

# Newspaper Clips

October 13, 2011

Tribune ND 13/10/2011 P-2

J E E R E F O R M C A S E

## Supreme Court hails whistleblower IIT professor as an unsung hero

Rajeev Kumar has been under suspension from IIT-Kharagpur since May

ADITI TANDON/TNS

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 12

Drawing curtains on the most keenly watched case in the history of technical education reforms in India, the Supreme Court refused to interfere with the procedure the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) follow for admission through Joint Entrance Examination (JEE), but generously hailed the role of the IIT Kharagpur Professor who used the RTI Act to bring transparency into the system.

Calling Prof Rajeev Kumar "an unsung hero who helped improve the JEE system", the court said action taken by the appellants (among them Kumar's son) in challenging JEE 2006, their attempts to bring in transparency through RTI applications and the debate generated, helped make merit-ranking processes of IITs more transparent and accurate.

"IITs and the candidates who now participate in the

examinations must, to a certain extent, thank the appellants for their effort in bringing about such transparency and accuracy in the ranking procedure," a Division Bench comprising Justices RV Raveendran and AK Patnaik said yesterday, clarifying that there was no ground for the court to interfere in policies laid down by institutes unless such policies violated the law. Ironically, Kumar is fighting a battle against IIT Kharagpur, which suspended him in May for "defaming the institute and lowering students' morale".

The instant Special Leave Petition (which the SC dismissed) was filed by two students who, despite scoring highly in JEE 2006, didn't figure in the merit. Attributing their non-selection to the defective process adopted by IITs to fix cut-offs, the petitioners first moved Calcutta High Court in 2007 seeking that the JEE 2006 merit list be quashed and a fresh one be published with new

Chemistry cut-offs. HC rejected the prayer.

In JEE 2006, the first appellant Sanchit Bansal had scored 75 marks in Maths, 104 in Physics and 52 in Chemistry, aggregating 231 against the cut-off aggregate of just 154 the IITs fixed that year. Subject cut-offs were 37 for Maths, 48 for Physics and 55 for Chemistry. Bansal missed the merit because he scored less than the cut-off in Chemistry; which the appellants challenged as "arbitrary".

Second appellant, Kumar's son, alleged mala fide on the part of Chairman, Joint Admission Board, JEE 2006 and Chairman of the exam organizing committee, saying they harboured enmity towards Kumar and deliberately set arbitrary cut-offs to deny his son admission.

The SC, while admitting that the IIT selection process required upgradation every year to keep the selection process and examination relevant, rejected the appellant's claims of mala fide.

"The claim that to deny admission to one student from among 2,87,000, they manipulated the process of fixing the cut-off is too far fetched," the court held, dismissing the SLP. It cited several precedents to say that all aspects connected with the IIT admission process in question were technical and fell within the purview of experts and the courts had limited role.

"There's no ground for courts to interfere with the procedure, even if it was not accurate or efficient, in the absence of mala fide or arbitrariness or violation of law. It's true that if in JEE 2006, a better process had been adopted or the process now in vogue had been adopted, results would have been different.... but on that ground, it is not possible to impute mala fide. Therefore, the appellant will have to be satisfied in being one of the many unsung heroes who helped in improving the system," the Bench observed.

**HIGH PRAISE***Top court calls IIT  
whistleblower prof  
an unsung hero***Chetan Chauhan**

■ chetan@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** Suspended IIT professor, Rajiv Kumar, has been described by the Supreme Court as an "unsung hero" who helped make the entrance examination to premier institutions more transparent.

IIT-Kharagpur had on May 13, 2011 suspended Kumar on charges of damaging the institute's reputation by constantly filing RTI pleas and then appealing to the Central Information Commission (CIC) against the institute's view.

Kumar's five-year tirade started when his son failed to clear the 2006 IIT-JEE. He used the RTI Act to get information on the IIT-JEE selection process and claimed his son, who now works with Microsoft, had been wronged owing to the selection criteria.

The SC on Tuesday, after listening to IITs, dismissed his claim observing it does not have technical know-

**IIT-K HAD SUSPENDED  
KUMAR FOR MARRING  
ITS REPUTATION  
BY CONSTANTLY  
FILING RTI PLEAS**

how to challenge the IIT experts, but said Kumar should be satisfied with being one of the many "unsung heroes who helped improve the system".

SC judges RV Raveendran and AK Patnaik said: "IITs and the candidates, who now appear for the examinations must, to a certain extent, thank the appellants (Kumar) for their effort to bring such transparency ... in the ranking procedure."

Kumar's RTI application triggered a storm, with the CIC asking the IITs to give the information sought.

Kumar obtained data of all JEEs since 2006 and analysed them for claiming discrepancies in the examination system.

Hindu ND 13/10/2011 P-9

# IIT-Delhi to host quiz

IIT-Delhi will play host to the week-long finale of 'Sweden India Nobel Memorial Quiz' on Saturday at 10 a.m. The inter-collegiate quiz is being organised by the Embassy of Sweden to enhance the image of Sweden in India and to celebrate the spirit and contribution of the Swedish innovator, entrepreneur and philanthropist - Alfred Nobel.

Apart from Delhi, the qualifying rounds for the quiz have been conducted in Bangalore, Chennai, Pune and Mumbai. The winners will get an all-expenses-paid trip to Sweden, where they will get to visit headquarters of partner companies, universities and the Nobel Museum.

Jamia Millia Islamia University will be organising a lecture on "The Ayodhya Judgment: What Next?" by Prof. Nivedita Menon from Jawaharlal Nehru University. The lecture is scheduled for 2-30 p.m. on Thursday in the Reading Room of Dr. K. R. Narayanan Centre for Dalit Minorities Studies. The University is also playing host to a photography exhibition on the issue of mental illness, 'Faces-

## CAMPUS JOTTINGS

Phases: Images of Hope and Inclusion'. The exhibition is on view up to October 17 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Apeejay Styra University, Gurgaon, is offering admissions along with merit scholarships and financial aid to its School of Management Sciences for the current academic year.

The MBA programme is of two years and a degree from any stream is sufficient to be eligible for this course. The Master in Public Policy and Development Studies and MBA in Public Policy and Administration are five-year integrated programmes with an eligibility requirement of 10+2.

XLRI, Jamshedpur, has commenced its special Executive Management Programme for Defence Officers. The six-month certificate programme in Business Management has been initiated for the resettlement of officers from the Defence Services. The

course is a full-time residential programme and is broadly divided into three terms of approximately two months each. It equips participants with basic concepts and skills in all functional areas of management along with a specific area of concentration, thereby enabling them to find a suitable second-career in the corporate world and has been designed keeping in mind the needs of the corporate world vis-à-vis the career aspirations of the service officers.

On the occasion of the 'International Year of Chemistry', Indira Gandhi National Open University is hosting a two-day conference on 'Chemistry: Education and Research Frontiers' on Thursday at 10 a.m. in its convention centre.

Eminent scientist and Chairman of the Scientific Advisory Committee to the Prime Minister Prof. C.N.R. Rao will be inaugurating the affair and will give an address on the glorious past and exciting future of chemistry. Chemical engineer Prof. M. M. Sharma will also deliver a lecture on "milestones in chemical industry".

**Vijetha S. N.**

## Business Standard ND 13/10/2011

P-10

## [STUDENT'S CORNER]

**Dear Students,  
LAST WEEK WE ASKED:**

Would you subscribe to N R Narayana Murthy's view that the quality of 80 per cent of IIT students is not as good?

**BEST RESPONSE**

■ It's true that the quality of students at IITs have deteriorated. We can't blame coaching institutes for this, because students had to avail private coaching simply because they do not find the school education system up to the mark for the JEE. If poor quality students, were able to get into the IITs, as Narayan Murthy has said, it was the responsibility of the joint entrance examination committee.

— Amit Kumar, Amity Business School, Noida

**OTHER RESPONSE**

■ IITs are among the top institutes where students get an opportunity after clearing the entrance exams, which are not very easy to crack. But thanks to coaching classes, they have made it easier. Hence, we should not be talking about the quality of students, but the procedure by which the students are selected should be altered. Independent thinking

students should be evaluated instead of their ability to solve problems.

Decision making skills, practical knowledge and technical know-how of a student should be evaluated.

— Anusha Desai, Amrut Mody School of Management, Ahmedabad

■ IITs used to produce quality of students, but the standard has deteriorated over the last few years. The primary reasons for the fall in quality include reservation quotas and coaching classes. Coaching classes teach students to crack the exams and not teach them to apply their mind. On the other hand, candidates getting fewer marks in the entrance exams are getting admitted in the IITs due to the reservation system. When these students get into the IITs, they fail to meet the high working standards of the IITs. Only 20 per cent are making their admission count, while the rest are contributing to the fall in the standard.

— Kunal Sukhdev Patel, CK Shah Vijapurwala Institute of Management, Vadodara

■ Some IIT students might not be as

good because many coaching institutes with their experience of past IIT papers train the students just to crack the entrance exams. Intelligent and hard working students do make it to the IITs, but they are now at a minority. Add to that the quota system for certain sections of students. These factors result in degrading the reputation of IITs as a world renowned institute.

— Shivam Chhabra, Integral University, Lucknow

**Your responses should reach us at [edu@business-standard.com](mailto:edu@business-standard.com) by Monday evening. Please ensure that responses do not exceed 100 words. Avoid attach-ments and email your full name, institute's name, batch and complete mailing address. The student who gives the 'Best Response' will be awarded ₹500.**

**THIS WEEK'S QUESTION: In the light of the TASMAC event, do you think domestic education institutes are a safer bet for Indian students than overseas education centres? Why?**

For other responses please log on to: <http://business-standard.com/452296/>

Financial Express ND 13/10/2011 P-1

# HRD ministry plans ₹95-crore grant for five IIMs as global ranking trails

**Kirtika Suneja**  
New Delhi, Oct 12

**T**HE failure of any Indian business school in making it to the world's top 100 management institutions has jolted the government into action. For starters, the ministry of human resource development has decided to pump ₹95 crore into the Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) to increase their research output fivefold.

IIMs in Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Kozhikode, Indore and Lucknow will receive the grant across the next five years. Most of these IIMs produce an average of 15-20 fellows every year.

"We want a fivefold increase in the number of fellowships in the next five years and this funding will be used for that purpose. This is for the old IIMs, as the new ones already get a grant from us," said an HRD

ministry official.

The ministry had stopped such grants almost a decade back as the IIMs were able to sustain themselves. Doing a four-year PhD costs around ₹20 lakh, as per the ministry's estimates.

"The money they were raising from their MBA programmes could not be used for research and hence, this grant is being given for students to do research. The IIMs are able to meet their regular expenses from

the MBA fee but for fellowships, we have to step in," the official added.

The IIMs who have always been sensitive regarding their autonomy, say that government funding their research is not a threat to independence. The government now incurs most of the capital costs incurred by the IIMs and the review committee setup under RC Bhargava had noted: "It must be noted that IIMs account for less than 5% of MBAs produced in India and that this

percentage will not change appreciably even after the expansion plans of current IIMs are completed. Clearly, if IIMs have to continue receiving public funds, they need to contribute to improving the quality of management education in India, and themselves become centres of excellence and thought leadership."

"We have all the freedom and this is not a threat to our autonomy. In fact, this funding is very beneficial as our doctoral students and the fellows we produce go to other institutes to do research," said Shekhar Chaudhuri, director, IIM Calcutta. He added that the new scheme will enable it to double the intake of fellows to 18-20 in the next three years.

Most of the old IIMs conduct a Fellow Programme in Management (FPM) and the output is 15-20 fellows per year.

■ Continued on Page 2



**IIMs IN AHMEDABAD, BANGALORE, KOZHIKODE, INDORE AND LUCKNOW WILL RECEIVE THE MINISTRY GRANT DURING THE NEXT FIVE YEARS**

IIM-C's fellow programme has two phases – a two-year phase is followed by a two-to-three year dissertation phase in which a student writes his doctoral dissertation. The institute provides support to fellowship students in the form of financial aid and research infrastructure.

At IIM Ahmedabad, course

## HRD ministry plans...

work in the first year provides a general management overview and develops basic skills for analysing managerial problems. In the second year, students take advanced doctoral level courses in their areas of

specialisation.

The doctoral dissertation, for the next couple of years, provides them with an opportunity to make original contribution to an area of management or to one of its source disciplines.

At IIM Lucknow, whose FPM began in 2001, all FPM students are provided with a monthly stipend of ₹20,000 during the first two years and ₹24,000 plus some financial incentives depending on their involvement in academic duties such as teaching and grading during the third and fourth years.

**Other stories****IIT LIKELY TO  
COME UP IN  
KOZHIKODE****J.S. BABLU****KOZHIKODE, OCT. 12**

The IIT sanctioned for Kerala will be set up at Kozhikode instead of Palakkad if sufficient land is available. "The district administration will start the process of scouting for the land and zeroing in on a plot only next week as it is engrossed with the Nirmal Madhav admission issue at present," district collector P.B. Salim told this newspaper. Sources said the considerable delay in getting land in Palakkad forced the authorities to rethink.

As of now, the district authorities are considering the 400 acres of land owned by Gwalior Rayons at Mavoor near Kozhikode. The previous left democratic front government had explored the possibility of setting up the Birla Institute of Technology and Science (BITS) in this land. However, the plan never materialised.

# More companies flocking to IIT-M

## Attractive offers to Computer Science grads

Vasudha Venugopal and  
B. Aravind Kumar

**CHENNAI:** The number of companies homing in on Indian Institute of Technology, Madras (IIT-M) for campus placements have almost doubled this year, while foreign corporate houses are also showing greater interest in scouting for talent on the campus.

Several companies have been visiting the campus for pre-placement talks and have made presentations on company profiles to the students with a view to attracting them when the interviews begin around December 1 (in all IITs).

“From the time the pre-placement talks began on August 16, eight foreign companies, including Facebook and Sumitomo Chemicals, have registered with us for recruitment with technical and research job profiles,” says Prashanth Pinnamaneni, Academic Affairs Secretary. There are two companies from Japan, three from the United States, one each from Dubai, Malaysia and Singapore.

B.Tech (Computer Science) students have quite a few attractive offers. Pocket Gems, a mobile game developer, has not only offered a whopping \$ 1,37,000 per annum, but also extra benefits such as sponsoring holidays, outings and Friday parties. “We also have start-ups including Inmobi, which is offering Rs. 14 lakh per annum in hand with fewer additional benefits,” says S. Divyesh, a

B.Tech (Computer Science) student. Things are still uncertain, because these are just talks. For instance, Facebook came up with offers last year but did not recruit.

### M. Tech graduates

Interestingly, this year, students observe that there is equal importance given to M.Tech students and research scholars. “Financial companies including Goldman Sachs have started considering M. Tech students on a par with B. Tech graduates, which is a good sign,” says Srujan Kumar, an M. Tech student at IIT-M.

While research-oriented institutes such as Amrita University are seeking research assistants with renewed rigour, core companies including CISCO and Juniper are offering M. Tech students more for the same work profile.

Most software companies have relaxed their eligibility from eight to seven CGPA this year. Financial companies, however, have insisted on at least a CGPA of nine. The wait is not over, as expected big-wigs including Google that offered Rs. 23 lakh last year, are still to come for the talks, say students.

The selection procedure will have as many as three technical rounds, after two written tests. Financial companies such as Morgan & Stanley that offer nearly Rs 25 lakh per annum are likely to focus on GATE and JEE scores too, to ensure that only the best are roped in.

“Higher the pay, more diffi-

cult gets the selection,” says a student. “These companies recruit just around four or five. Last year, Intel did recruit around 30 students but that happens only occasionally,” he adds. The packages have increased significantly too. “Yahoo that offered a package of Rs 9 lakh per annum last year is offering Rs. 13.5 lakh,” says Divyesh.

The campus placements at IIT-M are co-ordinated by a team of students working in tandem with the placement office. Each branch has a counsellor and there are M.Tech and Ph.D counsellors also and the team is confident that the last year’s average salary of Rs 7.40 lakh per annum would go up this year. The committee is now trying hard to convince companies such as Facebook that want only B.Tech (CS) students to consider other interested candidates too.

### Humanities doing better

The humanities and arts are also doing better this year. “More companies have shown interest with offers of research associates and editorial jobs,” says Kavitha Narayanan, branch counsellor for the three streams of M.A. degree offered at the IIT-M.

Over 1,100 B.Tech, B.Tech (dual) and research scholars have registered with the placement office for taking part in recruitment drive. Of the 1,146 registered students last year, 82 per cent of B.Tech and 73 per cent of M.Tech students were recruited.

# After Harvard, Wharton looks for a classroom in India

KALPANA PATHAK

THE Wharton School of Business, University of Pennsylvania, is the latest entrant to the growing Rs 350-crore executive education space in India. The school, ranked number two by Financial Times in its Global MBA rankings, said it will soon have its own campus in India.

"Within the next two years we will have a physical presence in India. Through the centre, we will not only conduct executive education, but will also be able to use it as a place for the alumni to converge and our faculty to convene for research. We will have office space and classrooms. We are looking at a centralised location and Mumbai is what suits our needs the most, as of now," said Jason Wingard, vice dean, Executive Education at the Wharton school.

Wharton joins the likes of University of Chicago, Harvard Business School, Tuck School of Business, INSEAD, Oxford University's Said Business School and Duke University, among others to

offer their executive education programmes in India.

"We have realised that many of the emerging markets continue to grow and it is important for us to have a variety of locations around the world. We are present in India, China and Brazil." Wharton receives about 10,000 executive education participants on its campus every year and India is among the top three countries in terms of participants from outside the US.

"We offer both, custom programme as well as open enrolment. We work with many companies in India including Wipro technologies and ICICI Bank among others. Because of the deep relationship that we have with companies and the large alumni base we have in India, we chose India to offer the first certificate in India. We have to finalize the range of services we would be offering beyond executive education."

Wharton will begin a certificate programme, the Accelerated Development Program (ADP), for business leaders in India from January 2012.

Track one of the programme will have three Wharton executive education programmes in India at Rs 6,60,000 (plus service tax). Track two will see two executive education programmes in India and one in Philadelphia in the US for Rs 500,000 (plus service tax) and Wharton Philadelphia programme at a discount of 25 per cent.

Three executive education programmes will also be offered - Customer Driven Marketing: Strategies for Profitable Growth;

Strategic Thinking and Leadership for Growth and Using Finance for Strategic Growth. The programmes would be for four days. A fourth programme, focused on leadership, will be added in the second-half of 2012.

**THE INSTITUTE WILL BEGIN A CERTIFICATE PROGRAMME the Accelerated Development Program, for business leaders from January 2012**

Financial Chronicle ND 13/10/2011

P-10

# Sibal pitches for US universities

YOSHITA SINGH

Press Trust of India

AS the first ever high-level Indo-US education summit gets underway, India today pitched for famed American universities to 'reach out' to the country.

"It is time that the US institutes of higher learning realise that the way to move forward in education is to come to India, to collabo-

rate and set up institutions and reach out to people," the visiting Human Resource Development minister Kapil Sibal said, adding that tie-ups would yield high economic returns.

He, however, added that India too has to 'reach out' and create an environment for US universities to set up base in the country. "You have a higher education structure, which is the envy

of the world; it has been at the front of all knowledge creation. US has the best academics all over the world. It is time for you to reach out, collaborate with us because in that process you will participate in not just helping us solve our problems but helping us solve the problems of the world," he said at an event.

The day long education summit on October 13, to

be co-chaired by Sibal and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, will see participation by over 300 higher education leaders, government and private sector representatives. Sibal pointed out that investing in the Indian education sector makes good economic sense for the US as the return on investment in India is much higher as compared to any other country.



# STRICT UK VISA RULES TO AFFECT INDIAN STUDENTS

However, deserving candidates need not fear losing out on quality education in renowned institutes

KALPANA PATHAK & VINAY UMARJI

IF the UK government's review of its visa norms was not enough to send Indian students looking at other destinations, the shutting down of institutes may bring the numbers further down. Besides, the US is getting more serious about attracting international students.

Till 2010, student visa allocation for the UK declined by six per cent. In April, UK did away with the Tier I Post Study Work (PSW) visa. The UK Border Agency confirmed that changes in the student visa rules will result in fewer visa applications.

"The UK government is committed to minimising abuse of the student immigration system, while ensuring support for the brightest and best students to continue to study at UK's highest quality education institutions. Closure of the PSW was triggered by an increase in abuse in the private education sector in the UK. It was found that there was increasing abuse in the private further education sector (by some, but not all colleges), so the reforms were targeted at those institutions where change was considered to be most necessary," said Sam Murray, regional communications manager, UK Border Agency, South Asia.

Since May 2010, the UK Border Agency has revoked the licenses of 97 Tier 4 UK education providers. A further 36 currently have their licenses suspended, said a UK Border Agency Spokesperson in India.

"The recent shut down of Training and Advanced Studies in Management and Communications (TASMAC)'s London campus last week is due to tighter visa restrictions implemented by the United Kingdom Border Agency (UKBA)," said Sameer Dua, joint managing director, TASMAC group.

On March 22, 2011, the UK Home Secretary, Theresa May, announced sweeping changes to Tier 4 student route for migration. She said from April 2012 all institutions wanting to sponsor foreign students would have to be classified as a Highly Trusted Sponsor by the UK Border Agency and would need to be inspected by an approved educational oversight body.

The UK government wants the brightest and best international students to come to the UK to study in its high quality education institutions. These changes to accreditation and inspection requirements protect legitimate students and ensure that only those education providers with a proven track record in immigration compliance will be licensed to bring international students to the UK.



REUTERS

Since May 2010, the UK Border Agency has revoked the licenses of 97 Tier 4 institutes, while another 36 have their licenses suspended

## TASMAC London students may come back to India

M SARASWATHY

SAMEER Dua of TASMAC said some of the students wanted to come back to India from the institute's London centre and continue their education on TASMAC's campuses in India. "A few of our students wanted to continue their courses in our Indian campus and we have agreed to it. Though the procedure is being worked out, all I can say is that we will do everything we can to support the students."

"In the event that a student is already in the UK and his or her sponsor surrenders its license or has its licence withdrawn, the student will usually have 60 days to find an alternative education provider in the UK. If the student has less than six months left his or her leave will not be reduced," the

spokesperson added.

UK Border Agency in an email said it was important for international students to receive the standard of education that they deserve and have paid for. This is why the UK government, in its first stage of reforms to the student visa system, has increased accreditation requirements for sponsors and extended robust inspection arrangements to private sector providers.

"The tightening of visa requirements by Australia and the UK is making them less attractive destinations for students as they see lower prospects for future jobs and immigration. Also, budget cuts in the US public institutions are prompting them to recruit international students more actively as an additional source of revenue," said Rahul Choudaha, director of development and innovation at World Education Services in New York.

International student enrollment in higher education in Australia and the UK grew by 81 per cent and 47 per cent respectively between 2002 and 2009, as compared to 18 per cent in the US. In absolute terms, Australia, the UK and US each added nearly

100,000 students over the same period.

"This translates into comparatively slow growth for the US, given that the size of the American higher education system is 17 times that of Australia and eight times that of the UK," explains Choudaha.

According to Choudaha, some of the early reports for autumn 2011 show a significant increase in international student enrollment at US universities. For example, at the University of Iowa first-time freshmen international student enrolment reached record levels of 484 this year, compared to 388 last year. Likewise, at Arkansas State University international student enrolment for autumn 2011 passed 1,000 students for the first time. Last year 780 international students enrolled.

According to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) number of internationally mobile students grew by 1.6 million between 2000 and 2009. Choudaha says this trend will continue to be driven by the increasing ability of prospective students in countries like China and India to afford foreign higher education.

Times of India ND 13/10/2011 P-13

# Stranded students have 60 days to leave UK?

**Tirna Ray  
& Dipjiman Dewan | TNN**

**New Delhi:** It has been two days since TASMAL London School of Business announced the closure of its London campus, affecting around 550 students of Asian and African origin, many among whom are Indians.

According to Vikram Singh, a student who paid for an MBA from the University of Wales and studying in TASMAL London, "Though the school authorities have been claiming that we will be transferred to different colleges, nothing is likely to happen. The authorities are simply buying time."

Singh, along with the other TASMAL students, have 60

days — according to the UKBA (United Kingdom Border Agency) policy — to decide on their future. Either they get themselves admitted to a new college, fulfilling the visa requirements, or else, they leave the country.

Elaborating on the situation, a UK Border Agency spokesperson in India said: "Earlier this year, we announced that from April 2012, all institutions wanting to sponsor foreign students would have to be classed as a Highly Trusted Sponsor by the UK Border Agency and would need to be inspected by an approved educational oversight body by the end of 2012. TASMAL London School of Business has indicated that it no longer wishes to sponsor for-

eign students to enter the UK and that it wishes to surrender its licence to do so."

The spokesperson added, "These changes to accreditation and inspection requirements protect legitimate students and ensure that only those education providers with a proven track record in immigration compliance will be licensed to bring international students to the UK. In the event that a student is already in the UK and his or her sponsor surrenders its licence or has its licence withdrawn, the student will usually have 60 days to find an alternative education provider in the UK."

However, Sameer Dua, joint MD, TASMAL and TASMAL London, stresses that

not only TASMAL, but also a host of other private education providers have been forced to close down owing to the tightening of visa regulations by the UKBA. He said that TASMAL and the University of Wales are trying to ensure that students can continue their studies. "The University of Wales is seeking partner colleges where the transfer of credits can be done so that the affected students can complete their degrees," said Dua.

TASMAL is a business education provider that started operations in Mumbai in 1990 and is headquartered in Pune, with a presence across Bangalore and Kolkata. It had set up a campus in London in 2008.

Publication: The Times Of India Delhi; Date: Oct 13, 2011; Section: Times Nation; Page: 11;

# Isro beats space jam with 1-min delay

## Indo-French Weather Satellite Among Four Put Into Orbit By PSLV-C18

Ishan Srivastava | TNN

Chennai: The Indian Space Research Organization on Wednesday used a strategic delay to evade a possible encounter with space debris and ensured a perfect launch of PSLV-C18. Lifting off from the Sriharikota space port at 11.01am, a minute after its designated time, Isro's workhorse Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle put into orbit four satellites, including the Indo-French Megha-Tropiques.

"The launch was a great success. We had targeted a circular orbit of 867km for the weather satellite Megha-Tropiques and we have achieved, as per initial reports, 865km," said Isro chairman K Radhakrishnan. "It demonstrates again the reliability and versatility of PSLV as a launch platform."

After the beginning a 50-hour countdown at 9am on Monday, Isro got wind of the space debris. Three hours before the schedule lift-off time, it found that the probability of the



**UP, UP AND AWAY:** Isro's workhorse Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle put into orbit four satellites, including the Indo-French Megha-Tropiques

collision remained high. "We delayed the launch by a minute since there was a higher probability of the

launch vehicle hitting space debris at an altitude between 600km and 800km," an Isro official said. One minute is a significant amount of time in this context since any object in space at that height moves at about 8km per second. The delay ensured that the rocket reached the altitude after the debris had moved away by about 500km and the satellites could be safely ejected into the orbit.

The 1,000kg Megha-Tropiques, put in orbit 22.5 minutes after the rocket lifted off, was jointly developed by Isro and the French national space agency CNES. It will study the water cycle and energy exchanges in the tropics. Its circular orbit is inclined at 20 degrees to the equator allowing it to cover more area on both sides of the equator.

"It will help us understand our climate better. This knowledge will also help our farmers," said Radhakrishnan. It is only the second satellite of its kind in the world. The first, Tropical Rainfall Measuring Mission (TRMM) developed jointly by the US

and Japan, was launched in 1997.

The other satellites aboard PSLV-C18 are the 28.7kg VesselSat-1 of Luxembourg, 3kg Jugnu of IIT Kanpur and 10.9-kg SRMSat of SRM University in Chennai. While Jugnu will take images of the Earth in the near-infrared region, SRMSat will try to address the problem of global warming and pollution by monitoring carbon dioxide and water vapour levels.

While Isro and CNES spent almost Rs 86 crore each on Megha-Tropiques, PSLV-C18, used in a "core-alone" configuration, cost Rs 90 crore. Commenting on the increasing frequency of launches, Radhakrishnan said a feasibility study was on to identify another launch site which would be part of the 12th 5-year Plan. "In the meantime, we will build another launch vehicle assembly plant near the second launch pad to increase the frequency of launches," he said. Another Isro official indicated that a new assembly plant may take up to five years to complete, provided work begins now.

# Predicting droughts, floods is easy now

**SHUBHADEEP CHOUDHURY/TNS**

**BANGALORE, OCTOBER 12**

The Indian Space Research Organisation's workhorse rocket, Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C18), triumphed once again when it successfully put four satellites in orbit this morning.

The satellites are: Megha-Tropiques, an Indo-French satellite to study weather and climate in the tropical region of the world; SRM-Sat, built by students of SRM University, near Chennai; Jugnu, built by students of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kanpur; and Vesselsat from Luxembourg-based aerospace and defence company Luxspace. This was the seventh flight of the PSLV in "core alone" configuration (without any solid strap on motor).

The launch, scheduled for 11 am, was delayed by a minute. This, ISRO chairman K Radhakrishnan told reporters at the spaceport at Sriharikota, was done as a precaution to avoid any collision with space debris floating in the orbit.



“Originally the launch was scheduled for 11 am after taking into account the time zone difference between India and France. However, the launch was delayed by one minute to avoid any possibility of the satellites colliding with space debris.”

— K Radhakrishnan, ISRO Chairman

At the end of more than 21 minutes of flight, the PSLV-C18 first put the 1,000-kg Megha-Tropiques satellite into an orbit at an altitude of 867 km. A few seconds later, SRMSat shot out, followed by VesselSat and Jugnu.

## PSLV-C18 LAUNCH

Radhakrishnan called the launch “a grand success”. Megha-Tropiques has day-night and all-weather viewing capabilities. It will pass over India almost a dozen times every day, giving scientists constant inputs about the formation of clouds. The satellite will have a life-span of five years.

Megha-Tropiques, with four scientific instruments, will help in predicting the

monsoons, floods, cyclones and droughts. The French CNES and the Indian ISRO will share joint responsibility for the satellite and its science missions.

Jugnu (3 kg) will check out an indigenously developed camera system for imaging the Earth in the near infrared region and test image processing algorithms, evaluate GPS receiver for its use in satellite navigation and will also test indigenously developed MEMS-based inertial measurement unit (IMU) in space.

SRMSat (10 kg) will try to address global warming and pollution by monitoring carbon dioxide and water vapours in atmosphere with a spectrometer. VesselSat (30 kg), developed by Luxspace, will guide ships in high seas.

Business Line ND 13/10/2011 p-13

# Megha-Tropiques in the sky; PSLV mission, a 'grand success'

**M. Ramesh**

*Sriharikota, Oct. 12*

India has come to expect nothing but success of the PSLV rocket, and the country was not disappointed.

Today, the old workhorse accomplished its mission flawlessly, from its lift-off into the cloudy skies over the Sriharikota satellite launch centre at 11-01 a.m. and, between 22 and 25 minutes after that, placed the four satellites it was carrying into their designated orbits.

When the 3-kg Jugnu satellite, built by IIT-Kanpur, got off the vehicle 866.4 km above the earth, the event marked the 19th straight success of the PSLV rocket.

In the past, the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle has reached the Chandrayaan-1 to the moon, and has even carried a telecommunications satellite into a geo-synchronous orbit close to 37,000 km above India.

Viewed against this record, today's work of carrying four satellites that together weigh

only a little over a tonne to only 866 km above the earth was for the PSLV-C18 but a child's play.

Its chief payload today was the 1,000-kg Megha-Tropiques satellite, which, while travelling at an angle of 20 degrees to the equator, will observe condensed water in clouds, water vapour in the atmosphere, precipitation and evaporation.

The satellite, a product of Indo-French collaboration, has been described as "a unique satellite for climate research" and will aid scientists in refining weather prediction models.

"It was a grand success," commented the ISRO Chairman, Dr K. Radhakrishnan, dwelling long on 'grand', for emphasis.

He and his colleagues have a good reason to celebrate (as they did in the control room, hugging and shaking hands) because all the four satellites the rocket took up today were well settled in their chosen spots



**Victorious:** The ISRO Chairman, Dr K. Radhakrishnan, addressing a press conference after the successful launch of the PSLV C-18 from Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota on Wednesday. — PTI

in the sky.

## SECOND OF ITS KIND

India and France contributed Rs 86 crore each to build the satellite, which has the distinction of being only the second of its kind in the world.

The first was the 'Tropical Rainfall Measurement Mission' launched in 1997 by the US.

The Megha-Tropiques will contribute to a multinational project called Global

Chennai, carries a spectrometer to monitor carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere. The 3-kg Jugnu has a clutch of scientific instruments to aid GPS navigation.

## TIGHT SCHEDULE AHEAD

Later, addressing a press conference, Dr Radhakrishnan said that ISRO had a tight programme ahead, with three more PSLV launches in 2011-12.

The next launch of the GSLV, the bigger rocket meant for carrying heavy satellites weighing over 2 tonnes, is planned for the second quarter of next year.

This will be keenly awaited because the rocket will use an indigenously built cryogenic engine for the 3rd stage.

The previous two attempts at using indigenous cryo engines have failed, but Dr Radhakrishnan said that the learnings from those failures have helped debug the engine.

Precipitation Measurement Mission - a constellation of satellites to measure climate and rainfall in the tropics, where half the humanity lives.

The 28.7-kg VesselSat-I, built by LuxSpace of Luxembourg, carries an automatic identification receivers to detect signals from ships automatically, when the satellite passes over them.

The 10.9-kg SRMSat, built by the SRM University,

Times of India ND 13/10/2011 P-14

# Military sat delayed again by a year

## India Lags Behind Even As China Zooms Far Ahead In Exploitation Of Space

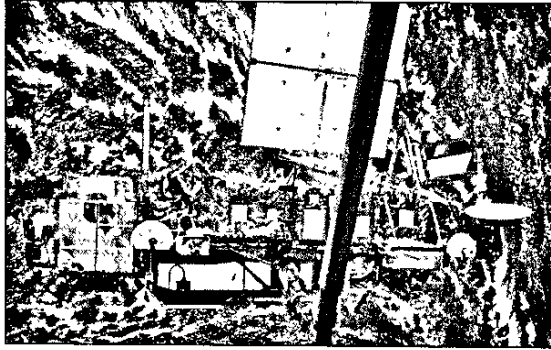
Rajat Pandit | TNN

New Delhi: PM Manmohan Singh may wax eloquent that the military will be equipped with "all necessary means to meet all threats", including those "which go beyond conventional warfare", but no sense of urgency is being shown in the space arena.

Indian armed forces are still to get their own dedicated surveillance and communication satellites despite several years of promises and plans, leave alone offensive space capabilities like ASAT (anti-satellite) weapons or advanced directed-energy laser weapons.

Moreover, the government continues to keep the desperately-needed tri-Service Aerospace Command in cold storage, even though China has taken to the military exploitation of space, which includes ASAT capabilities, in a major way.

Top defence officials ad-



NO EYE IN THE SKY

mit the much-awaited launch of the naval communication and surveillance satellite, "Rohini", has been once again delayed by a year or so. Satellites for Army-IAF will only follow thereafter. Incidentally, during the naval commanders' conference in 2009, defence minister A K Antony had declared that the satellite to boost connectivity over sea would be

launched in early-2010.

Subsequently, Indian Space Research Organization (Isro) had revised the satellite's "launch window" to December 2010-March 2011. But to no avail.

"There has been another big delay now...it won't be possible before end-2012 at the earliest," said an official, even as all top military commanders are currently in

New Delhi for their annual brain-storming sessions.

"The problem is the repeated failures of GSLV (geosynchronous satellite launch vehicle) and indigenous cryogenic engines (Isro is now left with only one of the cryogenic engines imported from Russia)," he added. With no early launch in sight, talk is gaining ground that India should contemplate a foreign launcher for its GSAT-7 series of military satellites.

The 2,330-kg naval satellite is supposed to have an around 1,000 nautical mile footprint over Indian Ocean, stretching from Red Sea to Malacca Strait, to ensure "network-centric operations" and "maritime domain awareness". The IAF-Army one, in turn, will have a similar footprint over land.

The Defence Space Vision-2020 identified only intelligence, reconnaissance, surveillance, communica-

tion and navigation as the thrust areas in Phase-I till 2012. But even such capabilities, which include the critical necessity to keep 24x7 tabs on enemy troop movements, warships, airbases and missile silos as well as bolster surveillance over Indian airspace, will remain limited in the absence of dedicated military satellites.

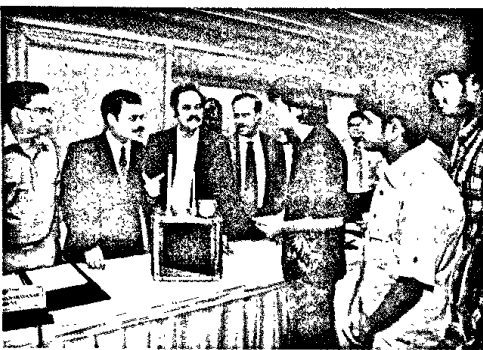
Interestingly, while India is publicly opposed to "militarization of space", the defence ministry last year had come out with a "Technology Perspective and Capability Roadmap" till 2025 which identified space warfare as a priority area, as was first reported by TOI.

The roadmap, for instance, identified development of ASAT weapons "for electronic or physical destruction of satellites in both LEO (2,000-km altitude above earth's surface) and GEO-synchronous orbits" as a thrust area.

Mail Today ND 13/10/2011

P15

## SRM Univ & IIT students' hopes ride on satellites



SRM University students who designed, developed and built the SRMSat explain its many features.

THE mission control room at the Sriharikota space station had some new faces on Wednesday.

Anxious engineering students and teachers from Chennai's SRM University and the Indian Institute of Technology in Kanpur waited with bated breath as the PSLV soared into a clear sky loaded with the satellites fabricated by them.

Along with Megha-Tropiques, three satellites — SRMSat developed by SRM University, Jugnu, developed by IIT-Kanpur, and VesselSat-1 from Luxembourg — were also launched and placed into their respective orbits.

About 50 engineering students from different departments were involved in the design and development of SRMSat in the past two years.

In September 2009, a memorandum of understanding was signed

By Mail Today Science Bureau

between Isro and the university for the development of the microsatellite that weighs 10.9 kg.

According to the agreement, the SRM University designed, developed and built the satellite, while the space agency provided certain components.

The students formed different groups to work on various sub-systems — such as structure and thermal configuration, power system, payload, on-board computer and telemetry — of the cuboid-shaped satellite.

The objective of the satellite is to estimate and monitor greenhouse gases, carbon-dioxide and water vapour in the atmosphere, using a grating spectrometer. The satellite

has three solar panels. Its ground station has been established in the university.

Its on-board computer comprises a microcontroller and provides 4MB storage space, which is sufficient for storing the payload data obtained over four days. The software runs on an operating system developed at the university.

The nano satellite Jugnu, designed and developed by IIT-Kanpur students, weighs three kg. It is intended to test the indigenously developed camera system for imaging the earth in the near-Infrared region.

It will also test image processing algorithms and evaluate the GPS receiver for its use in satellite navigation.

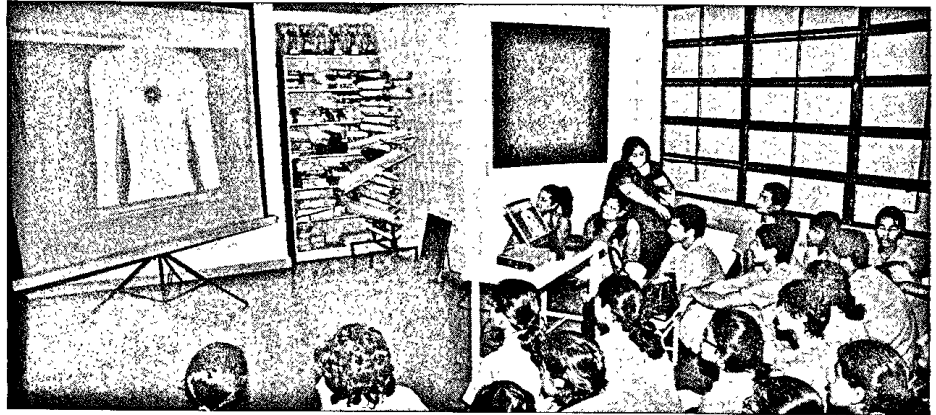
The satellite's ground station has been set up in the IIT campus.

# MIT lauds Indian inventors

SATARUPA PAUL

In a week's time, the new six-storey-high glass structure called Media Lab at Massachusetts Institute of Technology's (MIT) campus will be abuzz with business leaders, technologists and investors discussing and debating 'the latest technological innovations that are changing the face of business and driving global economy'. Taking centre stage among them will be 35

innovators from around the globe. This year, the list of 35 top innovators under the age of 35, compiled by MIT's publication Technology Review (TR), includes four individuals of Indian descent, who by the sheer versatility of their innovations have secured positions in the TR35. *Guardian* takes a look at the lives of these innovators and their pioneering products, which ensured them a place among the best in the world.



Students learn about AIDS with the help of Piya Sorcar's culturally appropriate TeachAIDS software

## Bhaskar Krishnamachari



Born in Nagpur and brought up in Delhi, 33-year-old Bhaskar Krishnamachari says he is one of the privileged few with early access to world-class education. He did his Bachelor's in Electrical Engineering, and finally his Masters and PhD in the same field, from Cornell University. But he says, "While I had first-rate higher education in the US, my schooling in India, particularly in mathematics and science, was world-class." After his PhD, Krishnamachari joined as part of the faculty at the Uni-

versity of Southern California (UCS) in Los Angeles.

From early 2004, Krishnamachari has been working on C2P2 (car-to-car peer-to-peer), the innovation which garnered him a position in TR35. It's a kind of futuristic network system for cars equipped with storage and computational devices that allows them to share safety, road information, and also entertainment content with each other. He has been collaborating with General Motors Corp. to develop a range of network protocols for the same. "While it is already possible with mobile devices, our aim is to provide a much lower cost alternative by utilising inter-vehicular radio communication. This will become increasingly important and economically useful when our cellular wireless networks become crowded with high data rate content such as video downloads," he says. Still in the research stage, the technology is expected to become commercially viable in 5-10 years.

## Piya Sorcar



In 2005, while in graduate school at Stanford University, Piya Sorcar read that India was the next hot zone for HIV and AIDS. Later that year, in-depth interviews with young people and educators on her visit to India revealed that educators were embarrassed, even unwilling, to teach about this 'taboo topic'. "There were experts in math, science, English but not for sensitive topics such as HIV/AIDS. Students did not feel comfortable learning about this topic from their teachers either," Sorcar says. "A big part of the problem was that nobody imagined HIV education being taught as separate from sex education."

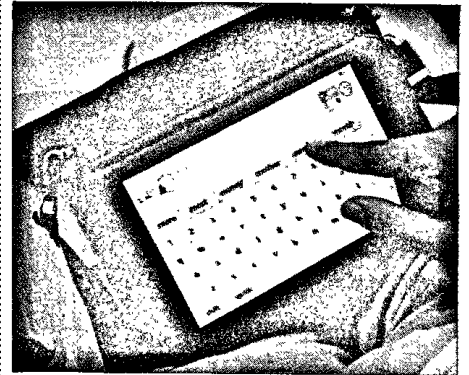
After her PhD from Stanford, Sorcar founded TeachAIDS to address the challenges associated with health education by developing free, research-based and culturally appropriate learning materials. She says, "Integrating values, beliefs and traditions into educational materials helps to build trust and engagement at the community level. This leads to higher program acceptance and sustainability."

The TeachAIDS software helps to decouple HIV education from traditional sex education. The biology-based approach combines socially acceptable euphemisms with tested animation styles to provide clarity while avoiding cultural taboos. Already in use in 30 countries around the world, it is being quickly adapted across schools in India and by NGOs and Red Ribbon clubs. Sorcar aims to develop it in all Indian languages.

## Ajit Narayanan

In 2007, Ajit Narayanan quit his job in California and came back to India to start Invention Labs, a company focussed on inventions that were relevant to the Indian

control to construct phrases that are spoken out loud by an artificial voice." Compared to the single-language speech synthesisers available for \$500-\$10,000 in the US,



context. His alma mater, IIT Madras, requested him to work on the development of a prototype of an augmentative and alternative communication device, and so began his two-year journey with Avaz. India's first assistive device for people with speech disabilities, Avaz provides voice to people with autism, cerebral palsy and other such speech impairments. "We tested various prototypes with affected children in schools and they helped better the product by giving feedback through the device," says the 30-year-old.

He explains, "About four million people in India suffer from speech disabilities and Avaz helps people with even limited movement con-



Avaz is available in three different languages for only \$800. Narayanan is currently working with the Indian Institute of Science in Bangalore to improve the quality of the device.

## Aishwarya Ratan



In India, microcredit co-operatives often struggle with handwritten entries in paper ledgers that are often illegible, incorrect or incomplete. While working with Microsoft Re-

search India, 30-year-old Aishwarya Ratan spent 15 months with such co-ops trying to find a solution to this problem. She came up with a device that combined digital technology with paper notebooks on which co-op members can write with an electronic ballpoint pen. Placed on a slate equipped with software that recognises handwritten numbers, the device provides feedback on whether the records are complete, stores them in a database, and gives real-time balance updates, both on a screen and verbally in the local language.

Technology Review wrote of the product, "The potential of the system is tremendous: microfinance co-ops serve 86 million Indian households. High-quality record-keeping could make them more efficient, helping members save more and repay faster, and it could allow the co-ops to borrow more easily from banks (sic)."

Dainik Tribune ND 13/10/2011 p-9

# जुगनू के प्रक्षेपण से आईआईटी में खुशी का माहौल

कानपुर, 12 अक्टूबर (भाषा)। आई आई टी कानपुर के स्वदेशी पद्धति से निर्मित नैनो सैटेलाइट जुगनू का प्रक्षेपण आज जैसे ही पीएसएलवी सी 18 के साथ श्रीहरिकोटा से किया गया वैसे ही संस्थान के छात्रों में खुशी की लहर दौड़ गई।

आई आई टी के बरसों पुराने इस सपने के पूरा होने के अवसर पर संस्थान के निदेशक प्रो संजय गोविंद धांडे यहां नहीं थे। उनके कार्यालय के अनुसार वह अमेरिका में हैं और 17 अक्टूबर की शाम को वापस लौटेंगे। आईआईटी के मैकेनिकल इंजीनियरिंग विभाग के वरिष्ठ प्रोफेसर और एक दर्जन छात्रों के साथ इस स्वदेशी सैटेलाइट के प्रक्षेपण के समय श्रीहरिकोटा में मौजूद प्रो एन एस व्यास ने जुगनू के प्रक्षेपण के बाद आज टेलीफोन पर बताया—जुगनू के सफल प्रक्षेपण के साथ ही हमारा वर्षों पुराना सपना साकार हो गया। उन्होंने बताया कि जुगनू की मानीटरिंग सेंटर और ग्राउंड स्टेशन का

काम दो दिन बाद आईआईटी कानपुर से शुरू होगा और तब तक वह लोग भी लौट आएंगे। जुगनू के प्रक्षेपण को देखने आई आई टी में छात्र विभिन्न टीवी चैनलों पर अपनी नजरें गड़ाए थे। जैसे ही इसके सफल प्रक्षेपण की खबर उन्हें टीवी और प्रो व्यास के माध्यम से मिली, वह खुशी के मारे उछल पड़े।

जुगनू को संस्थान के करीब 60 छात्र-छात्राओं और फैकल्टी ने स्वदेशी तकनीक से तैयार किया है। मार्च 2010 में संस्थान के स्वर्ण जयंती समारोह में राष्ट्रपति प्रतिभा पाटिल यहां आई थीं और उन्होंने इस सैटेलाइट की खूब तारीफ की थी।

प्रो व्यास ने बताया कि आई आई टी कानपुर और भारतीय अंतरिक्ष अनुसंधान संगठन (इसरो) के बीच वर्ष 2008 में समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर किए गए, जिसके तहत जुगनू पर काम शुरू हुआ। आईआईटी के वैज्ञानिकों का अनुमान है कि यह कम से कम एक साल तक अंतरिक्ष में रहेगा।



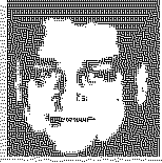
## आईआईटी कानपुर में खुशी का माहौल

कानपुर, 12 अक्टूबर (भाषा)। भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (आईआईटी) कानपुर के स्वदेशी पद्धति से निर्मित नैनो सेटेलाइट 'जुगनू' का बुधवार को जैसे ही पीएसएलवी सी-18 के साथ श्रीहरिकोटा से प्रक्षेपण किया गया, संस्थान के छात्रों में खुशी की लहर दौड़ गई।

आईआईटी के बरसों पुराने इस सपने के पूरा होने के अवसर पर संस्थान के निदेशक प्रो. संजय गोविंद धांडे यहां नहीं थे। वे अमेरिका में हैं और 17 अक्टूबर को वापस लौटेंगे। आईआईटी के मैकेनिकल इंजीनियरिंग विभाग के वरिष्ठ प्रोफेसर और एक दर्जन छात्रों के साथ इस स्वदेशी सेटेलाइट के प्रक्षेपण के समय श्रीहरिकोटा में मौजूद प्रो. एनएस व्यास ने जुगनू के प्रक्षेपण के बाद फोन पर बताया कि जुगनू के सफल प्रक्षेपण के साथ ही हमारा सालों पुराना सपना साकार हो गया। उन्होंने बताया कि जुगनू के मानीटरिंग सेंटर और ग्राउंड स्टेशन का काम दो दिन बाद आईआईटी कानपुर से शुरू होगा। तब तक वे लोग भी लौट आएंगे।

जुगनू के प्रक्षेपण को देखने आईआईटी में छात्र विभिन्न टीवी चैनलों पर अपनी नजरें गड़ाए थे। जैसे ही इसके सफल प्रक्षेपण की खबर उन्हें टीवी और प्रो. व्यास के माध्यम से मिली, वे खुशी से उछल पड़े। आईआईटी के वैज्ञानिकों का अनुमान है कि यह एक साल तक अंतरिक्ष में रहेगा।

# भारतीय उच्चशिक्षा का संकट



डॉ हर्ष वी पंत

किंग्स कॉलेज लंदन में  
अंतरराष्ट्रीय मामलों के रीडर

harsh.pant@kcl.ac.uk

**भा**रत की उच्च शिक्षा व्यवस्था इन दिनों सुखियों में है, पर नकारात्मक कारणों से. विश्व के 200 श्रेष्ठ विश्वविद्यालयों की सालाना सूची में भारत की एक भी यूनिवर्सिटी को जगह नहीं मिल पायी है. टाइम्स हाइयर एजुकेशन मैगजीन के इस सर्वे में शिखर पर हार्वर्ड, स्टैनफोर्ड और ऑक्सफोर्ड जैसे प्रतिष्ठित संस्थानों को रखा गया है. इस सूची में यदि आप किसी भारतीय संस्थान का नाम तलाशना चाहें तो आपको इसे नीचे तक खंगालना होगा. अभियांत्रिकी एवं तकनीकी शिक्षा के भारत के अत्यंत प्रतिष्ठित संस्थान द इंडियन इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ टेक्नोलॉजी, बंबई को सूची में जगह दी गयी है, लेकिन वह श्रेष्ठ 200 संस्थानों में शुमार नहीं है. दुनियाभर के 400 प्रतिष्ठित उच्च शिक्षण संस्थानों के सर्वे में आइआइटी बंबई को अत्यंत साधारण मानते हुए 301 से 350 की श्रेणी में रखा गया है.

इस अध्ययन में उच्च शिक्षण संस्थानों को कई मानकों पर परखने के बाद उनकी रैंकिंग की गयी है. इनमें संस्थान में सीखने के माहौल की गुणवत्ता और वहां हुए शोध कार्य की संख्या तथा उनके प्रभाव भी शामिल हैं. सर्वे में श्रेष्ठ 200 के बाद के संस्थानों को अलग-अलग रैंकिंग नहीं दी गयी है, बल्कि उन्हें 50 संस्थानों के गुप में एक साथ रखा गया है. आइआइटी, बंबई को मिले स्थान की तुलना पिछले साल से भी नहीं की जा सकती है, क्योंकि मैगजीन इससे पहले 200 संस्थानों की सूची ही जारी करती थी.

सर्वे में भारतीय संस्थानों का निराशाजनक प्रदर्शन इस तथ्य की पुष्टि करता है कि देश के आर्थिक विकास के बावजूद इसका शैक्षणिक ढांचा कमजोर हो रहा है. भारतीय उच्च शिक्षण संस्थानों से स्नातक डिग्री हासिल करने वाले युवाओं की संख्या हर साल लगातार बढ़ रही है, लेकिन ये कॉलेज और विश्वविद्यालय पर्याप्त संख्या में रोजगार पाने के योग्य युवा तैयार नहीं कर पा रहे हैं. हालत यह है कि कई कंपनियों को योग्य युवाओं की तलाश के लिए लंबी मशक्कत करनी पड़ती है. कुल मिलाकर भारत की छवि एक ऐसे देश की बन रही है, जहां हर साल लाखों युवा उच्च शिक्षा प्राप्त कर बेरोजगार की कतार में शामिल होते हैं. यह पश्चिमी देशों में काम कर रहे मध्यवर्गीय भारतीय कामगारों के लिए भी खतरे की घंटी है. जबकि भारतीय छात्रों की प्रतिभा और गणित के क्षेत्र में उनकी योग्यता की तारीफ अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति बराक ओबामा तक कर चुके हैं.

भारत में योग्य पेशेवरों की तलाश कठिन होते जाने के कारण कई कंपनियां फिलीपिंस और निकारगुआ जैसे देशों की ओर रुख कर रही हैं. भारत के आर्थिक विकास के साथ उम्मीद की गयी थी कि इससे लाखों लोगों के लिए अवसर के नये द्वार खुलेंगे, वे बेहतर



सरकार यदि उच्च शिक्षा क्षेत्र को नयी दिशा देने के लिए जल्द कोई कारगर कदम नहीं उठाती है तो किसी भी क्षेत्र में महाशक्ति बनने का सपना शायद कभी हकीकत में तब्दील नहीं हो पायेगा.

शिक्षा और रोजगार हासिल कर सकेंगे और उनकी गरीबी दूर हो जायेगी. लेकिन कई दशकों के समाजवाद के बाद 1991 में जब भारत ने अपनी अर्थव्यवस्था को उदार बनाना शुरू किया, तब यह अपनी शिक्षा व्यवस्था में जरूरी सुधार करने में पूरी तरह नाकाम रहा.

जानी-मानी आइटी कंपनी इन्फोसिस के सह-संस्थापक एवं चेयरमैन नारायण मूर्ति ने पिछले दिनों दौड़क कहा कि देश में प्रतिष्ठित आइआइटी तक में शिक्षा की गुणवत्ता लगातार गिर रही है. उन्होंने कहा कि समस्या के कारण इन संस्थानों में प्रवेश के मानदंड भी हैं, जो पर्याप्त राखत नहीं हैं. नतीजे के तौर पर आइआइटी में प्रवेश पाने वाले विद्यार्थियों का स्तर भी लगातार गिर रहा है. मूर्ति न्यूयार्क में आइआइटी के पूर्व छात्रों के एक समारोह को संबोधित कर रहे थे. उन्होंने कहा, छात्र किसी तरह आइआइटी संयुक्त प्रवेश परीक्षा पास कर जाते हैं, लेकिन आइआइटी में उनका प्रदर्शन और फिर उच्च शिक्षा के लिए अमेरिका के किसी संस्थान में जाने पर उनका प्रदर्शन उच्चस्तरीय नहीं होता है. आइआइटी से निकलने वाले ज्यादातर विद्यार्थी मुश्किल से ही नियुक्ति या वैश्विक संस्थाओं में प्रवेश पाने के योग्य होते हैं. जबकि आइआइटी को महज एक शिक्षण संस्थान की बजाय एक प्रतिष्ठित शोध संस्थान होना चाहिए था.

मूर्ति के इस बयान से आइआइटी की गुणवत्ता पर नयी बहस छिड़ गयी है. यह भारत के लिए एक संवेदनशील विषय है, क्योंकि देश को अकसर शिक्षा के मंदिर के रूप में देखा जाता रहा है. आइआइटी के छात्र रहे चर्चित उपन्यासकार चेतन भगत को मूर्ति की यह टिप्पणी नागवार गुजरी है. उन्होंने ट्वीट किया है कि इन्फोसिस आज जहां है, उसे वहां तक पहुंचाने में

आइआइटी छात्रों का अहम योगदान रहा है. लेकिन नया वैश्विक सर्वे मूर्ति की आलोचनाओं को ही पुरखा करता है. विशेषज्ञों का कहना है कि उच्चशिक्षा की गुणवत्ता में गिरावट की मुख्य वजहों में नौकरशाही की दखल के साथ-साथ विश्लेषणात्मक कौशल की जगह रटने पर ज्यादा जोर देना शामिल है.

नेशनल एसोसिएशन ऑफ सॉफ्टवेयर एंड सर्विसेज कंपनीज के मुताबिक देश के इंजीनियरिंग संस्थानों में इस समय लगभग 15 लाख सीटें हैं, जो 2000 में उपलब्ध 3.9 लाख सीटों से करीब चार गुनी हैं. लेकिन 75 फीसदी तकनीकी स्नातक और 85 फीसदी से अधिक सामान्य स्नातक आइटी और कॉल सेंटर सहित किसी भी वैश्विक कंपनी में नौकरी पाने के योग्य नहीं होते हैं. एसोसिएशन ने यह निष्कर्ष समय-समय पर लिये गये टेस्ट के नतीजों से निकाला है.

इस समय भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था के 9 फीसदी की सतत विकास दर के साथ बढ़ने का अनुमान लगाया जा रहा है. भारत की युवा आबादी का प्रतिशत अमेरिका, यूरोप और चीन की तुलना में ज्यादा है. देश की आधी से ज्यादा आबादी 25 साल से कम उम्र की है. ऐसे में सरकारी अनुमानों के मुताबिक अगले एक दशक तक हर माह करीब दस लाख युवा रोजगार के दरवाजे पर दस्तक देंगे. ऐसे में चिंता की बात यह भी है कि यदि ये युवा तेजी से बढ़ती अर्थव्यवस्था से कदमताल मिलाने के लिए सही तरीके से प्रशिक्षित नहीं होंगे, तो देश की स्थिरता के लिए बड़ा खतरा बन सकते हैं. जाहिर है, भारत सरकार यदि उच्च शिक्षा क्षेत्र को नयी दिशा देने के लिए जल्द कोई कारगर कदम नहीं उठाती है तो किसी भी क्षेत्र में महाशक्ति बनने का सपना शायद कभी हकीकत में तब्दील नहीं हो पायेगा. ♦