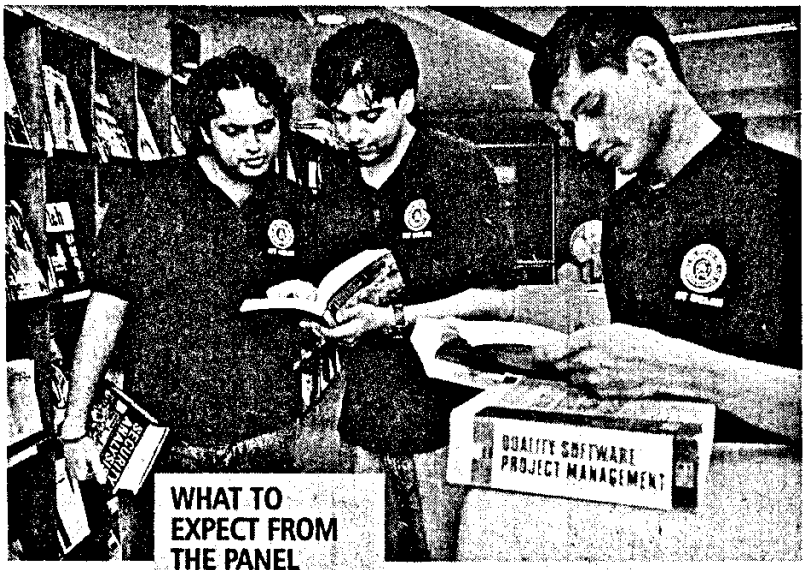
Newspaper Clips
October 25, 2010

Business Standard ND 25/10/2010 P13

IIT REFORMS COMMITTEE TO SUBMIT REPORT BY YEAR-END

To prepare a road map to fund quality research, attract international faculty

KALPANA PATHAK
Mumbai



The Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) reforms committee will submit its report to the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) by December — eight months behind the April, 2010 deadline.

The five-member panel, which was constituted in October 2009 and is headed by Atomic Energy Commission's former chairman Anil Kakodkar, is expected to outline the broad areas of reforms required to make the elite institutions global brands.

"We are going through the consultative process not only among ourselves but also with other stakeholders. That is taking time. We are targeting this year-end to submit the report to MHRD," Kakodar told *Business Standard* on the sidelines of the National Summit on Quality in Education by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in Mumbai.

The committee will also come up with the vision document 2020 for the IITs. The document would suggest measures on how the IITs can collaborate with the private sector in IT, Biotech and other emerging areas.

At present, the IITs are focusing on under-graduate education. The committee would suggest how more and more students could be encouraged to take up research at the IITs and prepare a road map to attract quality faculty.

"On one side there is the question of access and on the other side of finding resources. Higher education at the level of IITs does cost more but we will have to find resources to increase the number of engineers and technologists in large numbers. While setting up of more IITs could be a solution, we need to find out what more can be done with the existing IITs," he said.

WHAT TO EXPECT FROM THE PANEL

- Financial and administrative autonomy
- Gradual increase in the fee from the present ₹2 lakh to ₹18 lakh
- Ways to increase Phd enrolments
- To evolve into world class institutions

IIT directors said their expectations from the committee are high. "The IITs are treated like some government department where they have to get clearance for every little thing from the ministry. I am hoping that the committee will at least address the issue of administrative autonomy where we don't have to seek permission from the ministry of finance for clearance of petty things like travel and dearness allowances or hiring of non-faculty staff. We need some decision making freedom here," said an IIT Director on the condition of anonymity.

Another director said, "We are waiting to see what kind of autonomy and governance issues they would address. We want the committee to give us a future road map for IITs to be world class institutions."

A proper fee structure is another area that the IITs want the committee to look into. According to the authorities, the institutions are subsidising engineering education around ₹16 lakh. For the four-year BTech programme, the IITs charge ₹2 lakh. IIT-Kanpur had earlier suggested increasing the fee to ₹4 lakh per annum — that would translate into ₹18 lakh for the four-year programme.

However, IIT authorities are divided on hiking the fees because it would impact students from the financially weaker section of the society.

"The profile of students coming to IITs has changed over the years. Students from upper middle class at IITs are on a decline and students from less advantaged background are increasing. It is very difficult for students to get a loans. If the IITs hike the fee to cover costs, the students will have to shell out much more. How can we expect students from poor families to afford the hike?" Devang Khakhar, director, IIT Bombay, had told *Business Standard* in an earlier interview.

"To hike the fee, we have to put in a support system like the proposed National Education Finance Corporation (NEFC) so that students can benefit from it," he had said.

NEFC would ensure that a higher tuition fee does not disadvantage students who are from the financially weaker section.

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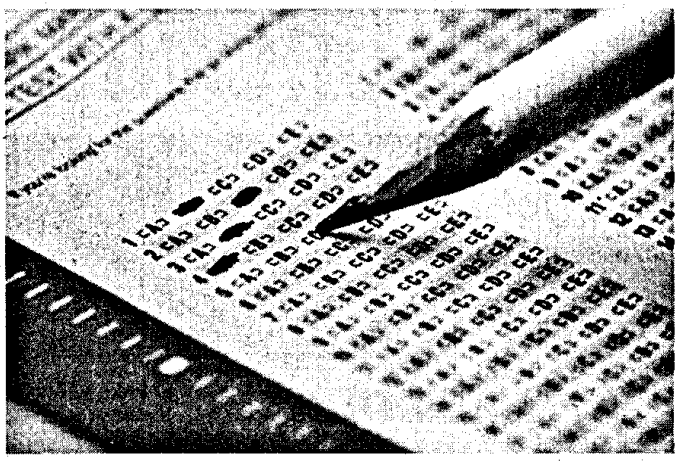
This week, Business Standard brings you the concluding part of the two-part series on cracking the Common Admission Test



Online CAT: The countdown begins

Dear Students,

Here are a few guidelines to be followed during CAT

On the day of the exam

The candidate should reach the exam centre at least two hours before the reporting time. In all likelihood, there will be quite a few students at the exam centre – do not get intimidated by them.

You may also see some students referring to books or discussing questions. Just ignore them. Before you enter the examination hall, use the rest room if need be. In general, once the test starts, you will not be allowed to leave the examination hall until the test is over — it takes close to four hours from the reporting time.

DO NOT WORRY IF THE TEST IS DIFFICULT,
other students appearing for CAT that day will be taking the same test

Do not approach the examination with any expectation about the pattern of the test, the composition of the sections or about the models of questions that are likely to appear. Any such speculation will only heighten your anxiety.

If the table/chair/monitor/keyboard are not proper, please ask for a replacement or a change in the position before the exam starts —once the exam starts, the invigilator may not entertain such requests.

Keep proper track of the passage of time —make sure that you keep looking at the timer on the screen regularly throughout the test. Go through the 15-minute tutorial carefully and make a note of the number of questions in each section, number of choices and the marking scheme and negative marking. Remember that the test duration is 135 minutes (2 hours and 15minutes).

Once the test starts, scan through the paper for the first two to three minutes using the REVIEW button. Depending on how the test is organised, distribute the time over various sections – and adhere to the time limits that you set for yourself. Remember, that there will be easy questions in all sections — your focus should be on attempting all the easy questions before you decide to attempt the difficult or the more time-consuming ones.

Do not worry if the test is difficult. Remember that all the other students appearing for the CAT that day will be taking the same test on that day.

Avoid blind-guessing and marking answers indiscriminately. However, if you are able to eliminate 2/3 choices (out of the 4-5) on a proper basis, then, it is not advisable to leave out such a question even if you do not know how to solve it — it may be worth selecting one of the other two choices as your answer. However, this should be done only after making a sincere attempt at solving the question properly.

As soon as you solve a question, make sure that you mark your answer on the screen (by clicking the appropriate oval/circle/box). Do not jot down the answers on the scratch pad with the intention of marking them on the screen later on. While answering the test, do not waste your time counting the number of questions that you have answered.

Points to remember, two days before the exam

- Work towards reducing the pressure on yourself
- No serious preparation – just browse through what you have already worked on
- Do a recce of the test venue to acquaint yourself with the route and get an idea about the time it takes to get there
- Carry all relevant documents including the CAT2010 Admit card, Photo ID and SC/ST certificate (if applicable)
- Do not expect any pattern or cut-offs for the paper
- Scan the paper using the REVIEW button and distribute the time over various sections
- Do not worry about the difficulty level of the paper – focus on locating easy questions and answering them
- Mark your answers on the screen for each question as soon as you solve it
- Keep track of time
- Do not lose heart if one section goes bad, it may be the same with everyone else
- No blind guessing of answers

(The author, Sai Kumar, is director of TIME Mumbai, a coaching centre for MBA aspirants)

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Foreign faculty: Distant dream for IIMs?

VINAY UMARJI &
KALPANA PATHAK
Ahmedabad/Mumbai

The Centre's decision to give greater autonomy to the Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) will not have an immediate impact on the premiere B-schools.

IIM deans and directors told *Business Standard* that before they can take advantage of the autonomy a lot of ground work needs to be done.

The Ministry of Human Resource and Development (MHRD), gave freedom to the IIMs to manage their funds and approve their budget, implying that the premier management institutes may now have flexibility to decide on salary packages to attract foreign faculty.

"Earlier, the IIMs did not enjoy the freedom of compensation. Hence granting of autonomy will definitely kick start the process of attracting as well as retaining quality faculty. But offering competitive packages will not be enough, especially in the case of foreign faculty. There are other areas like exposure, career growth opportunities and research opportunities that also need to be worked upon if IIMs wish to attract quality faculty. Service compensation is just one of the areas but it will take some time before we can work on all these areas that will actually retain quality faculty," said an IIM dean.

Echoing his views, Devi Singh, director of IIM Lucknow said, "Offering lucrative salaries is not the only way we can attract international faculty. The autonomy granted to IIMs has set things moving in that direction but the institutes have a lot of work at hand."

The other argument of IIMs is on the priority in utilising funds. According to the dean, IIMs will also be required to decide on how much of the corpus will be used to offer better pay packages.

"International salaries are exorbitant as compared to Indian standards. How much more will or can the IIMs offer? Just like an entrepreneur can decide on how much he can pay himself depending on his profit, IIMs will also have to prioritise on how much they would want to spend on research development and infrastructure before alloting funds for better compensation for faculty members."

THE EXISTING STAFF STRENGTH at the seven IIMs is around 400 full-time faculty members, while there is a need for another 60

The autonomy was granted based on consultations with the three task forces set up by Union Minister for Human Resource Development Kapil Sibal in April, this year.

While Ajit Balakrishnan, founder, chairman & CEO of Rediff.com, was roped in to suggest ways to solve the staff crunch issue, the task force on governance was headed by Maruti Suzuki, India Chairman R C Bhargava. The other group to prepare a road map for funding of IIMs was headed by Hari Bhartia, co-chairman and managing director of Jubilant Organosys and president of Confederation of Indian Industries (CII).

Balakrishnan, who is also the chairman of the board of governors at IIM Calcutta, said, "We are keen to have international faculty at the IIMs, either permanent or visiting. While IIMs do have faculty members who visit the campus for a few weeks to a few months, we need to have them on campus for a larger duration, may be on a contract basis. We, however, must do this sensitively."

The existing staff strength at the seven IIMs is around 400 full-time faculty members, while there is a need for another 60. With four new IIMs due to come up in 2010-2011, another 250 would be required. IIMs meet less than five per cent of India's need for management education. These institutions not only generate qualified faculty for their own needs but also for other management institutes.

"A major advantage out of the recent autonomy granted by the ministry is that IIMs can now offer lucrative packages not only to existing faculty members, but also use it to attract quality talent from within and outside the country. This is one of the beginnings to address to the faculty crunch plaguing the institutes since long," said a faculty member.

Times of India ND 25/10/2010

Google 'spied' on pvt emails, passwords

Web Giant Apologizes For Data Collected By Its Street View Service In UK

London: In what could be called a major security breach, internet search engine Google has admitted spying on computer passwords and entire emails from households across Britain.

The California-based company has, however, apologised for downloading personal data from wireless networks when its fleet vehicles drove down residential roads taking photos for its Street View project, the Sunday Telegraph reported.

"It's clear from those inspections that while most of the data is fragmentary, in some instances entire emails and URLs (web addresses) were captured, as well as passwords. We want to delete this data as soon as possible, and I would like to apologise again for the fact that we collected it in the first pla ce," Alan Eustace, Google's vice-president of engineering and research, was quoted as saying.

Millions of internet users have potentially been affected. The information commissioner's Office, the privacy watchdog, said it would be looking into Google's admission. Images for Street View were gathered by vehicle-mounted panoramic cameras starting in 2008.

PEEPING TOM: The data from wireless networks was downloaded as fleet vehicles for the Street View project drove down residential areas

In May this year, Google confessed the vehicles had also been gathering information about the location of wireless networks, the devices which connect computers to the tele-communications network via radio waves.

The disclosure comes just days after Canada's privacy watchdog said Google had collected complete e-mails and accused Google of violating the rights of thousands of Canadians. Regulators in France, Germany and Spain, among others, have also opened investigations into the matter. AGENCIES

Publication: The Times Of India Delhi;Date: Oct 25, 2010;Section: Education Times;Page: 48;

Study in Norway

BI Norwegian School of Management, located in Oslo, was established in 1943. The school received the EQUIS accreditation from the European Foundation for Management Development in 1999 and was reaccredited in 2010.

BI offers MSc programmes in business and economics, international marketing and management, financial economics, strategic marketing, leadership and organisational psychology, political economy and innovation and entrepreneurship.

In their second year of study, students get to study a semester or a whole year at one of BI's more than 165 international partners. In India, BI exchanges students with MDI Gurgaon, IMT Ghaziabad and IIM Calcutta. The tuition fee for the MSc programme is 8,000 euros per-year and living costs vary from 8000 to 10,000 euros per-year.

Students with GMAT scores of 650 and above and a good academic record can compete for scholarships, which include a tuition fee waiver for the first year.

GRE or CAT scores of IIMs are accepted in lieu of GMAT scores. In exceptional cases, GMAT can be waived as an application requirement.

Admission to BI's Bachelor's programme in shipping management is based on one's class X and XII marks in India and a letter of motivation. A year of university education, post class XII is mandatory for prospective candidates. The tuition fee is 7,500 euros per-year and living costs vary from 8,000 to 10,000 euros. Students can work part-time earning around 14 euros per-hour.

However, scholarships are available, which include a fee waiver for the first year and 50% fee waiver for the second and third year. BI also offers a three-year Bachelor's programme in business administration. The tuition fee is 7,500 euros per-year. Admission is based on one's class XII marks and a letter of motivation. TOEFL and SAT are not required.

A seminar will be conducted in Delhi on October 30 (7 pm to 9 pm) at the Governor's Room, first floor, Hotel Intercontinental Eros, near Satyam Cinema, Nehru Place.

Entry to the seminar is free, but prior registration is compulsory. For registration, email your CVs to *ashish.sachde@gmail.com* or call at 09821455229. For programme details, log on to *www.bi.edu*

Publication: The Times Of India Delhi;Date: Oct 25, 2010;Section: Education Times;Page: 48;

Importance of ranking

FRANCE-BASED EDHEC BUSINESS SCHOOL HAS RECENTLY FEATURED IN SEVERAL INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL RANKINGS OF B-SCHOOLS. STEPHANE GREGOIR, ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR RESEARCH, EDHEC BUSINESS SCHOOL, ELABORATES ON ITS RESEARCH STRATEGY. PROYASHI BARUA REPORTS

Stephane Gregoir

RESEARCH has always been an underpinning factor in terms of international rankings of higher education institutions. "When B-schools are ranked, the criterion of research is examined within the context of certain broad parameters," says Stephane Gregoir, associate dean for research, EDHEC Business School. Some of the major international rankings where EDHEC has been featured include *Times Higher Education* (THE), *Forbes, Financial Times* MBA/EMBA/MiM/*Executive Education, The Economist MBA,* among others.

Talking about EDHEC's research strategy, Gregoir says, "Our research objectives are always aligned to real-time business environments/challenges and we focus on a limited number of specific themes. Moreover, we are always striving to communicate our research results on a mass scale. Also, we play a significant emphasis in terms of enhancing the quality of undergraduate, graduate and executive education programmes through our research."

A defining characteristic of EDHEC's research initiatives is that they have gained academic credibility. "In other words our research has been cited in academic papers and journals," shares Gregoir, adding, "This is a key criterion that is assessed in both international and national rankings."

In recent years there has been some measure of speculation on the subject of rankings. "In other words the worth and limitations of rankings have been debated," says Gregoir. He further explains, "Rankings are not an end in itself. At one important level, rankings are meant to be an index in terms of reflecting the numerous facets (quality of the pedagogy, relevance of the programme contents conveyed by alumni's employability and job offers, level of research, quality of faculty, to cite a few examples) of the institution. The target beneficiaries of rankings are largely students, their parents, employers and regulatory authorities. These target beneficiaries have various points of view and various criteria of interest. Therefore, it has been observed that it is somewhat difficult to produce a ranking satisfying all the existing needs. Moreover, sometimes the potential users are not able to judge the weightage or relevance of the selected criteria owing to limited knowledge of the criteria. The fact that most of the providers of rankings do not give a clear and detailed account of their methodology further compounds the problem."

So how can one face these challenges? "There are no ready-made made solutions but certain measures can definitely make a positive change," says Gregoir.

"For instance, the ranking providers should be transparent in terms of their methodology and ensure objectivity on all parameters. Also if clusters of institutions are created, meaning if institutions are put together in homogeneous classes (while ranking) it becomes much easier for the target beneficiaries to use the rankings for making individual choices/decisions."

Times of India ND 25/10/2010 (EDUCATION TIMES) P-1

THE DEMAND FOR PETROLEUM IS INCREASING EXPONENTIALLY. AS OIL FIELDS THAT WERE COMPARATIVELY EASIER TO LOCATE HAVE ALREADY BEEN DISCOVERED, THE FIELD OF PETROLEUM ENGINEERING HAS BECOME MUCH MORE CHALLENGING AND THUS AN EXCITING CAREER FOR ONE TO PURSUE. JAYANTI GHOSE EXPLORES

UPSTREAM YIELDS

To say that modern living is largely dependant on petroleum products would be putting it a tad mildly. From cooking gas and fuel for automobiles to power generation and raw material for manufacturing durable synthetic fibre, petroleum is an essential commodity in our day-to-day life. Found as it is in geological formations below the Earth's surface, the recovery of this non-renewable resource is a field that requires technical expertise. As the world tries to ensure an increased supply of petroleum for future generations by way of regulated consumption, the need for efficient exploration is being felt acutely. Thus, petroleum engineering has emerged as a lucrative career option.

KNOW YOUR BASICS

Petroleum engineering is the practical application of basic sciences to solve problems associated with exploration, drilling and production of oil and gas. It is a discipline that involves a combination of practical engineering, computer modelling and simulation, management, finance, economics, safety and environmental protection. It also involves supervision of the development of major onshore and offshore oil and gas fields, as well as the design, planning and management of the safe and economical recovery of hydrocarbons.

Petroleum engineers seek out reservoirs containing oil or natural gas. Once these resources have been discovered, they work with geologists and other specialists to understand the geological formation and properties of the rock containing the reservoir, determine the drilling methods to be used, and monitor drilling and production operations. Some responsibilities that fall under this profession include determining the ideal recovery processes, estimating the number of wells that can be economically drilled, simulating future performance using sophisticated computer models and designing equipment and processes for maximum profitable recovery of oil and gas. The development of alternative energy sources also falls under the work purview of some petroleum engineers.

EDUCATION ELEMENTS

A four-year Bachelor's degree in petroleum engineering is usually the norm, however, students sometimes opt for specialisations and can take up to five years to complete the same.

For example, University of Petroleum and Energy Studies (UPES) offers a BTech in Applied Petroleum Engineering with specialisation in upstream which is the pathway for a career in petroleum engineering with an emphasis on exploration and production of oil and gas; BTech in Applied Petroleum Engineering with specialisation in gas develops technical professionals who can understand and apply best global practices in the fields of natural gas processing, gas transportation and gas utilisation techniques; and BTech in Chemical Engineering with specialisation in refining and petrochemicals aims to develop industry professionals with specialisation in petrochemicals, petroleum refining, etc.

Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Petroleum Technology (RGIPT) offers BTech in Petroleum Reservoir and Production Engineering and BTech in Petroleum Refining Engineering.

INSTITUTE WATCH

>> Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad (*www.ismdhanbad.ac.in*)

>> Pandit Deendayal Petroleum University (PDPU), Gandhinagar (*www.pdpu.ac.in*)

>> Institute of Petroleum Technology, Gandhinagar (IPTG) (*www.iptg.ac.in*)

>> MAEER's Maharashtra Institute of Technology, Pune (*www.mit.pune.com/mit/index.html*)

>> Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Petroleum Technology, Rae Bareli (*www.rgipt.ac.in*)

>> Sathyabhama University, Chennai (*www.sathyabamauniv.ac.in/admission.htm*)

>> Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh (*www.amu.ac.in*)

>> University of Petroleum and Energy Studies (*www.upes.ac.in*)

>> Anna University, Chennai (*www.annauniv.edu*)

(Indicative listing)

Indian School of Mines offers BTech Petroleum Engineering and also a five-year integrated course on BTech in Petroleum Engineering and MTech in Petroleum Management. The programme includes relevant subjects of petroleum engineering, energy management and policy, petroleum resource management, petroleum marketing and petroleum asset management.

Chemical engineering, as also postgraduate degrees in geology, geophysics, geochemistry and allied disciplines may lead to placement in the oil and gas sector. Further education may take the form of MTech or MBA in petroleum and energy management/ oil and gas management/ energy trading etc. Admissions to engineering degree programmes are based on an engineering entrance test of the national level such as the IIT JEE, AIEEE, etc or the concerned state engineering entrance test like MHT CET. AIEEE scores can be used for admission to the all-India seats in various state engineering colleges.

MANY FACES

Petroleum engineering isn't just one job. You can be a drilling engineer, managing the technical aspects of drilling both production and injection wells. You can work as a production engineer, developing processes and equipment to optimise oil and gas production. Production engineers manage the interface between the reservoir and the well and also select surface equipment that separates the produced fluids (oil, natural gas and water). Or you can be a specialist looking after groundwater hydrology, environmental engineering, or safety engineering within the petroleum industry. One may work with the government, in public as well as private sector organisations. Research, consulting and teaching are alternative job opportunities. A petroleum engineer may serve as a consultant to investors, banks, or other financial services firms.

Oil and gas are used in road vehicles, ships and aircraft, and to drive machinery. They provide heat and light and are transformed into secondary fuels like electricity. They are used as lubricants, asphalt for road building or roofing, and as feedstock for the manufacture of further products like fertilisers, synthetic fibers, rubbers and plastics. The world will need energy and it is the petroleum engineer who will have to find innovative technologies and resources to meet the increasing demands for it.

Tribune ND
25/10/2010
P-3

Changes in IIT admission

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 24

IIT Delhi has effected some changes in their admission policy. It has done away with its admission policy for filling up the vacant seats at the beginning of the new semester. Till last year, the IIT was publishing the opening and closing merit of all the courses towards the end of the admission season.

An IIT spokesperson said, "There have been some changes in the admission policy this year. For one thing, the opening and closing merit for all courses is no longer being published and was not displayed at the beginning of the session this year. This used to be the record procedure for filling up vacant seats that are still available towards the close of admission season."

A professor at IIT said, "The decision by the IIT to change the admission policy this year has led to the loss of transparency in the admission procedure. This is a backward step. This system had been in force earlier between 2000 and 2008 and led to problems. An RTI enquiry revealed that due to this policy, over a hundred seats were left vacant under the general category. This leads to non-transparency in the admission policy."

Besides, IIT Delhi this year has admitted students in the second round of admissions. In the second round, seats that had been vacant due to students opting out at the last moment were offered to the wait-listed candidates.

Times of India ND 25/10/2010 P-7

Asthma attacks on the rise

As Mercury Dips, Delhi Is Also In The Grip Of Viral Infections

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: With mercury decreasing, viral infections and respiratory problems are showing an increasing trend in the capital. After dengue and chikungunya, viral infections are now keeping city doctors on their toes. Respiratory medicine clinics have already seen a 30% increase in asthma cases.

"The nip in the air is making things difficult for asthma and bronchitis patients. The airway becomes narrow due to a drop in temperature. Haze and pollens also aggravate asthma and upper respiratory tract infection," Dr G C Vaishnava, head of the department of internal medicine, Fortis Healthcare.

Medically speaking, this year has been one of the worst year for Delhiites. Starting from water-borne diseases like cholera in the summer to dengue outbreak during monsoon, city hospitals are having a tough time accommodating the rush of patients. "Dengue cases have now started decreasing but cases of viral fever are increasing. Though the fever can be treated at home, children and elderly should take special precautions. If the fever persists for more than 36 hours, one should consult a doctor," said Dr Anil Bali, senior consultant, internal medicine, Moolchand Medcity.

So far, cases of H1N1 influenza is insignificant in the city but doctors warn against this infection as the virus multiplies faster in cooler environment. "If people develop respiratory distress along with fever, they should immediately go to hospital," said Dr Bali.

Doctors also caution that asthma patients need to take extra precautions as viral infection can aggravate their condition. The weather is conducive for the spread of viral infection. There is a sudden change in weather along with fluctuation in day and night temperature. "Mild allergy can aggravate breathing problem in asthma patients. Moreover, constant change in temperature and humidity also makes things worse for them. Those who travel a lot should be more careful. The constant shift from cooler environment in their cars to outside temperature can trigger sinus attack," said Dr Mukesh Mehra, head of the department of internal medicine, Max Healthcare.

Another common problem seen during this time of the year is viral conjunctivitis. "Children are more vulnerable to viral conjunctivitis, as they move in closed groups in school. Parents should avoid sending their children to school if their wards show any symptom of viral infection. Infections like H1N1 influenza, viral conjunctivitis, etc spread faster in closed environment," said Dr MP Sharma, head of the department of internal medicine at Rockland Hospital.

Apart from children, doctors say, elderly and immunocompromized people need to take precaution as they have a high risk of contracting secondary infections. "People with diabetes and other lifestyle diseases and the elderly people can contract secondary infection if the viral fever is not treated immediately. We have come across cases of viral pneumonia, which is a secondary infection, in elderly. Immunocompromized people should see the doctor in the initial stages as adequate steps can be taken to control the problem," said Dr Mehra.

SEASON OF WOES

With a slight dip in temperature, viral infections and respiratory disorders have started troubling Delhiites. Even as dengue cases are gradually decreasing, doctors fear H1N1 will stage a comeback

DISEASES

- Sinusitis
- Nasal infection
- Respiratory tract infections like bronchitis, asthma, pharyngitis (sore throat) and common cold
- Urinary track infection
- Viral conjunctivitis
- Pneumonia and typhoid
- H1N1 influenza

PRECAUTIONS

- Avoid gong to places where there is a sudden change in temperature
- Wear warm clothes
- Avoid early morning walk
- Avoid crowded places as chances of catching bacterial infection is high in such areas
- Avoid excessive use of heaters and blowers as it may lead to dehydration

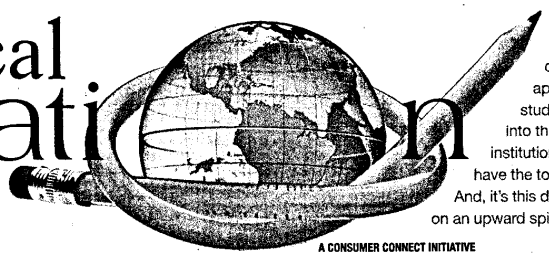
EAT RIGHT

Dry fruits | Egg or meat | Vegetables | Oranges | Soup, fluids

VISIT THE DOCTOR IF YOU HAVE

High fever for more than 24 hours, **difficulty in breathing, body ache and chest pain**

Glocal education



'Go Glocal' seems to be the reigning mantra in the field of education. Geographical boundaries are fast blurring when it comes to the pursuit of knowledge. Something that becomes very apparent when one realises that the number of students going to study out of India pretty much equals the number of students coming into the country to get quality education. Same holds true for the institutions. At a time when we have renowned names coming in to India, we have the top Indian institutes going and setting up campuses all over the world. And, it's this dynamic shift that is providing the impetus for the learning curve to go on an upward spiral in the field of education. And, obviously, no one's complaining!

A CONSUMER CONNECT INITIATIVE

'You have to experience it to believe it'

For students, glocal understanding is beyond compare

Rakesh Mallk

Glocal seems to be the latest dimension that has been added to pursuit of education. Students today are travelling to different parts of the world to study, explore and learn. Be it those moving out of India or those coming to India, the number is getting bigger by the day. And, mind you, the prevailing scenario has meant that it is the students who are emerging as the winners, be it in terms of getting exposure or enhanced understanding.

Ratika Verma, who did her Masters in Media and Communication Goldsmiths College, University of London, says, "Studying at London has been a life changing experience. It was here, that I got acquainted with people from many cultural backgrounds. Apart from studies, this gave me an opportunity to learn more about myself and my Indian roots. It has been an exploration of many facets of my life that truly first shaped in India and then abroad. I have come to strongly believe that, the more the roots grow deeper, the more tree flourishes."

The situation has been quite similar for Salar Kazemi, a student from Iran, who is pursuing his Master's Degree in Interior Design at Amity University, Noida. He says, "I wanted to study in a country where I could study peacefully. That's the reason I came to India. When I moved here, I found out that the India has a lot more to offer. Like, I am fond of learning new languages and being here provided me with an opportunity to learn Hindi! Here, I have learnt how easy is it to live with people from different cultures. This would have not been possible in any other part of the world," asserts Kazemi.

Talk to the experts and they say that this kind of exposure to different cultures is invaluable for youth. And, going by the enthusiasm of the students, it's not going to end soon!

The adage 'knowledge knows no boundaries' aptly describes the changing dynamics in the education system today. And, experts believe this, very desirable trend, is here to stay!

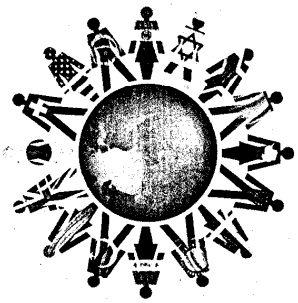
LEARNING @ WORLD STAGE

Anu Bhambhani

There was a time when anyone going abroad to study in a foreign university used to be treated with awe. It was a big thing, back then. Today, it is no news. Now, anyone can get a degree from a foreign university by enrolling into its campus located right here in India. There is also an increasing number of students abroad, both Indian and foreign, enrolling in a campus of an Indian university or institute. If you had to put a term to this phenomenon, you'd call it glocalisation of education and it's happening big time all across the world.

From just exchange of ideas and students, there is now a cross over of physical boundaries when it comes to global education. It's not just foreign universities and institutes setting up base here in India, their counterparts from India are increasingly spreading themselves abroad. Institutes like the International Management Institute (IMI) have developed their curriculum keeping in mind its global relevance. Along with this, it has a faculty that boasts of best of Indian and foreign degree holders with industry experience.

Educationists and experts in the field welcome this new trend. Says Dr Arun Mohan Sherry, chairman, joint admission committee, IMT, "This trend will help Indian institutions to come up to global education standards. Having realised the importance of globalisation of education system, some prestigious institutes of India like IMT-Ghaziabad, BITS-Pilani, XLRI-Jamshedpur and DPS have already set up their campuses abroad. Incidentally, the IMT campus of Dubai is the first Indian business school that is duly approved and accredited by the government of UAE. Recently, even most prestigious Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) have also been allowed to open campuses abroad. I am sure this would definitely prove to be extremely useful for a large number of bright students who intend to improve their knowledge base not only locally, but globally and that too at much lower cost."



Changing times: The world is getting closer. From just exchange of ideas and students, there is now a cross over of physical boundaries too when it comes to global education

The need: Partnerships between MNCs are making sure that each enters the domestic market of the partner country which means customising business to suit local markets

One can say that globalisation is a norm in today's world and one can't really do without it. Partnerships between companies and big multinationals are making sure that each makes a foray into the domestic market of the partner country which means they have to customise their business strategies to suit the local markets. For this, they need individuals who can help them do that, explains Professor RK verma, executive director, Apeejay Institute of Technology, who is from IIM (Ahmadabad) and IIT (Delhi). He feels, "The need is to develop global students who would perceive products, prices, quality, technology, innovations and cultural sensitivities of differentiated markets. If we have to sustain the onslaught of globalisation, "a phenomenon that has come to exist", we have no choice but to globalise delivery of education and best practices. While a handful of Indian institutions have set up their operations overseas in a bid to attract Indian and foreign students to their offshore campuses, I feel the sustainable model is to have both Indian and foreign institutions of repute to establish their operations in India to deliver education with the same curricula and pedagogy, that they adopt in their campuses in the host countries. This will also upgrade the quality of the home grown institutions in the similar manner as McDonalds and Pizza Huts have improved the quality of Indian fast foods makers like Haldiram's and Bikaner's."

Agrees Dr Sherry, "The best policy for improving quality of education is to enable and encourage competition by allowing world class universities to open their campuses abroad. Competition between local and foreign universities will breed healthy competitive spirit and promote growth of sound educational systems which would bring out the best for the Indian youth. It will enforce Darwin's Theory of the 'survival of the fittest'."

Think global, act local or 'local with global relevance', call it what you will, but one thing is for sure—this trend is here to stay. With geographical boundaries blurring in this digitalised world, it makes sense to change with the changing times.

Times of India ND 25/10/2010 p-3

Rough road ahead for reforms

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

AT a time when a slew of reforms related to higher education are on the anvil, new controversies are also coming to the fore. At the recently-convened first meeting of Indian Council of Universities (ICU) in New Delhi the issue of higher education reforms by the ministry of human resources development (MHRD) was vehemently criticised and their constitutional validity was questioned.

The meeting was attended by various chancellors/vice-chancellors. They discussed the newly-framed higher education laws by the ministry including the constitutional validity of higher education laws introduced in Parliament. These include 'The Educational Tribunals Bill, 2010,' 'The Prohibition of Unfair Practices in Technical Educational Institutions, Medical Educational Institution and Universities Bill, 2010,' 'The National Accreditation Regulatory Authority for Higher Educational Institutions Bill, 2010,' 'The Foreign Educational Institutions (Regulation of Entry and Operations) Bill, 2010,' and several other such regulations. DS Chauhan, secretary general of Indian Council of Universities (ICU), argued that the Constitution of India categorically prohibits Parliament to regulate higher education while empowering states to do so. "The scheme of distribution of power to union and state government through the Union List, State List and Concurrent List under the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India categorically prohibits Parliament to regulate higher education while empowering states to do so. Parliament can maximum co-ordinate and determine the standards of higher education but cannot regulate it," he said.

It was argued during the discussion that the new higher education bills are not in-sync with the express provisions of the Constitution and the concept of separation of powers. These higher education bills lack legislative competency and ultra-vires of the Indian Constitution and if made a law, would be void. Therefore, all the new higher education bills are urgently required to be referred to the Solicitor General or a committee headed by a Supreme Court judge or any other competent authority," said Chauhan.

Times of India ND 25/10/2010 P-16

'We want a single test for admission to medical colleges'

Medical education in the country is going in for an overhaul. And the newly-constituted Medical Council of India (MCI) will be instrumental in bringing about many changes. ***Ranjit Roy Chaudhury****, member, board of governors in the MCI and national professor of pharmacology in the National Academy of Medical Sciences, spells out some of the changes to* ***Shobha John****:*

■ MCI was under a cloud after its president Ketan Desai was arrested for corruption. Is it now more stringent in giving registration to new medical colleges?

MCI has introduced a transparent system for assessing medical colleges. Out of a large database of doctors, three specialists are selected randomly by a computer to assess each college. The date of their visit is kept a secret. Their reports are acted upon immediately. At the moment, only the physical facilities, number of faculty and availability of patients needed to teach medical students are assessed. We also want to assess the quality of teaching and the product coming out of the college.

We are also tackling the ridiculous practice of fake doctors and fake patients who, it's alleged, suddenly appear at the time of the assessment. I hope soon it would also become mandatory for every doctor to attend a certain number of accredited Continuing Medical Education (CME) modules before he can be reregistered. The Delhi Medical Council had made 150 hours of CME mandatory in five years. The MCI can now bring this back not only for Delhi but all over India.

Q&A

■ Will the MCI be taken over by a National Council for Human Resource in Health?

It may be replaced by several bodies – the National Commission for Human Resources in Health, with an Education Council, a National Committee for Accreditation and a Medical Council of India. This is the best thing that could happen.

■ The health ministry recently gave a green signal for a common entrance examination for admission to medical colleges. Why was this done?

Today, a student has to go for 17 examinations in different parts of the country to secure admissions to different medical colleges. Sometimes the dates clash. Is it possible for a poor but talented student to travel to all these centres? No. That's why we are proposing a single test on one day. Also, the standard of tests varies. A single test will bring in uniformity and grade students, for example, from 1 to 35,000, for the 32,000 seats available.

The state quota can be filled by domiciled successful candidates in order of merit. Private colleges charging capitation fees could continue to do so if they are recognised, but they too will have to choose from the list of 35,000 students who qualified. They cannot allocate a seat to anyone not in this list.

■ Scientists recently found a new superbug originating from India. Is this just a scare to hit India's medical tourism or something to be really worried about?

The conclusions drawn in medical journal Lancet from a small number of people are not justified. Also, to label it as Superbug New Delhi is not fair and asking tourists not to come to India because of this is unscientific.

However, we are heading towards a situation when none of our antibiotics will work and new ones are not discovered. We need antibiotic policies and a surveillance system for monitoring resistance. Pharmacies shouldn't be allowed to sell certain antibiotics without a prescription.

Times of India ND 25/10/2010 P-17

'Malaria mosquitoes are evolving'

2 African Strains Found To Have Mutated Into Genetically Distinct Species

London: In a startling discovery that has implications for combating malaria, scientists have found that two strains of Africa's most notorious malaria mosquito appear to be evolving into two genetically distinct species.

The evolution means the insects could become immune to strategies adopted to control malaria which kills thousands of people around the world, especially in Asian and African countries. Researchers at the Imperial College London who studied Anopheles gambiae mosquito, chiefly responsible for spreading malaria in sub-Saharan Africa, found that two strains of the mosquito were rapidly diverging in their genetic make-up, despite appearing physically identical.

The evolution means the insects could become immune to strategies adopted to control malaria, which kills thousands of people around the world, especially in Asian and African countries

Maria Lawniczak, a member in the research team, said, "From our new studies, we can see that mosquitoes are evolving more quickly than we thought and that unfortunately, strategies that might work against one strain of mosquito might not be effective against another."

"It's important to identify and monitor these hidden genetic changes in mosquitoes if we are to succeed in bringing malaria under control by targeting mosquitoes," Lawniczak was quoted as saying by the Daily Mail.

According to scientists, genetic differences between the two strains, known as M and S, were scattered throughout the insects' DNA. The changes had occurred in areas likely to affect development, feeding behaviour, and reproduction, they said. A further study comparing the two strains showed they seemed to be evolving differently.

This was thought to be in response to different environmental factors such as larval habitats, infectious agents and predators.

Co-author George Christophides, also from Imperial College, said, "Malaria is a deadly disease that affects millions of people across the world and amongst children in Africa, it causes one in every five deaths. We know the best way to reduce the number of people who contract malaria is to control the mosquitoes that carry the disease.

The scientists detailed their findings in the journal Science. PTI

Times of India ND 25/10/2010

P-17

Taste receptors in lungs hold key to asthma cure?

Washington: American scientists have found taste receptors in human lungs similar to those on the tongue, a discovery which they say could revolutionise the treatment of asthma and other obstructive lung diseases.

University of Maryland researchers who accidentally found the taste receptors in the lungs said they play a key role in regulating airway contraction and relaxation.

The airways are the pathways that move air in and out of the lungs, one of several critical steps in the process of delivering oxygen to cells throughout the body. In asthma, the smooth muscle airways contract or tighten, impeding the flow of air, causing wheezing and shortness of breath.

"The detection of functioning taste receptors on smooth muscle of the bronchus in the lungs was so unexpected that we were at first quite sceptical ourselves," said study's senior author Stephen Liggett, a professor of medicine and physiology at the University of Maryland School of Medicine.

NEW HOPE: The taste receptors in lungs help in regulating airway contraction and relaxation, American researchers say

Liggett, whose team found the taste receptors by accident during an unrelated study of human lung muscle receptors, said the taste receptors in the lungs are the same as those on the tongue. While the tongue's receptors are clustered in taste buds that send signals to the brain, the receptors in the lungs are not clustered in buds and do not send any signal to the brain, yet they respond to substances that have a bitter taste.

For their study, published online in Nature Medicine, Liggett and his team exposed bitter-tasting compounds to human and mouse airways, individual airway smooth muscle cells, and to mice with asthma. They found that the bitter compounds opened the airway more profoundly than any known drug used for treating asthma could have.

According to the researchers, there are thousands of compounds that activate the body's bitter taste receptors but are not toxic in appropriate doses. Many are synthetic agents, developed for different purposes, and others come from natural origins, such as certain vegetables, flowers, berries and trees. Liggett said their observation have implications for new therapies. PTI

Times of India ND 25/10/2010

Star Wars-type planet with double sunset found

Washington: Scientists have discovered a huge alien planet in a system with two Suns similar to the fictional world of Tatooine in the Hollywood science fiction 'Star Wars: A New Hope'.

The new giant gas planet, found by international team of astronomers, orbits the primary star identified as HR 7162, part of a binary star system 49 light-years away, in the constellation Lyra. The researchers found the planet using a method called astrometry, which precisely tracks the position of stars over time, LiveScience reported.

"The techniques we're developing could help us better locate Earth-like planets in our local neighbourhood in the galaxy," said study leader Matthew Muterspaugh of Tennessee State University.

The new gas giant isn't the only known planet with more than one sun which means double sunsets like those on Tatooine in 'Star Wars' movie may not be so rare

The new gas giant isn't the only known planet with more than one sun. Researchers have discovered dozens of them, meaning double sunsets like those seen on Tatooine in the 'Star Wars' movie may not be so rare.

To find the planet Muterspaugh and his team studied the periodic variations in the star HR 7162's location, which indicated something big was tugging on it with its gravity. PTI

Financial Express ND
25-Oct-10 p-20

Fortune shortlists Tata for Business Person of Year

In the first week of elimination, Tata won 60% of votes and beat Twitter co-founder Evan Williams to reach the second round

Boston, Oct 24: Tata Group chairman Ratan Tata is among eight business leaders from across the world shortlisted by the prestigious *Fortune* magazine for its 'Business Person of the Year', an honour that will go to the leader who made the "biggest mark" in business in 2010.

Fortune magazine will name its 'Business Person of the Year' on November 18.

The other business honchos in the fray are billionaire Warren Buffett, Apple chief Steve Jobs, Ford Motor CEO Alan Mulally, Google CEO Eric Schmidt, DuPont CEO Ellen Kullman, McDonald's CEO James Skinner and Netflix CEO Reed Hastings.

On Tata, *Fortune* said his group's Tata Motors unit restarted orders for the "ultra cheap, high-demand Nano car" and "at the high end, has reinvigorated Jaguar."

For the title, the publication started with 32 business leaders who had been "seeded and matched-up by the editors of *Fortune*."

In the process of finalising the winner, *Fortune* will talk to analysts, consultants, executives and former executives, "those moving markets and those playing them."

Fortune has also asked its readers to submit votes online on "which leader you think made a bigger impact in 2010."

The 32 have been narrowed down to eight after two weeks of voting.

In the first week of elimination, Tata won 60% of votes and beat micro-blogging site Twitter co-founder Evan Williams to reach the second round, where he beat Jamie Dimon, CEO of global financial services firm JP Morgan Chase by a similar number of votes.

Tata is pitted against Buffett in the third round of voting and elimination.

On Buffett, *Fortune* said the Berkshire Hathaway CEO made 2010 the "year of giving it away, getting billionaires to pledge half of their wealth."

Commenting on Jobs, the US publication said "antennagate did not dent him and consumers can't get enough of his i-world." Apple is now second to Exxon in market cap.

Online movie rental company Netflix's Hastings "helped drive its largest foe—Blockbuster—into bankruptcy, out-innovating peers at every turn, moving beyond DVDs." *Fortune* said Schmidt's Google is "still the only search company that matters."

The year 2010 belonged to Google's mobile operating system Android, which now has 25% of market.

On DuPont's Kullman, *Fortune* said the CEO of the products and services company turned DuPont into a solar giant. The company will "hit goal of one billion dollars in photovoltaic sales a year early. Stock up over 30% this year." Mulally's Ford is "back in black" after losing nearly six billion dollars in one quarter last year.

McDonald's stock has been propelled to an all-time high thanks to sales of coffee, smoothies and a bold push in developing countries, *Fortune* said.

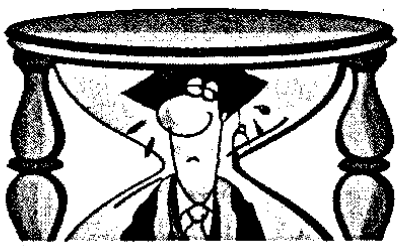
Among the 32 contenders for *Fortune*'s title of business person this year were Oracle CEO Larry Ellison, News Corp CEO Rupert Murdoch, Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg, Wal-Mart CEO Michael Duke, Kraft Foods CEO Irene Rosenfeld, Samsung Electronics President Gee Sung Choi, Starbucks CEO Howard Schultz and Goldman Sachs CEO Lloyd Blankfein. *PTI*

Economic Times ND 25/10/2010 p-12

One-year MBAs, the way to go

GUEST COLUMN

R T KRISHNAN & J RAMACHANDRAN



- **One-year MBA enables better utilisation of resources while meeting the growing demand for business education**
- **It is possible to provide a comprehensive core and a limited set of electives to students during this timeframe**
- **Introducing 11-month MBA programme will also solve the acute faculty shortages that India would face in the years ahead**

WITH the costs of higher education in the US rising at a rapid pace, their model has recently been subjected to severe criticism. In a stinging critique, recent articles in *The Economist* and the *The Washington Post* ask whether US higher education, currently the toast of the world, will suffer the same fate as the US automobile industry — i.e., become too bloated and expensive to survive. We know that the only way to attain developed country standards in health or education is to adopt resource-light strategies that don't emulate the resource-intensive models of the West. Yet, in higher education at least, India is imitating the developed world.

An egregious example of resource wastage is the two-year MBA programme. In schools like the IIMs, more than 90% of the MBA students are engineers, often from the country's top engineering colleges. They are trained to be quick, adaptable learners. How long ought it take to provide such a highly skilled crew with the management arsenal they need to succeed?

Surely, not two years. Already, business schools across the world provide the core of the MBA programme in about 45-50 classroom days in their executive education programmes. So, it seems reasonable to cut down the duration of the programme substantially. Unlike North American business schools, the majority of European business schools (including leading schools like INSEAD) have favoured the one-year model. There is no sign that the market finds their graduates any less competitive than the products of two-year programmes. The impact of the one-year programme is also being felt in North America with Canada's top b-school, the Ivey School at the University of Western Ontario, adopting the one-year model.

For Indian business schools, it may be wiser to follow the European model. Predominantly publicly-funded, like the IIMs, European business schools have had far and weaker resource bases as compared to most US ones. The one-year MBA enables better utilisation of scarce resources while meeting growing demand for business education. Second, it is no secret that most MBA students at the top institutions slack off after the completion of the first year. By that time, they have completed the core curriculum that gives them the vocabulary and basic knowledge and techniques they will need in their managerial career. More importantly, the range of their grades is established by that time. This is important as companies typically use grades for shortlisting candidates for job interviews.

The growing trend among companies to offer 'pre-placement offers' to students based on their summer internships has only exacerbated the observed slacking. Moreover, as Prof Datar and others have stressed in *Rethinking the MBA*, the second year of the programme "consists of a potpourri of electives, driven largely by the academic interests of individual faculty or departments, from which students choose as if they are facing a smorgasbord or a buffet table. This is hardly a prescription for effective design or an approach that maximises learning or educational impact".

What about the summer internships, often mentioned as one of the main justifications for the two-year duration? While internships give students who lack prior work experience exposure to business organisations, the purpose they really serve is providing cheap labour to companies and allowing a low-cost trial of potential employees. Why should MBA students be indirectly subsidising companies through the high fees they pay? And more fundamentally in our context, why should scarce public resources be used to subsidise the companies? Besides, today there are many alternatives to summer internships. Practice courses, 'real-time projects' and opportunities for consulting can be dovetailed with regular course work to provide organisational experience.

An 11-month MBA programme would be more resource-efficient for the students, the educational institutions as well as the country. It is possible to provide a comprehensive core and a limited set of electives to students during this timeframe. The advantages are obvious: less infrastructure investment; a smaller number of faculty needed by the business school; lower opportunity costs and quicker earning opportunities for students. This will solve the acute faculty shortages that we will otherwise face in the years ahead. We can immediately double the capacity of the MBA programmes at the IIMs that today admit just about 2,000 students every year.

Companies the world over have proved that high returns on investment can be generated by leveraging assets and turning over inventory rapidly. Why not do the same with our management education? Let's leverage our country's brightest better. Let society have access to their talent faster. Let us reinvent our management education and make the one-year MBA programme the standard model!

(The authors are professors at IIM Bangalore)

Hindustan Times
ND 25/10/2010
p-8

MCI AGAIN STOPS SHORT OF COMMON MEDICAL TEST

Charu Sudan Kasturi
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NEW DELHI: The Medical Council of India has decided yet again to invite views of state governments on a proposed common medical test, effectively killing hopes of students seeking a single test for post-graduate medical education this year.

The decision comes despite the health ministry and the MCI concluding that the common test would be opposed only by vested interests in select states, internal government documents available with *HT* reveal.

The SC on Sunday impleaded all state governments in a case where students — the petitioners — are seeking a common examination for entry to colleges across the country. The SC decision was based on a plea by the MCI seeking that state government be impleaded.

But the MCI and the health ministry had already consulted state governments, obtained their views, and had concluded that opposition from select states was linked to their private colleges, which mint money through their own examinations.

These five states (who opposed plan) account for a majority of private medical colleges.
SUJATHA RAO, health secy

A note dated August 10, 2010 from health secretary Sujatha Rao to health minister Ghulam Nabi Azad states that the ministry asked all states for their response to the proposal. She added five states – Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Kerala and Karnataka had not supported the proposal. "Of importance to note is, that these five states put together account for a majority of private medical colleges," Rao's note said.

The note also reveals that it was after taking into account the likely opposition that the health ministry had proposed the common test in August this year, raising questions about why the ministry backtracked later, putting the test on hold.

Hindustan Times ND 25/10/2010 p-5

AIIMS 'violating' SC norms on admission

UNFAIR Premier school accused of changing procedure to benefit its own students

Charu Sudan Kasturi
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NEW DELHI: The All India Institute of Medical Sciences has been accused of violating norms laid down by the Supreme Court for post-graduate admissions to benefit its own students, affecting aspirants from other medical schools.

India's premier medical school changed its selection procedure midway through its admission counselling to benefit its own MBBS graduates this year, reveal documents available with the Hindustan Times. Students have alleged that the institute illegally tried to keep aside twice the number of seats it is allowed, for preferential admission to its students. The institute has also drawn the ire of the health ministry.

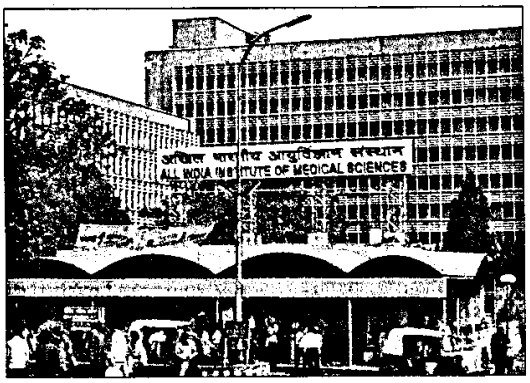
In an affidavit submitted to the Supreme Court, the directorate general of health services (DGHS), which comes under the health ministry, has accused the AIIMS of violating norms despite repeated warnings.

Although AIIMS officials did not deny the charges when contacted, they said any "unconscious error" would be corrected.

The institute admits 60 students every year to its MBBS programme. According to Supreme Court orders, it is allowed to keep aside half the number — 30 seats — for preferential admission to PG seats for AIIMS candidates in the merit list.

The number of candidates called for counselling based on their entrance test ranks was four times the number of seats available.

AIIMS offered 84 general category PG seats across disciplines this year. Under SC norms, it was allowed to fill up to 30 seats with AIIMS candidates, who would not have obtained seats based on their rank, from among those called for counselling.



According to SC orders, AIIMS is allowed to keep aside 30 seats for preferential admission for its own students in the merit list. HT FILE

However, once it was evident midway through the counselling that only one AIIMS candidate figuring among those called for counselling was eligible for a preferential seat, the institute called off the counselling, the documents reveal.

Within hours, the documents show, AIIMS unveiled a new policy — calling candidates with ranks up to eight times the total number of seats, and therefore doubling the chance of AIIMS students making it to preferential seats.

Students present at the counselling have also alleged that AIIMS kept more than 30 seats aside for preferential treatment to its students.

The DGHS, in its affidavit, has dubbed the admissions policy "illegal" on two counts.

The AIIMS conducts PG admissions twice a year and has refused to set aside 50% of its seats for the All India Post Graduate Medical Test in violation of government norms and SC rulings.

Indian Express ND 25/10/2010 p-8

Ethics body slams IITs for handling of plagiarism cases

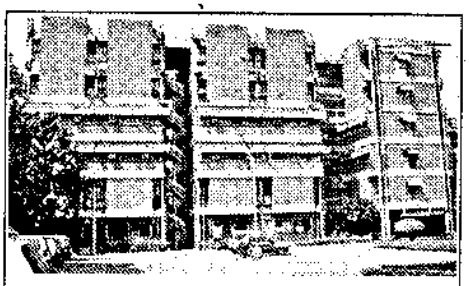
ANUBHUTI VISHNOI
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 24

WITH a number of IITs under the scanner for alleged plagiarism, the country's watchdog on ethics in science has come down heavily on the institutions for their laxity in checking the malaise. The New Delhi-based Society for Scientific Values (SSV) that met last week, expressed its dissatisfaction with the way the IITs are dealing with the issue.

The SSV, an independent body, has written to IIT Kanpur Director Prof S G Dhande on the issue of plagiarism and said that action taken by the institute is not adequate. Two international journals have withdrawn research papers by senior professors from IIT Delhi and IIT Kanpur alleging plagiarism from sources like Wikipedia.

Biotechnology Advances has retracted two review papers co-authored by IIT Kanpur's Prof Ashok Kumar and his students from the department of biological sciences alleging plagiarism.

President, SSV, Prof K L Chopra, a former director of IIT Kharagpur, has written to the present IIT Kanpur director that an independent probe must be launched into the plagiarism case. IIT Kanpur has set up an internal inquiry.



SOCIETY for Scientific Values, an independent body, has written to IIT Kanpur director on the issue of plagiarism

TWO international journals have withdrawn research papers by senior professors from IIT Delhi, IIT Kanpur alleging plagiarism from sources like Wikipedia.

"This is not the first time that plagiarism complaints have come from IIT Kanpur. Earlier also there have been cases and the IIT did not taken stringent action even then. We have asked that an inquiry panel with independent experts be engaged to investigate the matter. The Society has taken very serious view on the issue," Prof Chopra told *The Indian Express*.

That apart, the journal *Nuclear Instruments and Methods in Physics Research* has retracted a 2009 research paper co-authored by IIT Delhi's Anup Ghosh, Devesh Awasthi and Pawan Kulriya from the Inter University Accelerator Centre, Sharif Ahmad from the Jamia Milia Islamia University, and Shashi Chawla from the Amity School of Engineering. IIT Kharagpur had taken more stringent action by removing its Department Head for Physics R N P Choudhary after a faculty colleague accused Choudhary of not sharing research credit with him.

In 2007, Dr Padma Vankar of IIT Kanpur had been charged by the Pesticides Manufacturers and Formulators Association of India with manipulation of pesticide data.

Meanwhile, the Human Resource Development Ministry has sought a status report from IIT Kharagpur on allegations that one of its professors is running a fake institute.

Pioneer ND 25/10/2010 p-9

Over the Moon after finding water

GWYNNE DYER

NASA's confirmation that there is plenty of water available in frozen form in the lunar soil makes Moon a viable base for travelling to other planets. With Russian and US programmes running out of fuel, China and India own the future

The US National Aeronautics and Space Agency has just released the full data on last year's mission to find out whether there are useable amounts of water on the Moon, and the news is good. There is plenty of frozen water on the Moon, plus frozen gases like methane, oxygen and hydrogen that would be useful for making rocket fuel. This will be very helpful to the Chinese and the Indians when they start to build their bases on the Moon.

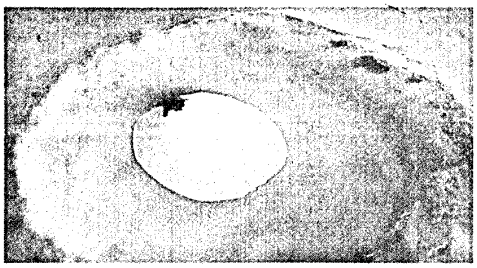
The US is not going back to the Moon. That plan died when President Barack Obama cancelled the first new American launch vehicles in 25 years, the Ares series of rockets, last February. That put an end to NASA's hopes of returning to the Moon by 2020 and building bases there for further manned exploration of the solar system.

Mr Obama promised to support the development of commercial manned spacecraft instead, but those will only be capable of low-orbit operations for the foreseeable future. Gen Charles Bolden, the current head of NASA, loyally chimed in with blue-sky talk of a glowing future for the agency.

"Imagine trips to Mars that take weeks instead of nearly a year; people fanning out across the inner solar system, exploring the Moon, asteroids and Mars nearly simultaneously in a steady stream of 'firsts,'" burbled the Gen. "That is what the President's plan for NASA will enable, once we develop the new capabilities to make it a reality." Yes, and if we had some ham we could have ham and eggs, if we had some eggs.

In reality, it looks like the US has already passed its Tordesillas moment (and so has Russia). As is so often the case, those who start out ahead in the race fail in the stretch, and others finish first.

The Treaty of Tordesillas, signed in 1494, two years after Christopher Columbus became the first European to land in the Americas, divided the newly discovered lands beyond Europe between Spain and Portugal along a meridian just west of the Cape Verde islands. It was immensely arrogant, of course, but there were no other countries in the business of maritime exploration at the time.



Within a hundred years, the English, the French and the Dutch had piled in too, and Spanish and Portuguese power was falling fast. In the end, England's success in appropriating very large amounts of valuable territory led to English becoming the dominant world language. This is neither a good nor a bad outcome, but it is certainly a significant one, and it has some relevance to the current situation.

Russia (or rather, the old Soviet Union) was the first into space, but the US rapidly overtook it, and for several decades they jointly dominated the exploration of near space. But the US threw its lead away in 1973, cancelling the lunar exploration programme when there were still three Apollo voyages scheduled, and putting nothing that would take Americans back into deep space in its place.

Mr Mike Griffin, NASA's former head, said of Mr Obama's decision early this year: "Only once previously has a US President recommended to the Congress that this nation take a backward step in space. On that occasion, President Nixon cancelled the Apollo programme, a decision which will come to be regarded as one of the most strategically bankrupt decisions in human history. If such a thing is possible, this decision is even worse."

The recent confirmation by NASA that there is plentiful water as well as hydrogen, methane and ammonia available in frozen form in the lunar soil means that lunar bases are a viable option — and lunar bases are essential to any realistic programme that aims to go to the other planets of this system.

You can move beyond traditional rocket fuels and come up with a fancy new system to provide the energy to drive your space ships, but you still have to have reaction mass. That will account for at least 90 per cent of the weight of any vessel that ventures beyond near-Earth space, and as long as you have to haul your reaction mass all the way up from Earth's immensely deep gravity well, space flight is going to remain cripplingly expensive.

If you could get it on the Moon, on the other hand, you would only be dealing with one-sixth of the Earth's gravity. What the recent mission showed that there is not just reaction mass there, but the raw materials with which to make conventional rocket fuels and enough water, the heaviest element in any life-support system, to make human bases there a practical possibility.

But they are not likely to be American bases, nor Russian ones either. Both programmes have run out of fuel, and are now restricted to near-Earth operations so far as manned trips are concerned.

So are Chinese and Indian operations, so far, but the ambition is there and the money will be. Both China and India have already put unmanned space vehicles into lunar orbit, and China has already carried out manned flights in Earth orbit. These are probably the countries that own the future in space.

(Gwynne Dyer is a London-based independent journalist.)

Pioneer ND 25/10/2010 p-9

Realigning the matrix of development

VINAYSHIL GAUTAM

To create a fair and sustainable social order we need to remove the roadblocks for developing nations. Since economic growth may not guarantee development, the answer lies in bringing about inclusive growth worldwide

We are living in an era where finance is merely the front end of a much larger realignment of powers that is taking place globally and indeed internally in India.

The jostling can be seen in the goings-on of the WTO, nuclear energy activities, the satellite and the space related competitiveness — to name a few.

India is well poised to play a key role in the world, if it is able to marshal its resources along with its capabilities in a focussed manner. We are already a member of the exclusive International Thermo Nuclear Experiment Reactor Club, if we can call it so. The use of fusion energy on commercial basis will happen largely in the future. It is likely to take a few years still, but being a part of the select group of seven is an important breakthrough. Being associated with the Galileo Project of the European Union is another important step towards a genuine recognition of our redoubtable competency. If we can couple it up with the demographic advantage, which is increasingly being talked about, we are likely to play a major role in the realignment of global powers.

Essentially this would mean focusing on all the segments of the generation about to touch 30. This requires a major re-examination of the paradigms of education that govern several IITs, IIMs, Indian Institutes of Science & Research, NIITs and Central Universities, not to forget the polytechnics. What is not very clear is the kind of backward linkage that is envisaged to create the knowledge ware or administrative manpower to run these institutions and the creation of the critical mass of faculty to teach. Budgetary allocation is an important prerequisite, but to deliver it in operational terms is another matter.

One would strongly recommend widening the role of the National Institute of Educational Planning and Research, which already has a deemed University status but needs to replicate itself in many ways. Similarly, a focussed view of the Technical

Teachers Training Institutes is called for. There is an equally urgent need to widen its ambit of operation to cover aspects of management education in its entirety.

The United Nations has to recognise, along with other world bodies such as the IMF and World Bank, that special caution has to be exercised by not creating a regulatory regime that artificially creates barriers in the development of the developing nations.

The landmines are many. Skilfully used, labour welfare, environment, multilateral trading systems can all be labels to create roadblocks for developing nations in the name of creating a healthy planet.

An obvious way of negating the negative impacts of misplaced emphasis on such dimensions is to prevent, if not totally negate, the possibilities of using trade barriers for punitive purposes. There are huge yawning gaps in the WTO system that needs to be plugged. Illustratively, an obsession with trading to the negation of production control is a dangerous situation. Similarly, sustainability of development cannot be a one way street. This is not going to come easy. It requires a sagacity and wisdom, which must have as its touchstone the future of the planet itself. This will happen only with the organised efforts on the part of the developing countries; they need to put their act together and create a network of intensive collaboration. Besides persuasion and collective efforts, a concerted action plan would be required.

Then there is the danger within. It is yet to be universally recognised that economic development, if it is to be sustainable, has to be development for all. Economic growth may not necessarily lead to development. However, the reverse is true. If there are social, technological and other developments for all, the people will definitely contribute to economic growth. A person who is sitting in front of the computer and browsing through, if he comes across a friend on the Internet, he is most unlikely to ask him about his caste, colour or creed. He is more likely to ask him which are the websites he visits, what are his areas of interest and what interesting things he has found when browsing. With development, some of the social evils, such as parochial mindsets, may vanish.

The time to create a fair and sustainable social order is now. That requires an ability to create an environment of equality of opportunity and communication with integrity amongst and within nations.

Hindu ND 25/10/2010 p-12

New lives out of deaths

Tamil Nadu shows the way in organ transplantation.

V.K. Subburaj, P.W.C. Davidar, J. Amalorpavanathan and C.E. Karunakaran

If your liver has failed and you need a functioning organ to be transplanted for you to survive, and you do not have a close relative who matches your blood group and can give you a part of her liver, then go to Chennai: this is the buzz among liver-failure patients across India. In Chennai a patient stands a much better chance than anywhere else in the country of getting a liver offer from a brain-dead person, donated altruistically.

It is not as if brain-deaths do not occur elsewhere, or relatives there are not willing to donate. When the brain of a person irreversibly dies before the heart does, the heart function can be maintained for some hours through artificial breathing support; this gives a time window to obtain family consent for organ donation, decide on whom the organ should go to and get that person ready for urgent surgery. Major organs such as heart, liver and kidney have to be transplanted within a few hours of removal. Worldwide, such deaths account for roughly five per cent of all Intensive Care Unit (ICU) deaths in hospitals. Such brain-deaths occur all over India every day. Meanwhile organ failure patients too die every day, with the former's organs not reaching the latter.

But some of them are not lost in Tamil Nadu, where the myriad and complex issues involved in converting a brain-death situation into an organ donation and transplantation situation have been addressed to a considerable extent, thanks to a combination of circumstances. The State has done 110 deceased donor liver transplantations in a period of less than two years. All other States put together have not done even half this number. Apart from liver, close to 240 kidneys and 25 hearts were transplanted from more than 120 donors. This is a donor rate of one per million population a year, which exceeds by 10 times the national average.

Tamil Nadu's Cadaver Transplant Programme completed two years by the end of September 2010. It was started as a State-wide programme in October 2008. The second year saw a near doubling of donors, to 82, compared to the first year. There was a peak of 14 donors during July 2010.

How did this come about? Is there a lesson from this that other States can learn from? Is this the most that can be achieved? These are questions that need answers in a country where medical skills for organ transplantation are fully available, but the potential for deceased donor organ donation remains untapped. In India, the demand for such organs, especially kidneys, far exceeds availability and consequently spurs illegal organ trade — the sale of a spare kidney from desperately poor live-donors.

It is primarily to prevent those from the economically weaker sections getting trapped into selling their kidneys as live 'donations' and to comply with the World Health Organisation guidelines, that India passed the Transplantation of Human Organs Act in 1994. The law was also meant to pave the way for deceased donor (or cadaveric) organ donation from brain-dead persons. Such deaths result largely from road accident head injuries or internal bleeding in the head. However, this law provided only an enabling provision for this purpose and needed to be supplemented with a comprehensive regulatory framework to make organ distribution possible in a fair manner. Countries that have a vibrant deceased-donor programme have a well-laid-out hospital coordination arrangement that makes possible the transfer of organs among hospitals — because a deceased organ donation may occur in one hospital and a patient in need of that organ may be in another.

Plagued as it was by repeated "kidney scandals", Tamil Nadu took a decisive step some three years ago to set up such a coordination arrangement and to remove glitches in the way of a successful deceased-donor programme. A crucial element of this was a wide consultation process involving transplant hospitals at a workshop and rounds of discussion with smaller groups of medical professionals and voluntary organisations. This active involvement of stakeholders made possible the release of a series of government orders over a period of six months. These culminated in the appointment of a convener for the State's Cadaver Transplant Programme and the setting up of an advisory committee to oversee and support him.

In establishing such a framework, Tamil Nadu had advanced-country models as reference points. But it had to evolve its own model to suit the infrastructure, the social system and the learning curve differences. When a brain-dead person's organs get donated out of humanitarian concern, the issue of who among those waiting to get transplants should be given the organs raises ethical and practical questions that have been debated in many countries. There is always a balance that needs to be established between different considerations such as how long a person has been waiting, how sick and in what dire need he/she is, and how long that organ will survive in that person if transplanted. There are also questions of how to motivate hospitals to sustain brain-dead donors, and logistics issues like the time involved in transporting the organ. Through a process of wide consultation, Tamil Nadu has been able to set up an acceptable framework that is still evolving as more experience is gained.

Organs donated altruistically by the family of the deceased really belong to society as a whole. These need to be distributed based on values that are generally acceptable to society at large if the framework established has to have long-term traction. One important result of this exercise is that despite the many complex and unforeseen issues that arise in the matter of actual coordination between hospitals, a basic trust now exists that the operation of the programme is authentic and fair and hospitals can participate freely without having to worry about the decisions taken. A contributing feature is the high level of transparency in the operation of the programme, with a website providing data to hospitals and members of the public (www.dmrhs.org).

Healthcare availability in India is skewed because of the substantial level of privatisation that has occurred over the years, and the skew is even more in the field of organ transplantation, as only a small segment of the population can afford the cost of transplant procedures in private hospitals. Tamil Nadu has taken some steps to restore the balance, with a framework that favours organ allocation to public hospitals. A third of all kidney transplantations done under the programme were by two government hospitals, out of a total of 26 hospitals that did them.

A total of 27 hospitals participated in cadaver transplantation during the last two years, 26 of them in kidney, six in liver, four in heart and one in lung transplantation. The percentage utilisation of organs is 95 per cent for kidneys, 85 per cent for liver and 19 per cent for heart. The underutilisation of kidney and liver is due to medical unsuitability of the organ, while heart is largely unutilised for want of recipients. This is in spite of the fact that the number of hospitals doing heart transplantation increased from one to four during the two years.

The second year's performance shows the donor numbers by hospital to be skewed. Out of a total of 48 approved transplant centres in the State, just three accounted for more than three-quarters of the donors and five accounted for almost 90 per cent. Of the 48 hospitals, 38 did not have a single donor. The sex ratio among the donors too has been skewed. Only 18 per cent were female, while 82 per cent were male. This probably reflects the fact that most brain-dead donors in the State were road traffic accident victims, and it is mostly men of working age that get involved in such accidents. Donor age distribution shows that most were in the active age group of 21-50.

Tamil Nadu is unique in another respect as well. This is the only State where government hospitals do liver and heart transplants free of cost, and immunosuppressant medication — a costly burden for transplant receivers — is provided free for life.

But, the State has to go a long way still. Experience shows that Tamil Nadu currently taps only 10 to 20 per cent of the realisable potential that exists for such organ donations. More than two-thirds of donors have come from just four hospitals, including a government hospital. A key limiting factor appears to be lack of awareness and motivation within the hospital itself — among the management and staff. Added to it is the lack of soft infrastructure in hospitals — adequate skills and training in certifying brain-death according to procedure, maintaining the cadaver without medical complications until the time of organ retrieval and following regulatory procedures. Some hospitals in the State need help to tackle the dilemmas relating to allocation of scarce resources — ICU beds and costly equipment such as ventilators. Public and charitable hospitals face the dilemma on what to prioritise — whether a critically ill person whose immediate life-saving demands these resources, or whether a brain-dead cadaver should be preserved so that two to three organ-failed persons can be saved from future mortality.

All over India brain-deaths occur on the one side and organ failure patients die on the other. It is in the hands of governments and civil society to make the connection. Tamil Nadu has begun making that connection.

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Performance of Tamil Nadu's cadaveric organ transplant programme

	Year 1	Year 2	
	Oct 2008 - Sept 2009	Oct 2009 - Sept 2010	Total
Donors	42	82	124
Heart	13	12	25
Lung	2	0	2
Liver	36	74	110
Kidney	84	152	236
Total major organs	135	238	373
Heart valve	32	110	142
Cornea	56	144	200
Skin	1	0	1
Total organs	224	492	716

Source: www.dmrhs.org

Business Standard, ND 25-Oct-10p-5

आईआईटी की रिपोर्ट साल के अंत तक

कल्पना पाठक

भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (आईआईटी) सुधार समिति अपनी रिपोर्ट 8 माह विलंब से दिसंबर 2010 तक मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय (एमएचआरडी) के समक्ष प्रस्तुत करेगी। समिति के लिए अप्रैल 2010 की समयसीमा निर्धारित की गई थी।

यह समिति अक्टूबर 2009 में परमाणु ऊर्जा आयोग के पूर्व चेयरमैन अनिल काकोदकर की अध्यक्षता में बनाई गई थी। इस समिति द्वारा देश के बेहतरीन संस्थानों को विश्व स्तर का बनाने के लिए विस्तृत खाका तैयार करने का अनुमान है।

भारतीय उद्योग परिसंघ (सीआईआई) द्वारा मुंबई में गुणवत्ता पूर्ण शिक्षा पर आयोजित शिखर सम्मेलन में काकोडकर ने बिज़नेस स्टैंडर्ड से बातचीत में कहा, 'हम न सिर्फ आपस में बल्कि व्यापक स्तर पर परामर्श के माध्यम से आगे बढ़ रहे हैं। इसीलिए इसमें काफी समय लग रहा है। हम वर्ष के अंत तक एमएचआरडी को रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत करने का लक्ष्य लेकर चल रहे हैं।'

समिति आईआईटी के लिए एक और दस्तावेज विजन 2020 भी पेश करेगी। इस दस्तावेज में यह सुझाव शामिल होंगे कि आईआईटी आईटी, बायोटेक और अन्य उभरते हुए क्षेत्रों में निजी क्षेत्र के साथ मिलकर किस तरह से काम करे।

वर्तमान में सभी आईआईटी स्नातक शिक्षा पर ध्यान केंद्रित कर रहे हैं। समिति यह भी सुझाव देगी कि किस तरह से अधिक से अधिक संख्या में छात्रों को आईआईटी में शोध करने के लिए प्रोत्साहित किया जा सके। एक अन्य निदेशक ने कहा, 'हम यह देखने के लिए इंतजार कर रहे हैं कि समिति स्वायत्तता और प्रशासन के मसले पर किस तरह के बदलाव की पक्षधर है। हम चाहते हैं कि समिति आईआईटी को विश्वस्तरीय संस्थानों का दर्जा दिलाने के लिए भविष्य का खाका पेश करे।'

Virat Vaibhav ND 25/10/2010 p-7

प्रोफेसर के संस्थान चलाने पर आईआईटी से रिपोर्ट मांगी

नई दिल्ली, (भाषा)। भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (आईआईटी) खड़गपुर के एक प्रोफेसर के कथित तौर पर गैर मान्यता प्राप्त संस्थान चलाने और छात्रों को ठगने के मामले केंद्र ने संस्थान से 'तथ्यात्मक रिपोर्ट' मांगी है।

आईआईटी खड़गपुर के एयरोनाटिकल इंजीनियरिंग विभाग के प्रमुख अमित कुमार घोष पर आरोप लगाया गया है कि वह खड़गपुर में कथित तौर पर इंस्टीट्यूट आफ इलेक्ट्रिकल इंजीनियरिंग : आईईई: चलाने के साथ और अखिल भारतीय तकनीकी शिक्षा परिषद :एआईसीटीई: से मान्यता प्राप्त किये बिना छात्रों के लिए डिप्लोमा कोर्स पेश कर रहे थे। मानव संसाधान विकास मंत्रालय के सूत्रों ने बताया, आईआईटी खड़गपुर के निदेशक दामोदर आचार्य ने इस विषय पर मानव संसाधान विकास मंत्री कपिल सिब्बल से मुलाकात की। समझा जाता है कि उन्होंने सिब्बल के समक्ष इस विषय पर ब्यौरा दिया। मंत्रालय इस बात से स्तब्ध है कि आईआईटी जैसे इतने प्रतिष्ठित संस्थान का वरिष्ठ प्रोफेसर इस तरह की धोखाधड़ी में शामिल है। सूत्रों ने कहा, आईआईटी खड़गपुर प्रशासन से इस मुद्दे पर तथ्यात्मक रिपोर्ट पेश करने को कहा गया है। इंस्टीट्यूट आफ इलेक्ट्रिकल इंजीनियरिंग :आईईई: का संचालन खड़गपुर में एक अस्थायी परिसर में किया जा रहा था और वहां से इलेक्ट्रिकल इंजीनियरिंग में डिप्लोमा जैसे कोर्स कराये जा रहे थे। अमित कुमार घोष पर कथित तौर पर इस संस्थान में अध्यक्ष की हैसियत में काम करने का आरोप लगाया गया है जबकि वह आईआईटी खड़गपुर में प्रोफेसर के पद पर कार्यरत थे। ऐसे आरोप लगाये गए है कि आईईई को आईआईटी खड़गपुर की शाखा बता कर पिछले एक दो वर्षो से छात्रों को दाखिला लिया जा रहा था। समस्या उस समय उत्पन्न हो गई जब छात्रों को पता लग गया कि इस संस्थान का आईआईटी खड़गपुर से कोई संबंध नहीं है।