

Newspaper Clips October 2 & 3, 2010

Hindustan Times ND 02/10/2010 p-10

AIIMS should offer lectures online: PM

NEW DELHI: The All India Institute of Medical Sciences should develop distance education programmes to offer lectures online to students and teachers from other medical schools struggling because of a faculty shortage, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said at the AIIMS convocation on Friday.

Hindustan Times ND p-10
02/10/2010

Setback for Sibal: PM backs medical study regulator

HT Correspondent

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NEW DELHI: The government will soon introduce a bill setting up a new medical education regulator, the Prime Minister declared on Friday, signalling the end of a protracted inter-ministerial tussle over including medicine under a single higher education regulator.

Manmohan Singh's announcement suggests a setback for human resource development minister Kapil Sibal's efforts to create a single, independent overarching higher education regulator covering all streams, including medicine, to facilitate inter-disciplinary education and research.

But successful back-channel political consultations have cleared the way for the Parliament standing committee on HRD to consider a key education reform bill that it stalled last week — bringing some relief to Sibal.

"After extensive consultations, the ministry of health has prepared a draft bill for setting up a National Council for Human Resources in Health (NCHRH) that will be introduced soon in Parliament," Singh said at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences convocation.

The seemingly innocuous statement carries deep politi-

SIBAL HAD WANTED A SINGLE, INDEPENDENT OVERARCHING HIGHER EDUCATION REGULATOR COVERING ALL STREAMS

cal significance. The HRD ministry has been suggesting that medical education be included under a National Commission for Higher Education and Research (NCHER) it has been proposing, instead of creating a separate NCHRH.

The health ministry — led by Ghulam Nabi Azad — has been staunchly opposing the HRD ministry. Azad has even spoken to Singh on his concerns over giving up medical education.

The proposal for a single higher education regulator originated from the National Knowledge Commission and was reiterated by the Prime Minister-appointed panel headed by Professor Yash Pal.

Based on these reports, an HRD ministry task force had earlier this year insisted that medical education be included under the NCHER — triggering a turf war with the health ministry, which said it was unwilling to give up control of medical education.

Times of India ND 02.10.10 p-6

Chem dept blamed for irradiator auction

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The much-awaited inquiry report on the auction of the Gamma Irradiator by Delhi University was finally placed before the varsity's Executive Council (EC) at a meeting on Friday. The report blamed the write-off committee — which gives the green signal for auctioning of material after verifying the technical specification and the equipment — and the chemistry department for the Mayapuri radiation exposure incident.

While the EC is yet to take any decision on the report, elected members of the council opposed vice-chancellor, Deepak Pental, chairing the meeting. The meeting was adjourned and the EC members decided to meet again on Monday. "The meeting was

adjourned as the EC members asked for more time to go through the report," said Pental.

According to EC sources, though the report has not pointed fingers at any individual it says corrective measures are required to prevent such incidents in future.

Suggesting corrective measures on use of radioactive sources, the report said all future auctions should be monitored by an expert committee of Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) and the list of material that needed to be auctioned should be sent to AERB. It further said faculty and technical staff involved in research and experiments using radioactive sources should be first sent to Bhaba Atomic Research Centre for a week-long orientation programme.

Times of India ND 02.10.10 p-14

TN univ violates norms, grants 45 grace marks

Pushpa Narayan | TNN

Chennai: In a gross violation of the Medical Council of India (MCI) Act, the Tamil Nadu Dr MGR Medical University has admitted that it granted as much as 45 marks as grace for students who appeared for a supplementary examination in February 2009. A university committee granted all students, who failed the first year exam, 35 grace marks for anatomy and biochemistry and 10 grace marks for physiology. Number of students who passed the exams after this shower of largesse rose from 81 to 161.

The MCI rules state that grace marks up to a maximum of five marks may be awarded at the discretion of the university to a student who has failed only in one subject (Percentage required for passing is 50). The rule is intended to make education rigorous and uphold quality in medical training, say senior doctors. But the university, in a reply to questions under the Right to Information Act, has now admitted that in each of the exams it conducted for different batches of MBBS students between February 2007 and August 2009, it granted between ten and 45 marks. As a result, number of MBBS students who passed the exam per batch after such revision in marks was between 20 to 540.

In the same period, the university also granted between 8 and 25 marks to students who appeared for BDS exams (Dental Council of India also does not permit universities to grant more than five grace marks), which helped upto 458 students per batch to pass with high grace marks.

For instance, in August 2009, first year MBBS students appearing for first or second time got 20 grace marks. For those appearing for third time, grace was increased to 30 marks in anatomy, 10 in physiology and 20 in bio-chemistry. Thus, the number of students who passed the test after revision rose from 1,306 to 1,926. A senior university official sought to defend the concessions granted by say-

The MCI rules state that grace marks up to a maximum of five marks may be awarded at the discretion of the university to a student who has failed only in one subject

ing, "There are no rules for awarding grace marks. It is decided year on year. For instance, if we find a greater number of students appearing for the examination for the second or third time, we may decide to award grace marks to ensure such students are cleared fast. A passing board committee decides on the grace marks."

Dr Meer Mustafa Hussain, who was the vice-chancellor between 2007 and 2009 when such high grace marks were awarded, could not be contacted. But his successor, Dr Mayil Vahanan Natarajan, criticized flaws in the system and said varsity has now tightened its rules. "There was no transparency in the past. In fact, students could not even obtain photocopies of their own mark sheets. This will not happen from this academic year. We have decided not to award grace marks henceforth. We are ready to give photocopies of answer sheets and allow re-evaluation instead of moderation," he said.

All 17 government medical colleges and eight private medical colleges are affiliated to the university. The state also has one government dental college in Chennai and 16 other private dental colleges affiliated to it.

Senior professors, doctor's associations and former academicians have demanded an inquiry into the issue. "Besides discouraging meritorious students, such acts would degrade quality of medical education. We normally get the cream of students for MBBS. There is no need to award them huge grace marks to help them pass? What we need to do is offer intensive and quality training," said Dr George Thomas, editor, Indian Journal of Medical Ethics.

Publication: The Times Of India Delhi;Date: Oct 2, 2010;Section: Times Nation;Page: 19;

PIO appointed director of US science body

Boston: Indian-American academician Subra Suresh has been confirmed unanimously by the US Senate to be the next director of the \$7.4 billion National Science Foundation (NSF) for a six-year term.

Suresh, dean of the School of Engineering at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, was nominated by President Barack Obama to the post in June this year. The US Senate confirmed the appointment on Thursday. He is expected to be sworn in by science adviser and director of the office of science and technology policy John Holdren in the next two weeks.

The confirmation makes Suresh one of the highest ranking Indian-Americans ever to serve in an administration. As director, Suresh will lead the \$7.4 billion independent federal agency that supports all fields of science and engineering research, as well as a wide span of educational programmes that reach more than 2,000 institutions across the US. ■

Publication: The Times Of India Delhi; Date: Oct 2, 2010; Section: Times Nation; Page: 19;

'New regulator for health soon'

To Introduce Bill In House, Says PM

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The bill to set up National Council for Human Resource in Health (NCHRH) — the overarching regulatory body for the health sector, which will replace the existing Medical, Dental, Nursing and Pharma Councils of India — will be introduced in Parliament soon. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh gave assurance about this on Friday.

Addressing the 38th Convocation of All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) — the country's premier research and referral hospital — the PM said the government was reviewing the existing regulatory system for medical education.

"After extensive consultations, the ministry of health has prepared a draft bill for setting up a National Council for Human Resources in Health that will be introduced in Parliament soon. The bill will seek to create an enabling environment that will address issues of quality, quantity and equitable distribution of medical education resources," Singh said.

Interestingly, the draft bill came up for public scrutiny recently. Though some states had opposed NCHRH, the PM con-



SETTLING THE ISSUE

firmed on Friday of introducing the bill in Parliament soon.

Consequently, this signalled an end to the turf war between HRD and health ministries, which started when the former suggested bringing medical education under the ambit of its proposed National Commission for Higher Education and Research (NCHER). The health ministry has been in favour of NCHRH.

In June, a 12-member task force set up to form NCHRH — under the chairmanship of the Union health secretary — had painted a gloomy scenario about the nation's poor performance in the health sector.

For instance, the estimated density of health workers is 20% lesser than that of WHO norm of 2.5 workers (doctors, nurses and midwives) per 1,000 population.

A common aptitude test for admission into central universities has been proposed

It's a sensible idea

Higher education in India has become extremely formulaic and rigid. Many universities here are more adept at churning out graduates than facilitating research and learning. It is a reflection of things that in the latest QS World University Rankings, IIT Bombay was the sole Indian representative in the list of top 200 varsities. There is an urgent need to initiate reforms and streamline the higher education system. In this context, the proposal to have a common aptitude test, in addition to the class XII board examination, for admission into central universities is a good idea. The test, to judge students' analytical skills and inclinations, will help standardise the admission process with respect to students from various school boards. It is eventually aimed at easing the burden of multiple subject-specific entrance exams that most colleges conduct.

The present first-past-the-post system, as manifest in admission cut-off lists, promotes rote learning. Students study with single-minded focus on getting a particular score so that they can get into the college of their choice. In most cases that choice is

influenced by family and peer pressure. Feeding off this are innumerable coaching centres that guarantee admission into sought-after streams. So, students often end up pursuing courses they have no genuine interest in. A common aptitude test can help universities ascertain if a particular candidate is suited to pursue higher studies in a given subject.

■ TIMES VIEW ■

The current exam-centric process must gradually give way to a comprehensive system of evaluation that takes into account a student's overall performance. A common aptitude test is congruent with this thinking. However, care needs to be taken to ensure the autonomy of universities in the admission process, which must be insulated from political influence. We need to move away from the one-size-fits-all approach and start focussing on quality instead of quantity.



An unnecessary burden

A committee of vice-chancellors has proposed that students seeking admissions in central universities will have to pass a National Aptitude Test (NAT). As against subject-specific tests conducted by many of these universities, NAT along with class XII scores, will decide the merit of students. Many students, teachers and parents have

mechanical system of grading that ignore the creativity and aptitude of students. A sensible prescription would focus on the problem at the school level instead of having yet another exam add to students' burden. Worse, NAT will also create pressure on students in that their future will eventually depend on just these two exams. This shows the government's lack of trust in its own system. In addition, the possible removal of subject-specific tests will lower the quality of students in specialised streams.

■ COUNTERVIEW ■

Ajay Vaishnav

Justifiably opposed this 'in-principle' decision of HRD minister Kapil Sibal, to be implemented during academic year 2011-12.

It is difficult to fathom the rationale for NAT. According to Sibal, it aims to test students' communication and analytical skills. And it is to ensure students who pass by rote learning get filtered out. But such reasoning is contradictory. It doesn't recognise the self-limiting propositions of NAT. Rote learning at the school level is the result of a

Besides, the proposal is elitist in the sense that it contradicts the stated objective of increasing university enrolment. Such a system cannot work in India, a society where widespread disparities exist in terms of the standard of education. Would it be possible for students from poor and government schools to compete on an equal footing with students from high-end private schools? Let's not forget that at stake is the issue of access to higher education, particularly for students belonging to the poor and marginalised sections of society. With exams like NAT, we are creating more stumbling blocks in the path of inclusive education.

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When Globalisation Falls Short

Nayan Chanda



However the Senkaku islands crisis is resolved, the questions that it has posed on globalisation will be debated. The fact that the relatively minor incident of the arrest of a Chinese fishing boat captain by Japanese authorities could so quickly escalate to threaten economic ties between the world's number two and three economies cannot but raise questions about the benefits of globalisation. It has become an article of faith among economists that growing interdependence serves as a guarantor of peace. China is, after all, Japan's biggest trade partner and Japanese investment in China is second only to its commitments in North America. The mutual economic damage that would result from an escalation of tensions was clear to see and, yet, neither seemed prepared to back down. So what happened?

Although claimed by China, the barren and uninhabited Senkaku/Diaoyu islands have been administered by Japan since the end of World War II. China's supreme leader Deng Xiaoping had said the issue should be left for future generations to resolve. However, with China surpassing Japan as the world's number two economy, Beijing may be considering the time ripe to make good on its claim. In the past, Chinese nationalists and fishermen who have travelled there have been quietly returned home by the Japanese Coast Guard. But in early September – barely weeks after China overtook Japan as the world's second-largest economy – a Chinese fishing fleet not only showed up in numbers in the waters off Senkaku, but one trawler reportedly rammed two Japanese coast guard vessels. The detention of the boat's captain sparked a stand-off that ended 17 days later with his unconditional release. The Chinese demands for an apology and compensation and Japan's counterclaims for damage to its patrol boats have served to keep tensions alive.

The unusual aspect of the stand-off was the ratcheting up of rhetoric and the unprecedented array of economic and political tools Beijing employed to pressure Tokyo. As the Japanese proceeded with legal action against the captain, China took strong steps. It halted tourists from visiting Japan (Chinese tourists brought about \$2 billion in revenue to Japan last year), cancelled high-level meetings (including one to discuss cooperation in oil and gas exploration under the East China Sea) and blocked shipments of rare earth elements critically important for key Japanese industries. Shortly after China's prime minister issued warnings about unspecified "coercive measures", Japan suddenly relented and returned the captain to a hero's welcome in China, where he proudly proclaimed his intention to return to fish in the "Chinese waters" off Diaoyu.

Tensions may take time to subside and so will the questions raised by the episode. If globalisation has indeed created deep interdependence, then how does one explain China raising the ante to a dangerous level with seeming unconcern about the fallout on Japanese trade and investment? Can China ignore the impacts of decreasing Japanese FDI and reduced imports of Chinese goods? Japanese businesses were clearly rattled and pleaded for a peaceful resolution. The informal ban on the export of rare earth material to Japan in the past week alarmed manufacturers – from hybrid automobile maker Toyota to electronic and other green technology companies – relying on rare earth (92 per cent of its supply coming from China) to manufacture a whole host of export products. Preoccupied with its effort to restart its economic growth engine, Japan can ill afford to suffer setbacks such as those brought on by a confrontation with China.

The question is, why do global integration and interdependence not lead China to feel similar constraint? How can it ratchet up the dispute without worry about the consequences for its economy? The answer seems to lie in the asymmetric interdependence. China, flush with its \$2.5 trillion reserves and still growing at 8 per cent, can risk taking a few knocks more than Japan's ageing and debt-laden economy. At a time of political transition, Chinese leaders' need to appear strong in defending the country's territorial claims. They also need to mind the rising anti-Japanese sentiment of China's internet-savvy youth.

Historians recall that shortly before the outbreak of World War I, British author Norman Angell famously wrote about the "economic impossibility" of conflict among trade partners. Though the world is infinitely more interdependent today, the Senkaku episode shows the

**GLOBAL
EYE**

Publication: The Times Of India Delhi; Date: Oct 2, 2010; Section: International; Page: 21

Fossils reveal 5-foot penguins with no tux

Washington: Some ancient penguins may have been twice as big as today's Emperor penguin but they lacked the dashing tuxedo. Researchers unearthed remains of a nearly 5-foot-tall penguin that roamed what is now Peru about 36 million years ago, and they also discovered fossilized feathers that show back then, the flightless bird was a more motley mix of reddish-brown and gray.

Thursday's report in the journal *Science* is more than a curiosity about color.

Analyzing the fossil led to a new discovery about modern penguins, which in turn raises questions about how

their feathers evolved to help them become such expert swimmers.

It's one of the largest penguins that ever lived, estimated to have been twice as heavy

THE 'WATER KING'

as the average Emperor penguin of today.

The second species of giant penguin discovered in Peru, it was given the name *Inkayacu paracasensis*, or Water King, part of a cluster of now-extinct penguin species that apparently ranged over much of the Southern Hemisphere. **AP**

Publication: The Times Of India Delhi; Date: Oct 2, 2010; Section: International; Page: 21;



New way to generate stem cells

Method Uses Modified Messenger RNA Molecules, Avoids Gene Modification

Washington: US researchers have found a new, "remarkably efficient" way to generate human stem cells that could provide an alternative to using embryonic stem cells in treating disease, a study published on Thursday said.

The new method does not require risky genetic modification and holds huge therapeutic promise, said the lead author of the study, Derrick Rossi of Harvard Medical School.

The researchers did not go the usual route of permanently altering the genome to obtain protein factors that reprogram adult cells into human-induced pluripotent stem cells, or iPSCs.

We believe that our approach has the potential to become a major and perhaps even central enabling technology for cell-based therapies

Derrick Rossi | HARVARD

Instead, they developed synthetic modified messenger RNA molecules — which they called modified RNAs — that encoded the proteins, but did not integrate into the cell's DNA.

They found, to their surprise,

that repeated administration of the modified RNAs "resulted in robust expression of the reprogramming proteins in mature skin cells that were then converted to iPSCs with startling efficiency," the study says.

"We weren't really expecting the modified RNAs to work so effectively, but the reprogramming efficiencies we observed with our approach were very high," Rossi said.

Currently, clinical application of iPSCs is hampered by, among others, inefficient means of generating pluripotent stem cells.

Pluripotency means the cell can differentiate to become any cell in the body, be it a skin cell, heart cell, blood cell: anything. Embryonic

stem cells are pluripotent. RNA-induced iPSCs with an RNA associated with muscle cell development caused cells to differentiate into muscle cells. Differentiation was simple, efficient and "without the immediate risk of inducing genetic mutations," the study says.

"Our technology represents a safe, efficient strategy for somatic cell reprogramming and directing cell fate that has wide ranging applicability for research, disease modeling and regenerative medicine," said Rossi. "We believe that our approach has the potential to become a major and perhaps even central enabling technology for cell-based therapies," he said. **APF**

Prof P Rameshan is IIM-Rohtak director

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Professor P Rameshan of IIM-Kozhikode has been appointed as the director of the newly-formed IIM-Rohtak in Haryana. He will be joining IIM-Rohtak within six weeks. The post-graduate management programme has already begun at IIM-Rohtak, currently mentored by IIM-Lucknow. Rameshan, 47, was director in-charge of IIM-Kozhikode for a short period in 2009.

Indian Express Chandigarh 01.10.2010 p-2



NSUI supporters protest against inadequate library facilities and poor food in hostels, outside the V-C office at Panjab University in Chandigarh on Thursday. SUMIT MALHOTRA

PU students protest against 'poor facilities'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 30

AROUND 50 students, including party members of NSUI (National Students' Union of India), protested outside the Panjab University Vice-Chancellor's office in the afternoon on Thursday. The protest was called off on the assurance by university authorities to look into their demands at the earliest.

The students were protesting against inadequate space for the students in the main library among other things. They took the plea that the library was constructed years ago, keeping in mind the strength of students, which has now increased manifold.

NSUI backs students' demands of more space in libraries, better food in hostels and more time to prepare for exams

Thus, there is a need for its expansion or the construction of a new building.

"Dean Students' Welfare Professor Naval Kishore appreciated our suggestion and assured that a committee would be formed to look into the matter. Based on the committee report, necessary action will be taken at the earliest," said Sunny Mehta, former president of NSUI.

Another demand put forth by the students was better quality food in hostels. They complained that they had brought the issue to the notice of university authorities, but no action was taken. The DSW again assured to form a committee to inspect food quality in all the hostels.

"Before, semester examinations for postgraduate courses used to start from December 20; but this time, they are starting from November 20. This would leave the students with very little time for preparations. So, we are demanding that the students should be given at least four months. The authorities have asked us to meet them after two days for the status of these issues," said Sandeep Bura.

Hindu ND 02/10/2010 P-5

Medical education to have separate regulatory body: PM

Union Health Ministry has prepared a draft Bill for the purpose

Aarti Dhar

NEW DELHI: Putting at rest uncertainty over the fate of the proposed National Council for Human Resources in Health (NCHRH), a separate regulatory body for medical education in the country, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Friday said a Bill to set up the Council would be introduced in Parliament soon.

The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, after extensive consultations, has prepared a draft Bill for setting up the Council. The Bill will seek to create an enabling environment that will address issues of quality, quantity and equitable distribution of medical education resources, Dr. Singh said at the annual Convocation of the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) here.

The Health and Family Welfare Ministry has been demanding a separate regulatory body for medical education while a task force set up by the Union Human Resource Development Ministry has also prepared a draft Bill for a National Commission on Higher Education and Research (NCHER) that seeks to bring medical education and legal education under its purview. The Ministries have been engaged in a turf war for months now. While all this was on, the Union Law Ministry also drafted a Bill for establishing a separate regulatory body for legal education.

Announcing the government's vision of making AIIMS one of the 10 best medical universities in the world by 2020, Dr. Singh said though this is not an easy job, the government would support all efforts in this direction. Describing as a good document the Valiathan Committee Report — set up following the agitation



DOCTORS' DAY: Prime Minister Manmohan Singh presenting the medal for the Best Graduate (MBBS) of 2009 and the Delhi Medical Association Medal 2009 to Aditya Dahiya at the 38th Annual Convocation of AIIMS in New Delhi on Friday. Looking on are Union Health and Family Welfare Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad (left) and AIIMS Director Dr. R. C. Deka. (Bottom) A section of the students at the Convocation. - PHOTOS: SHANKER CHAKRAVARTY

against Other Backward Classes reservation to revamp the premier institution — the Prime Minister said the government would consider the recommendations speedily and do what is best in the

interest of the Institute.

Dr. Singh said he had directed the Health Ministry that "we should have an ambitious and befitting vision of what this great institution should aspire to become, and

therefore work on a far reaching agenda of reforms." He went on to compliment the Ministry for its efforts to improve internal governance and management of the Institute.

Hindu ND 02/10/2010

P-7

Kapil Sibal wants brain drain to stop

Special Correspondent

CHANDIGARH: Union Human Resource Development Minister Kapil Sibal on Friday called for reversal of the trend among alumni of reputed Institutes of Management for "managing" multinational companies abroad.

Laying the foundation stone for the proposed new Indian Institute of Management (IIM) at Garnawathi village in Rohtak

district, he said: "Our talented graduates should manage the economy of our country."

Describing education as the base of development, Mr. Sibal said the main difference between India and the developed countries was that of education. "The percentage of students going to colleges from schools is 40 to 50 in developed countries as compared to 12.4 per cent in India and the UPA regime at the Centre is making

efforts to raise this percentage to 30 per cent by 2020."

"Today, 20 crore children go to school in our country, which is two-thirds of the total population of America, and of these only 1.4 crore go to colleges for higher studies which is a big challenge for us," he added.

Appreciating Haryana's endeavours for speedy development in all spheres, he said the State was poised to become the centre of education and Rohtak

would be Delhi's next satellite city.

'A milestone'

Haryana Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda said the IIM would be a milestone in the development of the State. The Centre had decided to set up seven new institutes of management in the country and it was a matter of pride that the foundation stone of the first institute had been laid in Harya-

na, he added.

He said the classes of this institute with 50 seats had already started temporarily at Maharshi Dayanand University in Rohtak.

Rohtak MP Deepender Hooda, Chairman of the Board of Governors of IIM Ravi Kant, Director of IIM Lucknow Devi Singh and Education Minister Geeta Bhukkal were among those present.

Hindu ND 03-Oct-10

p-8

Data usage in India is set to increase

It is likely to grow twice as fast as in the rest of the world

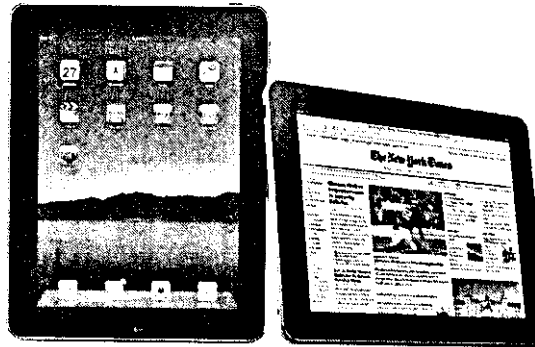
Special Correspondent

CHENNAI: Running out of space on your hard disk to store all your digital photos? Brace yourself for this prediction: in the coming decade, the data usage pattern in India is likely to grow at a rate twice as much as the rest of the world.

The digital information in India will grow from 40,000 petabytes to 2.3 million petabytes, says a study on 'Digital Universe in India,' sponsored by information infrastructure solution company EMC Corporation and conducted by the IDC Group.

The country's share of digital information is expected to grow 60-fold by 2020, driven by the rollout of 3G/BWA networks, digitisation of television networks and increased technology adoption among individuals, small and medium businesses and enterprises, and in government services such as the Unique ID project and census.

"India will consume twice as much data as the rest of the world," says Manoj Chugh, president, EMC India and SAARC, and Director of the Global Accounts for EMC



As of 2010, India's digital data can be stored in 2.5 billion iPads of 16 GB. - FILE PHOTO: REUTERS

Asia Pacific & Japan. "That is the most interesting finding."

As of 2010, the study finds that the digital data in the country can be stored in 2.5 billion iPads (of 16 GB). The data, if stacked in those iPads one above the other, could form 4,64,000 separate towers of the size of Qutub Minar. Laid end to end, it will form a 600 million meters of iPads, roughly 10 times the running length of the Indian railway network.

While the study itself was commissioned to understand the infrastructure demands

of the chief information officers of various small and medium IT enterprises, the data deluge very much includes even the consumers. "Individual consumers are in fact a lot faster in adapting themselves to the changes than even the big corporation. You already see a lot more individuals store their data on cloud computing networks," Mr. Chugh points out.

Interestingly, already there is 50 per cent digital content surplus being created in the country that does not have storage space.

Tribune New Delhi
02/10/10 p-4

EC rebuffs Pental on gamma report

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 1

It was high-end drama at the Delhi University's executive council (EC) meeting today. According to a senior executive council member, VC Deepak Pental tabled a proposal seeking approval for the drafted committee report on the sale of gamma irradiator as scrap.

This attempt of Pental to secure approval for the report was rebuffed by the EC.

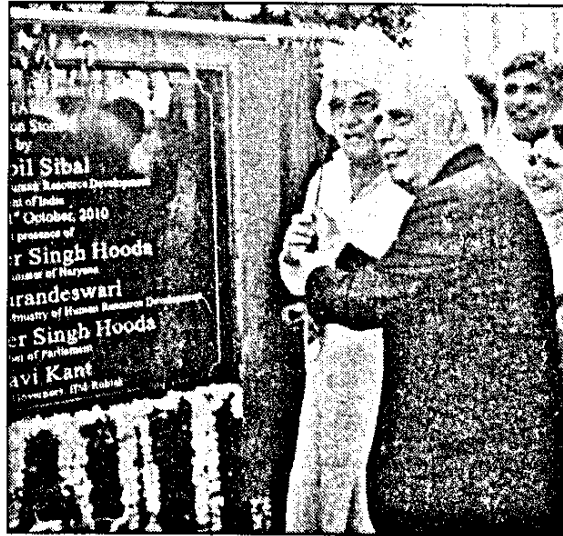
According to one of the EC members present at the meeting, even the Visitor's nominee on the council criticised Pental for irregularities and procedural violations.

Pental handed over copies of the report to the members and said he would convene another meeting of the EC on October 4. However, some EC members may not allow him to chair the next meeting.

Two of the EC members-- Rajib Ray and Shiba C. Panda-- have written a letter stating that Pental cannot chair the meet since he ceased to be the VC September 1 2010 and also since he himself has admitted before the EC that he too is an accused in the criminal sale of gamma cell as scrap.

Tribune, ND 03-Oct-10 p-7

Now Rohtak on IIM map



Union HRD Minister lays the stone of IIM at Garnawathi village in Rohtak on Friday Photo: Manoj Dhaka

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

ROHTAK, OCTOBER 2

Rohtak has joined the select league of cities like Kolkata, Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Lucknow and Calicut having Indian Institute of Management (IIM), as Union Human Resources Development Minister Kapil Sibal laid the foundation stone of new IIM at Garnawathi village in Rohtak on Friday.

The classes of the IIM course were being held at one of the buildings of the Maharshi Dayanand University (MDU). This is the first and only city of the Northern India after Lucknow to have an IIM.

The IIM has been paying a monthly rent of about Rs 15 lakh to the MDU for the building and hostel facility here. The new building will come up on 200 acres of land which was acquired at a cost of about 35 crore. The IIM's own campus is likely to be ready within three years and may cost Rs 300 crore as per the reports available.

Assuring people of taking up the demand of a campus of National Sports University in

Haryana also, Sibal expressed concern over the low percentage of students taking to colleges and universities after finishing their basic education. He said only 1.4 crore of the total 20 crore students, who passed out from schools, had gone for higher education. Hoping that Rohtak would be among the leading educational hub in the country, he said the government had been earnestly trying to bring the desired change in the education system and its pattern.

Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda, who presided over the function, claimed that Haryana had emerged as a leader in the field of both education and sports. He said while several universities and professional institutions had come up in the state, about 33 per cent of the total Arjuna Awardees in the sports had been from Haryana, while it had just 2 per cent of the total population of the country.

Congress MP Deepender Singh Hooda said he had a special reason to be happy as his dream project was finally taking shape.

Business Line ND 03/10/2010 P-2



Joint research: Mr Sanjiv Goenka (right), Vice-Chairman, RPG Group, and Dr Richard Cuthbertson, Research Director, Oxford University of Retail Management, exchanging files at the press conference in Kolkata to announce the tie-up between Oxford University and International Management Institute - Kolkata, RPG's management school, on Friday. — A. Roy Chowdhury

For RPG group, education may emerge a business venture

Our Bureau

Kolkata, Oct. 2

Education may well emerge a separate business venture for the RPG Group. Currently, RPG Group has diversified business interests in the areas of power, tyre, infrastructure, IT, retail, entertainment and carbon black, among others.

"We have no plans (of looking at education as a business) at present, but education may well emerge as a separate business venture for the Group," said Mr Sanjiv Goenka, Vice-Chairman, RPG Enterprises, on being asked by reporters about the company's plans in the education sector moving forward.

The Rs 16,000-crore Group

announced the launch of its management school in Kolkata here. The International Management Institute - Kolkata (IMI-K) would start offering full-time two year research post-graduate diploma beginning July 2011 after receiving AICTE approval, Mr Goenka said while talking at a press meet to announce the launch of its management school in the city.

The company already has a management school in Delhi called IMI Delhi. "We are also likely to have another institute coming up very soon, may be by July 2011," he said. Mr Goenka, however, refused to divulge further details regarding the upcoming institute.

RPG Group, Mr Goenka said, was working on developing its expertise in the education sector. "We are working on some plans, it might take about few months for the plan to shape up. We will have to see how this pans out," he said.

IMI-K, set up on a three-acre campus, is almost ready with a hostel capacity of 250 rooms. The company has invested close to Rs 100 crore on developing advanced infrastructure, he pointed out. Apart from main management courses, the institute would offer specialisation in areas such as finance, HR, retail management. "There are also plans to have specialisation in health-care management, infrastruc-

tural project management, green technology management, power etc," he said.

The institute would have an intake capacity of about 120 students in the first batch. The admission would be based on CAT/XAT and GMAT scores.

The institute has also entered into an agreement with Oxford Institute of Retail Management, University of Oxford for joint retail research. The research programme would aim to influence public policy decision makers on retail development issues and retail practitioners through data-driven retail and consumer-related research outputs among others, he observed.

Asian Age ND 03-Oct-10

p-3

Education Tribunals Bill

Sibal: Fresh round of consultation soon

AGE CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Oct. 2: Stung by continued opposition to the Education Tribunals Bill, Union human resource development minister Kapil Sibal intends to launch another phase of consultation process on the contentious issues concerned with the bill soon. The process will aim to placate the section of Congress and UPA allies who have also opposed the bill openly along with the opposition parties.

"A fresh round of consultations is likely soon as the HRD ministry is under tremendous pressure to further its reform agenda," sources stated.

It is understood that Mr Sibal also had to explain the proposed consultation process to the Prime Minis-

ter before his trip to the US in September after he was forced to defer the Education Tribunal Bill, 2010, which came under attack from Opposition members as also senior Congress leader K. Keshava Rao in the Rajya Sabha.

The Lok Sabha had cleared his bill, which proposes setting up of tribunals to settle disputes in educational institutions.

The HRD minister now has no option but make efforts to create a consensus on the issue. "The consultation process with stakeholders is likely over the next few weeks," sources stated.

The human resource development minister has also been severely criticised for not accommodating the reservations raised by Parliamentary standing committee on the Bill.

Pioneer ND 02.10.10 p-2

'DU panel report shields Cobalt-60 case accused'

Teachers want 'retired' Pental to vacate V-C office

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The emergency meeting of Executive Council (EC), called by the Vice-Chancellor (V-C) of the Delhi University (DU) on Friday, witnessed huge uproar with the elected teachers' representatives opposing V-C stay at his office, even after expiry of his tenure. The meeting was called to discuss the report on leakage of radioactive substance Cobalt-60, which had left one person dead and seven critically ill in the Capital.

According to sources, Vice-Chancellor Professor Deepak Pental tabled the report of three-member committee, constituted by him to investigate into this matter, but the meeting was adjourned and it will now be convened on Monday. Sources added that in the 124-page report, the V-C has tried to shield all the accused, who were involved in auctioning the gamma irradiator cell contain-

ing Cobalt-60.

"The report has been framed in such a manner that no body is held responsible for the incident. In the report, the whole Chemistry Department of DU, since 1993, has been held responsible. Apart from that, the auctioning committee, which gave its approval for selling gamma irradiator cell, has been also held partly responsible. This is ridiculous that no one has been named in this report and this shows that the V-C is trying to shield all the accused involved in this matter," said the sources.

In the meeting, teachers' representatives also pointed out that the V-C has been illegally holding his post without any direction from the Visitor of DU — President of India. The members also questioned why the report of the committee was tabled after such a long period. Sources further said that in the meeting, the V-C also said that he was of the view

that the report should have been tabled in the EC by the new V-C of DU.

Commenting on this, the V-C said that he adjourned the meeting as some of the teachers' representatives sought time to go through the report before discussing it.

"The report on exposure of Cobalt-60 was tabled and some EC members asked for time to read the report. The report is voluminous and two days have been given to the members to go through it. We will again conduct meeting on Monday to discuss this report," said Prof Pental.

On the issue of his stay as the V-C of DU without any prior direction by the Visitor, Pental said that he has also informed the Ministry of Human Resources and Development (MHRD) and they have said that as per statutes of the DU Act, he could continue till the new V-C is appointed.

Business Standard P-6
ND02/10/2010

IIMs, Prometric release CAT practice test

BS REPORTER
 New Delhi, 1 October

The Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) and Prometric, the US-based agency that is conducting the ensuing Common Admission Test (CAT), have released a practice test on the web ahead of the actual examination.

The practice test, available on www.catiim.in, is intended to familiarise candidates with the navigation and functionality of CAT and includes a tutorial, followed by 12 sample questions.

CAT 2010 will be conducted over a 20-day testing window between October 27 and November 24. The results will be available from January 12, 2011, onwards.

Candidates will have 15 minutes to try selecting, de-selecting, marking and reviewing responses as they navigate through the questions. These sample

questions are not representative of the content or difficulty level of the actual test.

The tutorial will explain how to navigate the different options — question number, on-screen timer, next button, previous button, mark button, review button and quit test button - available on the screen.

Last year, when CAT was conducted through a computer-based process for the first time, candidates complained of difficulty in navigation during the test. Every question will have four options - A, B, C and D. Candidates will have to read the question on the screen and click on the circle next to their selected answer. They can change their answer by clicking on any other circle.

Three points will be awarded for each correct answer and one point will be deducted for each wrong answer. Candidates may choose not to answer a question if they are not sure.

Hackers help tweak phones

Javed Anwer | TNN

Kalpik Nigam is an application designer by day. But that's not how most of his virtual friends know him. On www.XDA-Developers.com, which has one of the world's biggest communities of smartphone hackers, Nigam is known as the little 'battery app' developer. His app replaces default battery application inside the Galaxy S family of smartphones, showing the status of the battery in percentage terms. It was a small but important detail that Samsung engineers failed to incorporate in the device.

Nigam is just one of thousands of passionate hackers emboldened by Android's open nature to address the flaws that smartphone manufacturers haven't. As Android's popularity grows, XDA has become the first stop for anyone who wants to understand their smartphones better, even though Google and manufacturers such as Samsung and Motorola frown upon their work. Nigam says that "at XDA we don't like the way manufactures fail to add features or add unnecessary apps. We work to make sure we get the most out of our devices".

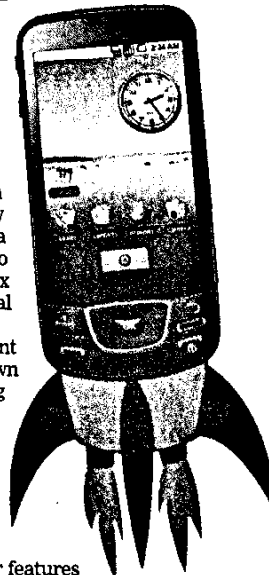
He stumbled upon XDA while looking to fix some serious flaws in Galaxy S. Nigam says, "Despite superb hardware, this phone often suffered slowdowns." He says XDA helped him determine the cause of the problem, namely "an old file system used by the company. In the last few months, hackers worked hard on the problem and released several tools, whereby the file system can be changed. Users can now simply run the Voodoo fix (a tool) provided by SuperCurio (the man who built it) to fix this problem. It's all unofficial but it works well".

Unofficial yes, unimportant no. XDA's reach has only grown in recent months. Focusing on popular handsets, it has documented how features can be added or removed. Some members such as Cyanogen aka Steve Kondik have even brought out full-fledged customized Android versions that offer features vastly superior to the operating software of phone manufacturers.

Suneel Tripathi is a software programmer who recently rooted his Legend phone, which means he modified it in a way that he gained "superuser" privileges to the Android operating system. He did this to avail of features not made available by HTC. "In most cases, when users want to add a new feature, they need to Root their phone. The sky is the limit, then. Think of a feature you want in your phone and I'm sure someone in the community will offer it to you," he says.

In the 80s and 90s, hackers and passionate programmers helped people access various affordable features and programs. This democratized the world of computer technology. The same passion is like a drug in the virtual veins of the XDA.

And while smartphone companies may not like the way their handsets are tweaked, Android users love it.



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e-paper

Do smart schools turn out smarter children?

As teaching becomes more high-tech, it's having a definite impact

Arpita Misra and
Sherry M Jacob-Phillips | TNN

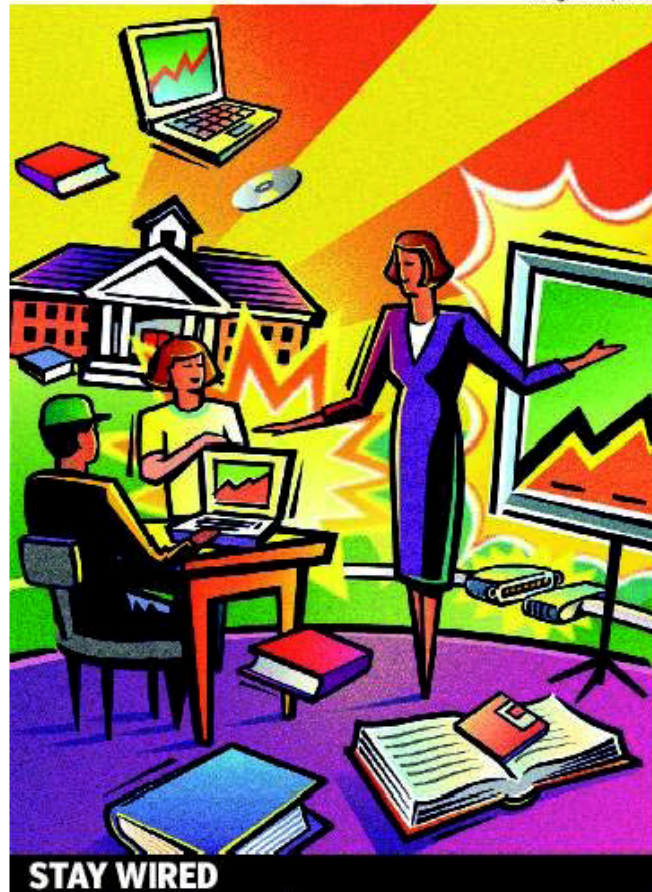
Schools are changing, becoming smarter. The days of lugging huge school bags, religiously making notes and mugging from textbooks have given way to smart classrooms with white boards on which content can be saved, stored and viewed online. Till recently, schools were dabbling with basic technology: a few PCs here, a Microsoft PPT there. No longer. Class notes are now emailed to students, there are graphic calculators and Microsoft Excel spreadsheets. Homework assignments are posted online. All of this is designed to make teaching more interactive with videoconferencing and live broadcasting. As for chalks and dusters, forget it.

But what does so much technology do to a child's learning life? Are traditional forms of learning dying a slow death? Sarojini Rao, principal of Indus International School in Bangalore, says: "Today, a teacher's job is to focus on concepts rather than content. He should be able to teach more than what Google has to offer. However, while we embrace technology, we have to be extra cautious as kids are highly vulnerable to cyber crime." At Rao's school, every Class VI student and upwards has a laptop but it can be used only under strict vigilance. Workshops on cyber crime are organized to create awareness about the medium and its misuse.

Gen-Y seems to be comfortable with the technology but parents and teachers are still in 'adjustment mode'. Children are mentally active, not so physically, says Lakshmi Acharya, a trained counsellor and mother of a 14-year-old.

DPS Bangalore maths teacher Mitra Bandyopadhyay says that children aren't as attentive as they were before smart devices were incorporated in teaching. Some no longer took notes. "Having internet 24x7 leads to distraction. Children miss out on writing skills," she adds. "Let's face it, traditional tools of teaching can never become obsolete."

But, Mansoor Ali Khan, trustee of the DPS board, says technology



STAY WIRED

PRIVATE SCHOOLS

Smart classrooms at
DPS Bangalore

2004: **24**
2010: **240**

Smart boards at Indus
International, Bangalore

2008: **16**
2010: **30**

Laptops introduced at
Indus International

Class IX-XII: **2004**
Class VI-VII: **2010**
Class I-V: by **2011**

KENDRIYA VIDYALAYAS

● No. of Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs)
as of Sept 1, 2010: **1073**

● No. of KVs with PCs,
2008-09: **964**

● No. of computers in KVs: **39611**

● Number of students: **1018581**

● Student-computer ratio: **26:1**

● No. of KVs with internet
connectivity: **954**

● No. of KVs with broadband
connectivity: **824**

● No. of KVs with own websites:
974

(Annual report of Ministry of
human Resource Development)

is here to stay and we will just have to adopt it. "In the 90s, we grown-ups had to gradually convert to the digital age. Today, kids seem born into it." He admits that handwriting and vocabulary have suffered. This is why DPS offers special handwriting classes before exams. Handwriting expert Rafiullah Baig says he gets at least 15 queries a week from parents complaining

Teachers complain that children aren't as attentive as they were before smart devices were incorporated in teaching. Some no longer took notes

their child's handwriting is deteriorating. It's a symptom called Writer's Cramp.

The moot question then is, "How much technology is too much in schools?" Manveen Chadha, who teaches at Sishya in Chennai, says it would be sufficient to equip teachers with laptops. "While smart classes are a boon, it doesn't make sense to make seven-year-olds carry a laptop to school. If students can read up everything online, they may become smug and even stop going to school," says Shaurya Saluja, a Class XII student at Indus International School.

Another drawback of the net age, says Nikhita Roshan, who studies at Sacred Heart Girls' High School in Bangalore, is that students are at a loss if one doesn't understand content on the net or have a guide at hand. "Technology can never replace a teacher," she says.

The danger, warns consultant psychiatrist Dr Shyamala Vatsa, is not so much from the use of technology in a supervised classroom as what a child will do at home when he's alone, lost in a virtual world. "His health, ability to engage with others, natural curiosity about his surroundings and imagination are bound to suffer," she says.

If pen and paper once defined school days, it's the stylus and touch screen that do so today. Perhaps the two can co-exist.