

Newspaper Clips

October 26, 2013

President to award degrees at IIT-Patna today

Law Kumar Mishra, TNN | Oct 26, 2013, 04:48 AM IST

PATNA: President Pranab Mukherjee will on Saturday honour two students of IIT, Patna with gold medals, three with silver medals while 89 students will get BTech degrees at the second annual convocation to be held at Rabindra Bhawan here. The President, who will arrive here at 4.30pm on Saturday, will return to New Delhi at 6.05pm, according to chairman of the IITP, Ajai Chowdhry. Bihar governor D Y Patil and CM Nitish Kumar will be guests of honour on the occasion.

Chowdhry told mediapersons here that three PhD scholars would also be honoured by the President. He hoped the next academic session of the institute would be conducted at Bihta, 30km from here, on a campus spread over 500 acres. The new campus, having three schools - School of engineering and technology, School of basic sciences and School of humanities and social sciences - would have 10 departments and 747 students. According to Chowdhry, by 2022, the IIT Patna would have 5,360 students and 530 teachers.

The new campus would be eco friendly with paper less offices. About 200 workers are engaged in construction activities of the new campus which would be ready by January next year. IIT management would help develop the villages near the campus at Bihta and a campaign for clean environment in the villages would be launched by the teachers and students.

The IIT, which has trained the engineers of works department of Bihar government, would hold refresher courses for the engineers of other departments too under its outreach programme.

Anil K Bhowmick, director of the institute, said the IIT has established centres for energy and environment, and strategic materials and advanced system, to address issues in frontier areas of research. He claimed the placement of IITP graduates is 97 % and this year, even a third-year student has been selected for an annual package of Rs 18.5 lakh per annum.

Twenty BTech degree holders have agreed to set up their own companies. One of the students has developed a Braille mobile handset for blind people.

Publication: The Times Of India Kolkata;Date: Oct 26, 2013;Section: Times City;Page: 6;

Robot festival at IIT-Kgp

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kolkata: Come January and the best tech schools in the country will flock to IIT Kharagpur to participate in a robotic challenge. Designed by the institute's faculty to encourage creativity and applicative deductions, the competition will have prizes worth Rs 60 lakh up for grabs.

The robotics event is part of IIT Kharagpur's annual technology festival, Kshitij, in its eleventh edition now.

On Sunday, a core team of the Robotics Society of the institute will hold a free workshop for engineering colleges in the city to make them familiar with the rules of the competition. "There are four categories of the robotics competition and all of them are aimed at finding disaster management solutions with the use of robots to minimize hu-

man intervention," explained Arnab Samantaray, an IIT-Kgp student and a member of the Robotics Society.

These four events have been named Geo-Aware, Tremors, Canyon Rush and Inspiral On. In Geo-Aware, a warzone will be created through simulation and participants will have to design robots that can navigate hostile

CONTEST CALLING

terrain and identify hidden enemies and their arms. Robots have to negotiate through quake-hit areas and conduct rescue operations for the event named Tremors. Canyon Rush will artificially create a likeness of the Grand Canyon and trekkers trapped in different places whom the student-manned robots will have to rescue. In Inspiral On, competi-

tors will have to create robots that will be able to move through oil pipes and gas lines and detect leakages.

"At least 60 government and private engineering colleges from the state have already confirmed their participation and nearly 2,000 students from these colleges will attend the workshop on Sunday. They will also get a chance to try their hands at robot making," said Akarshan Gupta, another member of the Robotics Society.

"Students of IIT Kharagpur have been doing very well in international robotics events. Recently, they made their mark in a high-profile event in Malaysia. Robotics as a genre is the future of engineering and we are trying to inculcate this among students of the country, hence this competition," said P P Chakraborty, director of the institute.

IIM-K student bags prestigious Harvard business prize

PTI Posted online: Fri Oct 25 2013, 20:09 hrs

Kozhikode : A first year student of the Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode (IIM-K)'s PGP 2013 batch has bagged the prestigious Harvard Business Review/McKinsey M-Prize for management innovation.

Describing the achievement of Joel Modestus as "significant", Debashis Chatterjee, Director of IIM Kozhikode said: "We always encourage our students to explore beyond the defined academia and experiment the unconventional."

Congragulating Joel, he said: "Organisations are looking for innovation beyond academic studies to add value to their existing practices. Such ever-evolving innovative tools for management are the need of the hour to cope with the demands of a constantly transforming global environment," an IIM-K press release said.

The Harvard Business Review's (HBR) mission is to improve the practice of management and its impact on a changing world. To take this mission forward, HBR has collaborated with the Management Innovation eXchange (MIX), a web-based open innovation project aimed at reinventing management for the 21st century which strives to create organisations that are fit for the future - and genuinely fit for human beings. This initiative is supported by McKinsey & Company.

The competition held by one of the most reputed management institutes in the world, Harvard Business School along with McKinsey and in collaboration with Management Innovation Exchange, architects a challenge which is radical in the field of management.

Joel submitted a hack titled 'The 4 Hat Hack: How a micro-change in your employee portal can yield mega results in Leadership'. The results of the first round were declared on July 31 and Joel was among the 18 finalists from around the world. For the second round, he carried forth the momentum and further modified his entry.

The results were declared on September 28. Joel was one of the nine winners from around the world and among the only two from India. He also got a coveted invite to the MIX Mashup Event on Management Innovation which will be held in New York, next year.

IIT-M opens its doors to artists

Staff Reporter

This weekend, IIT-Madras will open its doors for people to come and paint its walls, make sculptures and learn about art from experts.

The art festival, Kalaikoodam, is being organised by members of the Fine Arts Club of the institute.

On Saturday, students and other interested persons can take part in a graffiti-making event at the students facilities centre. Registration for the event is free. The theme of the event will be 'Unleash - to free oneself from all the conformities'. Visual artist and photographer Vimal Chandran will lead the event and help participants create a collaborative display of graffiti.

"This is celebration of community art. The purpose of the event is to take art to everyone. It is the first time we are getting people to contribute to art and gain access to international artists at IIT-Madras," said Arya Prakash, convener of the club and one of the student-organisers of the event. The participants will also learn to make interesting items from junk.

Artist Bose Krishnamachari, recipient of national and international awards and honours, will conduct an art awareness talk and visual presentation on, 'Everything could be art, everyone could be an artist.'

Keywords: [Kalaikoodam](#), [IIT-M Fine Arts Club](#)

Printable version | Oct 26, 2013 11:51:20 AM | <http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/chennai/iitm-opens-its-doors-to-artists/article5273254.ece>

Engineers hold key to future development: VC

Special Correspondent



S.S. Murthy, Vice-Chancellor of the Central University of Karnataka, speaking at a conference in Gulbarga on Friday.

S.S. Murthy, Vice-Chancellor, Central University of Karnataka, has said that civil engineers hold the key for future development and meeting the challenge of providing basic amenities to the growing population and improving their quality of life.

Speaking at the inaugural function of a three-day international conference on 'Recent innovations in civil engineering' (IC-RICE 2013), organised by the PDA College of Engineering here on Friday, Prof. Murthy, who is himself a renowned electrical engineer and researcher, said that the society was heavily dependent on engineering community, particularly the civil engineers, to meet the basic needs like potable drinking water, good communication network and infrastructure.

The backward tag attached to the Hyderabad Karnataka region could be erased by the engineers by implementing innovative ideas and improving infrastructure facilities. There was an urgent need to get the airport in Gulbarga inaugurated. Establishment of an airport would lead to better academic activities in universities and centres of higher education, he said.

There was also a need to improve the railway network. While the average speed of trains in European countries was 250 km an hour and it was 350 km an hour in China, it was just about 50 km an hour in India, which should be increased to at least 100 km an hour, he said.

We could achieve self-sufficiency in electricity production by tapping solar, bio and other renewable and non-conventional sources of energy and provide 24x7 electricity to people. Engineering colleges should judiciously use the funds available from different agencies, including the World Bank, for improving the quality of technical education, Prof. Murthy said.

The faculty members in engineering colleges should find the reasons for the best of students refusing to choose conventional branches like civil engineering. One of the reasons could be the lack of remunerative placement options for civil engineers. Campus interviews should not be IT-specific. There should be placement avenues to students pursuing other branches of engineering, he said.

Printable version | Oct 26, 2013 11:50:51 AM | <http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-karnataka/engineers-hold-key-to-future-development-vc/article5274597.ece>

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HRD ministry approves Aakash 4 project, students to get tablets on 'loan'

Anubhuti Vishnoi Posted online: Saturday, Oct 26, 2013 at 0000 hrs

New Delhi : The Pallam Raju led Human Resource Development Ministry has, after much contemplation, decided to back the Aakash tablet project. The HRD Ministry will now move a Cabinet note seeking approval for procuring over 22 lakh Aakash 4 tablets, officials confirmed. Estimated to cost over Rs 330 crore, the 22 lakh 47 thousand tablets are proposed to be procured through the Directorate General of Supplies and Disposals (DGS&D) — a central government purchase and quality assurance organisation — that will conclude rate contracts for the low-cost tablet.

The ministry proposes that in the first phase, the \$35 Aakash 4 tablets will be given to engineering institutes which will be directly bought from vendors empanelled by the DGS&D. The cost of the tablet will be borne on 50:50 basis by the HRD ministry-backed National Mission for Education through Information Communication Technology (NMEICT) and the concerned educational institution.

Once acquired, the tablets will be the property of the educational institution that will 'issue' the tablets to its students much like a library book. The technical specifications for Aakash 4 have been worked out by a committee constituted by the Department of Electronics and Information Technology and the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology.

The new Cabinet note will replace the original proposal in 2010 which had sought approval for a R 700 crore project to provide 100 personal computers — largely for faculty — to higher education institutes.

Earlier this year, Raju had expressed doubts about going ahead with the project and the much awaited tenders for 5 million tablets, in view of delivery and testing controversies. The ministry had constituted two committees to review the project and was to take a final view on the basis of these reports. Only one of these committees — headed by Prof Goverdhan Mehta — had submitted its report on the issue and it had firmly backed the tablet.

Announced with great fan fare, the android tablet has been mired in controversy from the start. The project was first given to IIT Rajasthan, but differences between the IIT and Canadian manufacture Datawind made the HRD ministry hand over the project to IIT Bombay.

Publication: The Times Of India Delhi; Date: Oct 26, 2013; Section: Times Nation; Page: 22;

Paradigm shift in pvt education

Philanthropists Start Two World-Class Varsities In UP, Haryana

Akshaya Mukul | TNN

New Delhi: Business is not exactly booming for Sanjeev Bikhchandani, founder of an online jobs portal. Yet his eyes light up as he talks about his philanthropic venture — Ashoka University that he and 11 others have founded in Kundli, Haryana. Bikhchandani's excitement isn't misplaced. For a while now, there's been a buzz in academia over this project as well as the Shiv Nadar University, being built with the HCL founder's personal fortune on a 286-acre campus in Noida.

What connects the two ventures is the decision of the founders that these institutions — just like the Azim Premji University in Bangalore — will not make profits but build world-class varsities, brick by brick.

Some of the biggest names in academia, such as economist Subhashis Gangopadhyay, sociologist Dipankar Gupta, physicist Rupmanjari Ghosh and historian Rohan D'Souza have left prestigious assignments to become part of SNU. AU's academic council is similarly packed with heavyweights such as Andre Beville, Rudrangshu Mukherjee, Sunil Khilnani, Ramchandra Guha, Pratap Bhanu Mehta,



The two universities are attempting to blend teaching of pure science and liberal arts in equal measure. The fee in both universities would be high for those who can pay, but there will be plenty of scholarships too

Christophe Jaffrelot, Kaushik Basu, Devesh Kapur, A K Shiva Kumar and Kenwyn Smith.

In a country where private education is all about profits, AU and SNU could herald a paradigm shift. Bikhchandani says the idea was born out of frustrating episodes from his life, such as feeling unfulfilled with his three-year education at St Stephen's College and meeting a junior who said Delhi University's undergraduate economics syllabus hadn't changed since 1980.

Bikhchandani got in touch with like-minded people like Yale and Harvard alumni Ashis Dhawan of ChrysCapital, Ashish Gupta of Evalueshare and others. A meeting with Pramath Sinha, founding dean of ISB, Hyderabad, proved to be a turning point.

"Pramath brought in another group that wanted to start a techno-

logical university. The two groups merged," says Bikhchandani.

Three mantras were finalized for AU: every founder would make a personal contribution, there will be no profit and the university will belong to no one. "Our vision is a new kind of college education that will act as a catalyst," he says.

Uniquely, the two universities are attempting to blend teaching of pure science and liberal arts in equal measure. Says Vineet Gupta of Jamboree Education, one of AU founders, "Professional education prepares you for one skill or discipline, but a liberal education covers a broad range of subjects. It's an education for life and prepares you for the interdisciplinary demands of the job market."

AU has tied up with University of Pennsylvania, Carleton College and Sciences Po of Paris, and is in

talks with Yale, Oxford, King's College, London and University of Michigan. Admission will be through an application process that would look at marks but also evaluate a statement of purpose and an essay written by the applicant. SNU has a flexible system that looks at English marks in class XII and two other subjects.

The fee in both universities would be high for those who can pay. There will be plenty of scholarships too. AU says it has distributed Rs 13 crore in scholarships through its Young India Fellowship for the university's first post-graduate programme.

Both varsities aim to follow a flexible pedagogy. In AU, students will study science and social sciences before they major in their chosen field. SNU allows students to move to another stream after the first year. Gangopadhyay says if SNU can "offer globally comparable programmes, there is no reason why parents will not pay (high fees) for an Indian institution".

While SNU has started, AU's first session begins next year at its modest 25-acre campus. Philanthropy — of an individual in one case and a group in another — could well bring refreshing winds of change to India's private, higher education.

Students urged to publish more scientific papers

Special Correspondent



R. Gandhi, senior advocate, delivering the Advocate VCR Memorial Lecture at the VIT University in Vellore on Friday.— Photo: C. Venkatachalapathy

Students should publish more scientific research papers to enhance research contribution of India, said R. Gandhi, senior advocate and former president of the Bar Federation of Tamil Nadu & Puducherry.

He was delivering the Advocate V.C. Rajagopalachariar (VCR) Memorial Lecture organised by the VIT Business School on the VIT University campus on Friday.

Mr. Gandhi said that while China published three lakh scientific papers every year, Japan published 4.5 lakh papers and U.S., 4.6 lakh papers, while India contributed a mere 6,400 papers annually. Indians are capable of contributing substantially to challenge the Chinese and citizens of other countries.

He appealed to the students to learn from the life of Rajagopalachariar and imbibe his qualities of charity and generosity.

V.C. Sadasivan, senior advocate and a junior of VCR, said that he was still remembered for his mental qualities and adherence to principles. His greatness was that he lived according to the principles he preached. G. Viswanathan, VIT Chancellor, who was a junior to VCR, said that VCR's lack of interest in saving money could be seen from the fact that he never had a bank account. VCR was a man without fear or favour, he said.

Printable version | Oct 26, 2013 11:50:23 AM | <http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-tamilnadu/students-urged-to-publish-more-scientific-papers/article5274981.ece>

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Scientist sees great scope for soft computing

Special Correspondent



N. Prabhakar (right), CC(R&D), DRDO, New Delhi, at the inauguration of an international conference on 'data mining and soft computing technologies' in Thanjavur on Friday.—PHOTO: B. VELANKANNI RAJ

Soft computing is a promising area as it helps in data analysis, said N. Prabhakar, Chief Controller, Research and Development, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), New Delhi, here on Friday.

Inaugurating an international conference on “data mining and soft computing techniques” at SASTRA University, Mr. Prabhakar said that the volume of data was multiplying exponentially. It was difficult to analyse all data for research. It was in this context that soft computing techniques had great scope.

P. Srikumar, Outstanding Scientist, Director, Aeronautical Development Establishment, Bangalore, said that opportunities and facilities were more for the present day students in collecting information, thanks to the internet facility.

Printable version | Oct 26, 2013 11:51:45 AM | <http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-tamilnadu/scientist-sees-great-scope-for-soft-computing/article5274538.ece>

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Transgenic research needs funds: expert

T. Nandakumar

Says disease-resistant crops will bring in enormous savings for the country



P.K. Chakrabarty

India cannot afford to turn its back on transgenic agricultural research as disease-resistant crop plants become increasingly important in the country's effort to achieve food security, P.K. Chakrabarty, Assistant Director General (Plant Protection), Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR), has said.

Talking to *The Hindu* on the sidelines of a national symposium on pathogenomics organised by the Central Tuber Crops Research Institute here on Thursday, he said the annual crop loss in India was estimated at Rs.1,13,800 crore out of which 30 per cent was caused by plant diseases.

Disease-resistant transgenic crops could result in enormous savings for the country, Dr. Chakrabarty said.

He said transgenic research in India required more funding from the government.

"A company such as Monsanto had invested resources into developing the Bt gene that revolutionised cotton cultivation in India and doubled the productivity level," he said.

He said ICAR and several other organisations had invested huge amounts in taking science to this stage. "If transgenic research is totally stopped, we will suffer."

He, however, said that transgenic was a costly proposition, making it viable only in cases where there were no other options, or to achieve the food security requirements of a nation. ICAR, he said, had not released any genetically-modified (GM) crops for field trials, though laboratory-level research was on. Underlining the need for a strict regulatory mechanism, he said GM crops had to be individually assessed on the basis of merit.

Asked about Kerala's declaration as a GM-free State, Dr. Chakrabarty said: "The State may have its own reasons for adopting a conservative attitude to GM crops. After all, agriculture is a State subject." He observed that the National Biodiversity Authority had laid down conditions prohibiting genetic modification of crops of Indian origin and banning field trials of transgenic crops in heritage sites such as the Western Ghats.

At the inaugural session, Dr. Chakrabarty said molecular biology and biotechnology held the key to food security.

"With agricultural yield improvement reaching a plateau, control of crop losses due to plant diseases has become crucial."

Dr. Chakrabarty said India was yet to utilise molecular biology for prediction and forecasting of diseases. “Meaningful employment of this technology will help in timely diagnosis and management of plant diseases.”

Inaugurating the symposium held in association with the Indian Phytopathological Society (South Zone), Vice-Chancellor of the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University K. Ramasamy called for a network of scientists to work on multidisciplinary projects in agriculture and allied sciences.

He said countries such as Brazil, China, and Argentina were making a concerted effort to promote hybrid and GM crops to improve yield.

Observing that only 17 per cent of the outlay for agricultural sciences during the 11th Plan was utilised, Mr. Ramasamy called for a serious effort to encourage basic science research. Agricultural research, he said, required major investment from the government.

Printable version | Oct 26, 2013 11:49:34 AM | <http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-kerala/transgenic-research-needs-funds-expert/article5274699.ece>

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UGC planning Inter-University Centre for Teacher Education

October 25, 2013

Madurai: The University Grants Commission plans to establish an Inter-University Centre of Teacher Education at Kakinada in [Andhra Pradesh](#) as part of the current 12th Five Year Plan, in a bid to improve the quality of teachers, said a top UGC official yesterday.

The centre would be established at a cost of Rs.300 crore, and would be catering to south India, said the UGC Vice-Chairman H Devaraj while delivering the 47th convocation address at the Madurai Kamaraj University (MKU).

Besides, UGC had introduced Faculty Recharge Programme in the 11th Five Year Plan to improve the quality of teachers. As many as 104 teachers had been selected under this programme. The HRD ministry has also been aiming to improve higher education through the Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan.

He said institutional mindset had to be transformed facilitating the possibility of fostering cross pollination of various faculties and industry interaction that needed for a proactive initiative to transform higher education.

MKU Vice-Chancellor Kalyani Mathivanan said the university had been chosen as one of the 15 institutes in the country that will facilitate the India programme for undergraduate students drawn from universities and colleges of [USA](#).

Publication: The Times Of India Delhi; Date: Oct 26, 2013; Section: International; Page: 27;

e-paper

FB becoming a key news source

30% Of Americans Get Info Via Social Media, Although Incidentally: Survey

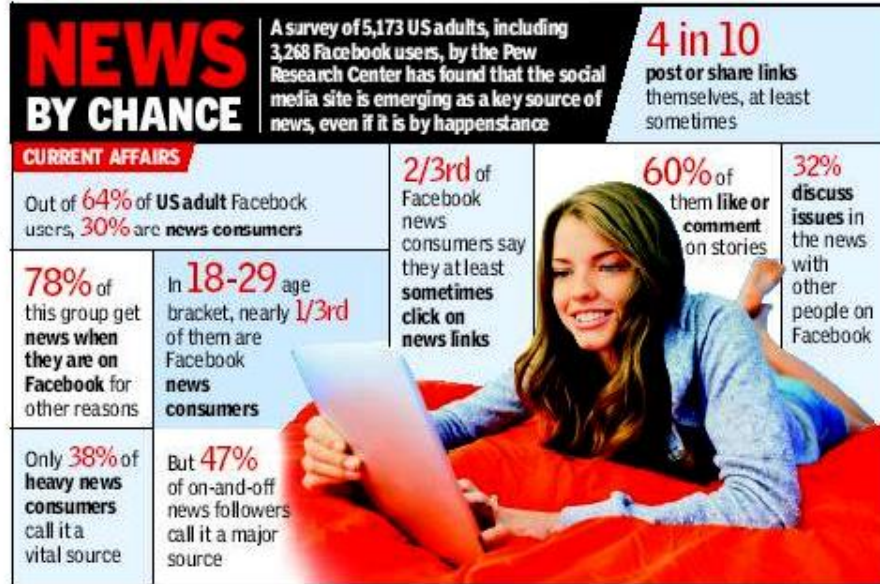
Washington: Facebook is becoming a key source of news for users of the huge social network, even if people discover articles mostly by happenstance, a study showed.

The study by the Pew Research Center, in collaboration with the Knight Foundation, found 64% of US adults use Facebook, and nearly half of those get some news from the service. That amounts to 30% of the overall US population who are "Facebook news consumers," Pew said.

But the survey found 78% of this group get news mainly when they are on Facebook for other reasons, such as checking on friends or sharing photos. "People go to Facebook to share personal moments — and they discover the news almost incidentally," said Amy Mitchell, Pew Research Center's director of journalism research.

"The serendipitous nature of news on Facebook may actually increase its importance as a source of news and information, especially among those who do not follow the news closely."

Most heavy news consumers do not describe Facebook as their main source of infor-



mation on current affairs:

Some 38% of Facebook news consumers who say they follow the news "all" or "most of the time" describe the social network as an important way they get news. But that number rises to 47% among those who say they follow news just "some of the time" or less.

Those in the 18- to 29-year-

old age bracket account for about a third of Facebook news consumers. These younger adults often turn to the social network for breaking news and see the site as important a source of news.

The study authors write that Facebook "exposes some people to news who otherwise might not get it" by delivering news through shared links

from friends. "This study adds to our understanding of the way social media is transforming how news is shared and consumed," said Mayur Patel, Knight Foundation vice president.

"The implications for media organizations are significant — through the data they can gain insights on the behavior and preferences of

the people they are trying to reach, and identify new engagement opportunities."

Roughly two-thirds of Facebook news consumers say they at least sometimes click on news links, and 60% at least sometimes "like" or comment on stories, the researchers found.

About four in 10 post or share links themselves at least sometimes, and 32% discuss issues in the news with other people on Facebook, the survey found. The study found Facebook users click on a news link most often because of their interest in the topic or a friend's recommendation, and just 20% said they did so because of the news organization. About a third of Facebook news consumers have news organizations or individual journalists in their feeds, Pew found.

The researchers also found that Facebook users are also consuming news on other platforms. Some 42% of Facebook news consumers often watch local television news, compared with 46% of all US adults. But just 21% often read print newspapers, compared with 27% of the population overall, Pew found. AFP

Daily Star reported. The 19-year-old second-year student said the key thing about performance art is that it should only be performed once, and has claimed that his project is "the ultimate once-in-a-lifetime performance". **PTI**

3 IN 10 AMERICANS USE FACEBOOK AS MAIN NEWS SOURCE

JOHANNESBURG: At least 30% of the overall US population that uses Facebook is found to be the site's news consumer, which means, their source of news is the social media giant, a PEW survey has revealed. The study con-

ducted by the Pew Research Centre has found that Facebook is becoming a key source of news for users of the huge social network, even if people discover articles mostly by happenstance. It was revealed that 64% of the US adults use Facebook, and nearly half of those get some news from the service. However, 78% of this group gets news mainly when they are on Facebook for other reasons, such as checking on friends or sharing photos. Pew Research Centre's director of journalism research, Amy Mitchell said people go to Facebook to share personal moments, and they discover the news almost incidentally. **PTI**

Business Standard

Press Trust of India | New Delhi October 25, 2013 Last Updated at 21:27 IST

Minority edu panel meet put off as HRD min stays away from

A crucial meeting next week of a monitoring committee for minority education has been postponed apparently due to the prolonged absence of the HRD Minister from office and the inadequate reflection in the agenda note of the advances made in the field.

The meeting of the National Monitoring Committee for Minorities' Education, which was scheduled for Oct 31, would have taken into consideration a status report on the schemes for advancement and discussed the scope for the strengthening of various existing programmes for the benefit of students.

HRD Minister MM Pallam Raju's absence from office ever since he tendered his resignation over the Union Cabinet decision in favour of a separate Telangana state was one of the factors behind the meeting getting postponed, sources said.

Raju's resignation has not been accepted by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. Sources, however, maintain that he has started functioning from his official residence and is going through Ministry files.

Uncertainty also prevails over his presence at a meeting of the directors of the National Institutes of Technology with the President here on Nov. 7 and 8.

About 30 directors will be attending the meeting.