Newspaper Clips
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The great Indian social network

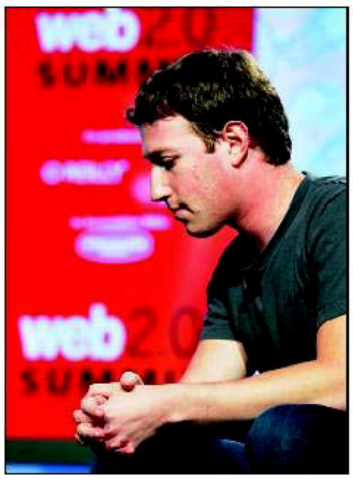
THE UNDERAGE OPTIMIST

CHETAN BHAGAT

It's been weeks since i saw the amazing film "The Social Network" and it still hasn't left me. The movie tells a semi-fictional story about the creation of Facebook (based on the book "The Accidental Billionaires"). While the film is extraordinarily well made, the story it tells is even more amazing. Mark Zuckerberg, the founder of Facebook, at 26, is the youngest billionaire in the world. Six years ago, Mark started Facebook from his college dorm. Today, the privately held company could be worth $50 billion (Rs 220,000 crore). The movie is pathbreaking in that it is about talent, made by talented people and for a country that celebrates talent.

For, only in the USA, can a boy in his 20s, coming from nowhere, create a company worth billions in six years, and the country celebrates him by making a movie on him. Ironically, Mark never cared about making money when he founded Facebook. His main motivation was to do something innovative, entrepreneurial, and most importantly – cool. At one point, he states, "Money, or the ability to make money, doesn't impress anyone around here."

Compare this to India's celebrated businessmen. The corporate czars we celebrate (with some exceptions) are second or third-generation tycoons who run huge empires comprising dozens of unrelated businesses. Traditional management theory will wonder how a company can be in food, telecom, power, construction and finance, all at the same time. However, in India such conglomerates thrive. The promoters of these companies have the required skill, which is navigating the Indian government maze. Whether it is obtaining permission to open a power plant, or to convert agricultural land for commercial purposes, or to obtain licences to open a bank or sell liquor – our top business promoters can get all this done, something ordinary Indians would never be able to. This is why they are able to make billions. We load them with awards, rank them on lists and treat them as role models for the young.



MAN OF THE MOMENT: Can India ever produce a Mark Zuckerberg who can create a company worth billions without using unfair means?

In reality, they are hardly icons. They have milked an unfair system for their personal benefit, taking opportunities that belonged to the young on a level-playing field. Indian companies make money from rent-seeking behavior, creating artificial barriers of access to regulators; thereby depriving our startups of wealth-generating opportunities. None of the recent technologies that have changed the world and created wealth – telecom, computers, aviation - have risen out of India. Yet, our promoters have figured out a way to make money from them, by bulldozing their way into taking their share of the pie, rationing out the technology to Indians, and coming out as modern-day heroes. In reality, they are no heroes. They are the opposite of cool, and despite their billions, they are, in what is known in youthful parlance, as 'losers'.

For if they are not losers, why have they never raised their voice against government corruption? Our corporates don't think twice before creating a cartel to fleece customers. Yet, they never have a cartel to take a stand against corrupt politicians. They scream about the Radia tapes being leaked but do not reflect on their disgusting content. None of our blue chips have the capability to invent technology like the cell phone but being opportunists, they jumped at the chance of making money in spectrum allocation. International investors already know this, and while they see India's potential, they understand that the Indian corporate-political nexus is actually keeping India poor, not making it rich.

This can be fixed. Quite frankly, it has to be fixed if we want India to be the great nation our forefathers dreamed of. The net effect of this nepotism is high – it's often debilitating for startups in India, vital to the broad-based growth of any economy. If we want to set this right, there is a role to be played by corporates, the government and individuals.

First, the few corporates who really care, have to form a cartel against corruption and nepotism. If promoters take a public stand that their business group will not bribe, it will send a strong message. Compete on innovation, not the ability to bribe. That's what is cool. Meanwhile, the existing billionaires should stop flaunting their money and consider the 57 richest billionaires of America who have pledged to give away more than half their wealth to charity (yes, Mark Zuckerberg included).

Second, our government has to understand the meaning of protecting Indian industry. It isn't to protect the established fat cats, who could frankly do with a dose of healthy competition. Protecting Indian industry means policies that help new Indian companies thrive, an environment where startups are glorified and inherited princes are not put on a pedestal. Innovation is considered cool, not inheritance.

Third, we as individuals have to stop admiring and glorifying the parasitic billionaires of India. They may not be technically doing anything illegal, but there is definitely nothing cool about using connections to get something that you couldn't have if there were fair competition. We should not be celebrating money, consumption and power. We should be celebrating innovation and entrepreneurship.

Yes, these businessmen employ some of us, and we have seen increased affluence amongst some Indians. Maybe we have a million rich Indians now. It isn't enough. With the right business environment, India can be a dramatically different place, offering a better life to not just a few, but all of us. After all, to modify a dialogue from the film, "You know what's cooler than a million rich Indians? A billion rich Indians."

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Parents view TV, internet in the same light: Survey

New York: No TV for a week, the time-honoured punishment for misbehaving children, has been enhanced. Now, parents are also withholding Internet access to punish their kids, further sign that the Web has become as important to families as television.

As the two mediums converge, parents are quickly coming to see TV and the Internet in similar ways and are seeking to limit their kids' access to both, according to a report out this week from researchers at the University of Southern California. The survey from the USC Annenberg Centre for the Digital Future found that two-thirds of parents say they restrict their kids' access to TV as punishment, a number that has barely budged over the past 10 years.

But the percentage of parents who limit Internet access as a form of punishment has nearly doubled in the last decade. Among parents surveyed this spring, 57% said they withheld Web access to punish their kids. That is up from 32% in 2000. Michael Gilbert, a senior fellow at the centre, said parents are starting to not see a big distinction between TV watching and Internet use. Even so, parents are still more comfortable with the amount of time kids spend on the Internet, 71% said it was "just about right" compared with just 51% for TV.

Earlier surveys by the centre have shown that families are spending less time together than they used to, a decline that has coincided with the explosive growth of social networks in the past few years. AP

> Now, parents are withholding Internet access to punish their kids, further sign that the web has become as important to families as TV

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e-paper

Does a touch of positive energy heal and cure?

Yes it does, believe those who swear by new-age alternative therapies like craniosacral balancing and aura reading

Atul Sethi | TNN

Nishant Sharma might be the regular 23-year-old boy-next-door, except that he has a unique 'profession'. He is an aura reader who quit his job with a multinational company a year ago to pursue "an abiding interest in spirituality". That interest has become a profession and it is a pretty unusual one. Sharma's job involves scanning the invisible energy fields around the human body — referred to as aura — to look for defects that might cause physiological and physical problems. Sharma uses a technique known as Resonant Field Imaging. A hand-held machine flashes the energy reading of the person being scanned. The total of all the readings defines the aura. Sharma says aura reading is becoming increasingly credible. "The contention that all objects — living and non-living — have an aura has often been viewed with scepticism. But that is now changing," he says. He gets 10 to 15 clients a week and conducts aura reading workshops every weekend.

THE OTHER SIDE

Alternative healing therapies such as reiki and acupressure have been around for a bit. But now, new energy therapies such as aura reading, craniosacral balancing and quantum healing are gaining ground. Sharma says diverse backgrounds are represented at his aura reading workshops. "A gynaecologist from AIIMS wanted to know how to detect imbalances in the aura so that she could use the technique in her mainstream practice," he says. "Then there are people who want to know how to use their intuitive skills to improve their health and relationships."

Practitioners of energy therapies contend that disease can occur because of the imbalance in energy patterns. Dr Sujata Vaidya of Pune's Institute of Integrated Medicine says energies that govern the functioning of the body include thoughts, reactions, perceptions, knowledge, experience and so on but "none of these are measurable, tangible or visible". And yet, she adds, "there is proof that they have an impact on the body. A simple, unexpected smile can change the outcome of one's day. Positive thinking can kill pain."

Proponents of energy healing say that the body's natural reaction to trauma often causes energy blockage or cysts. "Fight, fright or flight — this is how the body responds to threat. In case excess external energy from a trauma is not dissipated naturally, the body retains it, forming energy cysts," says Dr Sandeep Bhasin, a Delhi-based surgeon who practices craniosacral balancing. This therapy, developed in the 1970s by American osteopath, Dr John Upledger, helps remove restrictions from the craniosacral system. For the uninitiated, Bhasin explains that the craniosacral is a physiological system believed to be one of the three that sustain life (the others are the cardiovascular and respiratory).

He says, "Craniosacral therapy works by tuning into the subtle rhythm of the craniosacral system and understanding the areas that require healing." Balancing the craniosacral system is believed to be useful to deal with backache, depression and neurological diseases. "There are many conditions where surgery and drugs have a limited role, but these therapies help," points out Bhasin.

Although the therapy is yet to get approval from the medical fraternity, some patients swear by it. Shakti Sharma, former manager with a public sector undertaking, claims that craniosacral balancing and quantum healing helped restore his vision. Quantum healing is yet another sort of energy therapy which helps increase the rate of cell vibration. Sharma, who had multiple sclerosis, says the results impressed him so much that he went on to learn how to practice these therapies.

But mainstream medical practitioners are not particularly impressed. They say the 'cure' is actually a placebo effect. Dr G Samaram, president of the Indian Medical Association, says, "On the face of it these therapies appear difficult to accept, since there is little scientific basis to accept their claims."

Not so, says Puducherry-based architect Prabhat Poddar, who has researched the effect of subtle radiation on the body for three decades. "What counts is the result. People who experience it can see how subtly such new-age therapies help resolve various health and other issues," Poddar adds an interesting dimension to the importance of energy balance. "Almost 90% of health issues are due to us architects not designing buildings on the right energy principles that match the subtle energies of the human body. Our buildings have become the source of all our health problems," he says. His starting point is research carried out in the late 1950s in Europe, which led to the discovery of a phenomenon known as the sick-building syndrome.

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Many energy therapy practitioners agree that technology has, to some extent, helped verify claims about their efficacy. Aura reader Nishant Sharma says, "Machines, like aura scanners, can help people see the colour of the aura and also view chakras — energy centres that have long been recognized in ancient texts, as being integral to well-being and health."

That is all very well but it may take a lot of doing to convince most people. Research on energy healing is at a nascent stage in the country. The Pune-based Centre for Biofield Sciences (CBS), which specializes in creating biofield-imaging devices that can measure changes in the body's emissions, is one of the few places in India where research is underway.

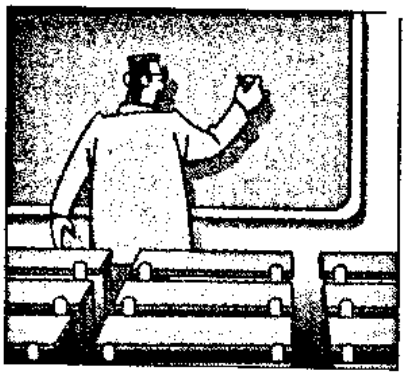
The Centre's director, Thornton Streeter, says India needs cost-effective, safe and non-invasive techniques, which might even some day be invaluable to the primary healthcare programme.

That may still be some time away, for now.

Times of India ND
19/12/2010 P-19

At IIT-B, teachers may wink at class bunkers

Hemali Chhapia | TNN



Mumbai: There are all kinds of informal segregation seen on college campuses: freshers versus settlers, top graders who sneer at canteen crawlers, book club members who wont come within a hockey sticks length of a ball player, and what have you. But for a change, students at the Indian Institute of Technology-Bombay (IIT-B) will now draw a distinction among faculty members and decide their cool quotient based on the decision each professor takes on attendance rules.

Till date, students who did not have a minimum of 80% attendance were awarded an XX grade and failed in that course. Students had to repeat the course before they were allowed to take the semester exam.

But with IIT-B reviewing its attendance policy through a senate committee convened by Abhiram Ranade, a professor in the department of computer science and engineering, faculty now have the freedom to take a call on either penalizing students for bunking class or letting it pass. The policy was broadly cleared by the senate recently and will soon come into effect.

While faculty members can choose their own attendance plan, they would be required to declare the same at the start of the academic session. There are three plans a teacher can pick from. It has to be made clear here that the benefits of attending a class will be extolled. Every faculty member will apprise students of the benefits of attending. But there could be faculty members who could choose not to penalize students for the lack of attendance, said associate dean (academic programmes) Vikram Gadre.

Teachers could either continue with the current practice of awarding the humiliating XX grade, or ignore the class strength completely or penalize students by depreciating their grade. The undergraduate and postgraduate programmes committees would work out the modalities for the last option before the scheme is implemented.

Hindustan Times ND 19/12/2010
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Medvedev to visit IIT Bombay

SYMBOLIC Russia wants to reinforce education ties

Charu Sudan Kasturi
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NEW DELHI: Russian President Dmitry Medvedev will visit the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay during his trip next week, as Russia looks to reinforce traditional educational ties at a time when the world is eyeing India's fast-growing education market.

IIT Bombay was set up in 1958 with financial and technical assistance from the Soviet Union and UNESCO, and Medvedev specifically wanted to visit the Institute during his India trip, sources privy to development said. Top USSR professors, researchers, and universities helped hand-hold IIT Bombay in its initial days.

The Russians appear keen to reinforce the traditionally strong educational ties between them and India, the sources said, pointing out: "Half a century back, we depended on assistance from Russia and other foreign countries to start our top higher educational institutions like the IITs. Today, Russia and the rest of the world are competing for India's education market," a diplomatic source said.

■ Dmitry Medvedev

India and Russia mutually recognise each other's degrees in science and engineering subjects and the two countries are engaged in extending the mutual recognition of degrees to medicine and related subjects, sources said.

Russian is also taught as an optional language subject in Central Board of Secondary Education schools. "We are still building our relationship in education with several other countries, but our ties with Russia are old and strong already," a source said.

The Russians, however, are concerned about India's increasing proximity to the US and Europe in educational and research ties, other sources said. The visit to IIT Bombay is symbolic, and the Russians possibly hope to emphasise how they stood by India at a time when this country was still emerging out of two centuries of Colonial rule, and was struggling to establish its institutions, sources said.

Hindustan Times ND 19/12/2010
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TESTING TIMES

Copy CAT, army plans to computerise exam system

Rahul Singh
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NEW DELHI: The army has kicked off a drive to streamline its in-house promotion examinations, modelling it on the Common Admission Test (CAT).

It has launched a pilot project to computerise exams, called Part B and Part D in service parlance, which have to be cracked before officers can be promoted to the rank of major and lieutenant colonel.

An officer said the existing testing model was cumbersome and required officers to be away from their units for extended periods. Crippled by a shortage of more than 11,250 officers, the force can hardly afford to keep more of them away from regular duties on the frontlines.

It is no secret that infantry battalions with an authorised strength of around 21 officers are somehow making do with half that number. The officer said computer-based tests would ensure greater availability of manpower, solve logistics problems such as transportation and accommodation and provide a more flexible option to officers.

Plans are afoot to set up 50 to 60 centres across the nation. The new model is expected to be functional by next year. More than 10,000 officers take promotion exams annually. While Part B has to be cleared before completing six years of service, to avoid loss of seniority, the deadline for Part D is 13 years. The exams are designed to test the knowledge of officers in military history, current affairs, law, administration and tactics.

The computerised model will also benefit officers who fail to clear these exams in the first attempt and have to give it another shot.

ARMY REPORT CARD

Part B and Part D are the army's promotion exams. A total of 8,506 officers took them in July 2008 and November 2008

2,240 cleared the exams

23% passed the Part B exam

4,322 "partially passed" one or more subjects

29% officers cleared the Part D exam

1,944 officers failed in every subject

Economic Times ND 19/12/2010
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Break new barriers of science to succeed, says Sibal

PTI
CHANDIGARH

NEW frontiers of science will have to be conquered to overcome challenges posed to humans in the 21st century and nations will have to collaborate to achieve the goal, Union HRD minister Kapil Sibal today said.

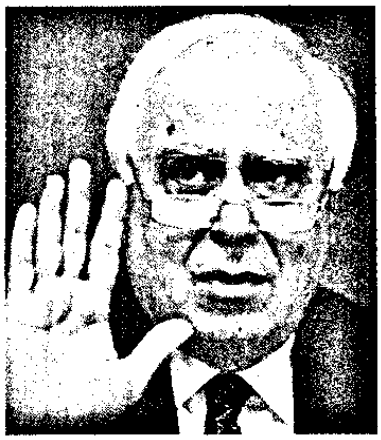
"The solutions of the past cannot resolve the challenges of the present...If we have to succeed and conquer these challenges, we will need to break new barriers of science," Sibal said. He was addressing a meet on Building Communities, Bridging Continents here.

Sibal said the challenges of the present century were very complex and related to the basic needs of individuals such as eradication of hunger, right to food, water, education, employment and global warming. Giving the example of how water shortage was going to increase in future, he said the existing population of the global community at 6.2 billion consumes 19 billion tonnes of water annually, more than what the planet generates.

"By 2050 when the population is set to touch 8.9-9.2 billion, we will be in the midst of a crisis," he said. "We are short of food, water and energy and the way we are plundering earth, we will disturb the delicate balance of nature," Sibal said. Stating that water-intensive agricultural activities are unsustainable, the HRD minister said there is need for new technology to encourage farming with the use of less water. "We have to realise that we cannot afford to continue producing agricultural commodities the way we have been doing over the years," he said, giving the example of how rice and wheat crops guzzle a lot of water.

"What then is the solution? Obviously, we have to cross and conquer new frontiers of science," he said, adding that we will need to produce seeds that will consume less water and have new technology to increase productivity.

Sibal also gave the example of how humans had, over the last 300 years, consumed a limited resource like coal which takes millions of years to form. "Now nature will not accept such things...the root cause and genesis of global warming is the result of this delicate balance getting disturbed," he said. The minister stressed that the global community will have to collaborate to meet the challenge of depleting natural resources which are very essential for the survival of inhabitants of the earth.



"The solutions of the past cannot resolve the challenges of the present...If we have to succeed and conquer these challenges, we will need to break new barriers of science

KAPIL SIBAL
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY MINISTER

Economic Times ND
19/12/2010 p-1

Q&A

VENKATRAMAN RAMAKRISHNAN
NOBEL LAUREATE

Give 20 yrs to Indian institutes

Venkatraman Ramakrishnan, who shared the Nobel prize for Chemistry in 2009, is currently on a visit to India. He spoke to ***Gaurie Agtey Athale*** *in Pune. Excerpts:*

Is there a lack of research in the curricula of Indian universities, leading to people of Indian origin doing well when they go abroad?
There is a lot of excitement and exciting things happening in Indian science. The government is funding science in a big way and setting up new institutes. Besides, I am the wrong person to ask questions about Indian curriculum or systems because I left India at the age of 19.

But where are the results? There isn't a single Nobel working in the country...
There are no results today because there is a lot of nurturing needed by the Indian scientific community. It takes twenty years for sustainable results. One generation has to do well... then there is need for continuity. Institutes have to become sustainable. So, give them at least another twenty years.

Institutes and local scientific community complain about lack of funding...
The government began to invest in science after 1990, when the Indian economy was opened up. Before this, the investments were low. Give it some time—a generation maybe. The sustainability and continuity of research institutes is mandatory because there may be a good person at the head of an institute but what if he retires early? Research needs continuity. There are some remarkably fine traditional institutes in India such as the Tata Fundamental Research Institute, the Centre for Cellular & Molecular Biology and National Centre for Biological Sciences. They have been working for a long time and doing good work. There is a misperception about their contribution and there are too few such institutes.

> **"The biggest challenge for Indian science is to attract good faculty working overseas... to get young scientists and giving them the freedom to work**

So, what according to you is the biggest challenge faced by Indian science today?
To attract good faculty that work overseas. That is the main problem—to get young scientists to come here and fill faculty positions, giving them the freedom to work. I cannot compare the Indian system to the West since I left at 19 and have not been part of the system here. But yes, salaries are much better than they were 50 years ago, the infrastructure facilities are also a lot better now. A lot of young people are returning. I know of one young structural biologist who is coming back (from the UK's Cambridge University), to ISSER, Pune.

Indian Express, ND 19-Dec-10

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Barred from exams, fate of Jamia students uncertain

DEEPU SEBASTIAN EDMOND
NEW DELHI I DECEMBER 18

Even the academic council of the Jamia Millia Islamia could not clear the air on the fate of more than 200 students, who have been denied permission to write the semester exams due to attendance shortage. The exams had begun last week.

All of them are either in post-graduate or M Phil programmes. A good number of the students are in the first semester, sources said.

First semester students, who were barred from taking the exam, were initially told that they would have to seek re-admission. After the students approached university officials to complain about the harsh move, the matter was taken up in Wednesday's academic council meeting.

Over 200 students were affected by the decision to prevent them from writing semester exams, citing shortage of attendance

The issue was reportedly raised by some teachers, even though it was not part of the AC's agenda. "It has been decided that the students, whose attendance have fallen short of requirement, will be detained. They will have to repeat the semester. On the other hand, no decision has been taken as to whether first semester students will be removed from the rolls," said an AC member.

Jamia requires students to have 75 per cent attendance, and university officials said that the rules are not new. "The attendance requirement was mentioned in the prospectus. Students will have to seek readmission to their respective semesters," said Jamia's media coordinator Simi Malhotra. The university had given relaxation of up to 15 per cent on medical and sports grounds.

"I opted for specialisation in Ancient History, which was being offered for the first time. Since there was no tutor for my specialisation, by mid-September ¿ more than a month after classes began ¿ I was asked to attend tutorials for two papers in Medieval History. It looks like they have not factored in the classes that I missed in between," said an M Phil research scholar. The student, who took a year's break after his MA, is poised to lose out on the prestigious Junior Research Fellowship (JRF), awarded in 2008. JRF rules stipulate that the awardee should have secured admission within two years of winning the Rs 15,000 per month scholarship.

Affected students say that they were not warned in advance that the university would come down hard on them.

"Teachers used to warn us in advance if our attendance was low. This time, I was called to the Director's office a few days before the exams were to begin and told that I will not be allowed to write the exam," claimed a first-year post-graduate student.

Hindustan ND 19-Dec-10

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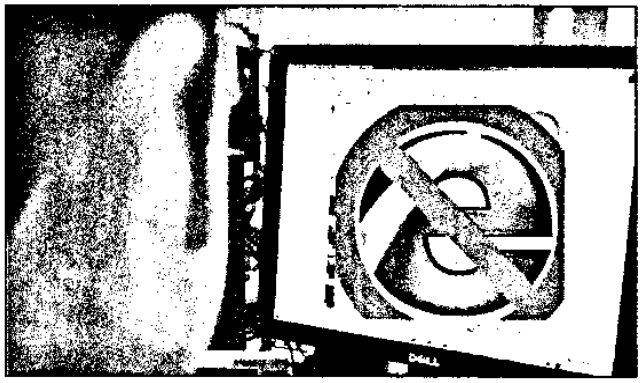
रात में आईआईटी छात्रों के लिए इंटरनेट बंद



फैसला अगले सेमेस्टर से प्रभावी होगा, डीन स्टूडेंट्स बोले, छात्रों का फायदा होगा

अनुराग मिश्र

नई दिल्ली

भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान, नई दिल्ली (आईआईटी) के छात्रों के लिए जनवरी से आधी रात के बाद इंटरनेट कनेक्शन बंद रहेगा।

आईआईटी प्रशासन ने हॉस्टलों में आधी रात से लेकर सुबह आठ बजे तक इंटरनेट कनेक्शन को प्रतिबंधित करने का फैसला किया है। यह फैसला अगले सेमेस्टर से प्रभावी होगा।आईआईटी के डीन स्टूडेंट्स, प्रोफेसर शशि माथुर का कहना है कि यह फैसला छात्रों के लिहाज से बेहतर है। सुबह आठ बजे आईआईटी में कक्षाएं शुरू हो जाती है ऐसे में देर रात तक इंटरनेट करने के बाद सुबह कक्षा में पहुंच पाना मुश्किल होता है। उन्होंने कहा कि यह प्रस्ताव स्टूडेंट्स अफेयर्स काउंसिल में लंबे समय से प्रस्तावित है। यह फैसला अगले सेमेस्टर से लागू होगा।

माथुर ने कहा कि जिन छात्रों को देर रात तक पढ़ाई करनी है उन्हें किसी भी तरह की असुविधा नहीं होगी। आईआईटी की प्रयोगशालाएं में इंटरनेट की सुविधा रात को भी उपलब्ध रहेगी।

क्यों उठाना पड़ा यह कदम

- पढ़ाई होती है प्रभावित
- तनाव बढ़ाती हैं सोशल नेटवर्किंग साइट
- नींद पूरी न होने से बढ़ने वाली शारीरिक परेशानियां

तनाव दूर करने के लिए किए गए उपाय

- कुछ आईआईटी ने खोले योगा केंद्र
- कुछ आईआईटी बेवसाइट के माध्यम से भी करते हैं छात्रों की काउंसलिंग
- कुछ संस्थानों ने मानसिक परेशानी से जूझ रहे छात्रों को कम पेपर देने तक की छूट दी है

Hindustan ND 19-Dec-10 p-14

आईआईटी-रेलवे मिलकर खोलेंगे मेडिकल कॉलेज

बातचीत शुरू, दोनों पक्ष इस बाबत जल्दी एक समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर कर सकते हैं

मदन जैड़ा

नई दिल्ली

भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (आईआईटी) खडगपुर रेलवे के साथ मिलकर मेडिकल कॉलेज खोलने पर विचार कर रहा है। इस सिलसिले में आईआईटी और रेलवे स्वास्थ्य महकमे के बीच प्रारंभिक बातचीत शुरू हो चुकी है। रेलमंत्री ममता बनर्जी चाहती है कि खडगपुर में मेडिकल कॉलेज भी स्थापित हो।

आईआईटी खडगपुर से जुड़े सूत्रों के अनुसार, दोनों पक्ष इस बाबत जल्दी एक समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर कर सकते हैं। इसी साल आईआईटी काउंसिल की बैठक में केंद्रीय मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री कपिल सिब्बल ने इन संस्थानों को मेडिकल कॉलेज खोलने की मंजूरी दे दी गई थी। लेकिन आईआईटी के प्रस्ताव को मेडिकल काउंसिल ऑफ इंडिया (एमसीआई) ने यह कहकर अस्वीकार कर दिया कि वे मेडिकल कोर्स चलाने की बजाए मेडिकल में नॉन क्लिनिकल डॉक्टरेट कोर्स चलाएं। हालांकि ऐसे कोर्स अभी भी आईआईटी में चल रहे हैं। आईआईटी खड़गपुर में मेडिकल स्कूल चल रहा है जो मास्टर इन बॉयोटेक्नोलॉजी में डिग्री प्रदान करता है। यह बायोटेक्नोलॉजी और इंजीनियरिंग से जुड़ी डिग्री है।

साझा उपक्रम

- रेलमंत्री ममता बनर्जी चाहती हैं कि खड़गपुर में मेडिकल कॉलेज खुले
- आईआईटी को पहले ही केंद्र से मेडिकल कॉलेज की हरी झंडी

खबर है कि तृणमूल कांग्रेस नेता ममता बनर्जी की पहल पर आईआईटी खड़गपुर रेलवे के साथ मिलकर मेडिकल कॉलेज खोलने को तैयार है। अभी हालांकि दोनों पक्षों में हिस्सेदारी तय नहीं हुई है। लेकिन मोटे तौर पर यह है कि रेलवे जमीन देगा और आईआईटी उस पर अस्पताल खोलेगा और आईआईटी की तरफ से एमबीबीएस की डिग्री जारी की जाएगी। इसमें निवेश रेलवे को करना होगा जबकि कॉलेज पर ठप्पा आईआईटी का होगा।

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भारत में नौकरियों के लिए नहीं मिल रहे टैलेंटेड यूथ : सिब्बल

अमर उजाला ब्यूरो

चंडीगढ़। मानव संसाधन और टेलीकॉम मंत्री कपिल सिब्बल ने कहा कि भारत में नौकरियां तो हैं, लेकिन इनके लायक न तो यहां अच्छे इंजीनियर हैं, न अच्छे आटोमैकेनिकल इंजीनियर, न अच्छे शेफ, न अच्छे ड्राइवर और न ही प्रतिभाशाली डॉक्टर। दूसरी ओर अमेरिका जैसे देश में नौकरियां नहीं हैं, लेकिन वहां टैलेंटेड यूथ हैं। इसका कारण यह है कि भारत के 22 करोड़ बच्चे स्कूल तो जाते हैं, लेकिन इनमें से सिर्फ 12.4 फीसदी युवा ही उच्च शिक्षा ग्रहण कर पाते हैं। अगर ज्यादातर बच्चे कालेज और यूनिवर्सिटी तक नहीं जा रहे हैं तो यह देश की सबसे बड़ी समस्या है। इसका हल हमें ढूंढना है।

सिब्बल शनिवार को टैगोर थिएटर में रोटरी डिस्ट्रिक्ट 3080 के सदस्यों से डिस्कॉन कान्फ्रेंस में रू-ब-रू थे। उन्होंने कहा कि हमारा उद्देश्य उच्च शिक्षा के लिए युवाओं की संख्या 12.4 फीसदी से बढ़ा कर 30 फीसदी करना है। भविष्य में बड़ी संख्या में ऑटोमोबाइल, इलेक्ट्रानिक इंजीनियरों की जरूरत होगी। मैट्रिक और सीनियर सेकेंडरी कक्षाओं के छात्रों और तकनीकी संस्थानों के छात्रों के लिए ऐसे कोर्स अनिवार्य किए जाएं ताकि देश में अच्छे आटोमोबाइल इंजीनियर बन सकें। उन्होंने रोटरी क्लब के सदस्यों से कहा कि स्कूलों और कालेजों में लड़कियों की साक्षरता दर बढ़ाने के लिए आगे आना होगा। शिक्षा अधिकार के कानून को भी गंभीरता से लागू करना होगा। उन्होंने कहा कि पानी भी आने वाले समय की सबसे बड़ी समस्या साबित होगी। वर्ष 2050 तक जब दुनिया की आबादी 8.99 अरब होगी, तब क्या होगा। इसलिए जरूरी है कि हम अपने किसानों को वैज्ञानिक और तकनीकी शिक्षा से प्रशिक्षित करें। सिंचाई की समस्या से उबरने के लिए उन्नत तरीके और बीज अपनाने होंगे।

- सिर्फ 12 फीसदी युवा ही पहुंच पाते हैं उच्च शिक्षा तक
- लड़कियों की साक्षरता दर बढ़ाने के लिए पहल करना जरूरी