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Sept. 13

Feel worried till daughter returns from IIT campus: Arvind Kejriwal

<http://www.dnaindia.com/india/report-feel-worried-till-daughter-returns-from-iit-campus-arvind-kejriwal-2124788>

Asserting that women safety is a priority for his government, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday said the women's rights bill being brought in the next Assembly session will give more teeth to DCW.

The proposed Charter of Women's Rights Bill, 2015, aims at strengthening Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) by giving it more administrative and judicial powers, and will incorporate recommendation made by Justice J S Verma Committee in the wake of the Nirbhaya rape case. "If a girl is going out then she should feel secure. If she will feel secure then her parents will feel secure. We need to provide a system where women can roam freely around the city, feeling safe and secure," Kejriwal said during the Consultation on the draft bill organised by the Delhi Dialogue Commission (DDC) at the Delhi Secretariat.

The chief minister also shared his own experience while talking about women safety in the national capital. He said his family gets restless till the time his daughter returns from the IIT campus, since the metro station is at a little distance away from his residence. "If I being Chief Minister is so concerned for the safety of my daughter then I can understand the feeling of common man. We have taken several measures like installing CCTV cameras, which acts as a deterrence.

"Three weeks back, as a pilot project, we installed CCTV cameras in all the classes of three schools. (Deputy Chief Minister) [Manish Sisodia](#) went to take feedback and interacted with the students. "They told him that they are very happy as teachers have stopped beating them. Students also shared that cases of theft from school bags have gone down," Kejriwal said. The Chief Minister highlighted that CCTV camera has a deterrent impact in public places too.

"Similarly, in buses we are installing CCTV cameras, which will bring an end to 'road side Romeos' but organised gangs equipped with knife may not fear CCTV cameras but there will be decline in cases by 50-60 per cent," he said. Hitting out at Delhi Police, Chief Minister alleged that there is "no democratic control" over the force.

"If someone is committing crime then the person should be scared that he or she will be caught. There should be certainty and swiftness of punishment and that only police can ensure but the problem in Delhi is that there is no democratic control over police.

"It comes under the central government which has practically no control over it. Police does not listen to anyone," Kejriwal said. Recently, the Chief Minister held a meeting with DCW chief Swati Maliwal where he identified 21 grave cases in which FIR ought to be registered immediately but police had not done so. DDC has also proposed to give more teeth to DCW by giving additional administrative and judicial power. It also proposed that DCW will work as a single window to work and enforce women related matter.

"We are seeking more suggestions on imparting more power to DCW and ways to enforce it. We will table this bill in next assembly session," Kejriwal said. The draft of the bill for women rights prepared by the DDC is

already in public domain and it is based on the recommendations of the Justice JS Verma committee. Eminent lawyers, NGOs and other social activists attended the consultation.

According to DDC officials, the bill proposes to provide a comprehensive framework for women residing in Delhi to effectively enforce their fundamental rights guaranteed by the Constitution and various existing statutes - including the right against all forms of violence, the right to appropriate health care, education, privacy and right to equality.

Smriti Irani Asks IITians to Utilise 'Start Up & Stand Up' Scheme

<http://www.ndtv.com/india-news/smriti-irani-asks-iitians-to-utilise-start-up-stand-up-scheme-1216933>

Bhubaneswar: Exhorting IITians to take advantage of the "Start Up India, Stand Up India" scheme, Union HRD Minister Smriti Irani today said qualified engineers need to take up entrepreneurship on the basis of innovative ideas acquired in the premier institute.

"I am sure that you are aware about Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for Start Up India... IITs are known to encourage new ideas, innovations and converge them with good business plan," Ms Irani said at the 4th convocation ceremony of Indian Institute of Technology, Bhubaneswar held in its permanent campus at Argul.

Stating that the Centre's Mudra Bank Yojana provides funding to do business from Rs. 50,000 up to Rs. 10 lakh without any collateral security, the Union Human Resources Development Minister said a new business opportunity has been created in the country and IITians need to take advantage of the available opportunities.

"If there are industrious students among you, I request to start up and stand up now," Ms Irani said adding that IITs always lay emphasis on academic excellence and innovation.

Asking technical students to undertake new ventures with innovative programme, the Union Minister said they could choose their own path of dream with a little bit of imagination.

Ms Irani also lauded the students of IIT Bhubaneswar for adopting two nearby villages and enabling science to reach at the door steps of villagers.

At the 4th convocation function, Ms Irani conferred President of India's gold medal to Sushant Sachan, a mechanical engineering student of BTech, Director's gold medal to Pratik Nayak, a civil engineering student of MTech and Anudeep Nain, a student of Mathematics at the institute.

The endowment awards went to five students of different streams of the institute.

Adopt 5 villages: Irani to IIT-BBS

<http://www.orissapost.com/adopt-5-villages-irani-to-iit-bbs/>

Bhubaneswar, Sept 12: Union human resource development minister Smriti Zubin Irani Saturday asked the students and faculty members of IIT Bhubaneswar to adopt five villages for development work and urged qualified engineers to take up entrepreneurship.

Speaking at the fourth convocation of IIT Bhubaneswar held at its permanent campus at Arugul for the first time, Irani said, "Each student needs to contribute something significant for the growth and development of the country. Students who have great ideas that can become great business opportunities need to start up now." In her speech that lasted for barely seven minutes, she spoke of the 'Start up India, Stand Up India' scheme and various schemes started by the central government for development of the people and the nation.

Under the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan, IIT Bhubaneswar has adopted only two villages, but Irani requested the students and faculty members to adopt five villages. "It is an initiative where students and faculty can engage with citizens in areas around the institution so that those who wonder how an IIT can benefit villages around it can see the development work," she said.

Appealing to students to engage themselves more productively, Irani said students should always do things which their hearts want them to do. Appreciating the achievement of IIT Bhubaneswar student Sushant Sachan, who received the President's gold medal, she said he should strive not only to carve out a good life for himself but also to lead the country.

Sushil Kumar Roongta, chairman of the institute's board of governors, urged the students to keep alive their curiosities and natural instinct for innovation and creation.

IIT Bhubaneswar director Prof Ratnam V Raja Kumar said the institute, which started with just 94 students in three undergraduate programmes, now has 1,038 students in various departments. "The institute has made considerable progress in research and development. The faculty members have published more than 688 research papers in reputed national and international journals. In the campus, more than 5,000 saplings have been planted to develop a green cover," he said.

Around 215 students received their degrees at the convocation. They included 109 BTech, 44 MTech, 50 MSc and 12 PhD students. Sushant Sachan of the mechanical engineering branch received the President of India gold medal for topping all BTech branches, whereas Pratik Nayak of civil engineering won the directors' gold medal for topping all MTech specialisations. In MSc, Anudeep Nain of mathematics received the Director's gold medal for topping in all Msc branches.

Appointments Committee rejected Smriti pick for CBSE chief

<http://www.sunday-guardian.com/news/appointments-committee-rejected-smriti-pick-for-cbse-chief>

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet rejected Human Resources Development Minister Smriti Irani's selection, Satbir Silas Bedi for the post of the chairman of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), as it received a complaint against her over the role she played in the hosting of the Commonwealth Games of 2010. Sources said that the ACC did not want to get into any controversy by selecting Silas. However, sources did not elaborate what the specific complaint was. Apart from this, the ACC also rejected the other names the ministry had proposed.

Bedi is a Joint Secretary in the HRD Ministry's School Education Department, and was holding the additional charge of CBSE chairman until last month. Bedi was secretary in the Elections Department and was the Chief Electoral Officer in the Delhi government between 2006 and 2010. It was in 2010 that the CWG took place.

The ACC entrusted Y.S.K. Seshu Kumar, a Joint Secretary in the MHRD, with the additional charge of CBSE chairman from 1 September.

The MHRD constituted a five-member search committee, which sent a panel of names, including that of Bedi, to the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) in June. DoPT rejected the full panel of names and sent it to the ACC and the Prime Minister's Office.

Cabinet Secretary Pradeep Kumar Sinha, who is a part of the ACC, raised objections to the names, primarily over the criterion of experience adopted for selecting them. Sinha also apparently said that it was not clear if the MHRD adhered to the recruitment rules while evaluating whether the candidates had the required experience.

According to Sinha, the criterion advertised in the vacancy circular did not insist on a minimum three years of experience in educational administration as is required by the recruitment rules. The advertisement gave the impression that officers of the rank of Joint Secretary were not required to meet the criterion of experience.

Sinha apparently also pointed out that the information provided by the ministry in the proposal indicated that annual confidential reports (ACRs) have not been taken into consideration while assessing the candidates.

Earlier, a petition was filed in the Delhi High Court challenging Bedi's appointment. The petition, filed by the Independent Schools Federation, had alleged that the controlling authority put Bedi in charge without approval from the ACC. The plea sought appropriate steps to make regular appointments to the post strictly in accordance with the constitutional mandate and recruitment rules.

The premier body has been without a permanent chairman since December 2014, which is affecting its functioning adversely, said sources. According to G.P. Gupta, chairman of the Independent Schools Federation of India, there are 12,000 schools affiliated to CBSE, out of which 20% run on the basis of extension. "Thus, about 2,400 files come every year for the regular extension of affiliation. Besides there are many more files, which need clearance from the chairman. In the absence of a full time chairman, about 3,000 files have been pending in the CBSE for several months," said Gupta.

Dy CM wants IIT to be functional from next academic session

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 12

Deputy Chief Minister Nirmal Singh today directed the Higher Education Department to expedite the process of making the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) functional in the state.

“The procedural formalities for the finalisation of the campus site and taking up construction should be expedited so that the premier institute is made functional and students of the state get the benefit at the earliest,” Nirmal Singh said.

The Deputy Chief Minister asked the authorities while chairing a high-level meeting here today to review the progress made in this regard.

Asking for early appointment of faculty and meeting other requirements, the Deputy Chief Minister told the authorities to explore the possibility of starting the classes at a temporary campus from

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Nirmal Singh, DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER

the next academic session.

He was informed that 3,400 kanals had been identified near Khanpur Jagti for setting up the IIT campus and the process was on.

Commissioner Secretary, Higher Education Department, Sarita Chauhan said that besides the requirement of a building for running the temporary campus, there was an urgent need to establish hostels and 50 quarters for stay of students and faculty.

It was decided at the meeting that the old campus of the University of Jammu would be renovated for providing hostel facility to students.

Business Standard
ND 13/09/2015 P-2

IIM-A seeks foreign students

VINAY UMARJI

Ahmedabad, 12 September

The Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, (IIM-A) is trying its best to bring more citizenship diversity in its classrooms by admitting foreign students.

It has introduced supernumerary seats for foreign nationals from the 2015-16 batch. The B-school is now reaching out to past GMAT applicants in several nations like Singapore, Nigeria, Kenya, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh to market itself as an ideal management education destination.

IIM-A has introduced a set of 40 supernumerary seats for foreign passport holders in its flagship post graduate programme in management over and above the existing batch size of around 430. While the first-year PGP batch of 2015-17 has no foreign passport holders under the supernumerary system, the institute has begun receiving enquiries from several countries.

"We are seeing some traction among foreign passport holders and enquiries are coming in. However, the institute recognises the need to market itself in other countries if we need to fill up the supernumerary seats," said sources close to the development.

The institute, according to sources, is approaching candidates from these countries and organising meetings. The meetings include a presentation on the institute as well as the overall scenario of studying in India.

Sept. 14

Hindustan ND 14/09/2015

P-09

आईआईटी-एनआईटी प्रवेश परीक्षा बदलेगी

तैयारी

नई दिल्ली | विशेष संवाददाता

केंद्र सरकार एनआईटी में दाखिल के लिए 12वीं बोर्ड के अंकों की वेटेज को खत्म कर सकती है। इस मुद्दे पर गठित विशेषज्ञ समिति ने अपनी रिपोर्ट में सरकार को यह सिफारिश की है।

अब सरकार को इस रिपोर्ट पर फैसला लेना है। साथ ही आईआईटी में दाखिल के लिए बोर्ड परीक्षा में न्यूनतम 75 फीसदी अंक लाने के प्रावधान को भी

बदला जा सकता है। आईआईटी बॉम्बे के प्रोफेसर और विशेषज्ञ समिति के एक सदस्य देवांग खाखर के अनुसार, एनआईटी में एडमिशन के लिए बोर्ड परीक्षा के अंकों को 40 फीसदी की वेटेज को खत्म करने की सिफारिश की है। लेकिन इसे मानने एवं नहीं मानने का अधिकार सरकार के पास है।

दूसरे, समिति ने आईआईटी में एडमिशन के लिए 75 फीसदी अंकों की अनिवार्यता को भी खत्म करने की भी सिफारिश की है। समिति चाहती है कि यह सीमा पहले की तरह सिर्फ 60 फीसदी हो। कई राज्यों की बोर्ड परीक्षा में नंबर

सिफारिश

- आईआईटी के लिए बोर्ड परीक्षा के न्यूनतम 75% अंकों की अनिवार्यता में बदलाव संभव
- एनआईटी में बारहवीं बोर्ड परीक्षा के अंकों की 40 फीसदी वेटेज खत्म हो सकती है

कम दिए जाते हैं और छात्रों के लिए 75 फीसदी अंक हासिल कर पाना मुश्किल हो जाता है। जबकि, ऐसे छात्र आईआईटी एंट्रेंस के लिए एडवांस टेस्ट पास कर चुके होते हैं। नेशनल इंस्टीट्यूट

ऑफ टेक्नोलॉजी (एनआईटी) में दाखिले की मौजूदा नीति के मुताबिक, बोर्ड अंक को 40 प्रतिशत और जेई-मेन परीक्षा स्कोर को 60 प्रतिशत वेटेज दिया जाता है। लेकिन बोर्ड परीक्षा के अंकों की सामान्यीकरण की प्रक्रिया में देरी होने और सटीक नहीं होने के कारण यह वेटेज बेमानी हो गई है।

आधिकारिक सूत्रों ने बताया कि कमेटी ने फैसले के लिए अपनी सिफारिशों में इस साल आईआईटी और एनआईटी में दाखिले के लिए संयुक्त काउंसिलिंग में देरी सहित कई तथ्यों पर गौर किया है।

Economic Times Hindi ND 14.09.2015 P-08

IIIT बॉम्बे का \$100 की नेटबुक बाजार में लाने का इरादा

मशीन को लोअर फैमिली से आने वाले उन स्टूडेंट्स के लिए बनाया गया है, जो महंगे लैपटॉप नहीं खरीद सकते

[अनिबाण सेन | बेंगलुरु]

आईआईटी बॉम्बे की टीम ने इस साल की शुरुआत में 100 डॉलर की कीमत वाला एक नेटबुक कंप्यूटर डिवेलप किया था, जिसे दुनिया में सबसे सस्ता बताया गया था। अब इसे देश के कई कॉलेजों में छात्रों को देने के लिए बातचीत की जा रही है। आने वाले समय में इस प्रोजेक्ट को कमर्शियल तौर पर सफल बनाने के लिए कुछ अली-स्टेज ओपनसोर्स टेक्नोलॉजी फर्मों के साथ भी यह टीम काम कर रही है।

आईआईटी बॉम्बे के प्रोफेसर कन्नन मौदगल्य ने बताया इस नेटबुक का कॉन्सेप्ट लो-कॉस्ट आकाश टैबलेट प्रोजेक्ट के साथ काम करने के दौरान तैयार हुआ था और इसे फरवरी में लॉन्च किया गया था। अभी इसका इस्तेमाल आईआईटी बॉम्बे के लगभग 90 स्टूडेंट्स कर रहे हैं। इसे देश भर में और कॉलेज स्टूडेंट्स तक पहुंचाने की योजना बनाई जा रही है। 10 इंच की यह मशीन स्टूडेंट्स को एक वर्ष के लिए लोन पर दी जा रही है। इसे

मुख्यतौर पर कम आमदनी वाले परिवारों से आने वाले स्टूडेंट्स के लिए बनाया गया है जो महंगे लैपटॉप नहीं खरीद सकते।

कन्नन के मुताबिक, 'मेरा मानना है कि अगर आप डिजिटल इंडिया को लेकर गंभीर हैं तो आपको बच्चों को कंप्यूटर देना होगा। अगर आईआईटी के स्टूडेंट्स को बिना कंप्यूटर के प्रोग्रामिंग करने में मुश्किल होती है, तो आप सोच सकते हैं कि अन्य कॉलेजों में क्या स्थिति होगी। अगर कॉलेज स्टूडेंट्स के पास कंप्यूटर नहीं है तो वे प्रोग्रामिंग नहीं करते। अगर डिजिटल इंडिया को सफल बनाना है तो स्टूडेंट्स को कंप्यूटर की जरूरत होगी।' आईआईटी बॉम्बे की टीम ने अब जूलिया कंप्यूटिंग जैसी ओपन-सोर्स लैंग्वेज स्टार्टअप के साथ काम करना शुरू किया है और यह इस प्रोजेक्ट के हिस्से के तौर पर ब्राजील की केमिकल प्रोसेस सिम्युलेटर डीडब्ल्यूएसआईएम का भी इस्तेमाल कर रही है। एचआरडी मिनिस्ट्री की ओर से शुरू किया गए आकाश टैबलेट प्रोजेक्ट में देरी होने और

क्वालिटी से जुड़ी समस्याएं रही हैं। आईआईटी बॉम्बे की टीम ने इस नेटबुक प्रोजेक्ट का लॉन्च एक अलग तरीके और बिना धूमधाम के किया था। आकाश प्रोजेक्ट के लिए लगभग एक लाख डिवाइसेज की मैनुफैक्चरिंग की गई थी, लेकिन इस नेटबुक प्रोजेक्ट के लिए अभी तक केवल 1,000 यूनिट का ऑर्डर ही दिया गया है।

कन्नन ने बताया, 'आकाश प्रोजेक्ट में हमने सॉफ्टवेयर डिवेलपमेंट के लिए बहुत से लोगों को डिवाइस दिए थे, लेकिन हम इस नेटबुक प्रोजेक्ट में काफी सावधानी से आगे बढ़ रहे हैं क्योंकि हमारे पास केवल 1,000 डिवाइसेज हैं।' उनका कहना था, 'टैबलेट कंजम्पशन डिवाइस है और उसे क्रिएटर डिवाइस नहीं कहा जा सकता।' आईआईटी बॉम्बे ने दिल्ली की बेसिक कॉन्टेक के साथ एक टाई-अप किया है, जिसने पायलट प्रोजेक्ट के लिए 1,000 नेटबुक की डिलीवरी की है। कन्नन ने बताया कि प्रोजेक्ट को पसंद किए जाने और इसके देश भर के कॉलेजों में शुरू होने पर और ऑर्डर दिए जाएंगे।



Virat Vaibhav ND 14/09/2015 P-05

उच्च एवं तकनीकी शिक्षा के लिए भारतीय छात्रों की कनाडा की संस्थाओं में खासी रुचि

भाषा

नई दिल्ली। मेडिकल, प्रबंधन, इंजीनियरिंग एवं वित्त संबंधी विषयों में शिक्षा प्राप्त करने के लिए भी बड़ी संख्या में छात्र विदेशों का रूख कर रहे हैं और अब अमेरिका, ब्रिटेन के साथ कनाडा भारतीय छात्रों के लिए शिक्षा के पसंदीदा स्थल के रूप में उभर है। दिल्ली में आयोजित आईडीपी शिक्षा मेले में अमेरिका, ब्रिटेन, न्यूजीलैंड की कई शिक्षण संस्थाओं, कालेजों एवं विश्वविद्यालयों में छात्रों ने विभिन्न शैक्षणिक विषयों एवं संबंधित पाठ्यक्रमों के बारे में जानकारी

प्राप्त की। कनाडा स्थित ब्रोक्स यूनिवर्सिटी की जनसम्पर्क प्रबंधक विक्टोरिया स्तेली ने कहा कि हमारा विश्वविद्यालय 46 नवोन्मेषी पाठ्यक्रम के साथ यहां आया है जो ज्ञान के साथ अनुभव भी प्रदान करते हैं। छात्रवृत्ति प्रदान करने के साथ उनके पेशेवर विकास को तवज्जो दी जाती है। ब्रिटेन स्थित शैफिल्ड हालम विश्वविद्यालय की भारत स्थित दक्षिण एशिया कार्यालय की काउंसलर राजिन्दर कौर ने कहा कि विश्वविद्यालय छात्रों को कला, चिकित्सा, अभियांत्रिकी, मानविकी, विज्ञान एवं नए नवोन्मेषी विषयों में पाठ्यक्रम पेश कर रहा है। ■

President to address 13th VNIT convocation

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/nagpur/President-to-address-13th-VNIT-convocation/articleshow/48949534.cms>

Nagpur: Visvesvaraya National Institute of Technology (VNIT) will be holding its 13th convocation on Tuesday. President of India, Pranab Mukherjee will deliver the convocation address.

Speaking to reporters, VNIT director Narendra Chaudhari said besides the President, Union minister of human resource development Smriti Irani, surface transport minister Nitin Gadkari, Maharashtra Governor Chennamaneni Vidhyasagar Rao and CM Devendra Fadnavis as well as VNIT board of governors chairman Vishram Jamdar will be guests for the programme.

The event will be held in the VNIT auditorium at 11am. This year 1,140 students will get their degrees in various subjects. These include 48 doctorate degrees, 312 MTech degrees (five will be MTech through research), one student will get M Arch degree by research and 45 students will get MSc degree. The total number of students getting the undergraduate degree of BTech and BArch are 729.

Prem Ramesh Auti, of mechanical engineering programme will be receiving the Sir Visvesvaraya Medal for highest CGPA among all BTech students.

Other medal winners include Susamiddha Saha with highest CGPA in chemical engineering, Dhruv Chawala, highest CGPA in civil engineering, Nikhita Vedula with highest CGPA in computer science engineering, Gaurav Girish Pundlik, highest CGPA in electrical and electronics engineering, Santosh Atmaram Gupta, highest CGPA in electronics and communication engineering, Sanjeev T Patil, highest CGPA in metallurgical and material engineering, Saurabh Singh, highest CGPA in mining engineering, Prathmesh Kubal, highest CGPA in architecture. They will be awarded institute medals.

Pooja Bhopale, who secured highest CGPA in girls in SC/ST category and Swapnil Pimpalkar, who received highest CGPA from OBC category in mechanical engineering will also be awarded medals.

Apart from these, 17 MTech and three MSc students will get institute medals and academic excellence prizes for securing highest CGPA in respective academic courses. More than 35 awards have been sponsored by various individuals and organizations for students excelling in different subjects. This year the first batch of Matser in Technology in excavation engineering will also be awarded degrees.

Besides, VNIT director OR Jaiswal, dean academics, PM Padole, dean, faculty welfare, HM Surywanshi, dean research, SR Sathe, dean, planning finance and development, GP Singh, dean students welfare and registrar RR Yepude and Anupama Kumar, associate dean of public relations also addressed the reporters.

Virat Vaibhav ND
14/09/2015 P-08

आईआईटी रुड़की के प्रोफेसर दो दिन लापता रहने के बाद वापस आए

देहरादून, वैभव न्यूज। आईआईटी रुड़की के मैकेनिकल इंजीनियरिंग के एक प्रोफेसर के लापता हो जाने से संस्थान तथा पुलिस में हड़कंप मच गया। हालांकि, दो दिन लापता रहने के बाद वह शनिवार को रात अपने घर लौट आए। पुलिस ने रविवार को बताया कि आईआईटी रुड़की में सहायक प्रोफेसर के पद पर कार्यरत 37 वर्षीय कीर्ति भूषण 11 सितंबर की सुबह संस्थान के परिसर में ही स्थित अपने घर से पढ़ाने के लिए निकले लेकिन रात तक नहीं लौटे। उनकी पत्नी गार्गी ने उनके मोबाइल नम्बर पर संपर्क किया लेकिन वह बंद था। इससे चिंतित गार्गी ने भूषण के सहकर्मियों और संस्थान के सुरक्षाकर्मियों से पूछताछ की जिसके बाद सीसीटीवी फुटेज खंगाले गए और उनमें प्रोफेसर एक रिक्शा पर बैठकर बाहर गेट की ओर जाते दिखाई दिए। रिक्शा वाले ने पूछताछ करने पर बताया कि वह प्रोफेसर भूषण को बस अड्डे छोड़ कर आया लेकिन उसे यह नहीं पता कि वह कहां जाने वाली बस में सवार हुए। ■

Pioneer ND 14/09/2015 P-09

**FIRST
COLUMN**

Education should be fun and interactive

Theoretical concepts of teaching have become outdated. Games can become a pedagogical tool to bridge the gap between theory and praxis, writes **SWATI PAL**

Imagine a classroom in a college where the teacher encourages students to play a game of dumb charades or a game of chinese whispers. The course in reference is the Ability Enhancement Course on communication. Average response to this course would be 'bewilderment'. Why should games at all enter a serious zone like education? Aren't the teachers expected to 'deliver lectures' in colleges? Games are for playing fields, and are not supposed to be conducted in a sacred space like that of a classroom.

This is a sad reflection on the inability of our educationists to understand the fact that, with the passage of time, not just the course content, but pedagogical strategies too needs to be revised, and re-structured. One cannot follow the old system of mountain top teaching in an age, where participatory learning is the order of the day. The adage of old wine in new bottles does not, unfortunately, work with education. So, if a teacher wants to grab the attention of the students to a topic like 'communication cycle', the game of chinese whispers becomes a case in point to explain concepts such as senders and receivers of a message, channels of communication, feedback, and obstructions in the communication cycle.

In the same way, the game of dumb charades becomes a case study to explain non-verbal communication, the use of sign language, the importance of understanding cultural signifiers and so on. Games are a serious business and also one of the most versatile means of educating the young mind but is sadly overlooked by academics. Teaching concepts as 'theory' is an outdated mode; the gap between theory and praxis needs to be bridged and 'games' are worth exploring as a pedagogical tool.

Close to the games is 'play acting' or role playing. Those who believe in, theorise about or practise 'theatre in education' are not doing so as a fad; they are aware of the tremendous potential of drama to stimulate brain cells as much as they activate the body. Much research has been done into the word 'play' both as noun and as a verb form. Of the many synonyms of this word, what is of significance is 're-creation', ie if interpreted in one sense: We create ourselves anew through 'playing'.

One of the disciplines where role-playing works best is history. Many people have an aversion to this subject because they remember it as nothing more than rote learning of a string of dates and events and about people they cannot identify with. Well, one way to make the students not only remember the dates but also the processes at work at a certain historical point of time, is by getting them to simulate.

It is also a fact that letter writing is now a lost art. Telegrams are now a collector's item as the telegraph system has shut down due to nil usage. One wouldn't be surprised if the postal department too just becomes a office for parcels very soon. There are few people who write letters these days. Educationists will do well then to revive this lost art and prevent it from becoming extinct by adopting it as a classroom strategy and thus serve a dual purpose.

As of now, letter-writing is an exercise that language teachers are expected to pursue. And the way they do it is to teach the students the format of a letter under the various heads of formal/informal/business etc. That is really such a chore that no wonder, students are loath to write letters. Letter writing can actually step into say, a geography class. Get the students choose a country/city/village of their choice and then get them to write letters to each other about all that they find important and interesting in that location. Tell them to make their letters funny or tragic, anecdotal or dramatic and even graphically illustrated with line drawings or doodling. The results will be surprising.

Once the students exchange letters, they can vote on the ones they think are best and a question answer session can follow. Not only will the children consume geography willingly and easily, they will also learn the principles of effective letter writing. Writing post cards from the past to each other, writing obituaries are again other forms of letter, writing that motivate students to learn history as well as language. Why must a student creep like a snail, reluctantly to school as Shakespeare says in that famous *Seven Ages of Man* that the world is familiar with? If teachers teach creatively, suggestions made here are only a fraction of infinite possibilities in this domain, learning would be so much fun.

(The author teaches in the Department of English at Janki Devi Memorial College, University of Delhi)

Tribune ND 14/09/2015 P-12

IIM to cost state 1,128 trees, seed farm & 1,010 fertile bighas

BHANU P LOHUMI
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

DHAULA KAUN (SIRMAUR)

While opening of Indian Institute of Management (IIM) at Dhaula Kuan, 17 km from Paonta Sahib, has brought cheer to residents of adjoining areas who are optimistic that it will provide them sources for income generation, scientists of the Hill Agriculture Research and Extension Centre (HAREC) are a worried lot.

The government has allocated 1,010.5 bighas for the IIM which include 809.13 bighas of cultivable land of the Agriculture



A seed farm at Dhaula Kuan, Paonta Sahib. TRIBUNE PHOTO: AMIT KANWAR

Costly affair

- The land identified for the IIM-Sirmaur includes 809.13 bighas of cultivable land of the Agriculture Department, 74.2 bighas of the Horticulture Department and 126.10 bighas of agriculture university, Palampur
- A seed multiplying farm are located on the land
- The biggest breeder seed farm produces wheat, gram and sarson (mustard) seeds for rabi and mash, paddy, toria and til seeds for kharif which are provided to the department for multiplication

Department, 74.2 bighas of the Horticulture Department and 126.10 bighas of agriculture university, Palampur, and a seed multiplying farm are located on it.

The biggest breeder seed farm, started by first Chief minister of Himachal YS Parmar to give boost to farming, produces wheat, gram and sarson (mustard) seeds for rabi and mash, paddy, toria and til seeds for kharif which are provided to the Agriculture Department for multiplication and further supply to farmers, said officials of HAREC.

Last year 250 quintals of wheat seeds of eight varieties and 25 quintals of mash were produced at the farm, they said. Officials said though the land had been given for the IIM, no alternate land has been provided to the institute, which is also a nucleus of a large number of farm research activities.

According to an estimate, about 1,128 plants and trees will be cut which include sal, ched, shisham, teak, ucalyptus, kher, peepal and bamboo.

Bhartiya Kisan Union (BKU) state president SS Gill said, "We welcome the

IIM but the government should identify barren land for the project as diversion of cultivable land will be detrimental to development of agriculture". The land was given for breeding seeds and agriculture research but now it was being given to the institute.

The classes for the first batch of postgraduate programme at IIM-Sirmaur have started at Paonta Sahib and 22 students have been admitted. The classes are temporarily being held at the hired building of Himachal Institute Technology, Paonta Sahib.

NIT admissions likely on JEE-Main scores alone from 2016

A final decision on the issue could come early next month when HRD Minister Smriti Irani chairs a meeting of the NIT council.

<http://www.thehindu.com/features/education/nit-admissions-likely-on-jeemain-scores-alone-from-2016/article7648299.ece>

Admissions to the NITs from next year could be based entirely on JEE-Main scores, with a government-appointed panel likely to recommend scrapping of weightage given to marks obtained in board examinations.

"We would be recommending scrapping of weightages given to board marks," Director of IIT Bombay and a member of the panel, Devang Khakhar, has said.

A final decision on the issue could come early next month when HRD Minister Smriti Irani chairs a meeting of the NIT council, which would take a call on the committee's recommendations.

As per the existing policy, 40 per cent weightage is given to board marks and 60 per cent to the JEE-Main score for admission to a National Institute of Technology (NITs).

Official sources said the committee took into account several factors while deciding on its recommendations that included delays witnessed this year in the common counselling for admissions to the IITs and NITs.

The CBSE had failed to publish the JEE-Main ranking list on time for the counselling and blamed it on the delay by the state boards in submitting class XII marks. The ranks are decided after giving weightage to the class XII results.

The delay had a cascading effect that led to the postponement of admissions to the IITs, causing anxiety among students and parents.

A committee member said the reform in the JEE exams introduced by the erstwhile UPA government by giving weightage to the board results had failed to achieve the desired goals.

“It was felt that the reform would put an end to the menace of coaching, but on the contrary, more students went for coaching to better their scores in board exams.

“Besides, attracting increased number of rural students into the premier technical institutes met with little success as the admission (rural:urban) ratio during the last three years remained practically unchanged at 30:70,” he said.

While recommending scrapping of the weightage system, the panel is likely to suggest securing 60 per cent marks or 70 percentile in class XII, whichever is lower, as a criteria for eligibility of a candidate to appear for the examination conducted for admissions to the premier technical institutes.

Electric bike idea of NIT graduates gets first prize

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kochi/Electric-bike-idea-of-NIT-graduates-gets-first-prize/articleshow/48942335.cms>

KOCHI: At a time when the market is filled with electric cycles and scooters, these graduates from National Institute of Technology (NIT), Calicut have come up with the idea of an electric bike, which could go up to 170 km/hour. The innovative product with market feasibility won its creators the first position in the Innovative India contest, organized by the state government.

Nabeel Abdullah and Paul Alex, the brains behind the bike 'Hound Electric B Plan', had completed mechanical engineering from NIT Calicut. The idea of a zero maintenance bike, has kept the essence of traditional motorcycling intact.

"The major attraction of an electric bike is its green feature, creating no emissions or sound pollution. We had developed a bike, that required charging for 2-3 hours and can go up to 40km. Now, we are trying to upgrade it by incorporating a charged battery and it will be able to attain 150km," said Paul. The duo has restricted its speed to 170km/per as they target college students as prospective customers, said Nabeel.

They were felicitated at Yes Can 2015, the second edition of Young Entrepreneurship Summit (YES), organized by state industrial development corporation ltd on Saturday. The summit provided a unique platform for young entrepreneurs to spread wings and aimed at creating strong interlink amongst startups across the state.

While the second place in the contest was secured by Aflah Madasseri for his innovation 'Blind Torch', Thoufeeque Abdul Azeez won the third place for his work 'Rapid Construction Technique', which ensures fast, safe and economic infrastructure development by utilizing chemical wastes.