

# Newspaper Clips

## October 16, 2014

Indian Express ND 16/10/2014    Express Newsline P-1

**CITY ANCHOR** CHAIN OF 1,000 PEOPLE OR MORE TO SHOOT SELFIES AT ONE GO DURING CULTURAL FEST RENDEZVOUS

# IIT Delhi eyes Guinness with world's longest selfie chain

**SHIKHA SHARMA**  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 15

SELFIES are the rage these days. But students of IIT Delhi are all set to take the phenomenon to a new level when they attempt to beat the record for the world's longest selfie chain. They plan to form a chain of 1,000 people or more and shoot selfies in one go, during their cultural fest Rendezvous.

"We wanted to do something a little off-beat and, about two weeks ago, during a brainstorming session, we came up with this idea. Currently, the world record for the longest selfie is for 250-plus participants and we thought we

could do much better. So we formed a Facebook group, asking students to participate," Sachit Sehgal, a student at IIT-D and one of the co-ordinators for the event, said.

While the group intends to attempt a selfie chain of 1,000 people or more, it has already received more than 3,000 registrations for participation so far. "The success of the record depends on its execution. Guinness has some specific rules for what qualifies as a selfie and we will have to ensure that all 1,000 participants adhere to those rules and click the 'correct selfies', in order to make the record," Meghank Garg, co-ordinator

### CURRENT RECORD

**ACCORDING TO** Guinness World Records, the record for the longest chain of selfies is currently held by two Australian companies. The record was set in July this year.

**A TOTAL OF** 279 people stood in line to form the shape of Australia before taking snaps of themselves.

**THEY OUTDID** the previous record of 267 set by students of John Carroll University, US, the month before.

and student at IIT-D, said. Guinness World Records defines a selfie chain record as "the longest line of people taking self-photographs (selfies) with their neighbour in a relay fashion, with the record being measured by the number of people taking part in the relay chain."

To create the record, participants will have to stand in a specific formation and, when signalled, the first person in the formation will take a selfie of himself or herself and the person standing next to them with a smartphone, the rules state. Once the first selfie is taken, the second person will be required to take a selfie with a third person in

a similar fashion till the end of the line.

"A part of the arm holding the phone has to feature in every photograph. Every photo needs to have two clearly visible faces. Every participant, barring the first and last one, needs to be in two pictures. Selfies have to be taken consecutively and the difference between two selfies cannot be more than 60 seconds. There are a lot of specifics and officials from Guinness will be there videographing the entire thing, so we have to ensure every participant takes the selfie just right, otherwise we might be disqualified," Sehgal told *Newsline*. To ensure participants take

the pictures right, the group will be conducting rehearsals on October 17-18. "We are confident we'll pull this off. After all, how difficult can taking a selfie be?" Sehgal said.

According to Guinness World Records, the record for the longest chain of selfies is currently held by two Australian companies, who made the record while kickstarting a beauty campaign in July this year.

A total of 279 people stood in a line to form the shape of Australia before taking snaps of themselves, outdoing the previous record of 267 set by the students of John Carroll University, US, the month before.

Economic Times ND 16/10/2014    p-10

# Startups to be Stars at IIT Placements

Number of cash-rich startups enrolled for this campus placement season has doubled or trebled at many of the IITs

**Devina Sengupta & Sreeradha D Basu**

**Mumbai:** Flush with a record billion-dollars-plus raised during the first nine months of this year, dozens of startups are making a bee-line for IIT placement season set to kick off in December this year.

Already, the number of startups who have enrolled for the campus placement season this year has doubled or trebled at many IITs, according to campus sources.

For example, IIT Madras which had only seven startups last year, expects at least 30 to come calling this year. "Over 14 startups have already registered, out of which 11 will hire exclusively from us," Vishranth Suresh, academic affairs secretary, IIT Madras, said. Similarly, at IIT Kanpur, 35 startups have already registered for this placement season, with the final tally expected to cross 45. Only 24 visited the campus last year.

The presence of such a large number of cash-rich startups will cause a fierce talent war with well-known recruiters like Google, Oracle, Samsung, Schlumberger and Goldman Sachs for the best among the 9,000-plus students who will graduate from 16 IITs next year. Many startups are first-timers at the IIT

	Talent Hunt	
	Startups in 2013	Startups in 2014
	Expected	Registered
Bombay	35-40	50+ 15-20
Kharagpur	34	60
Madras	7-8	30 14*
Guwahati	7	20-30
Kanpur	24	45 30-35
Roorkee	15	32-24 22
Bhubaneshwar	8	6-10
Mandi	1	1

\*11 exclusive to IIT Madras

**A major chunk of the recent startups are either tech-based or have an analytics-related work profile, and hence, engineering colleges seem to be the first choice**

**MOHAK MEHTA**  
Placement manager at IIT Bombay

sure, competitive salary and challenging work environment, startups are on a par with MNCs," Sharad Sharma, angel investor and co-founder of iSpirt, a think tank for software product companies, added.

Students know MNCs consider a startup work experience favourably should they switch jobs later.

Zomato, Myntra, Wooger, Housing.com, TinyOwl, Gram Power, Monraft, Browser Stack, Maxheap Technologies (Commonfloor), Rays Power Experts, Olacabs, Continuum Energy, Indus Insights, Red Bus and Hike are among the startups that have registered so far.

Many of these have IIT alumni as founders or co-founders and recruiting from alma mater is part of their strategy.

"A major chunk of the recent startups are either tech-based or have an analytics-related work profile, and hence, engineering colleges seem to be the first choice," Mohak Mehta, placement manager for the placement cell of IIT Bombay, said.

"The 60 core firms are staple, but 30 startups will be the real game-changers," said a senior placement team member of IIT Roorkee. From

15 new-age companies last year, this IIT plans to get 35 this year, while 22 have already registered.

"There has been a huge increase in student interest in joining startups," Aditya Jain, a fourth-year student of IIT Kanpur, who is also part of the placement team, said.

"These startups provide a really good learning opportunity across domains; and in particular, serve as a great learning ground for those interested in launching their own ventures. It's good exposure and since many startups are scaling up so fast, the growth opportunity is that much more," he added.

Flipkart, one of the largest recruiters from campus last year, has registered itself under category of 'Private IT Company' in some of the IITs rather than as a startup. "We expect to hire 50-100 people in the next six months, mostly on campus," Saurabh Sharma, co-founder and CEO of Gurgaon-based BigData firm Indus Insights, a five-year-old firm, said.

In the first nine months of this year, 189 early-stage deals worth ₹6,764 crore were struck. This is significantly higher than the deal flow for all of 2013, when there were 179 deals worth ₹3,900 crore. All the money raised will come in handy as ammunition in the war for IIT talent this placement season.

# IIT प्लेसमेंट का हुलिया बदल सकती हैं स्टार्टअप्स

[ देविना सेनगुप्ता & श्रीराधा डी बसु | मुंबई ]

इस साल स्टार्टअप्स ने प्राइवेट इक्विटी कंपनियों और बड़े इनवेस्टर्स से खूब पैसे जुटाए हैं। अब वे आईआईटी स्टूडेंट्स को हायर करने जा रही हैं। आईआईटी में प्लेसमेंट सीजन दिसंबर से शुरू होगा। इस साल कैम्पस प्लेसमेंट सीजन के लिए एनरॉलमेंट कराने वाली स्टार्टअप्स की संख्या कुछ आईआईटी में डबल तो कुछ में तिगुनी हो गई है।

मिसाल के लिए, आईआईटी मद्रास में पिछले साल सिर्फ 7 स्टार्टअप्स आई थीं। इस साल यहां कम से कम 30 स्टार्टअप्स के आने की उम्मीद है। आईआईटी मद्रास के एकेडमिक अफेयर्स सेक्रेटरी विश्रान्त सुरेश ने बताया, '14 स्टार्टअप्स पहले ही रजिस्ट्रेशन करा चुकी हैं। इनमें से 11 सिर्फ हमारे यहां से हायरिंग करेंगी।' आईआईटी कानपुर के लिए 35 स्टार्टअप्स ने रजिस्ट्रेशन किया है। माना जा रहा है कि इनकी संख्या आखिर तक 45 हो सकती है। पिछले साल 24 स्टार्टअप्स ही यहां आई थीं। आईआईटी से गूगल, ऑरेकल, सैमसंग और गोल्डमैन सैक्स जैसी जानी-मानी कंपनियां हायरिंग करती आई हैं। इतनी बड़ी संख्या में

स्टार्टअप्स के जाने से टैलेंट वॉर शुरू हो सकती है। अगले साल देश के 16 आईआईटी से करीब 9,000 स्टूडेंट्स ग्रेजुएट होंगे। कई स्टार्टअप्स तो आईआईटी प्लेसमेंट में इस साल पहली बार शामिल होंगी। दो से चार साल पुरानी स्टार्टअप्स 12-15 लाख सालाना का सैलरी पैकेज ऑफर कर रही हैं। यह आईटी कंपनियों के बराबर है। यह जानकारी एक पुराने आईआईटी के प्लेसमेंट को-ऑर्डिनेटर ने दी। कैम्पस और इंडस्ट्री सूत्रों का कहना है कि स्टार्टअप्स टैलेंट वॉर में बड़ी कंपनियों को पीछे छोड़ सकती हैं। वेंचर कैपिटल फर्म लाइटबॉक्स वेंचर्स के पार्टनर संदीप मूर्ति ने

बताया, 'स्टार्टअप्स में स्टूडेंट्स को चैलेंजिंग जॉब मिलेगा,

जिनसे उनकी करियर ग्रोथ अच्छी रहेगी।' वहीं सॉफ्टवेयर प्रॉडक्ट कंपनियों के थिंकटैंक आईस्पिरिट के को-फाउंडर और एंजेल इनवेस्टर शरद शर्मा ने बताया, 'कुछ साल पहले तक आईआईटी स्टूडेंट की पहली पसंद मल्टीनेशनल कंपनियां होती थीं। इसके बाद प्रॉडक्ट डिवेलपमेंट कंपनी और आखिर में आईटी कंपनियों का नंबर होता था।



## AICTE NOTIFICATION

# SC asks business schools to go ahead with admission process

**The interim ruling allows B-schools to select students who pass any of the top five admission tests**

BY PRASHANT K. NANDA  
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NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday allowed 300-odd business schools to go ahead with their admission process for the coming academic year without complying with a notification by the All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE) that sought to "curb their autonomy".

The interim ruling, an extension of an earlier order, allows the B-schools to select students who pass any of the top five admission tests rather than just the Common Admission Test (CAT), administered by the Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs), or the Management Aptitude Test by the All India Management Association.

The other three are Xavier Aptitude Test (XAT) conducted by XLRI, Jamshedpur; Common Management Admission test conducted by the AICTE and Graduate Management Admission Test.

"It's a huge relief as the business schools are on the



**Autonomy issue:** XLRI Jamshedpur's Xavier Aptitude Test (XAT) is one of the top five admission tests for management schools.

verge of starting their admission process for the next academic year," said Gopal Sankaranarayanan, a lawyer who represented the Education Promotion Society of India (EPSI), an association of private educational institutes and a party to the case.

The order has protected the autonomy of B-schools offering postgraduate diploma in management (PGDM) programmes for the academic year 2015-16, he said.

A group of private autonomous management schools offering PGDM courses filed a writ petition after AICTE came out with a notification in December 2010 curbing their autonomy to set tuition fees and

decide on the admission process; it also made representation of the AICTE in their governing boards mandatory, among other things.

In a changing situation in which education regulators like AICTE are getting stronger, "we were apprehensive" about the fate of PGDM schools, said Harivansh Chaturvedi, executive president of EPSI.

The Supreme Court, through its decision, has granted an extension for an earlier interim order staying the AICTE notification, EPSI said in a statement.

The matter was heard by a two-member bench consisting of justices M.Y. Iqbal and Shi-

va Kirti Singh.

Chaturvedi, who is also director of the Birla Institute of Management Technology (BIMTECH), said the bench had expressed its reservations over the extension of an interim order and observed that the case should rather be taken up for a final hearing.

Appearing on behalf of the petitioners, advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi welcomed the court's observation. But he pleaded that until such time that the case is disposed of, the order be extended.

PGDM institutions cannot be left in a vacuum at a time when admission tests for the next academic year have been notified and some of them are just two weeks away, EPSI cited him as saying.

An AICTE official said the regulator would comply with the interim direction of the court. "It's not a final order. It's an extension and we are keeping a watch," said the official, who didn't want to be identified.

Schools such as XLRI, Jamshedpur; BIMTECH, Greater Noida; Management Development Institute (MDI), Gurgaon; International Management Institute (IMI), New Delhi; Mudra Institute of Communication, Ahmedabad; and SP Jain Institute of Management and Research, Mumbai, are among the top PGDM schools in India.

HINDUSTAN TIMES

Amar Ujala ND 16/10/2014 p-6

# आईआईएम लखनऊ ने तोड़ा रिकॉर्ड

लखनऊ (ब्यूरो)। इंडियन इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ मैनेजमेंट (आईआईएम) लखनऊ के सबसे बड़े बैच का 100 परसेंट समर प्लेसमेंट हुआ। रिकॉर्ड साढ़े चार दिनों में 464 छात्रों का प्लेसमेंट हुआ और इसमें देश व विदेश की 164 मल्टीनेशनल कंपनियों ने हिस्सा लिया।

अभी तक आईआईएम लखनऊ में सर्वाधिक मार्केटिंग कंपनियां ही आती थीं मगर इस बार फाइनेंस व कंसल्टेंसी से संबंधित कंपनियों ने भी दस्तक दी है। फिलहाल समर प्लेसमेंट के अच्छे नतीजों से आईआईएम में पढ़ने वाले स्टूडेंट्स काफी उत्साहित हैं और उन्हें आगे फाइनल प्लेसमेंट में भी सौ फीसदी

समर प्लेसमेंट में इंटर्नशिप के लिए 464 छात्रों वाले सबसे बड़े बैच का 100 फीसदी प्लेसमेंट

सफलता मिलने का भरोसा है। जिन प्रतिष्ठित अन्तरराष्ट्रीय ख्याति की कंपनियों ने समर प्लेसमेंट के लिए स्टूडेंट को चुना है उनमें जेपी मोर्गन, अलवरेज एंड मार्शल शामिल हैं।

आईआईएम लखनऊ में सबसे अधिक इंटरनेशनल ऑफर स्टूडेंट्स को रिटेल, फॉस्ट मूविंग कंज्यूमर गुड्स (एफएमजीसी) और रियल स्टेट कंपनियों से मिले हैं। आईआईएम लखनऊ में 464 छात्रों वाले सबसे बड़े बैच ने

रिकॉर्ड साढ़े चार दिनों में समर प्लेसमेंट में 100 फीसदी सफलता अर्जित कर पिछले साल के रिकॉर्ड को तोड़ा है।

गत वर्ष जो बैच था उसको साढ़े पांच दिनों में प्लेसमेंट के लिए चुना गया था। सर्वाधिक प्लेसमेंट करने वाली कंपनियों में चार क्षेत्रों से सर्वाधिक ऑफर मिले जिसमें सेल्स एंड मार्केटिंग, फाइनेंस, कंसल्टेंसी व बिजनेस डवलपमेंट शामिल हैं।

इसके अलावा जिन क्षेत्रों से सर्वाधिक ऑफर मिले उसमें ऑपरेशंस, सप्लाय चैन, जनरल मैनेजमेंट, सिस्टम, आईटी, मार्केट रिसर्च व ह्यूमन रिसोर्स के क्षेत्र शामिल हैं।

## HRD in a fix over deemed univs

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**New Delhi:** The HRD ministry is in a bind as to what stand to take on UGC report on 41 deemed universities. With the Supreme Court having already ordered physical verification of infrastructure and academic quality of seven of the 41 universities, the ministry is weighing options before filing its affidavit in the SC.

The first option is not to let 34 of the 41 deemed universities go off the hook. UGC report has recommended that only seven be stripped of deemed university status, while 34 others could continue. But the

ministry is averse to this proposition. Since all 41 were found unfit to be deemed university by the Tandon Committee in 2009, it would be a big let down for the HRD ministry if majority of them continued to function. Sources said a compre-

### UGC REPORT

hensive view be taken on them based on what Tandon Committee (2009), Officers Committee (2011) and latest UGC report say.

The second option under consideration is for the ministry to have some role in the formation of com-

mittees that will carry out physical verification of these universities and not let UGC have a free run. "These deemed universities were created after physical verification and found lacking basic infrastructure, quality research and faculty within a few years. There must be something wrong with such verification. Allegations of corruption have been made against UGC committees in the past," said a source.

The last option is to accept the UGC report. However, sources said it is the least favoured option for the university as it would allow 34 deemed universities to continue.

## **IIT-Patna students demand probe into PhD scholar's death**

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/City/Patna/IIT-Patna-students-demand-probe-into-PhD-scholars-death/articleshow/44829781.cms>

PATNA: Students of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Patna, are up in arms against the institute after the death of a PhD scholar Rupesh Kumar Pandey, 25, on October 12, who, the students alleged, died because of "medical and administrative lapses". The deceased hailed from Gopalganj and was research scholar in the department of mechanical engineering since July 2010.

The students have also written a petition to the institute director, demanding a time-bound inquiry by a committee formed by the institute administration besides stringent action against IIT-Patna's medical officer. The petition was signed by hundreds of students, who later also took out candle march to pray for Rupesh.

Rupesh, who left the institute hostel only after 15-20 days before his death and was staying outside the premises, was admitted to Mahavir Vatsalya Aspatal on October 9 and was shifted to Paras HMRI Hospital on October 12 when his health condition deteriorated.

The petition said, "Rupesh complained of chest and abdomen pain, sweating and vomiting. The doctors first said it was gastric problem but later attributed his illness to liver enlargement and even stomach infection. It was only on October 12, he was diagnosed with cardiac problems and doctors prescribed him specialized treatment at a cardiac centre."

However, Mahavir Vatsalya Aspatal director Dr S S Jha said the patient initially only complained of abdomen pain and vomiting. "It was much later that he started showing signs of cardiac problem and doctors apprehended heart problem," Dr Jha said, refuting allegations that the patient had to walk up to the ambulance while being transferred.

Institute registrar Subhash Pandey on Wednesday said, "An inquiry committee has been set up to examine the circumstances leading to his death. The issue will also be taken up at the next board meeting."

## **IIM-B Professor appointed to UN Secretary General's 'Data Privacy Advisory Group'**

15th October 2014

<http://www.igovernment.in/igov/news/1000228/iim-b-professor-appointed-secretary-generals-privacy-advisory>

Dr. Pulak Ghosh is the only Indian to be part of a global team to mitigate risks associated with privacy in the field of Big Data Analytics

Bangalore, October 15: Dr. Pulak Gosh, Professor, Quantitative Methods & Information Systems Area, Indian Institute of Management Bangalore has been appointed as member of the Data Privacy Advisory Group of Global Pulse – the UN Secretary-General's Big Data innovation initiative. Professor Ghosh, the only expert from India, along with international experts, will advocate responsible use of Big Data for sustainable development and humanitarian action.

Professor Ghosh is also an academic Fellow of the Center for Advanced Financial Research and Learning, a Global Center of Excellence for Policy Research promoted by Reserve Bank of India. At CAFRAL, Professor Ghosh is also involved in research relating to Big Data in Financial Econometrics. His teaching and research interest is Big Data and Analytics, and he has served on the boards of various companies related to Big Data and Analytics.

The Data Privacy Advisory Group of Global Pulse, to which Professor Ghosh has been appointed, will lend their expertise to inform the development of guidelines and practices that mitigate risks associated with privacy in the Big Data analytics field, while preserving utility for global development policy-planning or humanitarian action.

Robert Kirkpatrick, Director, UN Global Pulse, said: “Professor Ghosh, with international leaders from public sector, civil society, private sector and the legal community, will participate in an ongoing privacy dialogue, provide feedback on proposed approaches and engage in a privacy outreach campaign.”

“The use of Big Data is becoming mainstream, and with it the case for privacy protecting principles and standards is becoming increasingly critical. We believe Professor Ghosh’s expertise will add significant value in supporting the UN Global Pulse initiative,” Mr. Kirkpatrick added.

## More takers for IIT’s deferred placements scheme this year

Hindustan Times (Mumbai)

Even as hefty preplacement offers from major companies such as Samsung and Facebook have begun rolling into the IIT Bombay campus, the institute has seen a rise in the number of students choosing to opt out of the December placement drive, and instead focus on their entrepreneurial dreams.

While close to 200 students stayed away from the placement drive last year, only one had chosen to do so to pursue his own start-up. However, this year, as many as 13 students have decided to make use of the ‘deferred placements’ plan offered by the institute. Introduced in 2012, the scheme aims to encourage students looking to work on their own start-up idea by safeguarding them against the risk of having to forgo campus placements.

According to the initiative, students interested in pursuing an entrepreneurial career are given an option to defer their placements by two years. “Many students have shown interest in being incubated by Society for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (SINE), which is run in collaboration with the institute,” said Avijit Chatterjee, professor in charge of placements.

Aviral Chandra, a final year student of Chemical Engineering, was one of the first students to sign up for the deferred placement. Chandra is working towards his project on artificial intelligence.

Others students, confident of their ventures taking off, are not opting for deferred placements and letting go of campus recruitment opportunities, say professors. “The many success stories of IIT start-ups have prompted many to let go of traditional job prospects and venture into startups,” said K Narsimhan, faculty member at the institute.

INSTITUTES OF NATIONAL IMPORTANCE

# UPGRADE INSTITUTES FOR QUALITY CONTROL

## BEST BET Status upgrade of insitutes will make them professional and research-oriented

Gauri Kohli

These are some of the country's premier institutions in the fields of design, film, media and management education, known for imparting the best of training, skill sets and knowledge to students. And now, they are likely to be upgraded to the status of 'institutes of national importance' (INI) if the government has its way.

While the government has proposed grant of this status to Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) in Pune, Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute (SRFTI), Kolkata, and the Indian Institute of Mass Communication, the National Institute of Design (NID) has already got this tag as per a recent government notification.

Pradyumna Vyas, director, NID, Ahmedabad, says: "Over the years, NID has been delivering a range of experimental learning programmes through cross-disciplinary education, which is a unique model. We have been offering diploma programmes which are unique in terms of curriculum and pedagogy and we did not want to come under any framework because we enjoyed this kind of

**DECISION TO ACCORD NID THE STATUS OF INSTITUTE OF NATIONAL IMPORTANCE MEANS GOVT HAS RECOGNISED IT AS A SCIENCE**

freedom as it did not come under bodies like the University Grants Commission and All India Council for Technical Education. However, we realised that even though we had this freedom, we were unable to offer degrees. We wanted to take the route which would help us enjoy the freedom and autonomy we already had and also offer degree programmes. This is why we thought of getting an INI status."

The decision to accord this status to NID also means that the government has recognised that design is at par with technology, engineering and medical science. "After technology, design has got this stature. This will give more options to students wanting to go abroad. This will also give a push to the institute's expansion plans with four new NIDs coming up in Jorhat, Vijaywada, Kurukshetra and Bhopal in the next two years" adds Vyas.

NID currently offers diplomas in design streams such as furniture and interior design, graphic design, product design and textile design. It will offer degrees at the bachelor's and master's levels.

If other quality institutes are upgraded as well, it will lead to greater professionalism and give a boost to research. In order to provide statutory backing, through an act of Parliament to declare FTII and SRFTI as INIs, the gov-

ernment has proposed a bill. "It is expected that when it comes into force, FTII would be able to award its own degrees and create more opportunities for a globally interconnected learning," says DJ Narain, director, FTII, Pune.

The HRD ministry has also initiated the process of declaring the School of Planning and Architecture, Bhopal and Vijaywada and the Indian Institute of Information Technology Design and Manufacturing, Kancheepuram, as INIs.

## UPGRADATION OF IIM'S: WILL IT SOLIDIFY OR DILUTE THE IIM BRAND?

Gauri Kohli

The human resource development ministry is also mulling the introduction of a proposal to grant institutes of national importance status to the Indian Institutes of Management. If implemented, will the IIMs benefit by enjoying greater autonomy or will it dilute the IIM brand? Experts are divided on the issue.

According to Professor Rajiv K Srivastava, interim director, IIM Lucknow, "For most students who live and work in India, it will not make much difference as the PGDM offered by IIMs is recognised as equivalent to an MBA. However, it could make a difference to students when seeking jobs/admissions abroad. It could also help attract international students. This could be good for new programmes launched by institutes."

The move is also likely to help doctoral students, says Srivastava. "It could be helpful since doctoral programmes at different IIMs are in the approval process. The status would also improve access to some research projects and funds from the government and the UGC. From the point of view of governance, the IIMs would have to balance the challenges of need for autonomy vs relatively standardised governance," he adds.

Another section of experts feel that since in its current status the IIMs function directly under the department of higher education, MHRD, there isn't going to be any major change with this status changing to an IIM act.

Says Professor Keyoor Purani of IIM Kozhikode, "the direct, immediate benefit to the students would be that they would be able to earn degrees as against PG diplomas or fellowships which are conferred by IIMs. Though in India, a PG diploma from IIMs holds more value than an MBA degree from most universities. Further, the INI status would help IIMs directly contribute to national human development goals."

### WHAT IS AN INSTITUTE OF NATIONAL IMPORTANCE?

According to the University Grants Commission, an Institute of National Importance is defined as one that plays a key role in developing highly skilled personnel within the specified region of the state or country. Only a select few institutes make it to this coveted list and are usually supported by the Centre as they also receive government funding to be developed as centres of excellence in research and academics. These institutes are given this status through an act of Parliament. Currently, there are over 40 institutions that have been accorded this status.

### INSTITUTES IN THE TOP LEAGUE



All India Institute of Medical Sciences



Indian Statistical Institute



Indian Institutes of Technology



Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Education & Research, Chandigarh



National Institutes of Technology



The move may help IIM students get global acceptance for their qualification FILE PHOTO

## Grant status-quo, but not in haste, warn experts

How many institutes should be granted the status of institutes of national importance? Experts say it should be handled with caution and not in haste. Says Professor Keyoor Purani of IIM Kozhikode, "INI status should be granted to a limited number of institutes based on national human development priorities."

A large number of institutes directly under the department of higher educa-

tion pose obvious challenges of management and hence this may be provided to institutes keeping national HRD goals in mind."

Professor Rajiv K Srivastava, interim director of IIM Lucknow, agrees. "Too many institutions with this status may dilute the concept of an institute of national importance and too few may create an 'elitist club' mentality. The status should be earned and not just be given

without much deliberation or because an institute is already a brand in itself. Some generally acceptable standards need to be evolved, and at least some of them should be quantifiable. For example, years in operation, number of graduates, number of faculty with PhDs, aggregate research output etc," he says.

According to Professor Sudhanshu Bhushan, professor and head, higher education, at the National University of

Educational Planning and Development, "There is no document by the government which spells out clearly in what respect INIs are different from any university system that are prevalent. Establishment of INIs, outside the university setup, will promote fragmentation in the name of specialised knowledge. Promotion of standalone INIs will promote elite knowledge having disconnect with society and economy."

Hindu ND 16/10/2014 P-15

# Mars probes to observe cometary visitor

The probes' observations will aid in understanding the origin and evolution of the solar system

N. GOPAL RAJ

India's Mars Orbiter Mission and four other spacecraft gathered around the Red Planet are preparing to greet an emissary from the far reaches of the solar system, Comet Siding Spring.

Around midnight this Sunday (Oct. 19), the comet — named after an Australian observatory from where it was discovered in January last year — will hurtle past Mars, coming to within about 139,500 km of the planet. That is almost one-third of the average distance between Earth and Moon, and much closer than any comet is known to have passed by Earth.

The Indian Orbiter as well as three American and one European spacecraft now around Mars will be training their instruments on the comet. Two U.S. rovers trundling about on the Martian surface will also peer up with their cameras.

These will be the first spacecraft observations made from close proximity of a comet that originated in the Oort Cloud, said Asoke K. Sen

of the Department of Physics at Assam University in Silchar, who studies comets. (The Oort Cloud is an extremely distant shell of icy bodies encircling the solar system.)

As the comet is coming into the inner solar system for the first time, it "will carry the signature of the pristine material out of which the sun and the planets were born some 4.6 billion years back," he pointed out. Observations of the comet will therefore aid in understanding the origin and evolution of the solar system.

Previously, deep space missions have studied 'Jupiter Family Comets' in orbits with a periodicity of less than 20 years, he said. The Oort Cloud comets, on the other hand, take thousands to millions of years to return and some do not come back.

Probes have also visited Halley's Comet, which is thought to have once originated in the Oort Cloud but then settled down in the solar system and lost its pristine nature after circling the sun many times, he added.

Last year, observatories on the ground as well as several spacecraft watched as Comet



**THE FOCUS:** *The Indian Orbiter, three American and one European spacecraft now around Mars, will be training their instruments on the comet.*

— PHOTO: AFP

ISON, another visitor from the Oort Cloud, broke apart as it passed close to the sun.

The spacecraft around Mars are well placed to capture images of Comet Siding Spring's solid core, its nucleus.

With the mass of a small mountain, the comet is made up of rocky dust and various

volatile ices, noted Carey Lisse, an astrophysicist at the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory in the U.S.

For the first time, spacecraft are in position that has the capability to "actually image and resolve an Oort Cloud comet's nucleus," he said at a press briefing held last week

by the American space agency, NASA.

Observations of Comet ISON last year showed that it was carbon-rich, maybe in the form of organic molecules. "So we are guessing that Siding Spring should show us an awful lot of organic-carbon-enriched material," he added.

The comet has been leaving behind it a trail of dust and gas. How this cometary debris interacts with the Martian atmosphere will also be carefully watched.

As the dust from the comet will be moving at over 200,000 km per hour with respect to Mars, even tiny particles can significantly damage a spacecraft.

The orbits of all the Martian probes have been adjusted so that they will be behind the planet and shielded by it during the period of greatest risk.

Apart from spacecraft in and around Mars, space-based telescopes, such as the Hubble Space Telescope, other probes, ground observatories, and amateur astronomers will be following Comet Siding Spring as it passes close to Mars and then swings past the sun five days later.



# 'We can't live on Mars beyond 68 days'

Kounteya.Sinha@timesgroup.com

**London:** In a big blow to plans of colonising the Red planet, scientists have said that humans won't last more than 68 days in Mars. The non-profit company Mars One had announced plans to establish the first human settlement on Mars by 2025.

Solar panel powered huts were expected to supply the colony's electricity, while a system to extract water from the soil would provide drinking water. But MIT engineers say the project may have to take a step back, at least to reconsider the mission's technical feasibility. They developed a detailed settlement-analysis tool to assess the feasibility of the mission and found that new technologies will be needed to keep humans alive on Mars. For example, if all food is obtained from locally grown crops, as Mars One envisions, the vegetation would produce unsafe levels of oxygen, which would set off a series of events that would eventually



## RED SIGNAL

cause human inhabitants to suffocate. To avoid this scenario, a system to remove excess oxygen would have to be implemented — a technology that has not yet been developed for use in space. Similarly, the Mars Phoenix lander discovered evidence of ice on the Mars in 2008, suggesting that future settlers might be able to melt ice for drinking water. But according to the MIT analysis, current technologies designed to bake water from soil are not yet ready for deployment.

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

Times Of India ND 16/10/2014 p-23

# On Google Glass for 18 hours a day, man treated for addiction

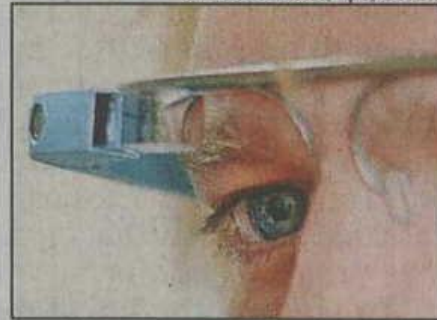
James Vincent

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In what is believed to be the first case of its kind, a 31-year-old US man has been treated for “internet addiction disorder” triggered at least in part by Google Glass. The patient, who was checked into the US navy’s Substance Abuse program and whose case appeared in the journal Addictive Behaviours, reportedly “exhibited problematic use of Google Glass,” wearing the device for up to 18 hours a day.

The man reported feeling irritable and aggressive when stripped of Google Glass’s help and told doctors that even in his dreams he looked out on the world through the small screen of the device. Doctors also observed a “notable, nearly involuntary movement of the right hand up to (the patient’s) temple area and tapping it with his forefinger,” which was believed to be mimicking the gesture used to activate the display of Google Glass.

Dr Andrew Doan, co-author of the paper and head of the US navy’s Substance



The user said he felt irritable and aggressive when stripped of Google Glass and told doctors that even in dreams he was seeing the world through the small screen of the device

Abuse and Recovery Programme (Sarp), said the patient was clearly “going through withdrawal from his Google Glass,” the Guardian reported.

Doctors reported that the man also had a “history of mood disorder, overlaying a depressive disorder, anxiety disorder and severe alcohol and tobacco use disorders.”

The navy serviceman used the wearable computer in his work to quickly inventory convoy vehicles, with Dr Doan explaining that the constant presence of the device had created an association between its use and a neurological reward. THE INDEPENDENT