hubs. Little known back home in India but popular abroad, this niche software firm is just a 30-member outfit based out of Kolkata from where it caters to its Fortune 500 clientele across 110 countries. Even as some of India's IT biggies await Obama's next move in his increasingly protectionist agenda, a small but rising number of Indian start-ups like FusionCharts, Zoho, salaree.com, tringme, deskaway, kayako are storming the US and world



RIGHT CLICK

- SaaS, or software as a service, is part of the larger cloud computing model in which a software is deployed over the internet and is managed by a remote service provider. Customers use it as a service either through a subscription or even free of cost
- Nasscom has pegged the fledgling tech start-up industry in India at \$12 billion by 2015
- Nasscom estimates that over 650 such start-ups in India are involved in product development
- Among the start-ups, FusionCharts, Zoho, salaree.com, tringme, deskaway, kayako have already made a name for themselves in the global markets
- Some of these start-ups are not even based out of tech hubs like Bangalore and Pune, but are catering to global biggies from small-town centres in Jalandar and Noida

markets, without so much as moving out of their cubicles in India. Some of these are not even based out of traditional tech hubs like Banga-

lore and Pune, but are catering to global biggies from their small-town centres in Jalandar and Noida. Nasscom has hailed these start-

ups as the third wave of India's IT revolution.

Nasscom estimates that there are over 650 such start-ups in India involved in product development, of which nearly 100 have burst onto the scene in just the past three years. Nasscom chief Som Mittal has pegged the young tech product development industry in India at \$12 billion by 2015. Unlike the Silicon Valley "me-toos" of the past, this new breed of tech firms are innovating products that are lean, indigenous and world-class, say experts. "A lot of our talent is wasted in the services sector. Product development, especially on the internet is the future; it is location agnostic and will bring us recognition, credibility and unlimited non-linear growth," says Pallav Nadhani, who co-founded FusionCharts in 2002 as a 17-year-old.

Sharad Sharma, chair of Nasscom's product forum, echoes his views. According to him, after IT implementa-

tion services and BPOs, Software as a Service (SaaS) is the next big thing to help the Indian IT industry. Under SaaS, the software is deployed over the internet, hosted, owned and managed by a remote service provider, thereby effectively saving the end consumer costs of running the software and also making it easily accessible. "It has opened a whole new world for us. Geography, platform, infrastructure are irrelevant as long as you make a lean and world class product, which these start ups are doing. In fact, we are setting some first-time examples in the world," adds Sharma of Nasscom.

Another example is Chennai start-up Zoho Corp, whose applications are rated on a par with that of Google and Microsoft and is poised to upend market leader salesforce.com in CRM solutions. Even though Zoho has offices across the world, it operates with a 1500-strong team out of Chennai.

Play it again, Sam

THE RETURN Cancer, quadruple bypasses, two Gandhi generations and 26 years have gone by since Satyanarayan Pitroda entered the first family and sparked the telecom revolution. Uncle Sam is now preparing for the next big leap – and his toughest job ever

WIRED NATION: THE GRAND PLAN

A broadband connection for each of India's 250,000 panchayats. The integration of all Indians with their government, the government with its own departments, data and programmes on one vast, national fibreoptic backbone, new applications to release opportunities at the bottom of the pyramid. That's the plan for the Public Information Infrastructure



inclusive politics

Samir Halarnkar
In New Delhi

He's survived cancer. He's undergone quadruple bypass surgeries — twice. Four stents hold up his circulatory system.

There's no evidence of these multiple medical setbacks as CEO, inventor and entrepreneur Satyanarayan Gangaram Pitroda strides quickly across the ballroom-sized office in a bland government building, fires up his laptop and gets to the point. "No one has done anything like this in the world," Pitroda told the *Hindustan Times* as he laid out his presentation. "Panchayats, schools, bus stands — everything will be connected to fibre (optic cables), you create open government in the truest sense, provide opportunities to the bottom of the pyramid."

Pushing 68, Pitroda is an intense man with a trademark shock of white hair and a gaze carefully dyed black. He shuttles between Chicago and New Delhi and — after shepherding India's telecom revolution in another life — is gearing up for his toughest challenge yet and the next big national reimagining: A vast information network that aims to make India's shoddy, Raj-era

governance instant, transparent and ready for the 21st century.

As tech whiz Nandan Nilekani (55) races to provide every Indian a unique identity (UID) and help reform government spending on the poor through the project called Aadhar (appropriately, the foundation), Pitroda is quietly at work on preparing the ground beneath the foundation, an equally formidable ₹27,000-crore effort. The name for this giant information network is the Public Information Infrastructure (PII), for which Pitroda is an advisor to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and has been given the rank of an Indian cabinet minister. As friend and advisor to Rajiv Gandhi in the 1980s, Pitroda set India on the path to where it is today: a nation of more than 670 million mobile connections. Now, as that figure rolls on towards 800 million, he hopes to take that revolution further by wiring up the entire nation. At its basic level, the PII will connect each of the country's 250,000 panchayats to fast, broadband connections. The larger plan is vast: A giant, nationwide broadband network that will not only integrate all Indians with their governments but government departments with one another, all educational and scientific institutions, every related government programme and develop new applications for these programmes as the network takes shape. The great hub will have many spokes; Aadhar is one.

With the UID, the broadband-everywhere plan is another cornerstone of the United Progressive Alliance (UPA)

Ubiquitous connectivity across the nation is critical for the unique identity system. We are working closely with Mr Pitroda

NANDAN NILEKANI, Chairman, Unique Identification Authority of India

agenda for rapid but inclusive growth. Using technology to improve services to the poor, plugging them into the economic engine, reforming government and offering India's youth a chance to build new businesses around a wired nation. "The work has barely begun, but the targets are tight. "I would like to get this done in two years," says Pitroda. "It can be done. It's all there, the political support and the talent; and we already have the money!"

The UID and the PII have a similar bill: ₹27,000 crore. Unlike the UID, the PII needs no budgetary support. It is financed by mandatory payments — five per cent of gross revenue — that telecom companies make to the government, the Universal Service Obligation (USO) fund, meant for rural telecom infrastructure. "A lot of money is already there," says Pitroda. "₹6,000 crore comes in as USO funds every year."

Pitroda's first task will be to cater to UID's needs. As Aadhar begins to scale up next year and uses its data for var-

WHO IS DOING WHAT



SAM PITRODA, Advisor to the Prime Minister: Overall conceptualisation and planning of the Public Information Infrastructure (PII)



NANDAN NILEKANI, Chairman, Unique Identification Authority of India, national digital database to assign an identity to each Indian using a 12-digit number. Identity to be verified by photo, fingerprints and iris scan.



RAJAGOPALA CHIDAMBARAM, Principal Scientific Advisor (former Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission), National Knowledge Network, high-speed link between India's educational and scientific institutions



KRISHNASWAMY KASTURIRANGAN, Member, Planning Commission (former Chairman, Indian Space Research Organisation); Geographical Information System, mapping every place in India — akin to Google Maps — matching it to individual programmes.

ious applications — from growing banking to the poor to reforming the public distribution system or the national jobs programme — it will need the PII. "Ubiquitous connectivity across the nation is critical for UID to work," says Nilekani. "We are working very closely with Mr Pitroda."

Pitroda has brought on board two of India's premier scientists: Dr Rajagopala Chidambaram, former chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission and the government's principal scientific advisor; and Dr Krishnaswamy Kasturirangan, former chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation and now member, Planning Commission.

Kasturirangan, now recovering from a bout of viral fever that was nasty enough to put him in intensive care, is running one of PII's most ambitious spokes, the geographical information system (GIS), which will, much like Google Maps, chart every building and possibly tree, and merge into it a variety of information from government programmes. These programmes will be controlled by applications to be

'The challenges are severe... I hope he can do it'

Conceptually, the Public Information Infrastructure (PII) is as pathbreaking as the UID, and a lot more challenging, if it works out. In practice, the PII has severe challenges. India has a federated structure, first between the states and the centre, often manifesting itself in severe distrust between state and central governments; even with those states ruled by the same party as at the centre; and

then, the silo-ism between even central government departments. So, it is by no means a given that, simply provided the platform, departments and states will jump upon the PII bandwagon. I think it would be easily the biggest challenge that 'Uncle Sam' would have taken up. I hope he can do it.

— Prasanto K Roy, Telecommunications expert

'No one has done anything like this in the world'

We have 600 million mobile phones. It will go to 800 million. We are a nation of a billion connected people. We have created 800,000 km of fibre (optic) backbone. That's huge capacity. We have simultaneously created 3G and opportunities for last-mile connectivity. We can capitalise on this backbone and upgrade it by changing routers (switches for data) from five gigabits to 10 to 20, as required. So, we have huge infrastructure. Broadband and GIS (geographical information systems) are the next big potential, to zoom in, like Google Maps, on every tree, every panchayat in India. It is all possible! Today there are vertical, unconnected data silos in India, whether your driving licence, the public distribution system or the national rural

employment guarantee scheme. That has to change. So, UID tags every person, GIS every place and the applications we will build tags every (government) programme. If you integrate all these, you create a public information platform. From the days of the rajahs to the British to our modern politicians, a handful of people has always controlled information in India. You can now begin to democratise government, create open government in the true sense, create opportunities at the bottom of the pyramid. This is the vision. We are greenfield here. Think about it — 250,000 panchayats connected to fibre, 3G, Wimax and other digital lines to schools, bus-stands, can be done. I would like to do it in two years.

— Sam Pitroda

developed by the National Informatics Centre.

So, the overall plan: UID will tag every person, GIS will tag every place, and the applications will tag every programme. Once the basic PII is in place, Pitroda envisages a burst of opportunity for some of the world's youngest populations.

"Once we do the basic platforms," says the serial inventor who folds close to 100 patents, "Some kid will figure out the applications."

THE TECH IDEOLOGUE Through the 1960s and 70s, an era when India was stifled by grinding poverty, wars, famine and the licence raj, Pitroda sought and achieved the American dream. Then, he gave up his corporate job, his life as an inventor, entrepreneur and return to India.

He's done this twice in the span of a quarter century. In 1984, when former prime minister Indira Gandhi first invited him; and in 2009, when on Sonia Gandhi's invitation he was given the rank of Cabinet minister and appointed advisor to the Prime Minister for Public Information Infrastructure (PII) and Innovations.

Pitroda is not as much in the public eye as he once was, but after being Gandhi family friend and advisor for more than a quarter century, he is an expert on the subject. He is an ideologue for the Gandhi family in its attempts to cement and expand its political base on the foundation of inclusiveness.

"Do you know him?" Congress general secretary Rahul Gandhi repeatedly asked bewildered Uttar Pradesh villagers recently, as he introduced them to Pitroda who walked many of these streets with Rahul's father.

Some in Amriti, the Gandhi family's backward pocket borough, knew Pitroda as Rajiv Gandhi's aide. They also got a taste of his impatient, do-it-yourself approach. When some villagers complained to Gandhi about the lack of electricity, Pitroda pointed to an electricity pole and said: "Fix it yourselves."

Pitroda's fix-it fever led Rajiv to give him charge of not just telecommunication, but five other national missions: water, literacy, immunisation, dairy and oilseeds. The most successful was the liberalisation of telecom, ending permanently state hegemony and an era where long-distance calling was not just expensive but meant a call to the operator and call-back that could take hours, sometimes more than a day, depending on whether your call was important, urgent or lighting — as the categories were named.

A Gujarat born and raised in tribal Orissa, Pitroda thrives on challenge and adversity. Creating the PII in two years is as big as it gets. The Indian government system does not react quickly to outsiders, as Nilekani found, as Pitroda is finding despite his long association with the bureaucracy.

"The resistance is starting," he acknowledges. "But it is part of the process."

Right now, Pitroda's people are engaged in difficult, preliminary work: Mapping, studying and analysing every fibre optic cable laid across India by multiple agencies and companies since

10% = 1.38% rise in broadband connections rise in per capita GDP

10 million number of broadband connections in India

Sources: "World Bank," "Union Regulatory Authority of India (as of August 2010)

the 1990s. "That's where where are at," says Pitroda. "It's very complicated; people say 'how come you've not done it yet?'"

The countrywide fibre — shorthand for fibre optic cable, essentially glass strands that shuttle copiously more data than their copper predecessors — is the building block of the PII. Pitroda calls it "the backbone."

In a new book, *The March Of Mobile Money*, Pitroda and coauthor Mehal Desai explain how the technology to move cash and credit cards to mobile phones is ready. The same technology can work for government payouts, from old-age pensions to payments for the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act. Many believe, wrongly, that wireless technologies and 600 million mobile phones should do the trick.

"The mobile phone is just the access," says Pitroda. "The backbone is the key. All of India cannot be wireless." As the UID and the PII are engaged, government-led transactions will require instant verifications, much like credit cards; the quantities of data shuffling around will grow exponentially. This requires a stable, nationwide backbone.

A PII pilot has quietly started, connecting 10 panchayats in Rajasthan's Alwar district. It isn't very stable yet. This reporter's visit had to be postponed because "connections were down", as one Pitroda aide explained.

There are connections to be grown and stabilised (state-run BSNL is tipped to run the basic backbone), contractors and sub-contractors to be appointed, teams to be formed, applications to be created.

Pitroda splits his time between the Gandhi family, the Indian government in Delhi, the international lecture circuit, and his home in Chicago, headquarters of his company, C-SAM. As Chairman, Pitroda reads for the world where mobile phones will be the gateway to your life: from paying for loans, groceries, taxis, movie tickets to sending personal health information.

For someone raised in one of India's poorest areas, Pitroda's life has always been about climbing upwards, about journeys to new frontiers. "There are no destinations," he once said. "I keep doing things till something happens." India and the Gandhi family will hope something does happen.

Re-imagining India is a joint initiative of *Hindustan Times* and *Mint* to track and understand policy reforms that could, if successful, transform India's efforts at inclusive growth.

Road preview stories at www.hindustantimes.com/telemagazine

AICTE WANTS COMMON DATE FOR B-SCHOOL ADMISSIONS

The decision follows reports of MBA seats lying vacant

KALPANA PATHAK
Mumbai

The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) is working on a uniform admissions timetable for all management institutions, following reports of seats lying vacant at various colleges.

However, the Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) will continue with their own admissions schedule and not be bound by the AICTE directive, because they are outside the council's purview.

At a recent meeting convened by the Board of Management Studies - the AICTE arm that is responsible for management education in India - it was decided that B-schools will be asked to follow a uniform timetable for admissions.

"We were alarmed after reviewing the present situation of vacant seats across B-schools. The problem here is that many

colleges have their admissions deadline early to two students. But many students who join these institutions leave for better colleges later. This leaves a lot of seats vacant and un-used," a key member at the meeting, told *Business Standard*.

"Thus we have decided to bring all institutes under a common admissions date to ensure that students do not feel the pressure of applying to multiple institutes and

QUICK FIX

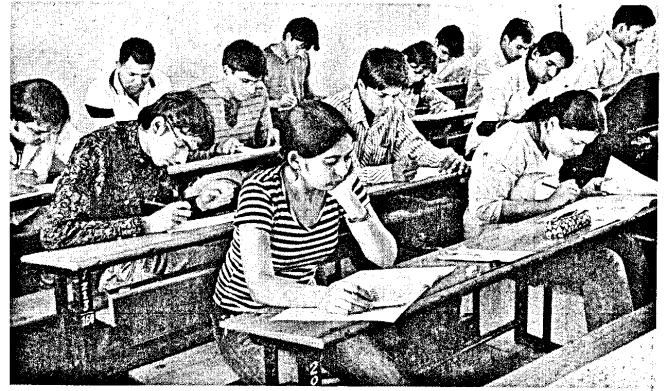
- B-schools will be asked to follow a uniform admissions date
- The move will stop students hopping from one institute to another
- MBA seats vacant in Karnataka: 14,500; Gujarat: 3,000 and Maharashtra: 6,350
- AICTE in 2010 received 2,176 applications to open technical institutes

the seats are not vacant," he said.

For instance, while in Karnataka around 14,500 MBA seats are lying vacant, Gujarat has around 3,000 seats which are vacant. In Maharashtra, around 6,350 seats have not found takers.

"The government has given permission to everyone who wanted to start an institute. Permission was even given to new institutes for the one-year executive post-graduate programme in management, which requires experience of five years for entry. Besides, with Common Entrance Tests in many states being held late and having several rounds, students keep hopping from one institute to the other. Some students have decided not to join second or third level institutions, if they do not get admission to a first grade institution," said a director of a Mumbai-based B-school.

According to a Mumbai-based career counselor, institutes are admitting many graduates who have not appeared for entrance tests. "Seats are vacant, and who



Some management institutions are allegedly admitting graduates who have not appeared for the entrance tests

ever is willing to pay the fee, is admitted. You can't only blame these institutes. AICTE is also to be blamed for giving sundry approvals," he added. During January to March 2010, AICTE received 459 appli-

cations for opening technical institutes, including management colleges, in Maharashtra. It approved 157 applications.

Over half the number of applications were for management institutions and the

remaining for engineering, medical and integrated colleges.

AICTE, this year had received 2,176 applications from various states and individuals to open technical institutes.

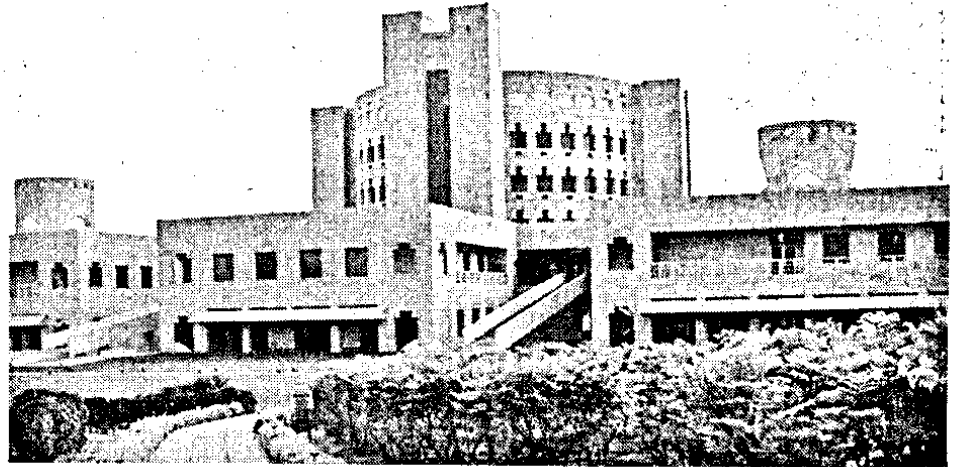
ISB launches certification course for CIOs

KIRTIKA SUNEJA
New Delhi

In an attempt to help chief information officers (CIOs) align with their companies better, Hyderabad-based Indian School of Business (ISB) has introduced a new course, called Global CIO Certification Programme, in association with the CIO Association of India.

"The course seeks to expand thinking beyond traditional information technology (IT), organisational boundaries and equip current and future CIOs with innovative and cutting-edge business tools that will help them drive informed decision making, predict and analyse risks and use low-cost rapid innovation to create topline growth," said Ravi Bapna, executive director of Srinji Raju Centre for Information Technology and the Networked Economy at the ISB.

The certification will be in two stages and the first batch is slated to begin in the third week of October. The first batch will have 25 CIOs from various sectors and the ISB has partnered



The Indian School of Business campus in Hyderabad

with the CIO Association of India that has more than 1,000 members. The three-day executive education programme, will cost ₹ 75,000.

This is the first time that such a programme has been initiated and ISB launched it with the intent of offering next-level grooming to the CIOs and to help CIOs make strategic moves, integrating IT to be part of the overall growth of the company.

CIOs usually are isolated as heads of their vertical and this certification will help in their overall growth. The industry, according to Bapna, was very excited and hence the association agreed to partner the institute.

The first level of certification - efficiency level - includes bringing in the latest trends in business intelligence, social media type of applications and data mining to target customers

more efficiently in three days and create standardised issues.

The second level is when the CIOs go back to their companies and participate in active learning on applied projects for another three days.

"This is when they become ready for the innovation stage and use IT to innovate their business. This is a first of its kind initiative in India and has already generated a high level of interest in the business community," said Bapna.

IIT-Gandhinagar eyes ₹ 20-cr corpus via endowments

VINAY UMARUJ
Ahmedabad

The Indian Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar (IIT-Gn), hopes to build a corpus of ₹ 15-20 crore through endowments in the next two years. It already has a corpus of ₹ 50 lakh through its charitable foundation in the US and expects another ₹ 1.20 crore soon.

The institute, which is functioning from a temporary campus at Vishwakarma Engineering College for the last two years, intends to use the corpus to attract quality faculty by offering higher salaries and enhance its research facilities.

"The government has already provided us with a grant of ₹ 35 crore that will be used as we move into our own campus in Gandhinagar in a couple of years. However, we are facing a tough time getting

quality faculty. It is only by building up a strong corpus through endowments that we can attract faculty by paying higher salaries as well as enhance research facilities. Hence, we intend to build a corpus worth ₹ 15-20 crore over the next couple of years," said Sudhir Jain, director of IIT-Gn.

The institute, at present, pays between ₹ 35,000 and ₹ 1,15,000 per month to its faculty but intends to hike the pay scale above government standards.

Apart from endowments, IIT-Gn is also looking at other sources of revenue. "Recently, we built a 1,000 sq mt building and are in process of constructing another 1,000 sq mt. Both will be dedicated to re-

search. To encourage more research, only 20 per cent of research and consultancy fees of our faculty is used by the institute while the rest goes to the faculty member. We are also in the process of making donations to IIT-Gn tax deductible which we hope will see a rise in contributions to the institute," said Jain.

The institute hopes to woo quality faculty by paying higher salary and upgrading its research facilities

Recently, the institute was allotted land near Palej village in Gandhinagar by the state government. "Our target is to start operating from our own campus within two years from the time the formalities for allotment of the land are completed," he added. Among other innovative steps, IIT-Gn is open to the idea if a student wants to opt for a dif-

ferent field of expertise from his/her present course.

According to Jain, "Those who finished their first year were given a choice to change their branch from electrical, mechanical and chemical branches. About 14 of the 109 students applied for it and all were granted the branch change. This has been possible due to liberal policies that we took ever since we began functioning. We have also introduced a compulsory course on equal amount of chemical, mechanical and electrical for all branch students and this has had a great impact."

Meanwhile, the institute hopes to have a student strength of over 2,000 and faculty strength of 90 in the next two years. Including the 2010-11 batch, the total number of students is around 335, apart from 44 faculty members, including 20 visiting faculty.



The institute is functioning from a temporary campus at Vishwakarma Engineering College

Hindustan Times, ND p-18

11-Oct-10

✧ LSR principal leads ✧ in race for V-C post

Principal of Lady Shri Ram College, Meenakshi Gopinath, is said to be the frontrunner for the post of Delhi

University Vice-Chancellor. The HRD ministry gave an extension to Deepak Pental, the current vice-chancellor, even though his term ended on August 31, this year. He will continue till another vice-chancellor is appointed. Apart from Gopinath, there are three other contenders for the post.

Hindustan Times, ND 11-Oct-10 p-17

Plagiarism punch knocks out IITs

SHOCK Cases surface at IITs in Kharagpur, Delhi, Kanpur

Charu Sudan Kasturi

■ charu.kasturi@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Independent cases of plagiarism have hit three different Indian Institutes of Technology with scientists accused of stealing credit for others' research, shocking the academic community and raising concerns about scientific ethics.

IIT Kharagpur physics professor R.N.P. Choudhary has lost his position as head of department after a junior faculty member A.K. Thakur accused him of not sharing research credit with him.

A research paper jointly authored by professors of IIT Delhi, Jamia Millia Islamia and the Inter University Accelerator Centre (IUAC), published in 2009, has been retracted by editors of the journal *Nuclear Methods and Instruments*. The retraction notice says the

**They are symptomatic of
larger questions of
scientific ethics...**

IIT Bombay professor

"authors have plagiarized parts of a paper that had already appeared" in another journal.

Two review articles co-authored by a senior IIT Kanpur professor Ashok Kumar have also been retracted by the journal *Biotechnology Advances*.

"All these cases, tumbling out one after the other, are shocking. I think they are symptomatic of larger questions of scientific ethics... the scientific community needs to introspect," a IIT Bombay professor said.

Choudhary accused Thakur of levelling false allegations due to personal tensions. "He did not contribute at all to the paper

that he is claiming credit for," Choudhary told *HT*.

But IIT Kharagpur sources said a probe team found greater merit in Thakur's allegations than in Choudhary's defense.

IUAC professor D.K. Avasthi accused his co-authors — Anup Ghosh of IIT Delhi, Pawan Kulriya of IUAC, Sharif Ahmed of Jamia and Shashi Chawla of Amity University — of publishing his name as an author without his consent. "My contribution to the research was limited to the fact that my laboratory was used," Avasthi said.

IIT Kanpur's Kumar accused the editor of *Biotechnology Advances* of "personal problems" with him for the retraction of the article. "Since the journal insisted, I agreed to a voluntary retraction. But... they have retracted the article unilaterally using inappropriate language in their retraction notice," Kumar said.

Research mantra

Students from India's top B-schools have made their mark globally. Now their schools are aiming Ivy League standards

Sonali Chowdhury

ASSEMBLY lines mass-producing managers or India's icons of innovation in management? Nearly two decades after economic liberalisation and thousands of successful graduates stepping out of their portals, India's premier management institutes are still grappling with the existential question.

Students from the country's top-notch B-schools have made their mark in transnational blue chip corporations, but the schools themselves are still far from the Ivy League standards of becoming centres of knowledge creating new models, theories and principles in management through research and innovation. If our premier B-schools wish to leave their footprints on the global arena, they have little choice but to foster innovation in management at a regular pace where research forms the backbone of such innovations.

The schools themselves seem to be conscious of the urgency. IIM-Ahmedabad has set up 10 research centres to extend the use of management science to various sectors of the econ-

omy while IIM-Calcutta boasts of four such centres.

Every year, around 10-15 doctoral candidates each pass out of IIM-A and IIM-C. To attract more research-oriented students, IIMs this year increased the grant for research fellows. The institutes, which regularly bring out journals, also conduct working paper series to help faculty and fellowship students publish initial drafts of research findings. Consulting projects to help corporates and non-corporate organisations,

public institutions and the government through analytical and problem-solving support are also frequently undertaken.

Nonetheless, experts doubt the quality of research conducted at many institutes, saying there has been little investment in research. "Only the likes of IIMs have even a semblance of research and even that is few and far in between. We don't even invest enough for new case studies. We need to find the right models and investment patterns to make this happen. Initially, we need to invest in learning various models of research and development through collaboration with foreign universities who have been doing this for decades," says KPMG executive direc-



ASIT BAGCHI

tor Narayanan Ramaswamy

Though some Indian management institutes have produced illustrious business gurus like CK Prahalad, Indian B-schools have generally fared quite poorly in global rankings. This year, though, IIM-A and ISB Hyderabad figured in *The Economist's* and *The Financial Times's* global ranking of B-schools with IIM-A ranked 65th and ISB ranked 12th, respectively.

Indian institutes often fall behind global peers in ranking due to relatively low research output or intellec-

tual capital. "Barring a few exceptions, management institutes are all geared towards placements and getting students into high-paying jobs. There is a need to push the doctoral and research programmes more," said Ravi Lochan Singh, MD, Global Reach.

"Indian B-schools are not tracked because of limited research. The quality and content of research is very poor. There is a need to focus on research on the lines of international B-schools," said Bharat Gulia, senior manager, education practice, Ernst & Young.

Corporate involvement

Across the world, the involvement of corporates in research is almost as important as the institutes carrying out research. When asked about the role of corporates in research in India, Sougata Ray, dean of IIM-C, said: "India is in the early stage of the positive learning curve. Companies have recently realised the value of research. In the West, companies get into hagiography where they reserve the right to edit the final product. Such research work puts the company in good light. India needs to guard against such phenomena as it takes away the credibility of research." The ideas generated by research papers affect business practices and governance norms in the society at large. "Faculties are sometimes not motivated to undertake research work with companies as findings sponsored by them are restricted to the use of the company and not used for public consumption," says Ray.

Research scenario

Research can be fundamental or applied. A fundamental research is path-breaking and provides disproportionate results. It improves teaching, training and consulting assignments. "Ground-breaking research happens only when there is dedicated research. Corporates should sponsor this, along with academic institutions and co-owned results. In this manner, even the fundamental research output can be more in

sync with corporate requirements," said Ramaswamy.

The quality and the volume of doctoral fellows and well-regarded outlets of research are equally essential in generating a virtuous cycle in which every worthy idea is researched, published and recognised by the business and society. "In the management institutes of India, there is a presence of the vicious cycle of low quality and low volume of researchers, educators and opportunities," points out Sibashish Dey, dean, IIM-Kozhikode.

Says M Akbar, dean, (Planning & development), IIM-Lucknow: "We need to link faculty incentives to risk including promotions. Along with providing databases, the government should increase support for PhD programmes and corporates should provide endowments for research—donations, chairs, etc."

The institutes are promoting fellow researchers to attend international conferences to allow them to discuss and share research findings, fine-tune their output and network with the broader academic community. As the world eyes emerging markets like India and China for growth, it is time to grab the opportunity to develop the management education for the new world order. Even as institutes have a long way to go, it is heartening to see them taking confident steps in the right direction.

sonali.chowdhury@
expressindia.com

Education Loan
For
Study in India
Study Abroad

CREDILA
AN SHRIFC LTD. VENTURE

www.credila.com
1800 209 3636
SMS: Credila to 53636

CAMPUS OF THE WEEK: FACULTY OF MANAGEMENT STUDIES, UNIVERSITY OF DELHI
fe@campus
An Initiative by The Financial Express

fe@campus, a collaborative and cynosure initiative taken by *The Financial Express* in sync with a variety of higher education institutes representing today's youth, provides students an opportunity to pen their views on trends and trendsetters in the world of business. For this week, we put forth the topic: "In what ways can Indian businesses take account of the climate change agenda?" Students of the Faculty of Management Studies, University of Delhi, sent us their essays. Here are two of the best:



THEME OF THE WEEK:
IN WHAT WAYS CAN INDIAN BUSINESSES TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE CLIMATE CHANGE AGENDA?

The business of Indian businesses...

Nitin Verma

TODAY we're seeing that climate change is not just a few unseasonably mild winters or hot summers. It's much more. It's about the chain of natural catastrophes and devastating weather patterns that global warming is beginning to set off around the world... the frequency and intensity of which are breaking records thousands of years old. Recent cyclones in coastal states, droughts, famines and unpredictable



seasonal patterns are testimony to the fact.

In such circumstances, what can Indian businesses do? India's business enterprises are diverse—from manufacturing and ITeS to healthcare and hospitality. We have travelled a long way since the economic liberalisation of the 1990s. In terms of size, we have a string of well-established family businesses, MNCs and conglomerates. Some mantras to be followed by Indian companies are:

Make a commitment: simple ac-

tions like announcing carbon-neutral steps can be effective

Assess your stand: knowing how you generate greenhouse gases is the first step to reduce them

Decide where you want to go: targets help focus efforts and provide a benchmark for measuring success

Decarbon your life: integrating climate-friendly criteria into decision making can trigger a ripple effect

Buy green, sell green: innovative product design and presentation combined with marketing and communications can ensure customer loyalty

Tap synergy: companies can team up and offer support to each other to ensure their long-term sustainability

Switch to a sustainable, low-carbon model

Jegesh Doley

MEGHALAYA'S capital city, Shillong, has undergone substantial changes in its climate pattern. With urbanisation, Shillong's problems like water shortage, inadequacy of sanitation and civic services, choked roads, and a degraded urban environment have compounded. In an initiative to raise awareness on climate change, a radio jockey, popularly known as Bah Manik, is tirelessly spreading the message of abandoning plastic use through his popular programme *Hei Kapla*. He has emerged as one of the state's most knowledgeable and passionate communicators about the urgent need to address climate change.

Taking a cue from the efforts of people like Bah Manik, the Indian business houses can best utilise the current times to dedicate efforts towards mitigating climate change. It is time for them to earn kudos for acting 'for the environment'. They need to check emissions of harmful substances from their manufacturing units in ways that doesn't hamper growth and expansion. They should embark upon ways to bring in efficiency through optimal use of resources by adopting environment friendly mechanisms.

Climate change hits India hard in terms of costs and livelihoods disrupted, even though India accounts for just about 4% of the

world's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Historically, the responsibility of GHG emissions rested largely with the industrialised world, but developing countries are likely to be the source of an increasing portion of future emissions. As the global economic recession has proven, every crisis brings with it an adversity and opportunity. The one who makes the most of the opportunity in the face of adversity would emerge as the true winner.



Something similar can be said about global warming. It poses a threat to our planet while providing an opportunity to humankind to understand, change and evolve. The threat is in terms of the severe impacts that climate change will have on ecosystems, sea level, crop production and weather patterns.

This, in turn, will lead to increased international pressure on nations as well as corporations across all industries. They will be subject to increasingly stringent environment regulations as well as sustained pressure from customers, employees and investors to deliver on a triple bottom line of social, economic and environmental performance. The opportunity comes in the form of a driving force for Indian companies to discover new technologies, processes, means and strategies to not only meet their business goals but also keep emissions under check.

Financial Express P-11

ND 11/10/2010

NEWS REVIEW

CAMPUS ROUNDUP

Systems and Finance Continuum 2010 at SJMSOM, IIT Bombay

Shailesh J Mehta School of Management, IIT Bombay, and Vinnoite Media Pvt Ltd, in association with *The Financial Express* and Covacsis, presented the third leg of premier business seminar series: Continuums 2010.



Continuum is a rolling seminar series where academicians and industrialists share their views on current topics. The Systems Continuum, in association with knowledge partner Deloitte, discussed the theme: "Evolving role of IT: It's everybody's Business". The event was flagged off by Dr Karuna Jain, head of department, SJMSOM, and Kirthiga Reddy, director, online operations, Facebook India. The Systems Continuum was followed by the Finance Continuum. As India grows rapidly and financing this growth seems to be a big challenge, the Finance Continuum in association with State Bank of Hyderabad discussed the theme "Financing the Future: Opportunities and Challenges".

Incubating a growth story

N. Ramakrishnan
Chennai

Ms Saloni Malhotra, an engineering graduate from Pune, founded and runs a company that is based in Chennai but does all its work from six offices in rural Tamil Nadu. She is the Founder and CEO of Desicrew Solutions, a start-up that is into non-voice business process outsourcing.

Her office is on the first floor of IIT Madras Research Park, where there are a few other start-up and early-stage companies. The first floor houses IIT Madras Research Park's incubation centre, where more such start-up companies will be developed, mentored by faculty from the Indian Institute of Technology-Madras, and nurtured to grow.

By locating an incubation centre at the research park, where serious research can be pursued by companies in collaboration with IIT faculty, the intention is to provide an ecosystem to foster entrepreneurship. One where entrepreneurs will be mentored by IIT faculty, network with peers, learn from the experiences of the established companies and not have to worry about getting their office ready with the necessary infrastructure.

Desicrew started with the Telecommunications & Networking (TeNet) Group of IIT and has benefited immensely from the incuba-

► Incubation centres are meant to help entrepreneurs concentrate on conceptualising their idea and getting their business off the ground, rather than be worried about the office infrastructure and the amenities that are required.

that are required.

It is the ready availability of incubation centres that spawns start-up companies in the US, especially in the Silicon Valley. In India, too, there are a number of incubation centres, including those attached to the IITs, the Indian Institutes of Management, and a few other universities.

Says Mr R. Ramaraj, Adviser, Sequoia Capital and a mentor to many an entrepreneur, incubation centres play an important role in fostering entrepreneurship.

They offer a place to start and at a low cost too. Entrepreneurs may also be able to attract talent at incubation centres. More important, there may be other companies in the incubation centre and on a bad day, there are others the entrepreneur can talk to and discuss the problems.

According to Ms Malhotra, it is easy in an incubation centre to connect with people and learn from them. "Or when there is a problem, which all of us face, it is easy to just walk across and ask for help." She cites the labour laws. The moment the number of employees crosses

10, the entrepreneurs have to worry about labour laws. "They are not something that any company comprehends. Every time you want to structure something, right from salaries, you can ask for help in an incubation centre," she says. She feels that she spends just a tenth of her time on administrative matters.

'SYMBIOTIC INFLUENCE'

By co-locating an incubation centre in a research park, according to Dr Sandhya Shekhar, CEO, IITM Research Park, the idea is to

provide an ecosystem where the entrepreneurs can interact with like-minded people. "There is a lot of symbiotic influence between larger companies and smaller ones." Apart from the formal mentoring by the faculty, there are a number of issues that the entrepreneurs can imbibe by being in a community that is the incubation centre.

There is no dearth of good ideas. But, says Dr Shekhar, there is a gap in nurturing those ideas into something commercially viable. "That is where they (the entrepreneurs) require all the hand-holding they can possibly

get. VCs (Venture Capital firms) provide the financial support but not necessarily the mentoring that start-ups require," she adds.

For instance, an entrepreneur may be technologically good and think he or she has a fantastic product, but then the realities are such that having a brilliant idea does not necessarily translate into success in the market. Issues such as how to constitute a company, the paper work involved, the regulations that need to be followed, the business proposal, financing, managing the funds and marketing the product require a lot of learning.

Most of the companies at the research park's incubation will be by IIT-Madras alumni, although there may be a handful of those from outside. "But the most important thing is that there should be a strong level of stickiness with IIT-Madras," says Dr Shekhar.

Without getting into details on the rentals, Dr Shekhar takes pains to emphasise that the research park, not just for the start-ups but for the established companies that will be doing research, is not a real-estate proposition.

The rentals will be much lower than the market rates, she says. As for start-ups or early stage companies, the amount of subsidy will be determined by the percentage of equity they share with the IIT faculty members mentoring them. The slabs are: less than one per cent, one-two per cent, and more than two per cent. This is to ensure there is total commitment from both sides.

Start-up companies can remain in the IITM Research Park for three years, while there will be a mid-way review to assess how the venture is progressing.

That review will determine whether everybody believes it is worth putting their energies into it and supporting it further and whether they could continue. Or, it can be that within 18 months the venture has grown enough that it may have to move to a bigger space.

RURAL TECHNOLOGY BUSINESS INCUBATOR

This is one more venture of the IIT-M, where start-ups with a strong rural focus in their business are incubated.

There are very few incubation

centres that are focussed on the rural areas, says Mr Vijay Anand, Vice-President (New Ventures), Rural Technology and Business Incubator (RTBI).

The requirements of the rural people are being met either by the government, where the delivery mechanism leaves a lot to be desired, or by NGOs, which depend on donations and are project-specific.

The RTBI group believes that entrepreneurship is a much better way of tackling the problems and requirements of the rural areas. For instance, a low-cost weather monitoring station or a tele-medicine kit, tailored to the requirements of the rural areas will meet their demands better.



Ms Saloni Malhotra

According to Mr Anand, the RTBI has three divisions – market research, technology and business development. An entrepreneur's concept note is the first stage in incubating a business. Once the concept note is submitted, the market research team studies the potential with hard facts on the ground. A screening committee goes into the proposal thoroughly and will decide within six weeks whether the idea can be supported or not.

After that, the technology and business development teams take over. The RTBI even provides some seed funding.

Not only is a good domain knowledge important, but the entrepreneurs need to know how rural India works. "You need to have a bit of business sense, you need to know how to manage money," says Mr Anand. An entrepreneur who is good in either of these two can be supported to build a company.

According to him, the RTBI now has 14 companies, six of them have graduated in that they have obtained funding from outside. "This is a huge milestone for us," says Mr Anand. Three companies shut down half-way after the entrepreneurs realised that this is not what they wanted to do. Failures are also important, says Mr Anand.



Dr Sandhya Shekhar

tion and mentoring provided by it. Says Ms Malhotra: "It has been tremendous because it gives you significant exposure, it brings discipline in you because there is someone evaluating and monitoring you. Plus there is a huge advantage when it comes to networking."

Incubation centres are meant to help entrepreneurs concentrate on conceptualising their idea and getting their business off the ground, rather than be worried about the office infrastructure and the amenities

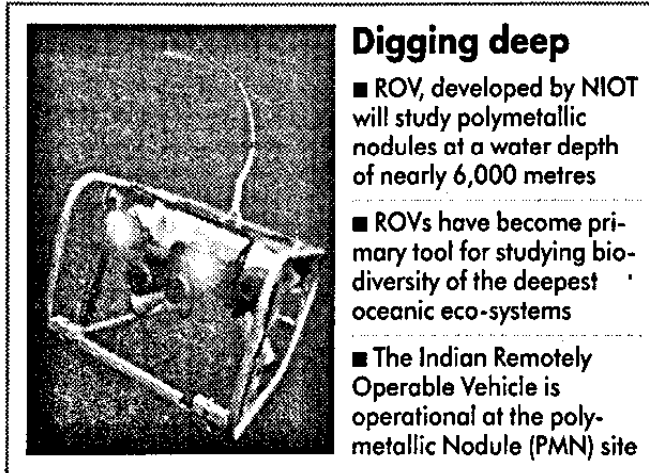
India sends first remote-operated submersible vehicle to ocean bed

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi

JOINING a select club, India has deployed its first remotely operated unmanned submersible (ROV), key for observation and exploration of mineral wealth, in the Central Indian Ocean Basin.

The Remotely Operable Vehicle (ROV), developed by the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) in association with Russia-based Experimental Design Bureau of Oceanological Engineering (EDBOE), will study polymetallic nodules, a rich source of iron and manganese hydroxides, at a



Digging deep

■ ROV, developed by NIOT will study polymetallic nodules at a water depth of nearly 6,000 metres

■ ROVs have become primary tool for studying biodiversity of the deepest oceanic eco-systems

■ The Indian Remotely Operable Vehicle is operational at the polymetallic Nodule (PMN) site

water depth of nearly 6,000 metres.

According to marine scientists, ROVs are becoming the primary tool

for studying the biodiversity of the deepest oceanic eco-systems and a key technology in Census research.

They are linked to a surface support research vessel that controls their underwater activity and transports them to and from the research site.

The Indian ROV is operational at the polymetallic Nodule (PMN) site that has been allotted to the country by the International Sea Bed Authority (ISBA) of United Nations.

"This is a huge feat for India. It means that we are one of the very few nations with this capability apart from United States, France, Japan, Russia and possibly China," NIOT director Atmanand said.

Indian Express ND 11/10/2010

p-11

Dozen varsities in state, Dhumal opens door for more

Despite criticism from ABVP, the BJP govt takes the ordinance route to make setting up campuses easy for private promoters. 8 have come up in the same district within 2 years. 9 more are waiting in the queue

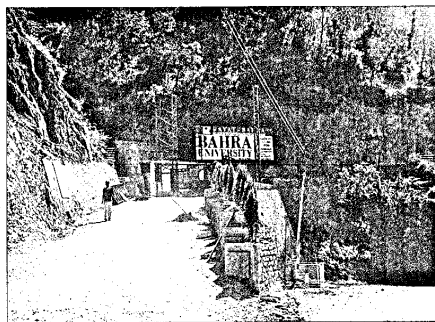
ASHWANI SHARMA
SHIMLA, OCTOBER 10

DESPITE a strong opposition from both within and outside the ruling BJP, the Himachal Pradesh government has cleared two more private universities, including one for which space was made by allegedly knocking down a fragile hill on the Shimla-Kalka National Highway. The two new private universities, which got the state government's nod to become fully operational, are Rayat-Bahara University near Vakhnaghat in Solan and Sai University at Palampur. With this, the number of private universities in this small hill state has gone up to 12. Nine more are in the queue — five of them armed with letters of intent (LOIs), says Education Minister Ishwar Dass Dhiman.

The interesting fact about these universities is that except for the Jaypee Univer-

sity of Information Technology, which was set up under a separate Act during the earlier tenure of Chief Minister Prem Kumar Dhumal, the rest have come up within the past two years of the BJP rule. In fact, the state government seems to be in a tearing hurry to open these varsities, so much so that it hasn't even framed any regulatory mechanism to oversee the functioning of the private universities. Besides, a majority of them have come up in Solan district, bordering Chandigarh.

Last week, the state government got separate ordinances promulgated by Governor Urmila Singh to complete the legal process leading to the creation of such universities. The promoters of these universities are being granted LOIs to kickstart construction process and recruitment. The universities are established through a legislation, which, under any ordinary circumstance, is supposed to be enacted by the state Assembly. How-



The recently opened Rayat-Bahara University

ever, the government doesn't seem to mind helping the promoters by getting ordinances issued speedily so as to make the universities functional. The issue was raised by the Opposition during the Monsoon Session of the Assembly. Dhiman, however, doesn't find anything wrong with the way the new private

universities are being set up. "Once we issue LOIs to the promoters, it imposes a responsibility to grant approvals under the law only when the promoters meet necessary conditions like buying the land, building the campus and recruiting faculty. This involves investments to the tune of Rs 100 crore or more," he says.

The main opposition that the government is facing is in-house — the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP), the BJP's students' wing. Alleges Naveen Sharma, organising secretary of the ABVP, "We are surprised as to how the government, instead of invoking strict norms for existing universities, continues to sanction more and more private universities. Of the 12 functional ones, eight are in a single district. This raises serious doubts about the government's real intentions and claims to make Himachal Pradesh an educational hub."

One of the two latest ones, Rayat Bahara, is at the centre of a controversy for the damage it allegedly caused to a hill on the highway. The issue figured in the Assembly's Monsoon Session, wherein the ruling party MLAs joined the Opposition Congress in questioning the government.

Sharma raises another question about the private universities. "We have persistently asked the Chief Minister and the Education Minister to frame a regulatory mechanism for these private universities, besides putting a full stop on new universities as Himachal Pradesh doesn't need so many of these. But what we have got so far is only a lukewarm response."

He also questions as to why these uni-

versities offer only professional courses, fetching the institutions a hefty sum as fees, instead of conventional courses in humanities and sciences. "Have these universities agreed to a fee structure framed by the government? Do they have 40 per cent reservation for the poor and meritorious students?" asks Sharma.

Two months ago, the government, bowing to public pressure, decided to frame a regulatory mechanism. A Bill was drafted and introduced in the Assembly, proposing the setting up of Regulatory Commission to monitor the functioning of private universities and to look into the complaints regarding their fee structure and compliance of other norms. The Opposition, which agreed to support the move, wanted the law to be stringent. The Bill is currently pending before the Select Committee of the House.

Dhumal admits that a regulatory body is urgently needed to keep a check on these universities. "Barring those having got LOIs, we will not accept any new proposal unless the promoters opt to set up universities in educationally backward districts such as Chamba and Sirmaur," he says, adding that the state government will enforce norms regarding the protection of the state's ecology.

कैट परीक्षा की उल्टी गिनती शुरू हुई

● अमर उजाला ब्यूरो

नोएडा। आईआईएम के लिए होने वाली कैट परीक्षा का काउंटडाउन शुरू हो गया है। 27 अक्टूबर से शुरू होने वाली कैट के परीक्षा केंद्रों को आयोजकों ने अपने नियंत्रण में ले लिया है। कैट को आयोजित करा रही प्रोमेटिक और उसकी पार्टनर मैरीट्रेक ने परीक्षा केंद्रों को सिक्क्योर जोन में तब्दील कर दिया है। वहीं छात्रों ने अंतिम 15 दिनों की रणनीति बना कर तैयारी शुरू कर दी है।

- शहर में कैट का एक मात्र परीक्षा केंद्र सेक्टर-62, स्थित जयपुरिया इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ मैनेजमेंट में बनाया गया है। संस्थान के मुख्य प्रशासनिक अधिकारी वी. के. तोमर ने बताया कि इंस्टीट्यूट की दोनो लैब को परीक्षा आयोजकों ने सिक्क्योर एरिया बना

कैट परीक्षा के लिए महत्वपूर्ण टिप्स

- परीक्षा की रणनीति में कोई नया प्रयोग न करें
- बचे वक्त में एक से ज्यादा मॉक टेस्ट न दें
- परीक्षा में सभी सेक्शन को बराबर वक्त दें
- स्किप के फेर में शॉर्टकट न अपनाएं
- आईआईएम की गाइड लाइन अच्छे से पढ़ लें

दिया है। वहां किसी को जाने की इजाजत नहीं है। कैट के सुरक्षाकर्मी और तकनीकी स्टाफ ने लैब का अपग्रेडेशन शुरू कर दिया है। अगले दो हफ्तों में कैट की तैयारी कई चरणों से होकर गुजरेगी। परीक्षा के आयोजन के लिए संस्थान में कैट का कंट्रोल रूम भी बना दिया गया है। पिछले साल के टॉपर्स का कहना है कि छात्र

अब कुछ नया न पढ़ें और एक से ज्यादा मॉक टेस्ट न दें। टाइम इंस्टीट्यूट की सीनियर फैकल्टी आरती सक्सेना ने बताया कि छात्र परीक्षा की रणनीति में कोई नया प्रयोग न करें, जो सिद्धांत फायदेमंद लग रहा है उस पर कायम रहें। तनाव से मुक्त होनेके लिए मेडिटेशन करें और संगीत सुनें।

**Dainik Bhaskar,
ND11/10/2010 p-10**

आईआईएम रायपुर का उद्घाटन आज

रायपुर | देश के दसवें इंडियन इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ मैनेजमेंट (आईआईएम) रायपुर का उद्घाटन सोमवार को होगा। यह देश का 10वां आईआईएम होगा। सेजबहार में गवर्नमेंट इंजीनियरिंग कॉलेज में दोपहर एक बजे से आयोजित समारोह के मुख्य अतिथि मुख्यमंत्री डॉ. रमन सिंह होंगे।

आईआईटी की ग्लोबल कांफ्रेंस 29 को ग्रेटर नोएडा में

वीर अर्जुन संवाददाता

नोएडा। राष्ट्रमंडल खेलों के बाद एक बार फिर ग्रेटर नोएडा में हस्तियों का जमावड़ा लगेगा। यहां आयोजित होने वाली एक कांफ्रेंस में राष्ट्रपति सहित कई केन्द्रीय मंत्री भाग लेने आ रहे हैं। इस कांफ्रेंस को पैन आईआईटी आयोजित करा रहा है। इसके लिए तैयारियां शुरू भी कर दी गई हैं। इसका आयोजन ग्रेटर नोएडा स्थित एक्सपोमार्ट में किया जाएगा। एक्सपो मार्ट को आधुनिक तरीके से सजाने का काम शुरू कर दिया गया है।

एक्सप्रेस-वे पर साइकिलिंग प्रतियोगिता के खत्म होने के बाद ही एक और बड़ा समारोह नॉलेज पार्क में आयोजित होने जा रहा है।

इसके लिये प्रशासन ने अभी से अपनी तैयारियां शुरू कर दी हैं। भारत की राष्ट्रपति प्रतिभा देवी सिंह पाटिल उद्घाटन समारोह में मुख्य अतिथि के रूप में शामिल होने के लिये नॉलेज पार्क आ रही हैं। इसकी सुरक्षा व्यवस्था के लिये अभी प्रशासन ने तैयारियां शुरू कर दी हैं। पुलिस और जिला प्रशासन से मिली जानकारी के अनुसार यह कांफ्रेंस 29 से 31 अक्टूबर तक आयोजित की जायेगी। उद्घाटन समारोह के लिये राष्ट्रपति भवन से अधिकारिक कार्यक्रम जिलाधिकारी कार्यालय में पहुंच चुका है। राष्ट्रपति के नॉलेज पार्क पधारने के पहले सिक्वोरिटी और आसपास के क्षेत्र के बारे में ब्योरा राष्ट्रपति भवन को पहुंचाना

होगा। जिला प्रशासन के सूत्रों की मानें तो इस कांफ्रेंस में शामिल होने वाले लोगों में कपिल सिब्बल, पृथ्वीराज चौहान, गुलामनबी आजाद सहित कई बड़ी हस्तियां हैं। इस कांफ्रेंस में मुख्य रूप से बदलती भारत की दशा, पानी की समस्या, परंपरागत ऊर्जा व बिजली जैसे मुद्दों पर चर्चा की जाएगी। प्रशासन इलाके की भौगोलिक स्थिति की सुरक्षा की दृष्टि से विवेचना कर रहा है। इसकी जानकारी राष्ट्रपति भवन भेजी जाएगी। इस समारोह के लिए नॉलेज पार्क और एक्सपोमार्ट में तैयारियां तेजी के साथ पूरी की जा रही हैं। चूंकि मामला महामहिम से जुड़ा है इसलिए स्थानीय प्रशासन अपनी ओर से कोई कमी नहीं छोड़ना चाहता है।

अगले सत्र में पेश होंगे शिक्षा सुधार विधेयक

भाषा, नई दिल्ली

शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में सुधार लाने के लिए संसद के शीतकालीन सत्र में शैक्षणिक कदाचार पर अंकुश लगाने, शिक्षा न्यायाधिकरण गठित करने और विदेशी शिक्षण संस्थाओं को भारत में परिसर खोलने की अनुमति देने से संबंधित विधेयक पेश किए जाएंगे। हालांकि, सूत्रों के मुताबिक, संसद की एक स्थाई समिति ने शिक्षण संस्थाओं में कदाचार पर रोक लगाने संबंधी विधेयक को शिक्षा न्यायाधीकरण विधेयक पास होने के बाद सदन में रखने का सुझाव दिया है। उर्वर समिति के अध्यक्ष ऑस्कर फर्नांडिस हैं, जबकि कांग्रेस महासचिव राहुल गांधी भी समिति के सदस्य हैं।

मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री कपिल सिब्बल ने उम्मीद व्यक्त की है कि इन विधेयकों के पारित होने में कोई अड़चन नहीं आएगी। उन्होंने कहा, 'संसद के शीतकालीन सत्र में विधेयक पास हो जाएंगे।' इन विधेयकों पर हाल में संसद की

एक स्थाई समिति ने विचार किया था। सूत्रों के अनुसार, समिति के सदस्यों का विचार था कि इस संबंध में मूल विधेयक के पारित होने तक इसे टाल दिया जाए। तकनीकी, मेडिकल शिक्षण संस्थाओं में कदाचार पर रोक विधेयक, शैक्षणिक संस्थाओं की जांच परख करने के लिए संबद्धता एजेंसी गठित करने से संबंधित विधेयक उन तीन विधेयकों में शामिल है जो शैक्षणिक न्यायाधिकरण विधेयक से जुड़ा हुआ है।

गौरतलब है कि सिब्बल को संसद के मानसून सत्र के दौरान उस समय शैक्षणिक विधेयक को पारित करने का सामना करना पड़ा था जब वरिष्ठ कांग्रेस नेता के.के. केशव राव ने मंत्री को महत्वपूर्ण विधेयक लाने में जल्दबाजी करने का उल्लेख करते हुए आड़े हाथों लिया था। राव ने मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय द्वारा स्थाई समिति की आपत्तियों को खारिज करने पर आपत्ति जताई थी। उन्होंने स्थाई समिति की रिपोर्ट को खारिज करने का विरोध किया था।

सबसे अधिक कंपनी बदलू कर्मचारी आईटी क्षेत्र में कंपनियों ने किया आपस में करार, नहीं देंगे एक दूसरे के कर्मचारी को नौकरी

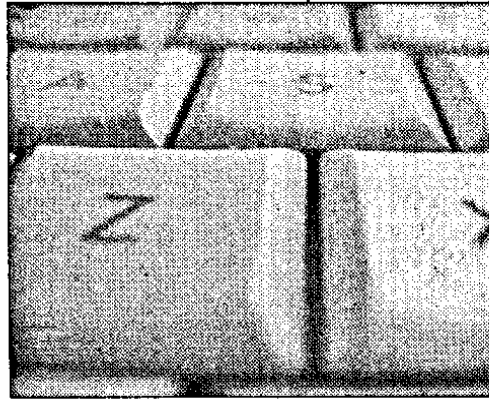
■ एजेंसी

नई दिल्ली। देश की अर्थव्यवस्था में सुधार के साथ अब कर्मचारियों में नौकरियां बदलने की प्रवृत्ति बढ़ रही है। इसके मद्देनजर कई कंपनियों ने नियुक्तियों के प्रतिस्पर्धा रोधी तरीका अपनाने की पहल की है। मानव संसाधन (एचआर) विशेषज्ञों के अनुसार, कई कंपनियों के बीच इस आशय का करार हुआ है कि वे एक-दूसरे के कर्मचारियों को नौकरी नहीं देंगी। विशेषज्ञों का कहना है कि कोई भी कंपनी बेहतरीन कर्मचारी को गंवाना नहीं चाहती है। इस तरह की प्रवृत्ति खासतौर पर आईटी क्षेत्र में देखने को मिल रही है। इसी क्षेत्र के कर्मचारी सबसे ज्यादा नौकरी बदलते हैं। स्टाफिंग सेवा कंपनी एग्जिक््यूटिव एक्सेस (भारत) के प्रबंध निदेशक रोनेश पुरी ने कहा कि प्रतिस्पर्धा रोधी नियुक्ति का

तरीका औपचारिक और अनौपचारिक दोनों तरीकों से अपनाया जा रहा है। चूंकि आईटी

अपना रही है। नियुक्ति प्रक्रिया आउटसोर्सिंग में प्रबंधक शालिनी उदमाले ने कहा कि कई घरेलू कंपनियों ने नियुक्ति नीतियों को लेकर विशेष करारों पर काम करना शुरू कर दिया है। ये कंपनियां खुद को 'डू नॉट कोल्ड कॉल लिस्ट' में भी शामिल कर रही हैं। कोल्ड कॉलिंग एक ऐसा तरीका है जिसमें कोई कंपनी किसी दूसरे कंपनी के कर्मचारी को कॉल कर नौकरी देने की पेशकश करती है। इस बारे में दोनों कंपनियों के बीच कोई बातचीत नहीं हुई होती है। कई कंपनियों को प्रतिस्पर्धा रोधी नियुक्ति व्यवहार के बारे में सवाल

भेजा गया था, पर किसी ने भी इसका जवाब नहीं दिया। विशेषज्ञों का कहना है कि बैंकिंग वित्तीय सेवा और बीमा (बीएफएसआई) सहित विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में प्रतिस्पर्धा रोधी नियुक्ति व्यवहार को अपनाया जा रहा है। पुरी ने कहा कि कई गैर प्रौद्योगिकी क्षेत्रों में भी ऐसा देखने को मिल रहा है। दूरसंचार, स्वास्थ्य तथा अन्य क्षेत्रों में ऐसी नीति देखने को मिल रही है। इस नीति का प्रभाव काफी सीमित है। इलिक्सर की एक अन्य प्रबंधक प्रीति अग्रवाल ने कहा कि प्रतिस्पर्धी कंपनियों से कोल्ड कॉलिंग की अनुमति नहीं होनी चाहिए। इससे काम का माहौल अच्छा बनेगा। अग्रवाल ने बताया कि कई मामलों में हमने देखा है कि कोल्ड कॉलिंग की वजह से कर्मचारी अपनी पसंदीदा कंपनी में जाने के सपने को पूरा नहीं कर पाते हैं।



कंपनियों में कर्मचारियों द्वारा नौकरी बदलने की प्रवृत्ति अधिक है, इसलिए भारतीय कंपनियां प्रतिस्पर्धा रोधी नियुक्ति व्यवहार

Deshbandhu ND

11/10/2010 p-7

आईआईटी की ग्लोबल कांफ्रेंस 29 से

ग्रेटर नोएडा, 10 अक्टूबर (देशबन्धु)। राष्ट्रमंडल खेलों के बाद एक बार फिर ग्रेटर नोएडा में हस्तियों का जमावड़ा लगेगा। यहां आयोजित होने वाली एक कांफ्रेंस में राष्ट्रपति सहित कई केंद्रीय मंत्री भाग लेने आ रहे हैं। इस कांफ्रेंस को पैन आईआईटी आयोजित करा रहा है। इसके लिए तैयारियां शुरू भी कर दी गई हैं। इसका आयोजन ग्रेटर नोएडा स्थित एक्सपोमार्ट में किया जाएगा। एक्सपोमार्ट को आधुनिक तरीके से सजाने का काम शुरू कर दिया गया है। एक्सप्रेस-वे पर साइकिलिंग प्रतियोगिता के खतम होने के बाद ही एक और बड़ा समारोह नॉलेज पार्क में आयोजित होने जा रहा है। इसके लिए प्रशासन ने अभी से अपनी तैयारियां शुरू कर दी हैं। भारत की राष्ट्रपति प्रतिभा देवी सिंह पाटिल उद्घाटन समारोह में मुख्य अतिथि के रूप में शामिल होने के लिए नॉलेज पार्क आ रही हैं। इसकी सुरक्षा व्यवस्था के लिए अभी प्रशासन ने तैयारियां शुरू कर दी हैं। पुलिस और जिला प्रशासन से मिली जानकारी के अनुसार यह कांफ्रेंस 29 से 31 अक्टूबर तक आयोजित की जाएगी। उद्घाटन समारोह के लिये राष्ट्रपति भवन से अधिकारिक कार्यक्रम जिलाधिकारी कार्यालय में पहुंच चुका है। राष्ट्रपति महोदया के नॉलेज पार्क पधारने के पहले सिक्योरिटी और आसपास के क्षेत्र के बारे में ब्योरा राष्ट्रपति भवन को पहुंचाना होगा।

आईआईटी के शोधपत्र में नकल से सनसनी!

जांच के लिए संस्थान प्रशासन ने जांच कमेटी गठित की

■ विरट न्यून।

कानपुर। आईआईटी के प्रोफेसर व उनके सहायकों पर शोध पत्र में नकल के आरोप से संस्थान में सनसनी है। इस घटना से आईआईटी प्रशासन सकते में है। घटना पर जांच न आने, इसके लिए संस्थान प्रशासन ने जांच कमेटी गठित कर दी है। देश एवं प्रदेश के विशेषज्ञों से राय ली जा रही है। साध ही दो नवंबर तक संस्थान प्रशासन चेयरमैन बोर्ड ऑफ गवर्नर को रिपोर्ट देगा। आईआईटी के अधिकारी ने बताया कि बायो इंजीनियरिंग एंड बायोलाजिकल इंजीनियरिंग विभाग के प्रोफेसर अशोक कुमार एवं उनके सहायकों पर आरोप है कि दो रिज्यू आर्टिकल लिखे, जो इंटरनेशनल जर्नल में छप चुके थे। उन शोध पत्रों में कुछ अंश उनका नहीं है जिस पर एल्सेवियर प्रकाशन ने प्रकाशित लेख वापस भी ले लिये और प्रोफेसर व सहायकों पर नकल के आरोप भी जड़ दिये। बताया गया कि प्रो. अशोक कुमार, रवि मिश्रा एवं सोमा रानी जैन के शोध पत्र माइक्रोबिऑल

दो नवंबर तक संस्थान प्रशासन चेयरमैन बोर्ड ऑफ गवर्नर को रिपोर्ट देगा



प्रोफेसर व सहायकों पर नकल कराने का आरोप

प्रोडक्शन

डिवाइजिबसयासीटोन में कुछ अंश विकीपीडिया और स्टेटमास्टर.कॉम से लिए गये। इसी प्रकार राधा गुप्ता एवं अशोक कुमार के लेख मॉलिक्यूलर, इंग्रिटिंग इन सेल-जेल मैट्रिक्स में भी यही आरोप लगे। बताया गया कि जैसे ही इस मामले पर प्रकाशन और प्रोफेसर के बीच वार्तालाप शुरू हुआ तो प्रोफेसर ने अपना लेख वापस लेने की बात भी प्रकाशक से कही थी। उपर

ऑफ

प्रकाशक ने प्रकाशित जर्नल से दोनों रिज्यू आर्टिकल वापस ले लिये।

प्लेगोरिज्म के आरोप को संस्थान प्रशासन ने गंभीरता से लिया। वरिष्ठ प्रोफेसर अधिनी कुमार के निर्देशन में प्रोफेसर कल्याणमय देव एवं प्रोफेसर सोमनाथ विश्वास की कमेटी बना दी गयी है। इस बाबत आईआईटी के निदेशक प्रो. संजय गोविंद भांडे ने बताया कि मामला गंभीर है। प्लेगोरिज्म का इतना बड़ा मामला पहली बार सामने आया है। विशेषज्ञों से राय ली जा रही है। कमेटी से जल्द रिपोर्ट मांगी गयी है। यह रिपोर्ट दो नवंबर को संस्थान के चेयरमैन बोर्ड ऑफ गवर्नर को सौंपी जायेगी।

Hamara Mahanagar, ND 11/10/2010

p-7

शिक्षा सुधार विधेयक जल्द होगा पास!

शैक्षणिक संस्थाओं की हो सकेगी जांच परख

एजेंसी

नई दिल्ली

शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में सुधार के तहत शैक्षणिक कदाचार पर अंकुश लगाने, शिक्षा न्यायाधिकरण गठित करने और विदेशी शिक्षण संस्थाओं को भारत में परिसर खोलने की अनुमति देने से संबंधित विधेयकों को संसद के शीतकालीन सत्र में पारित कराने के प्रयास किए जाएंगे। सूत्रों ने बताया कि संसद की एक स्थाई समिति ने हालांकि, शिक्षण संस्थाओं में कदाचार पर रोक लगाने संबंधी विधेयक को शिक्षा न्यायाधीकरण विधेयक पास होने के बाद सदन में विचार के लिए रखने का सुझाव दिया है। इस समिति के अध्यक्ष ऑस्कर

फर्नांडिस हैं जबकि कांग्रेस महासचिव राहुल गांधी भी इसके सदस्य हैं। सूत्रों के अनुसार, मंत्रालय ने शिक्षा न्यायाधीकरण विधेयक को बिना समिति की सिफारिशों को शामिल किए संसद में दोबारा पेश किया था, इसका समिति में विरोध था।

दूसरी ओर, मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री कपिल सिब्बल ने उम्मीद व्यक्त की है कि इन विधेयकों के पारित होने में कोई अड़चन नहीं आएगी। उन्होंने कहा 'संसद के शीतकालीन सत्र में विधेयक पास हो जाएंगे।' इन विधेयकों पर हाल में संसद की एक स्थाई समिति ने विचार किया था। सूत्रों के अनुसार समिति के

सदस्यों का विचार था कि इस संबंध में मूल विधेयक के पारित होने तक इसे टाल दिया जाए। तकनीकी, मेडिकल शिक्षण संस्थाओं में कदाचार पर रोक विधेयक, शैक्षणिक संस्थाओं की जांच परख करने के लिए संबद्धता एजेंसी गठित करने से संबंधित विधेयक उन तीन विधेयकों में शामिल है जो शैक्षणिक न्यायाधिकरण विधेयक से जुड़ा हुआ है।

हाल ही में मानव संसाधन मंत्रालय से संबंधित इस संसदीय समिति की बैठक उसके अध्यक्ष ऑस्कर फर्नांडिस की अनुपस्थिति में जेदयू सदस्य एनके सिंह की अध्यक्षता में हुई थी। इस बैठक में सदस्यों ने

कहा कि इस विधेयक पर विचार नहीं किया जाना चाहिए क्योंकि अभी तक स्पष्ट नहीं है कि सरकार की ओर से शिक्षा न्यायाधीकरण विधेयक संबंधी सिफारिशों को स्वीकार किया गया है अथवा नहीं।

गौरतलब है कि सिब्बल को संसद के मानसून सत्र के दौरान उस समय शर्मिंदगी का सामना करना पड़ा था जब वरिष्ठ कांग्रेस नेता के. केशव राव ने मंत्री को महत्वपूर्ण विधेयक लाने में जल्दबाजी करने का उल्लेख करते हुए आड़े हाथों लिया था। राव ने मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय द्वारा स्थाई समिति की आपत्तियों को खारिज करने पर आपत्ति जताई थी।